

# DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 14TH JULY 2025 AT 7.30p.m. IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL.

**Present:** Cllrs M Mennie (Chair), J Grieves (Part), J Higgs, JJ Raine, J Reed & R Mathieson (NCC).

**Apologies:** Cllrs Al Armstrong (Vice Chair) & J Cummings

**Public Question** –Must be submitted in writing prior to Parish Council meetings to allow for a detailed and accurate response.

1. A defib sited at the Eals - unfortunately this would not be possible as there is no public facility from which to access an electricity supply.
2. Signage - sign/s have disappeared and have requested Northumberland County Council Highways to reinstate.
3. Gritting - NCC Highways have a gritting schedule/programme in place which although not perfect seems to work well, they are aware of the areas that need grit heaps, to ensure that the Eals corner is one of the places, with bins if possible. Systems are changing within the County Council, in the past you could contact Highways if they had not got the grit heaps out or needed more, will find out contact details and pass them on before the wintery weather.

**1. Minutes (including any ratification of decisions taken) of meetings** held 12th May 2025, subject to amended typos, were agreed and signed.

**2. Declaration of Interest:** None.

**3. Co-Options:** Cllrs formally agreed John Cummings co-option, the declaration forms were dealt with, unfortunately he was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

## **4. Matters Arising:**

Highway Issues: Clerk has been trying to contact NCC Highways on numerous occasions since 13<sup>th</sup> May to no avail, Cllr Mathieson explained this would be due to the new systems being implemented. Clerk to follow up the issues of signage, Pennine Way walkers and speeding.

Pothole reported via NCC 'fix my street' 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, when an engineer is in the area they will meet with Cllr Mennie.

Various temporary road closures due to installation of the new broadband, access to be maintained for residents and businesses where safe and possible to do so.

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 – NCC informed the Clerk parishioners to report incidents to the police.

Drainage – water on A689 getting worse, especially at Side House.

Cattle grid – past the station on the road to Far House – road sinking.

Hollow Ash Tree (same road) – needs attention, NCC responsibility as within a meter of the highway.

Cllr Mathieson will report issues via her portal; would be good if photos could be provided. Cllr Mathieson also suggested arranging a meeting with herself, NCC Highways and Cllr Mennie to show/explain the problems.

Railway bridge over the Knarr (South Tyne Trail): NCC Right Of Way responded, "originally there was no rails therefore no further work is necessary".

Kissing-gate / gate post: responded "on the South Tyne Trail and that section is owned by NCC, as far as public access is concerned, would not class this as being urgent as there is currently a gap available for easy access. Have previously spoken with adjacent landowners who let their stock graze the surface of the trail, it is in their interests to have that section of the trail stock-proof. NCC would rather not have structures across the route, as benefit from the grazing which keeps the route clear of vegetation. NCC have a quote to carry out boundary repair works along the South Tyne Trail which will include repairs to the existing gate structures but currently waiting for funds to carry out this work, prefer to install self-closing bridle gates rather than kissing gates that cannot be used by cyclists/horse riders etc."

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Steps on Pennine Way/Burnstones bridle path: NCC Rights Of Way due to inspect that section of the Pennine Way in a few weeks' time.

Old School: Gathering statements of facts.

South Tyne Trail: NCC Rights of Way responded access required for maintenance work etc., therefore any barrier would be unfeasible.

Maintenance of the bus shelters / seats: – Cllrs all agreed for Mr Ray Fendrick be awarded the work.

Play Park: Annual inspection will be carried out this month.

Tree Maintenance: Oak tree on village green – requires pruning – work will be carried out later in the year.

Cundy Fence: Cllrs to have a site visit to ascertain the most feasible way to progress. Cllr Mennie was given the authorisation to engage a contractor to carry out the work within an agreed cost.

## **5. Parish Event:**

Feedback from different groups was shared. After discussion it was proposed Council seek views on holding a Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday pm late October with refreshments in the Hall at the finish.

## **6. Planning Applications:**

Application No. 25/01898/FUL : Proposal Change of use from ancillary accommodation to storage area for Kirkstyle Inn  
Location Kirkstyle Inn Slaggyford Northumberland CA8 7PB  
Suspected Breach of Planning Rules: Gun Dog Park under review by NCC.

## **7. Financial:**

Monies: £14,669.22 (includes £548 ring fenced Transparency Grant) PLUS Wayleave Payment £12.02 = £14,681.24.

LESS: Clear Councils Insurance £872.35, Defib Pads £84.00, Community Hall £200.00, Bank Charges £18.00 = £13,506.89 (includes £548 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

Online Banking: Documentation and signatures being collated.

## **8. Transparency, Open-ness & Accountability:**

Website: Cllrs agreed to go with HugoFox, recommended new service provider, also .gov.uk email a legal requirement by 1st April 2026. These changes will incur additional costs.

The Standing Orders reviewed, agreed by Cllrs and accepted as of 14th July 2025.

## **9. Tynedale Local Area Council:** Meetings no longer taking place.

## **10. Correspondence:**

NCC - Cllr Mark Mather - Portfolio Holder for Highways

NCC - Applications for LOVE Northumberland Awards.

NCC - Corporate Performance Report.

NCC - £10bn Blackstone QTS Data Centre investment briefing event 30/7/25 at Blyth.

Various notification of road closures due to new broadband installation.

Request for Donation to Citizens Advice Northumberland, 2025–26 - no donation given.

Baxter's Exterior Cleaning Ltd, all types of exterior cleaning from gutters, windows, walkways.

Planning policy consultation notification Reference 2459937 - Westmorland and Furness Council - agreed.

## **11. Any Other Business:**

Grass Cutting: good feedback from parishioner.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.40p.m.