

## 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 Annual Parish meeting

Held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm in The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge

Chair: Cllr J Thursz

Clerk: J Coltman

The meeting was attended by 9 people, plus the chair and clerk.

Meeting commenced at 19:30

Minute Number	Item	Action
17/PM/25	<b>To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b> <b>Resolved</b> to approve the minutes.	
18/PM/25	<b>Parish Council Chairman's Report</b> The full report is available on the Council's website. Key points were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chair welcomed those in attendance and thanked the guest speakers for attending.</li> <li>2. He introduced the councillors and the clerk.</li> <li>3. He covered the recent loss from the Council of Paul and Nancy Rowson and welcomed Cllrs Ayling and Lachlan back to the Council.</li> <li>4. He explained the Council's finances and budgets and where the pressure had been.</li> <li>5. There had been a large number of FOI requests and complaints, including to the monitoring officer and the Clerk's other employers. This was a personal campaign and the burden of cost fell to the taxpayer.</li> <li>6. Relationships with stakeholder organisations remains good.</li> <li>7. The community led plan was still being worked on and people were encouraged to get involved.</li> </ol>	
19/PM/25	<b>St Mary's Church – Rev Ian Parker</b> Rev Parker thanked the many volunteers that had helped to tidy up the church yard. He thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards maintenance. There would be an update in the Contact Magazine, but they were in need of more church wardens. Neither did they have a Church Council secretary. He would be retiring at the end of the year, so those positions needed to be filled urgently.	
20/PM/25	<b>Report from LDNPA</b> Jo Wilmott and Richard Frank were in attendance from the Lake District National Park Authority. A number of paths were now being updated on the PRow network and Public Path Orders were being put in place to ensure the definitive map was accurate. Dent and Cold Fell Road were currently among those being looked at. Repairs were being made to better define some paths.	

	<p>The Kest would be on place at Scarney Brow by next March, but as soon as possible.</p> <p>Bridges had been replaced and were accessible and new signage had been installed by the lake.</p> <p>It was hoped that there would be Access for All funding available to help with Bleach Green.</p> <p>Galloway ("Moo-Moo") Bridge was due to be replaced. 6 bridges in total needed to be replaced.</p> <p>A fallen tree had breached the lakeshore wall, which had taken some time to resolve.</p>	
21/PM/25	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from Wild Ennerdale &amp; Forestry England</b></p> <p>A written report had been submitted and is attached.</p>	
22/PM/25	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from Cumbria Police</b></p> <p>The police had submitted a list of dates for their police desk events. This is attached.</p>	
23/PM/25	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No other speakers attended.</b></p>	
24/PM/25	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p>No questions from members of the public.</p>	

Meeting closed at 20:18

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....

## Chair's Annual Report, Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

### *Introduction & Report by Julian Thursz, Chair, to Ennerdale & Kinniside Annual Parish Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025.*

Good evening and welcome to you all. Thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting.

For those of you who don't already know me, my name is Julian Thursz. I am currently the Chair of the Parish Council having been unanimously re-elected to the role at last week's Annual Parish Council meeting.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the external speakers who have come this evening to give us details of their areas of responsibility and activity across our Parish, and I hope we make you very welcome.

To ensure that you can put faces to names of the other councillors, may I re-introduce:

Steve Parker (who has been re-elected the Vice Chair)

Beth Wright

Ric Outhwaite

Sandra Guise

Richard Maxwell

And our more recently elected councillors:

Muir Lachlan

Chris Ayling

And finally, our Parish Clerk, Jane Ollerenshaw.

Let me start with a matter that has been difficult for all the Council, and that is the unpleasant episode culminating in the disqualification of Nancy and Paul Rowson. I wish to make it clear that this was initiated from outside of the Council, and was not something anyone on the council wanted, but the Council and Councillors found themselves in a position whereby the letter of the law and the aspirations of those involved could not find common ground. We experienced a tumultuous period of opinion, guidance and, eventually, legal advice which forced us to recognise the loss of Paul and Nancy as councillors and the call for an election to replace them. I am delighted to welcome Chris

Ayling and Muir Lachlan back to the Council and I would like to thank those candidates who put themselves for election but were unsuccessful. The Council relies upon the time, energy and commitment of its councillors and parishioners and so I thank you all for making the machine work. Elected or volunteer, there is a role for you in our small parish.

Moving on to some statistics and what it costs all of us parishioners to deliver our outputs. Last year (2024/2025) we managed to reduce the precept by 5% and in this current year (2025/2026) by a further 37%. As I said last year, we have sought to focus on the core activities and outputs of the Parish at the expense of things we might otherwise like to do. Clearly, we are unlikely to reduce the precept year on year. We have maintained the Council's financial reserves at an appropriate level and there was again no subsidy for the precept last year. We have made savings from last year's budget and driven down costs where we can, notably on the number of meetings and the free support provided by the Probation Service in cutting the hedges adjoining the Cold Fell Road footpath.

We have again given grants to the Lamplugh and District Sports Association and to St Mary's Church, and installed the new speed indicator device for the road outside Ehen Garth, replacing the stolen one. Reviewing the data from our new speed indicator device reveals recorded speeds of up to 59mph in a 30 zone and will be looking at ways to deter the wacky racers in the village.

Regarding the Council's internal activities: We hold Council meetings every 2 months, to which you are all welcome. We normally meet here in the Gather. While we have done our best to manage costs in other areas for your benefit, this past year we have had a surge in non-discretionary expenditure in handling Freedom of Information requests and complaints both requiring significant additional resource in terms of the Clerk's time. Over the last 2 years she has handled approximately 20 FOI requests and about 20 complaints, nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them originate from one family with the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  coming from a single individual who is not a parishioner. We have been referred to the Information Commissioner on numerous occasions and required to attend a first-tier tribunal of the General Regulatory Chamber where the appellants case was dismissed without merit. Numerous Complaints to the Monitoring Officer about councillors have not been upheld. Complaints to the Clerk's other employers and previous employers have not been upheld. This is a personal

campaign being lodged against the Parish Council and the burden of cost is falling on the taxpayers of Ennerdale & Kinniside.

The Clerk is contracted for 234 hrs per year and addressing these issues accounted for 230 hrs of staff cost over the 2 years with the balance coming from other areas of the budget and therefore parishioners' pockets.

We continue to exercise our ability to respond as a consultee to planning applications. We have opposed some applications and supported some applications – all of which are on public record, and we continue to welcome parishioner input at our meetings to ensure that we get this right. We are concerned that the Lake District National Park may not always take our objections into consideration with the weight we would like, and I have written to them to that effect. However, on a broader front I think our relationships with the National Park and other stakeholders in Parish remain very good and I thank them for their engagement, support and regular attendance and updates to our meetings.

We are still, however, missing a key document; the Ennerdale and Kinniside Community Led Plan 2018 to 2023 needs a refresh or re-write.

The purpose of a Community Led Plan is to help local people 'explore the needs for their area, set priorities and plan actions'.

The PC agreed to enable the preparation of a new plan and I reached out to the Parish last year but with limited response. Ric Outhwaite has taken over the lead and he intends to set up a small steering group that might include a couple of councillors, a couple of residents and local businesses. If you would like to be part of the steering group, contact him at [ric.outhwaite@eandkpc.co.uk](mailto:ric.outhwaite@eandkpc.co.uk) or via the Clerk.

.....  
I would like to close by again thanking the parishioners and councillors for their support and to thank those who have come tonight to add some welcome detail to their activities in the Parish.

# wildwaterforestmountains ennerdale

## Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council Meeting Tue 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Wild Ennerdale update

### 1. Wild Ennerdale Volunteers

Thank you to our volunteer team for continued support, many of whom are parish residents. Main areas of work for spring & summer '25:

- Native tree planting
- Fencing (installing new & removing old)
- Wildflower planting at Bleach Green
- Drain clearance along lakeshore
- Bat surveying
- Litter picking
- Butterfly web counts
- Path maintenance
- Species prep works
- First Aid training

### 2. Riverlands

Work is planned for this June by the National Trust Riverlands team. Main focus is on the River Liza with interventions along the canalised section below Irish Bridge to re-naturalise this section. This in turn will lead to a more naturally connected wetter zone between the Liza and the lake, in the Char Dub area. Over time, this will improve habitat diversity and create more wetland habitat for wildlife and fish spawning. More information will be provided on the website and on site.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lake-district/riverlands>

### 3. Southern ridge boundary repairs

The southern boundary fence between the end of the Iron Crag Wall and the Steeple ridge is due to be replaced this summer. The work will likely start in June and run for up to 5 months. Contractors & a welfare base including overnight accommodation and toilets with a small generator will be on site during this period. The contractors will be staying up overnight for 3 nights a week to save on the otherwise daily long walk in and out. The new fence will comprise metal posts, net & line wire for durability. A wall top net will also be installed along sections where the wall is intact. Once the new fence is completed, the welfare base will be removed. The old metal fence materials will be flown back down to be recycled. If the fence doesn't get completed this year the welfare base will be dismantled down and left onsite to be re-erected next summer to allow the work to be completed.

This complements the National Trust work to rebuild/replace the boundary further west along Iron Crag to prevent sheep encroachment from the Common into The Side (designated Site of Special Scientific Interest).

### 4. Coast to Coast upgrade/Partnership working with LDNPA

We are continuing to support the Coast-to-Coast upgrade to a National Trail. Regular updates have been provided to the Parish by the LDNPA project team, the latest was in May. Further work relating to the upgrade to National Trail is in the process of being scoped. The LDNPA hopes to be in a position to confirm the activities planned for the remaining 10 months of the upgrade project shortly.

Memorial Bridge: A site visit has taken place involving FE and LDNPA staff. Not formally on the route of the Coast to Coast, plans for a replacement bridge are in the early stages and are dependent on identifying funding. It may be some time before replacement. In the meantime, signage is in situ advising visitors of alternative crossing points.

Galloway Bridge: (locally known as Moo Moo bridge), over Woundell Beck is scheduled to be replaced shortly (likely June 2025). Given the key significance of this bridge with regards to all types of user and its connectivity as a 'loop route' to the Coast to Coast, Natural England, the LDNPA and Forestry England have worked together to enable a replacement bridge to be installed before the current bridge becomes unsafe for use. The LDNPA thank Forestry England and their appointed contractors for their assistance in enabling the replacement of the bridge to happen in support of wider benefits delivered by the National Trail's establishment.

Fix the Fells/National Trust: As part of the Coast to Coast becoming a National Trail, Fix the Fells North and West path teams have been working together to implement some Natural England funded path improvements since late April this year. The team started together on the upper section, as the path exits Loft Beck and heads over towards Honister pass. With the dry weather they are adapting ways of working to minimise the chance of turfs drying out and turning to dust. There is still plenty of work to do to remain working on site for the coming months.

### **5. Forestry Update (Gareth Browning)**

Contractors working for Forestry England are continuing work on felling larch in response to ongoing Phytophthora disease in the valley. Tree felling and extraction have completed in Silver Cove/Deep Gill and this area is open again to public access. However, felling of unproductive small or difficult to reach larch trees is continuing at both these sites. The Euroforest harvesting team are currently working in Latterbarrow to the north of Ennerdale YHA. A second team is planning to start in late May/early June at Broadmoor.

In advance of each site the woodland is surveyed for squirrel dreys and any drey trees marked with yellow paint and the letter "D". These trees are left standing. In addition, a buffer of trees is also marked around each tree and where possible a canopy connection of trees is left standing to the edge of the area being felled. If these trees are larch, they will be killed standing or felled after the squirrel breeding season finishes. Both Broadmoor and Latterbarrow sites will continue operating through the summer into the autumn.

In the southern Broadmoor block nearest Bleach Green, the mature larch along the roadside and the car park are diseased and will be felled also. To reduce the impact of felling, an arboriculture team will clear and chip the understory and debranch and chip the larch branches to leave bare poles to be felled. Traffic management will be in use to protect members of the public accessing the car parks. For a time the smaller car park will be closed.

More information can be found at <https://www.wildennerdale.co.uk/managing/forest/>

In addition to the above, tree felling contractors will start on reducing the dominance of non-native conifers along the River Liza between Middle Bridge and Woundell Beck. Contractors will fell up to 30% of the conifers over 10cm in diameter and 100% of the conifer regeneration growing on the river gravel beds. This is aimed at protecting the open gravel bed areas for invertebrates such as butterflies, Tiger Beetle and Stiletto fly.

## **6. Species update (Hayley Dauben)**

An expression of interest (EOI) for free-living beavers in Ennerdale and the River Ehen catchment has recently been submitted. This is the first step in a multi-step process with more work to come if we are invited to submit a full application. A web page is up and running which explains the process in more detail.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/ennerdale/beavers>. Here you'll find a link to the full expression of interest document.

## **7. United Utilities West (Phil Chadwick)**

Works to create/enhance ponds to act as sediment traps downstream of the village have now been complete – just need some rain now to fill them!

As previously mentioned, works to remove revetment/embankment at Low Moor End are planned for delivery this June/July subject to weather etc. Catchment surveys and works to manage INNS (Invasive non-native species), injurious weeds and fields for the marsh fritillary butterfly are ongoing.

## **8. Community Led Plan**

We look forward to working with and supporting the PC with the refresh of the Community Led Plan as appropriate.

## **9. Newsletters**

A Wild Ennerdale newsletter was included in the April edition of 'Contact' and the next one is due in July. We are grateful to the Lamplugh with Ennerdale Parochial Church Council & volunteers for their continued support with the distribution of the newsletters.

Rachel Oakley, Partnership Officer. 20.5.25

### Comments from the Police

Please feel free to inform residents that should they wish to speak to an officer they can attend any of the advertised police desk as this is their opportunity to report any issues. These are advertised on the Cumbria police Website under Cleator moor, also on Copeland police Facebook page. However, for ease I have copied the list below.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June- 6pm- Jacktrees Playpark Cleator Moor

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June-2pm- The Gather, Ennerdale

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June-6pm- Newtown Playpark, Frizington

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July-6pm- Cleator Moor Sports Centre

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 4pm- The Gather, Ennerdale

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August- 6pm- Griffin Car Park Frizington

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August- 6pm- Cleator Moor Sports Centre

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August- 6pm- St Joseph's Catholic Church, Frizington