

**DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 11TH MAY 2026 AT 7.30p.m. IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL. Meeting commenced at 8.20p.m. following on from the Parish Annual Meeting.**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Cummings & 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. Chair & Vice Chair:**

Chair: M Mennie - proposed by J Grieves, seconded by Al Armstrong, there were no other nominations.

Vice Chair: Al Armstrong – proposed by M Mennie, seconded by J Higgs, there were no other nominations.

**2. Minutes (including any ratification of decisions taken) of meeting** held 9th March 2026 were agreed and signed.

**3. Declaration of Interest:** None.

**4. Matters Arising:**

Highway Issues:

The Eals - NCC to look at the signage around the Eals.

Trees/branches need cutting back throughout the parish, NCC Woodlands Officer to review.

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, also above Slaggyford Station – drains/ditches need clearing, NCC Highways to investigate issues. Some issues have been resolved.

Burnstones Junction: NCC to see what can be done to improve visibility. Note may be limited to land within the highway boundary and need to make sure any earthworks don't undermine the adjacent land.

Cattle grid/Subsidence – NCC reported all necessary actions have been taken to resolve this issue.

Old ash tree is intruding on the road – NCC reported the tree is on private land and the road is classed as private also. The councils recorded extent stops at the road side edge, therefore not the council's responsibility . The Parish Council disagree, NCC maintain the road, therefore this will be challenged.

Essential work is still being carried out on the U7014 Slaggyford to Ayle Road.

Cllr Mennie has met with Dave Dover, and point out the various issues, some have since been actioned.

Old School: All the paperwork now completed ready to submit. Cllrs still to have a site meeting (date to be arranged) to discuss tidying up and way forward.

Maintenance of the bus shelters / seats: – It was agreed some benches may need to be replaced rather than repaired. Noticeboards by the Community Hall in need of maintenance, to be added to the list.

Communal Wheelie Bins: Response received from NCC, previously agreed additional capacity was needed, they will ensure the bins are clearly labelled as to what waste to be placed in bins. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to report back to NCC and ask them to do whatever they can to improve the situation.

Public Footpath Blocked: NCC Rights Of Way have no record of a public right of way (footpath) near the Old School House. Two screen shots clearly showing an access which had been blocked to be sent as evidence.

**5. Parish Event:**

Residents can nominate their own or any garden (different classes), judged end of July, vegetables/ industrial show and presentations will take place 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Hall. Cllr Higgs agreed to produce and distribute publicity, help from other members in the parish will be sought as necessary.

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

**6. Governance Review:** NCC raising awareness of the Community Governance Review in Northumberland on existing parish boundaries, number of councillors, whether any new parishes should be created or existing parishes abolished/merged. Everyone's views matter to help shape the future of parish community governance.

**7. Planning Applications:**

Planning Ref: 25/03994/FUL: Proposal Storage cabin (Retrospective) Field Opposite Fell End Slaggyford Brampton Northumberland CA8 7NW - NCC REFUSED permission.

Planning Ref: 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 – NCC REFUSED permission.

Planning Ref: 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 (as amended: 24/02/2026). - Location Nursery Gardens Slaggyford Brampton Northumberland CA8 7PG – NCC GRANTED permission.

Planning Ref: 25/03391/FUL: Proposal Conversion of barns to domestic annexe and self contained house - Newholme Slaggyford Brampton Northumberland CA8 7PG – NCC GRANTED permission.

Cllr Mennie declared an interest and left the room.

Planning Ref: 26/01318/FUL: Proposal Construction of a new timber-framed single garage and the creation of a new 3.5m access and new parking area. Disconnecting from neighbouring septic tank and installing a new treatment plant and soakaway. Installing solar PV panels on the rear elevation of dwelling. - The Chapel Slaggyford Brampton Northumberland CA8 7PG

Cllr Mennie re joined the Meeting.

**8. Financial:**

Monies: £13,275.55 + NCC Precept Payment £2,657.50 = £15,933.05 (includes £548.00 ring fenced Transparency Grant)

LESS: HugoFox £238.80, NALC £38.57 (reduced to reflect the discounted fee agreed with HugoFox website fee), HugoFox Email £ 2.99, HugoFox Website £11.99, Hall Rent & Donation £200.00, Clear Insurance £883.00, Bank Charges £7.00 = £14,550.70 (includes £294.28 ring fenced Transparency).

Risk Assessments: Financial & Management Risk Assessment document – under review, next review May 2027, or earlier if necessary. Fidelity Guarantee it was agreed cover for £2,000 was adequate as online payments/cheques require 3 authorisations/signatures Clerk's plus two cllrs and that any additional cost on insurance is disproportionate to the risk involved.

2025/26 Audit Report:– Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2026 and statement of assurance completed and signed as appropriate, accounts had been verified by Internal Auditor, all relevant paperwork will be displayed. Cllrs had previously reviewed internal audit procedure and the present Internal Auditor to be asked to continue for another year. The appointed independent Internal Audit is completely unbiased and competent to carry out the audit. As part of the audit they had full access to all documentation, including Auditor's briefing notes and discussion with Parish Clerk.

Certificate of Exemption completed as gross income/expenditure did not exceed £25,000.

**9. Transparency, Open-ness & Accountability:**

The following draft Policies/Procedures are being updated: IT and Emails, Financial Regulations, Reserves, Accessibility Statement, General Privacy Notice, Freedom of Information.

**10. Correspondence:**

NCC - Community Governance Review

NCC reminder public consultation on the future of Northumberland Libraries closes 13 April.

NCC review of the Northumberland Local Plan and planning policy consultation database. To remain on the database and continue receiving notifications, you must confirm 13th April 2026 otherwise you will be automatically removed from the database.

NCC The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Part 4, Regulation 19) Notice of intention to commence preparation of the Northumberland Local Plan, the local plan is a statutory document that sets out the vision, policies and framework for the future development and use of land. A new form of plan, called the Northumberland Housing Design Standards Supplementary Plan. It will cover requirements and guidance for the design of new homes and residential areas.  
Health Watch Northumberland - Social Prescribing Celebration Day, Adapt (NE) Community Hub, 26/3/26  
Playsafety – confirming inspection booked

**11. Any Other Business:**

Wall opposite the Kirkstyle: In need of attention.

Items/Issues from the Annual Parish Meeting:

Concern that knowledge/expertise will be lost as NCC are not employing apprentices to shadow/gain the expertise of long-standing employees.

Thank you to the two volunteer litter pickers, they are doing a good job and is much appreciated.

Plant life, can some areas be left to encourage butterflies etc. Cllr Mennie to speak to the grass cutting contractor.

A couple of incidents, which could have been quite serious, vehicles indicating to turn right at the Hall and other cars speeding/overtaking – possibility for signage. Signage is already in place.

Noise disturbance from shots being fired (Dog Training).

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

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