

# DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30p.m. IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL.

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Cummings, 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. Minutes (including any ratification of decisions taken) of meetings** held 10th November 2025 were agreed and signed.

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

### **3. Matters Arising:**

Highway Issues: An email received from a parishioner requested it be minuted their gratitude to Cllr Mathieson for implementing signs/road markings warning of pedestrians using the Pennine Way. The Eals - NCC still to replace the missing 'road narrows' sign and looking at further safety measures that may be justified re the tight bend next to the bridge.

Trees/branches need cutting back throughout the parish, especially the road from the Kirkstyle to the Eals. Roadside verges –alongside the Kirk Style, Highways contact details have been given for them to deal with direct. The parking is still an ongoing problem; a planning application has been submitted.

Speeding – with updated software hopefully it will be possible/easier to collate data.

Still awaiting clarification on track status – public right of way or a permission right of way.

Drainage – water on A689 getting worse, especially at Side House, NCC Highways will contact landowner and have requested more details – Cllr Mennie will supply info.

Cattle grid – past the station on the road to Far House – road sinking – no update. Hollow Ash Tree (same road) – needs attention, NCC responsibility as within a meter of the highway – no update. Both items to be reported on Fix My Street, awaiting photos to upload.

Essential work to be carried out on the U7014 Slaggyford to Ayle Road - no update.

Cllr Mennie still to meet with Andy Olive / Dave Dover, who know and work this area, and point out the various issues and possibly agree solutions more readily.

Dog Poo Bin (Eals): Cllrs agreed not to progress any further.

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.

Copied into an email a parishioner sent to NCC, river bridge on Public Footpath 531/027 - bridge steps in a dangerous state, the rotted step is towards the top of a steep and slippery wooden stair to the platform of the bridge, in addition to the rotted step, there is also a hole rotted in the platform of the bridge. The bridge is high above the river, any accident would be likely to have serious consequences.

Clerk to seek an update from NCC on both issues.

Old School: Cllrs Mennie & Higgs gathering statements of facts – info not ready to submit yet. Cllrs agreed to have a site meeting (date to be arranged) to discuss tidying up and way forward.

Maintenance of the bus shelters / seats: – Deferred until weather improves.

### **4. Parish Event:**

Cllr Higgs produced proposals for a Village Garden Competition, these were favourably discussed. It was agreed to hold the event late July/early August, feedback/comments to be sought from community groups before finalising details.

**5. Grass Cutting:** Tenders discussed, all Cllrs agreed to award the contract to WR Wigham for a further 2 years.

## 6. Planning Applications:

Application No. 25/03966/FUL: Proposal Erection of a rear single storey extension, two storey extension and single storey pitched roof porch to side. Enlargement and refurbishment works to existing outbuilding. Demolition of detached metal clad barn and erection of detached 4 bay, timber, pitched roof garage. New pedestrian and vehicular access with gates. - Location Nursery Gardens Slaggyford Brampton Northumberland CA8 7PG

Application No. 25/03869/FUL: Creation of parking area to serve restaurant / Inn and church, access and landscaping - Land East Of Kirkstyle Inn Slaggyford Northumberland

Application No. 25/03994/FUL: Proposal Storage cabin (Retrospective) - Location Field Opposite Fell End Slaggyford Brampton Northumberland CA8 7NW (Suspected Breach of Planning Rules).

Application No. 25/04405/VARYCO: Proposal Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 17/01400/VARYCO in order to allow changes to internal arrangements to become 1no. three bedroom residential unit, 1no. three bedroom and 2no. two bed holiday accommodation units; - Land South Of Whitlow Alston Northumberland

## 7. Financial:

Monies: £14,357.79 (includes £548.00 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

LESS: Bank Charges £12.00 = £14,345.79.

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

Website: no further info re HugoFox, new service provider, or .gov.uk email required by 1st April 2026.

## 9. Correspondence:

Northumbria Healthcare - Helping people to find the right healthcare service for their needs, info specifically on our urgent treatment centres plus a general overview of where to go for different care needs.

NCC - draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the North of Tyne, public consultation, closes 9/1/2026.

NCC - **Northumberland Local Plan 'Call for Sites' Consultation** (developing a Design Code), closing date 9/1/26.

NALC - The government issued its multi-year [local government finance policy statement 2026/27 to 2028/29](#), it will consult in December 2025 on a three-year provisional local government finance settlement. The government have stated that they are not (if average parish and town council precept increases over the three years are minimised) intending to include parish and town councils in referendum principles for precept increases over the three years.

Westmorland and Furness Council new Local Plan for a **Second Call for Sites** to identify development and land use across the district, 28/11/25 – 20/2/26.

NCC Joint Town & Parish Council Spring Conference Thursday 5/3/26 at County Hall – book by 27/2/26.

Westmorland & Furness Local Plan Call for Sites 2024 Assessment Outcomes Report published

## 10. Any Other Business:

Drainage: above Slaggyford Station still an issue, drains/ditches need clearing – Clerk to inform NCC.

Communal Wheelie Bins: Cllr Higgs produced a report highlighting issues together with recommendations as how to overcome them. Cllrs welcomed and endorsed the report, they agreed for Clerk to forward the report to NCC for them to action.

Burnstones Junction: Still traffic issues, vehicles travelling on the main road (A689) and cars coming onto the A689 from the side road, suggested perhaps taking some of the bank out on the left side to give more visibility could help. Clerk to forward suggestion to NCC.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.20p.m.