

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Jane Coltman
54 Gosforth Road, Seascale, Cumbria CA20 1PJ
Tel: 07977339928
clerk@eandkpc.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 16th July 2024 at 6.30pm in The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge

Present: Cllr J Thursz (Chair), Cllr S Guise (SG), Cllr R Maxwell (RM), Cllr R Outhwaite (RO), Cllr S Parker (SP), Cllr B Wright (BW).

Clerk: J Coltman (JC)

Members of the public: 10

Meeting Started: 18:32

Minute Number	Item	Action
1059/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that questions from the public would only be permitted during public participation. He apologised for having to remain rigid, which was due to the behaviour of a minority in previous meetings.</p>	
1060/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Apologies</p> <p>The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Nancy Rowson. Cllr Paul Rowson had submitted apologies via Cllr Parker.</p>	
1061/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
1062/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">To Approve Minutes</p> <p>Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21/05/24.</p>	JC
1063/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>Agenda items 26, 27, 28 & 29 contained details of members of the public so were confidential. Resolved to exclude press and public for items 26, 27, 28 & 29</p>	
1064/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Lamplugh & District Sports Committee</p> <p>James Ridehalgh thanked the Council for their continued support. 49 children participated in this year's event. A number of local businesses had helped to sponsor the event. There would be another event next year and a Christmas party in between. The Chair presented Mr Ridehalgh with a grant cheque for £400.</p>	
1065/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Reports from Guest Speakers</p> <p>1) Rachael Oakley from Wild Ennerdale had submitted a written report which is attached. The key points that she covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers • Beckfoot Tree & Flower Nursery • Coast to Coast Upgrade • Riverlands in the Lake District (a separate report is attached re the river Liza). • Red Grouse • Community Led Plan 	

	<p>2) Gareth Browning from Forestry England gave a slide presentation and a talk, covering Phytophthora larch disease and spruce respacing. A summary from Gareth is attached.</p> <p>3) Neil Thirkell from the National Trust added to Rachel's report to say that the work on the coast to coast footpath would be starting the following week.</p> <p>4) Philippa Chadwick from the West Cumbria Rivers Trust updated on the works that had been ongoing, from clearing rivers, planting wildflowers, fish easements, tree maintenance, invasive species control and surveys. Fish numbers have been improving but could be better. Bank stabilisation works were planned and the reintroduction of some juvenile mussels. Revetment work was planned which would improve habitat and flood risk.</p>	
1066/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Participation</p> <p>A member of the public asked how the tree felling would impact squirrels. Gareth responded that where possible they were felling outside of the breeding season and looking for the drays and taking measures to protect these. A member of the public asked if there would be signage on the Coast to Coast path. Cllr Parker confirmed that new signs were due to be installed soon.</p>	
1067/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King's Portrait. The free portrait had been brought to the meeting. A place to hang it needed to be agreed. • Streetlights. The one on Ehen Garth belonged to Home Group. The ownership of the one on Vicarage Lane was unknown. • Benches on Jubilee Trail. The additional bench had now been installed. • SID Was now fully operational. • Accounts All completed and submitted for the year. • Planning The Gather had circulated a letter and said that they were putting their application on hold. This still appeared to be live on the LDNP website. There was no proposal to submit a supplemental response at this time. • Clerk's hours and progress It had been a busy period between meetings and the clerk had not managed to make as much progress as she had hoped. Dealing with complaints, FOI requests, the ICO and the police had taken up just under 30 hours of her time. In costs terms that is £400 to £500 and more is anticipated. These are down to a limited group of individuals who cost the tax payer over £1000 in the previous year. 	
1068/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillor Updates</p> <p>Broken Bench RM had removed this, but one end remained which would need heavier equipment to remove. Cold Fell Tourist Sign This had been removed for repair to the stand, and returned to a former councillor. RM said that when he asked the former councillor, they had said that they had no knowledge of its whereabouts. Four people confirmed that the former councillor had</p>	

	<p>confirmed to them that they had the sign in their barn and it needed to be put back on the path. They were prepared to give statements to that effect. Resolved to report the matter as theft to the police.</p> <p>Asset Register RM had been trying to identify which parcels of land belonged to the Council. The Chair suggested a contact within the village who may be able to advise. RM said that the noticeboard looked as if it needed varnishing.</p> <p>Parish Enhancement The SID was now in place.</p> <p>Regen Nothing to report</p> <p>Street Lights – Dark Skies</p> <p>BW said that there was a sodium light in Vicarage Lane that was shining into people’s windows. This ought to be changed to an LED light. The light belonged to Home Group. BW would survey all lights and then speak to the Clerk.</p> <p>LDNP Letter. The Chair said that he had written the letter which the Clerk would send.</p> <p>Emergency Plan. Nothing to report.</p> <p>Community Led Plan SP had received some feedback, had received an offer of assistance from a volunteer and a former councillor who still had a lot of paperwork that they would share.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>RM</p> <p>BW</p> <p>JC</p>
1069/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p> <p>7/2024/4044 – Low Moor End Farm. – Non-consultation river works. Resolved to offer no comments</p> <p>7/2024/4046 – 1 Lane Foot – Proposed two-storey side, single storey garage extension & internal alterations. Resolved to comment that although there were no observations on the merits of the extension, there were concerns over the use of common land for access.</p> <p>RC/2024/0021 – Routen Farm – 60 Day temporary recreational campsite. Resolved to offer no comments.</p>	JC
1070/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Insurance Renewal</p> <p>The insurance renewal quotation was for £448.08, which was less than the budget figure of £600. Resolved to accept the renewal quotation.</p>	JC
1071/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Delegation Arrangements Review</p> <p>Deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
1072/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>Deferred to the next meeting</p>	
1073/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Revised Financial Regulations</p> <p>New model financial regulations had been issued by NALC in April. The Clerk had circulated the draft with tracked changes where amendments had been made to personalise to E&KPC. Resolved to adopt the new Financial Regulations.</p>	JC
1074/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Revised Complaints Procedure</p> <p>Resolved To adopt the revised procedure.</p>	JC
1075/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Questions from non-residents.</p> <p>RM felt that the parishioners should not be funding the Clerk’s time to answer questions from people who do not reside within the parish.</p> <p>Resolved To adopt a policy that the Council is only required to respond to questions from residents or people with whom the Parish Council does business.</p>	JC

1076/07/24	<p align="center">Reports or Recommendations from the Staffing Committee</p> <p>The Chair stated that the Committee had not met.</p> <p>Further to assertions made in previous meetings by two councillors, that they had submitted code of conduct complaints against him, he had corresponded at length with the Monitoring Officer and their staff and they confirmed that they did not have a complaint against him from another councillor. Therefore, he would no longer recuse himself from Staffing Committee business.</p>																					
1077/07/24	<p align="center">Hedge Cutting</p> <p>The insides of the hedges still needed to be cut by hand. Approaches had been made to businesses and voluntary groups, but nothing had been confirmed.</p> <p>Resolved To delegate authority to the Clerk to spend up to £600 to arrange the cutting. A deadline within the next four weeks.</p>	JC																				
1078/07/24	<p align="center">Payments for Approval</p> <p>Resolved To approve the payments.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>J Coltman</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£ 67.08</td> <td>000716</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Coltman</td> <td>Wages</td> <td>£ 642.61</td> <td>000717</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>£ 160.60</td> <td>000718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Gather</td> <td>Room Hire</td> <td>£ 60.00</td> <td>000719</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clear Insurance</td> <td>Insurance</td> <td>£ 448.08</td> <td>000720</td> </tr> </table>	J Coltman	Expenses	£ 67.08	000716	J Coltman	Wages	£ 642.61	000717	HMRC	PAYE	£ 160.60	000718	The Gather	Room Hire	£ 60.00	000719	Clear Insurance	Insurance	£ 448.08	000720	
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1079/07/24	<p align="center">Finance Report</p> <p>The Clerk presented the quarterly budget comparison report. There were no questions.</p>																					
1080/07/24	<p align="center">Councillor Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese Knotweed. BW said that it had been spotted in the village opposite the Shepherd's Arms. The Clerk would report to Cumberland Council. • Hedges. SP said that a member of the public had raised a problem with the overgrown hedges along the road to Braemar corner. The member of the public could report this online. • King's Portrait. It was agreed that the portrait be hung in The Gather as that is where the Council holds their meetings. If The Gather are unable to facilitate this, it should be offered to the Church Community Room. 	JC																				
1081/07/24	<p align="center">Date of next meeting</p> <p>Confirmed as September 17th 2024</p> <p>Press and public left the room and the Council entered a closed session.</p>																					
1082/07/24	<p align="center">Three Complaints from one individual</p> <p>Resolved that the three complaints not be upheld and the Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council.</p>	JC																				
1083/07/24	<p align="center">Breach of the Council's Unacceptable Behaviour Policy.</p> <p>Resolved that the person's actions are a further breach of the Unacceptable Behaviour Policy and the Council will cease communication with this individual.</p>	JC																				
1084/07/24	<p align="center">Response to the Information Commissioner</p> <p>Resolved That the Council 1) Appeals the original finding that the request should have been handled as an EIR request rather than a FOI</p>																					

	request and 2) Asks to be included as the third party to the appeal from the member of the public against the ICO's decision to uphold the Council's response, in order to defend against the false narrative being submitted by the member of the public in support their appeal.	JC
1085/07/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Update on Police Matters</p> <p>The Clerk updated the Council on recent communication with the police. The Clerk and Chair had attended a meeting with the police in Whitehaven to discuss ongoing issues regarding the conduct of a member of the public.</p>	

Meeting closed at 10.01pm

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....

Appendix A

wildwaterforestmountains ennerdale

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council Meeting Tue 16th July 2024 Wild Ennerdale update

1. Volunteers

Thank you to our volunteer team for continued support, many of whom are parish residents. Main areas of work over last couple of months are:

- Potting juniper seedlings
- Bracken control at Bowness Knott
- New fencing at the Mill to protect the marsh fritillary butterfly field
- Tree maintenance
- Weed control
- Wildflower planting

2. Beckfoot Tree & Flower nursery

Proposal to create a tree & flower nursery on site. Repair costs are being finalised for the outbuildings to make them usable again & work will be done via NT building contractors. Awaiting confirmation of grant funding from FE.

Polytunnels (x 2), raised beds (x 2) & a path network will go in the garden. An adjacent field area to the north will be (sheep) fenced for extended planting.

3. Coast to Coast upgrade

We have been working with the LDNPA Coast-to-Coast Project team to help facilitate the planned works on the route through the Ennerdale valley. These have been shared via recent drop-in sessions, newsletters and online. The most recent updates are now available on the LDNPA website. Works are due to commence within the next few of weeks and continue for approx. 3 months.

The West Lakes Fix the Fells team will soon begin path works at Loft Beck at the valley head as part of this project.

[Upgrade of Wainwright's Coast to Coast to National Trail : Lake District National Park](#)

4. Riverlands in the Lake District

'Riverlands' is a National Trust led project to survey & improve the health of rivers on National Trust landholdings in the Lake District. The aim is to better understand to what extent rivers have been simplified from their natural form, how resilient the river systems are to flooding and drought, and how easy/challenging it would be to restore them to a more natural state. In 2023, over 220kms in total was surveyed over a 3 month period with over 6,000 interventions proposed to help bring rivers into better health and function. The River Liza was included and whilst mostly unconstrained for the majority of its length, it is cannalised (straightened) beyond Irish Bridge to the lake. Plans are underway to carry out some small-scale intervention works to better connect the river to its natural delta area at the lake head and create more wetland habitat for flora and fauna. Works will begin late summer for approx. 3 weeks. More information is available on the Wild Ennerdale website.

5. Forestry England works

a) Phytophthora larch disease

Following the discovery of Phytophthora ramorum in late 2023, a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) has been issued to fell larch trees within the Ennerdale valley including areas around Cat Crag, Silver Cove and Broadmoor. As such, Forestry England is mandated to fell or kill standing larch trees within the

affected areas. To ensure the forest boundaries left after felling the larch trees are stable and because some areas are an intimate mixture of larch and spruce, Forestry England is felling some non-larch species also.

It's expected that the work will start in Autumn 2024 and continue through to Spring/Summer 2025.

b) Spruce Respacing

Contractors working for Forestry England have been respacing natural regeneration along the valley bottom between Gillerthwaite and Middle Bridge. The aim of this work is to reduce the dominance of spruce, give native tree species more space and open up views across the valley and of the fells. The work is being funded by Natural England with funding from DEFRA as part of improving the visitor experience for those walking the Coast to Coast route.

6. Red Grouse

Red Grouse are an indicator species for upland heath condition and a recovering population suggests habitat improvements. This is the trend starting to show for Ennerdale, thanks to ongoing monitoring by local ornithologist Pete Ullrich. Last month, the IOC (International Ornithological Committee) confirmed that Red Grouse will now become a British and Irish endemic* species, whereby previously it was considered a sub-species of Willow Ptarmigan. The Silvercove area is an area of particular interest for monitoring and where sightings have occurred previously. This helps support the National Nature Reserve status and biodiversity targets for nature recovery.

*native and restricted to a certain location

[Red Grouse to be split by IOC - BirdGuides](#)

7. Community Led Plan

We look forward to working with the PC and engaging with the refresh of the Community Led Plan.

8. UU land West (Phil @ WCRT)

Drain blocking works to reduce sediment and nutrient input, enhance biodiversity and increase water storage at Low Moor End are complete. As are works to improve in river habitat and wider catchment works to improve fish passage through culvert removal/replacement and fish easements.

Works to remove revetments and embankment at Low Moor End are awaiting PD confirmation. This project will remove some of the artificial channel constrains and create new in-channel features, to create a more naturally functioning and resilient watercourse and floodplain for freshwater and terrestrial species including both freshwater mussels and Atlantic salmon. It will increase the quantity and quality of the habitat within the area whilst helping to slow the flow of water downstream during times of flood. The resilience of the habitat to climate change would also be increased by allowing water to better utilise the floodplain, reducing gravel washout and improving redd survival.

Catchment surveys and works to manage INNS, injurious weeds and fields for the marsh fritillary butterfly are ongoing.

Appendix B

Report from Gareth Browning – Forestry England

Phytophthora larch disease

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Riverlands

Restoring a healthy, beautiful, natural environment

River Liza Restoration, Ennerdale

Summer 2024

We're taking action to restore the River Liza. By encouraging natural processes in our rivers and reconnecting the rivers with the landscape around them, we'll improve the quality and quantity of water habitats in Ennerdale, making space for nature and wildlife to thrive.

The National Trust's Riverlands project, together with the Wild Ennerdale Partnership, will be working on the final downstream reach of the River Liza. Today, it is common to see rivers running in straight, walled channels, having been historically modified. Healthy rivers have natural complexity; diverse forms and shapes lead to varied flows which favour different species. While the majority of the River Liza today is wild and unrestricted, the final stretch as it enters Ennerdale Water has been straightened and simplified.

The plan is to introduce varied natural features into the river, including riffles, pools and dead wood, as well as lowering some sections of embankment in the delta. Reinstating these natural features will create ideal environments for a range of animals and plants to thrive. It will also encourage water to spread out across the delta, so a diverse wetland habitat can develop.

Making these changes will result in a more wild and natural river, from the source deep in the Ennerdale National Nature Reserve, all the way to the lake. It will also provide more resilience for the lakeshore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) plant communities, which need to be able to adapt and evolve in a changing climate and to future lake level conditions.

Our Riverlands Ranger will be completing the construction work in summer 2024, and the project will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. Plans are in place to minimise disruption to our neighbours and the footpath network, but there will be machinery working across the landscape.

By working closely with the Environment Agency and Natural England, the project has developed an approach which allows the work to take place whilst protecting the existing habitats and landscape. This includes carefully designing the project to protect existing charr spawning habitats and the SSSI, as well as extensive silt control measures to prevent run-off polluting the watercourse downstream. The project has also worked with specialist archaeologists to ensure the plans pose no risk to the scheduled ancient monuments in the valley.

You can follow the progress of the project at nationaltrust.org.uk/lake-district/riverlands

Thank you for your support.

Riverlands

Restoring a healthy, beautiful, natural environment

Key Contacts

To find out more, get in touch with the team at
lakes.riverlands@nationaltrust.org.uk

If you'd like this information in an alternative format, please contact
lakes.riverlands@nationaltrust.org.uk

With thanks to our partners and funders



wildwaterforestmountains
ennerdale

Wild Ennerdale is a partnership of people and organisations led by the Forestry England, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England. The Wild Ennerdale Partners are allowing the landscape to evolve naturally with reducing human intervention and invite you to explore this unique valley and experience its special sense of wildness. wildennerdale.co.uk