

**DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD MONDAY 12TH MAY 2025 IN KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH COMMUNITY HALL AT 7.00pm**

**Meeting commenced at 7.00p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs M Mennie (Chair), Al Armstrong (Vice Chair), J Grieves, JJ Raine & J Reed.

**Apologies:** Cllr J Grieves & R Mathieson (NCC).

Seven parishioners were in attendance.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** (13th May 2024) were agreed and signed.

2. **Matters Arising**

South Tyne Railway: Maintenance issues still due to lack of funding / shortage of volunteers.

Highway Issues: Cllr Mennie met with Mr Harrison (NCC Highways) and was able to show/explain some of the issues (drainage/potholes etc). A previously filled pothole has been washed out, Cllr Mennie suggest parishioners report this, and other things, directly via Northumberland County Council 'fix my street' the more people who report an issue the faster it will be addressed.

Old School: Parish Council going for adverse possession.

South Tyne Railway (Trail): Cllr Armstrong has been advised to contact landowners to gather more info to prove the trail has been walked (Public Right of Way), as anticipated this will be a long process.

Grass Cutting: Following the death of the contractor the family are fulfilling the contract. The first two cuts of the season have been completed.

Litter Bin Beside Bottle Bank: A bin has been installed (also on the South Tyne Trail at Burnstones). The bin by the bottle bank was damaged and has now been replaced, NCC to be contacted to ensure the bins are on the route to be emptied.

Speeding: Still an issue, the 'slow down' flashing signs do not appear to be a deterrent. Cllr Armstrong has managed to assess the programme, hopefully this will allow us to collate data which will give readings on usage speeds etc, which could then be used to justify further action by the authorities to stop speeding. One sign not working, awaiting an engineer.

3. **Financial** - Monies: £12,249.11.

4. **Any Other business**

Fence 2 meters around the cundy (village green) for safety reason, this was discussed i.e. access for digger to clear, grass cutting/strimming. Cllr Mennie to investigate and report back to parish council.

Pennine Way – a safety issue for walkers (near the caravan site) any possibility of further signage/ chevrons on the road to slow down traffic, this has been mentioned to NCC Highways many times in the past to no avail but will try again.

Signage at the Eals needs re-instating – single traffic.

Knarrburn (South Tyne Trail) – Gate needs repair, NCC Rights Of Way are aware of this, Clerk to chase up.

Seats – The Parish Coucil have been seeking some one to carry out maintenance on the bus shelters and all the seats in the parish, at which time the plaque on the Jubilee seat will be reinstated.

Oak tree on village green – requires pruning.

Standing Orders – still not updated and on website, the wording is defined as laid down by protocol, as are the rules regarding attending meetings and not being able to speak unless allowed/invited by the Chair.

Elections – the time scale and notifications are defined by Government/NCC. The Clerk did not know that the Parish election was uncontested until the notice received and posted on the noticeboard and website. Presently the two vacancies can be filled by co-option within 35 days of election date, there is no requirement to advertise. A Parishioner asked for both the councillors who have stood down be thanked for their commitment and contribution to the local community over the years, which has been much appreciated.

Temporary Road Closure - Knarsdale Junction to Hanging Shaw Slaggyford to install poles and carry out mole ploughing for network fibre. Expected work dates: 24/07/2025 - 04/08/2025 between the hours of 08:00 - 18:00. Access to be maintained for residents and businesses where safe and possible to do so.

Events – Suggestions would be considered as to whether they can be organised in collaboration with other groups within the parish.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.15p.m.