

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 22nd June 2026

26/54 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Catnach, Clark, Folks, Harkness, Kelly and Wilson, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, and three members of the public. Apologies for absence were noted from Parish Clerk Kevin Price and Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

26/55 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Philip Wilson was elected Vice-Chairman for 2026-27.

26/56 Public participation:

Two residents of Castlesteads View spoke at the meeting. They had come to seek the support of the Parish Council for their request to Westmoland and Furness Council for pedestrian controlled traffic lights on Burton Road adjacent to the junction with Castlesteads View. The Parish Council and Cllr Rathbone were able to reassure them that their request had the full support of councillors and it was on Highways list of planned projects.

26/57 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Kelly declared an interest if any matter concerning the Church came up during the meeting.

26/58 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

26/59 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Rathbone reserved his report for the next item on the Story Homes development. However, he reported that Cllr Adrian Waite has been appointed Cabinet Member for Transport.

26/60 Planning:

2026/1037/FPA: The Story Homes Planning Application had been received. Consultation responses are required to be submitted by 16 July 2026. After a lengthy discussion the Council and Cllr Rathbone agreed the following approach:

- a. The Council consultation response should focus on four key priorities:
 - a. A footway alongside Natland Road between the new development and Natland village.
 - b. Construction traffic to be prohibited from Sedgwick and Natland villages for the duration of the construction.

- c. If a through road between Natland Road and Burton Road is essential then the road layout should be such as to discourage the route being used as a rat-run.
- d. A minimum of 35% Affordable Housing being an unbreakable commitment.
- b. Residents would be encouraged to respond focussing on these key priorities. To that end the parish councillors agreed to help distribute a leaflet to be produced by Cllr Rathbone.
- c. Councillors would provide comments on the application to the Chair by Saturday 27th June.

26/61 'Assertion 10 'Digital & Data Compliance':

The Chairman has been updating the website; it is now 'live'.

There is a potential candidate to keep the website updated (largely minutes, agendas etc) possibly for an honorarium as at other Councils. The matter is postponed until the advice of the Clerk can be sought.

26/62 Land Allocations:

Councillor Catnach was concerned that the latest information on land allocations was not accessible on the W&F website. It was not known when the second round of allocations would be available. She would attend the Teams meeting on 24th June which should provide an update on the timing of the land allocations process.

26/63 Village Green recovery:

An estimate had been received to repair areas of the Green damaged during the flooding and by vehicles. It was considered an expensive option and the green appeared to be recovering on its own. It was therefore agreed to see how well the Green recovered during the summer.

26/64 Bus Shelter at Castlesteads View:

Councillor Wilson reported that he had been in touch with Westmorland and Furness who confirmed that they would supply a suitable shelter but that they were asking the if the Parish Council would pay for the installation as well as assuming responsibility for the long term maintenance of the shelter. It was agreed that Cllr Wilson would ask W&F Council to install the shelter and that the Parish Council would then assume responsibility for its long term maintenance.

26/65 Finance:

- a. it was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

Marion Thornton	£70.00	Internal Audit
Lune Valley Landscapes and Grounds Maintenance		
	£235.00	Grasscutting
Pauline Bourne (WI)	£18.00	Compost for Planters

- b. The Cash and Budget Statements were noted.
- c. The report from the Internal Auditor was received.
- d. The Council authorised the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Certificate of Exemption from external audit, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements.

26/66 Reports from Councillors:

- a. **Highwayman:** Councillor Clark continues to report potholes. The damaged kerb at the edge of the Green by the drain would be reported again. and many are being dealt with as a result. He was concerned that a more strategic approach to the road network was needed. He agreed to write a note for consideration by the Council.
- b. **Footpath Officer.** Councillor Kelly was delighted to report that the footpath between Crow Park Bridge and Cracalt Farm had been repaired and new gates fitted.
- c. **Village Hall Representative:** No report.
- d. **CALC:** No report.

26/67 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

Cllr Folks had written to the Chair to report that he had costed a defibrillator and case for the Beeches. He was seeking assistance in meeting the cost of approximately £1500. He was asked to submit the estimate to the Clerk who would be able to confirm if some of the cost could be met by CIL money. Council

26/68 Date of the next Meeting:

Monday 27th July at 7:00pm at St Mark's Church Vestry

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: