

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in St Mark's Church Vestry, Natland at 7pm.
On Monday 27th July 2026

26/69 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Catnach, Folks and Harkness, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark, Kelly and Wilson and noted from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone.

26/70 Public participation:

The Chairman welcomed Sheila Mawer, from Helme Lodge. She spoke regarding the Story Homes planning application and the need for the two detached bungalows close to Helme Lodge to be removed from the application as they infringed the historic parkland.

26/71 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

26/72 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

26/73 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Brook mentioned the follows:

- a. He thanked Councillors for their help in distributing letters regarding the Story Homes application. There had been three email responses addressing the possibility of having a footway and cycleway together on the Natland Road verge and the consequential damage to the verge.
- b. The proposal for the Castelsteads bus shelter and safe crossing point had been met favourably by the Localities Board.
- c. The Police will be introducing a new policy for Speed Indicator Devices in the autumn. Parishes will need to consider where these should be sited.

26/74 Planning:

The closing date for comments on the Story Homes application has now passed and the Council's comments have been submitted. In summary, the Council's response covered the following main points:

- a. A footpath along the length of Natland Road should be made a planning condition.
- b. There should not be a permanent vehicle entrance/exit on to Natland Road.

- c. Prohibit construction traffic entering the site from Natland Road and explicitly prohibit construction traffic from routing through Natland or Sedgwick villages.
- d. Other items in the response covered medical, dental, and other infrastructure provision, visual impact, and the need for more facilities on site for the new residents.

26/75 The Local Plan & Land Allocations:

The current draft of the new Local Plan which did not include Land Allocations was supported by the Parish Council.

The next round of Land Allocations is expected soon and will be subject to further consultation.

26/76 Defibrillator for The Beeches:

It was resolved to purchase a defibrillator for The Beeches, at a cost of around £1,735, using money from the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).

26/77 Notice board for The Beeches:

It was agreed, in principle, to install a notice board at The Beeches. The site will need to be agreed, and Councillor Folks will try to ascertain the likely costs, in due course.

26/78 Finance:

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

St Mark's PCC Natland	£25.00	Use of vestry
Natland Village Hall	£76.86	Hire of hall
Lune Valley Landscapes	£470.00	Grasscutting
And Ground Maintenance Limited		
K M Price	£160.35	Quarterly expenses, including use of home office and travel.

- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.

26/79 Reports from Councillors:

- a. **Highways.** There is a speeding problem in the area of Mardix, especially at certain times of the day. Councillor Folks agreed to mention this to Mardix, so that employees could be asked to moderate their speed when arriving or leaving work.

A further visit by Councillors to Mardix will be possible but it must be on a Friday afternoon. Councillor Brook expressed an interest in attending if available.

Councillor Brook had heard nothing further since parking on the bend near Mardix had been discussed. The Clerk will find previous correspondence and copy it to him.

- b. **Footpaths Officer.** No report.
- c. **Village Hall Representative.** It has not been possible, so far, to find a Village Hall representative.
- d. **CALC Representative.** Nothing to report.
- e. **Schools Liaison.** No report – schools are now on holiday.
- f. **Website and digital and data compliance.** As far as is understood, this Council is now compliant with the new regulations. It was resolved to offer a £150 honorarium each year to a volunteer for keeping the website up to date with agendas, minutes and financial details etc. Councillor Catnach to make enquiries.

26/80 Correspondence:

The Community Governance Review was recommending that the proposal to move all of Rochester Gardens, Castlesteads, and Castlesteads View into Kendal be dropped.

26/81 Date of the next meeting:

Monday 28th September 2026 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed:

Dated: