

# DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2026 AT 7.30p.m. IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL.

**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. Minutes (including any ratification of decisions taken) of meetings** held 12th January 2026 were agreed and signed.

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

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

#### Highway Issues:

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. Also above Slaggyford Station – drains/ditches need clearing.

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 forwarded suggestion to NCC.

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 –both items reported on Fix My Street.

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

Due to health issues 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.

Steps on Pennine Way/Burnstones bridle path: NCC Rights Of Way update – works to address the condition of these stone steps are scheduled to be completed by Pennine Way People volunteers, working with the coordinating Access Field Officer from the North Pennines National Landscape Team. It is hoped that these works will be completed later this year.

River Bridge On Public Footpath: NCC update – the footbridge has been inspected and assessed. The footpath and the footbridge have been closed pending works to repair the steps, decking and abutments of the footbridge structure. The footpath is subject to a Temporary Public Footpath Closure Order that will be effective from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for a period of 6 months, the path will be reopened before this Notice expires, if the repairs are completed before that date. Closed notices and fencing have already been erected to prevent use of the footpath and footbridge.

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, schedule of works agreed.

Communal Wheelie Bins: Response received from NCC who agreed additional capacity was needed after which they would monitor the situation, an email received from a parishioner suggesting locks to stop unauthorised people using the bins NCC stated is not feasible. The Council agreed with Cllr Higgs updated suggestions which include additional bins to accommodate the number of dwellings, bins clearly marked to take what rubbish and site on mesh. The Clerk to inform NCC of the Council's updated suggestions.

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

#### 4. Parish Event:

The event was discussed in more depth, Cllr Higgs has secured the services of a judge. Hopefully everything will be finalised and circulated in May.

**5. Governance Review:** NCC Stage 1 Community Governance Review (CGR) - Public Consultation 1 Feb until 30 April 2026. Seeking views of local people/community groups/voluntary organisations/stakeholders, supported by Communications and Marketing Plan to raise 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.

**6. Dog Fouling:** An email received from a parishioner re dog fouling was discussed and Cllrs are confident this has been dealt with. People can report persistent dog fouling direct to NCC who can fine owners if they have evidence.

#### 7. Planning Applications:

None and no updates.

#### 8. Financial:

Monies: £14,345.79 + £39.91 Northern Powergrid Wayleave = £14,385.70 (includes £548.00 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

LESS: Clerk's 12 months' Salary (including HMRC payment) + expenses £941.15, The Great North Air Ambulance £75.00, Tynedale Hospice £25, Mole control £50.00, Bank Charges £12.00 = £13,282.55 (includes £548.00 ring fenced Transparency Grant).

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

Website: Council agreed for HugoFox to undertake additional work (new service provider), in readiness for 1st April 2026. Payment for website and .gov.uk email will be by monthly direct debit commencing in April.

#### 10. Correspondence:

NCC Joint Town & Parish Council Spring Conference Thursday 5/3/26 at County Hall – book by 27/2/26. Reminder – no one booked.

NCC Precept 2026-27 Revised Tax Base - confirmed

NCC Highways & Neighbourhood Services **Notice of making of the Public Spaces Protection Order for the control of dogs** Further to the Notice of Consultation dated 17th November 2025 in relation to the renewal of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO), Notice of making of the PSPO which will be in place from 31st January 2026.

NCC Stage 1 Community Governance Review (CGR) - Public Consultation 1 Feb until 30 April 2026.

NCC Climate Change - Funding available, the next round of our Environment and Climate Fund is now open to support community projects in Northumberland.

NCC Help shape the future of Northumberland Libraries - Libraries Consultation 2026

Community Suicide Awareness Training – 19/3/26 Alston Town Hall Annexe 5.30-6.30pm

Healthwatch Northumberland Annual Survey launches this month, 'what matters to you?' By sharing views and experiences on local NHS and social care services, leave feedback at [bit.ly/HWNAnnualSurvey2026](http://bit.ly/HWNAnnualSurvey2026)

Seed Social Founder - Seed Social Seed Swap and Potato Day 2026, Linskill Centre, North Shields.

#### 11. Any Other Business:

Fibrous Connections: This is ongoing within the parish.

Public Footpath Blocked: NCC Rights Of Way to be contacted re report of a blocked public footpath near the Old School House.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.00p.m.  
Annal Parish Meeting at 7.00p.m. followed by the Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.05p.m.

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

Website: [www.knarsdalewithkirkhaugh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.knarsdalewithkirkhaugh-pc.gov.uk)

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