

DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 12TH MAY 2025 IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL.

Meeting commenced at 8.20p.m. following on from the Annual Meeting.

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

Apologies: Cllrs J Grieves & R Mathieson (NCC).

Public Question –Must be submitted in writing prior to Parish Council meetings to allow for a detailed and accurate response. None received.

1. Elections – Paperwork: completed the declarations forms, Clerk to forward to NCC.

2. Chair & Vice Chair:

Chair: M Mennie - proposed by JJ Raine, seconded by Al Armstrong, there were no other nominations.

Vice Chair: Al Armstrong – proposed by M Mennie, seconded by JJ Raine, there were no other nominations.

Two Co-Options: Cllrs agreed to co-opt Jeremy Higgs, he completed declaration forms and joined the meeting. The second co-option has still to confirm their acceptance as a parish councillor.

3. Minutes (including any ratification of decisions taken) of meetings held 13th March 2025 were agreed and signed.

4. Declaration of Interest: None.

5. Matters Arising:

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.

Roadside verges –alongside the Kirk Style, Highways contact details have been given for them to deal with direct – no update. The parking is still an ongoing problem.

Speeding – ‘slow down’ flashing signs/collation of data – no further update. One not working, awaiting an engineer.

Parking Burnstones Junction – This is a safety issue, a potential serious accident waiting to happen.

Pennine Way – a safety issue for walkers (near the caravan site) 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.

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.

Scheduled work on Burnstones bridge – has not started, probably in 2025 work schedule and will require a ‘road closure’. Still awaiting clarification on track status – public right of way or a permission right of way. Heavy vehicles still seen travelling across the bridge which is dangerous – no further update.

Railway bridge over the Knarr (South Tyne Trail): the additional rail necessary for the safety is still to be done. Kissing-Gate – needs repair, it has all rotted away. Clerk to contact NCC Rights Of Way again.

Steps on Pennine Way/Burnstones bridle path: lethal and need urgent attention, Clerk to re-contact NCC Rights Of Way.

Old School: still awaiting information to complete documentation for re-submission to go for adverse possession and register with Land Registry – no further update. Keep out signs/fencing checked.

South Tyne Railway: No update re the field.

South Tyne Trail: vehicles using it as a road, accessing it from Burnstones, travelling at speed – churning up surface and a danger to walkers – still no update from NCC Rights of Way as to what action they are taking to stop this.

Signed: Date:

Wheelie Bins/Bottle Bank: The damaged bin has been replaced, NCC will ensure bins are emptied. An email from a parishioner was read out requesting the bottle bank be moved, after consultation, and with the agreement of Northumberland County Council all are in agreement that the layby is the best place for the bottle bank to be sited for the benefit of the whole parish.

Public Right Of Way/Witness Statements: Cllr Armstrong to contact landowners to gather more info to prove the trail has been walked (Public Right of Way), as anticipated this will be a lengthy process.

Maintenance: Maintenance of the bus shelters and seats – the Parish Council have been seeking someone 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.

6. Planning Applications:

None.

Planning Infringements – concerns received from parishioners re the Kirkstyle were forwarded to NCC.

7. Financial:

Monies: £12,249.11 (includes £623 ring fenced Transparency Grant) PLUS 1st Precept Payment £2,605.50 = £14,854.61.

LESS: NALC Subs £99.39, NALC Website £75.00, Bank Charges £11.00 = £14,669.22 (includes £548 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

Risk Assessments: Financial & Management Risk Assessment document – no amendments – next review May, or earlier if necessary. Fidelity Guarantee it was agreed cover for £2,000 was adequate as cheques require 3 signatures Clerk's plus two cllrs and that any additional cost on insurance is disproportionate to the risk involved.

2024/25 Audit Report:– Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2025 and statement of assurance completed and signed as appropriate, accounts had been verified by Internal Auditor, all relevant paperwork will be displayed. Cllrs had previously reviewed internal audit procedure and the present Internal Auditor to be asked to continue for another year. The appointed independent Internal Audit, is completely unbiased and competent to carry out the audit. As part of the audit they had full access to all documentation, including Auditor's briefing notes and discussion with Parish Clerk.

Certificate of Exemption completed as gross income/expenditure did not exceed £25,000.

Online Banking: Documentation being collated with new councillors.

8. Transparency, Open-ness & Accountability:

The Standing Orders to be reviewed and presented at July meeting.

9. Tynedale Local Area Council:

Next meeting – 13th May 2025.

10. Correspondence:

NALC – update changes to website.

Children North East Impact Report Review (link)

11. Any Other Business:

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

Oak tree on village green – requires pruning.

Speeding – the Kirkstyle round the Community Hall – Clerk to mention to NCC Highways.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th July 2025 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.50p.m.