

DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2025 AT 7.00p.m. IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL.

Present: Cllrs M Mennie (Chair), A Armstrong (Vice Chair), J Grieves, J Raine, J Reed, W Watson & I Hutchinson (NCC).

Apologies: Cllrs J Styne.

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

1. Hyperfast GB Project (Fibrus):

Mr Paul Cretney(Fibrus) attended the Parish Council Meeting to give an update on the new broadband service.

The work is presently underway and is expected to be completed by end of 2025 / beginning of 2026. Unfortunately, there will some disruption for road users, there will be access available to all properties. Wherever possible ducting already in situ will be used but it will be necessary for a percentage of poles to be erected to link up areas off the main road (A689).

Fibrus are delivering the contract on behalf of the Government, of the 143 dwellings in the parish only 88 are scheduled to be able to take up the improved service, at the moment but this may change.

To find out if your property is eligible, you can do a post code check by going to fibrus website and hyperfastgb website, you can register your interest, this does not commit you to taking up the service when it becomes live. There will be leaflet drops to eligible properties giving information as appropriate.

2. Minutes (including any ratification of decisions taken) of meetings held 10th February 2025 were agreed and signed.

3. Declaration of Interest: None.

4. Matters Arising:

Highway Issues: Unfortunately, the meeting with Mr G Harrison (NCC Highways) still to take place. NCC have been and will continue to be informed of all issues as they arise (Blocked Drains (Hangshaw Junction): resulting in house flooding, The Eals Road Bridge: erosion of the riverbank needs attention, Knarrburn – large stones falling on the main road). Parishioners can themselves contact NCC direct to report issues.

Debris in ditch, right hand side, passed communal wheelie bins, sorted.

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, possibly a new battery required.

Parking Burnstones Junction – This is a serious safety issue, a potential serious accident waiting to happen and will be highlighted at the meeting with G Harrison, NCC.

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. Cllr Hutchinson has previously informed NCC Rights Of Way.

Steps on Pennine Way/Burnstones bridle path: lethal and need urgent attention, Cllr Hutchinson has informed 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: Installed. The one beside the bottle bank has been damaged, this to be reported to NCC. Also, NCC to be informed the bin on the village green has not been emptied.

Public Right Of Way/Witness Statements: Cllr Armstrong no further info.

Maintenance: Maintenance of the bus shelters and seats – contact has taken place but due to other commitments assessment of work required still to take place – no further update.

Play Park Inspection: Advisory actions still to be addressed.

5. Elections:

Cllrs completed nomination documentation. Election Polling Day to be held on Thursday 1st May 2025.

6. Grass Cutting:

Wallace Arms Grass Cutting Services have confirmed they will fulfil the remainder of the contract, under the same terms and conditions. Enquires re tendering for the work will be notified accordingly.

6. Planning Applications:

None.

7. Financial:

Monies: £13,151.10 + £39.91 Northern Powergrid Wayleave = £13,191.01 (includes £623 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

LESS: Clerk's 12 months' Salary (including HMRC payment) + expenses £861.90, Mole control £50.00, Bank Charges £8.00 = £12,271.11 (includes £623 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

Online Banking: Final documentation being collated.

8. Transparency, Open-ness & Accountability:

The Standing Orders are being reviewed and will be amended as necessary, with the agreement of the Council.

9. Tynedale Local Area Council:

Next meeting – April 2025.

10. Correspondence:

NCC – various election documentation

Cumberland Planning Policy Notification: Statement of Community Involvement - adoption 18th February 2025 Adjoining Town/Parish Councils, Community Councils

St Cuthbert's Local Plan 2025 – 2055 Regulation 19: Publication Draft

NCC Digital Switchover BT Roadshows 3rd April 10-4 Sainsburys Car park

NCC Community Conversation, Supporting Nature in our Green Spaces

11. Any Other Business:

Council Tax – query regarding the Parish Council minus percentage shown on the Council Tax papers, to clarify the reason, most Councils have increased their precepts and show a minus percentage (this is not just Knarsdale With Kirkhaugh Parish but all parishes in Northumberland), briefly within the parish there are more Band D properties, new dwelling/conversions and the new policy on second home payments.

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

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.00p.m.

Annal Meeting at 7.00p.m. followed by the Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Signed: Date:

Website: <https://northumberlandalc.uk/knarsdale>