

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held in Natland Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th April 2005

05/41 Present: Cllr Peters in the Chair, Cllrs Bowley, Duff, Mansfield, Outhwaite, Parnham and the Clerk, Mrs A Ireland. Apologies were received from Cllr Williams (pressure of work). Cllr Duff apologised for leaving the meeting early in order to travel to Birmingham. One member of the public was present.

05/42 The **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on 21st March 2005 (*circulated*) had been found to omit much of the Church Report. This was now included in the version to be signed: the Minutes were agreed and signed.

05/43 Matters arising (not covered by the agenda)

- a. Alleged Taxi Business on Long Meadow Lane - The Clerk has not found any evidence that there is a taxi business operating unlawfully on this site. The owner of the licensed business lives at 5 Long Meadow Lane and parks his vehicles there. The Clerk is to write to Mike Dickinson to explain our investigations. The second possible taxi business (on Park Close) will be on the Agenda at the next meeting.
- b. Sedgwick Road footpath -The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from The Children's Society agent of responsibility for long-term maintenance of the two boundary hedges.
- c. Village 20 mph speed limit - The Clerk read letters from Cumbria Highways Department agreeing to monitor speeds on village roads in the next six months to assess whether a 20 mph speed limit would be appropriate on some or all roads.
- d. Litter bins A letter from the Streetcare Manager confirmed no additional litter bins were to be installed pending a review. The areas of concern, Dilly Bridge and Hawes Bridge, would be monitored and cleared more frequently if deemed necessary.

05/44 Implementation of the Parish Plan

- a. Reports from Working Groups were included in the Annual Report.
- b. 'Support Your Post Office' week. Cllr Parnham reported the group's most recent meeting; planning was going ahead and Mrs. Enid Holmes will update at the Annual Parish Meeting. Plans include a flyer, Parish Magazine articles (Natland & Sedgwick) and a notice on Sedgwick Parish Council's notice board. The suggestion was made that the web site could carry an advertisement.
- c. Surfacing of the Village Hall access area was an excellent job (details of funding will be on the Annual Report).

05/45 Annual Parish Meeting (May 19th 2005)

- a. The draft Annual Report (*circulated*) was checked and some minor adjustments made. The latest version of the accounts was also amended.
- b. The Clerk to print 475 copies, Cllr Peters would arrange distribution to the volunteers by Thursday 28th April for household delivery by May 5th 2005.
- c. The Clerk would post to all those not on our electoral Roll.
- d. Arrangements for the meeting were concluded, extra help needed to arrange the room; the Clerk to provide copies of the Agenda, Minutes of the 2004 meeting and

Annual Report and Accounts for each seat. Cllr Parnham and her team would organise tea and biscuits.

05/46 Maintenance of seats and bus shelters owned by the Parish Council

Cllr Parnham reported her inspection of the Village Green bus shelter which would benefit from a rub down and treatment for the algae which is starting to develop. The Clerk will check with the manufacturer on the original wood treatment and gain advice

The Pearson Charnley Memorial Seat had been removed by Barry Charnley and George Holmes for re-painting. All other seats to be checked for the next meeting.

05/47 Highway kerbing

The Clerk reported a letter from Mr & Mrs Beattie requesting kerbing in front of The Bield, Oxenholme Lane, but pointing out their neighbour at Crosby Lodge is opposed to any more kerbing. The Chair reported that the owner is no longer opposed to kerbing in front of The Anchorage, Helm Lane.

The Council agreed to request the Highway Authority to kerb the wide verge on Helm Lane at (and on both sides of) its junction with Robby Lea Drive, and to kerb in front of The Anchorage; the Clerk to write suggesting a site meeting.

The Council also agreed to request kerbing in front of The Bield and Crosby Lodge, but only if the owner of Crosby Lodge agrees to it; the Clerk to speak to the respective owners.

At this point precedence was agreed for the School Report (see Minute 05/50(b) below) after which Cllr Duff left the meeting.

05/48 Planning

(a) Comments sent to S.L.D.C. since our last meeting were confirmed as follows:
SL/2005/0348 Replacement access road at Crow Park - these plans were studied by the Councillors and the Clerk was instructed to reply indicating no objections.

(b) Comments on recent planning applications:

The Council noted that extensions at 6 St. Mark's Fold (SL/2005/0128) had been permitted by SLDC. A letter from the Planning Officer, Fiona Clark, explained that the Council's objections were not considered valid. Amended designs were enclosed.

(c) SLDC's South Lakeland Urban Potential Study 2004 had been seen by all Councillors. The Clerk had sent a response to SLDC based on the note from Cllr Peters, circulated with the documents, as all Councillors' comments were in agreement with his suggested response.

05/49 Finance

a. Balances at 25.4.05

Current Account £95.65

Business Bonus Account £1,497.16

b. The following payments were agreed:

Wenning Surfacing Ltd. £7,238.00
Allianz Cornhill - insurance 2005/06 £402.89
Village Hall hire for four meeting £33.00
John Nelson - grass cutting £105.00

The Clerk passed on to the Council Mr Nelson's concern at the extent of dog fouling on the area of grass around the village name sign at the north entrance to the village. The Clerk to make sure a dog fouling order sign is placed there (enclose dog fouling leaflet with the Annual Report to residents of Charnley Fold.)

05/40 Reports

a. Church

Cllr Mansfield reported that the Annual Parochial Church Meetings had been held on April 18th when new Parochial Church Council members and new representatives to the Deanery Synod had been elected.

The Men's Group would meet on May 13th for a meal and a film.

The Church Fête (theme - The Forties) will be held on June 11th. On May 25th the Vicarage gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. for quiet reflection.

b. School Cllr Duff reported that the Nelson Link Corridor had been opened by Barbara Nelson providing a welcome new access between classrooms.

The budget for the next three years had been approved - this allowed the school to retain six classes for the next two years.

By 2006 the school will be legally required to provide an extended day 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The headmaster hopes to run a trial scheme after the half term holiday. No money exists for establishing this trial scheme and Mr. Chandler was hoping to gain some financial support from the Parish Council. *(The Clerk has a letter from Mr Chandler requesting financial support which will be circulated in the blue bag.)*

Pre-school provision is now essential if the school is to combat falling numbers. The headmaster is in discussions with Jane Faulkner who runs the Pre-School classes at the Village Hall.

c. Village Hall Cllr Peters reported that the Annual General Meeting had been held on Monday April 18th. Satisfaction had been expressed at the completed surfacing of the access area. Future spending plans included the refurbishment of the kitchen and a full repainting of the building inside and out. Charges would be increased for occasional and commercial users only. The Committee is looking for 'young blood' for the committee.

d. Footpaths Cllr Outhwaite reported that the footpath across a field on the east side of Natland Road required reinstatement after ploughing. The Clerk to contact Mrs Gardner to ask that this be done.

The footpath at Little Cracalt had now been waymarked by Cllr Outhwaite and Dennis Poole. John Holman has been clearing paths by Cracalt Farm and the railway line; Cllr Outhwaite is liaising with him.

e. Highways Cllr Bowley had inspected the village signs and several required work, including the 'Low Headroom 8'6"' signs which were faded. The Clerk would contact John Bell (Capita) with the list.

The Clerk to contact Capita to point out the continuing danger caused by an area of the highway opposite Appletree School where new gratings had been placed in the road. Rubble is still fenced off there causing road narrowing - it is not lit at night and is a danger to the public. The Clerk is also to point out settlement of backfill to the recent drainage work at the Appletree end of Sedgwick Road footpath.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Next meeting :

Tuesday May 24th 2005 - 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall (the Annual Meeting)