

PARISH OF NETHER KELLET

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Congregational Church Hall on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Mrs J Bentham (Chair)
Councillor Mr M Uttley (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Mr C Halhead
Councillor Mr D Whitaker
Councillor Mr I Williams
Councillor Mr M Winrow

In attendance:

Adrian Osmotherley - Parish Clerk
Tim Coglan - Village Hall Chair
Stephen Hinde - Village Hall
Carolyn Dalton - Lancaster City Museums Manager
The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting

20565 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Kellet Ward Councillor James Sommerville and Councillor Sarah Mason.

20566 **MINUTES:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 be approved.

20567 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

There were no declarations of Interest.

20568 **ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION & INFORMATION ONLY UPDATES:**

(i) **Public discussion:**

The Chair welcomed Carolyn Dalton to the meeting and introduced her to Councillors and the Parish Clerk. Carolyn manages the Lancaster City Museums (the City, Maritime, Cottage and King's Own Royal Regiment Museums). The Chair adjourned the meeting to allow Carolyn to provide Councillors with an update regarding the future plans for the Lancaster City Museums. Carolyn provided an update to Councillors as follows;
Currently the City Museum is very Lancaster-focused, and there is a wish to make it a center for heritage in North Lancashire. The redevelopment is a £6m project, including £5m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The majority of funding will go on the building, including aspects such as lift and public toilets. We are looking to submit a round one application (Development Phase) at start of August 2026. The Planned completion date for the whole project of 2033 coincides with the 250th anniversary of the old Town Hall building. Carolyn asked the Parish Council to consider the following questions;
How important is heritage to Nether Kellet Parish Residents?
What do you think are the most important heritage features within the Parish?
How can the Project support heritage with regards to collecting and collating archives from the Parish?
What would Councillors like to see in a redeveloped City Museum?

A discussion was held by Councillors, and the following comments and suggestions were made based on the presentation and questions raised by Carolyn;

The Parish Council felt that the village heritage was extremely important to them.

It was noted that the village is a twice thankful village with its own Peace Stone. There was a strong historical focus around quarrying with a couple of disused lime kilns still remaining as well as its own cave. Historically there were 6 pubs with only the Limeburner remaining. There are also a number of natural springs in the village.

There are also a number of old maps, plans and records that could be collated and used by the Museum. These are currently held by various residents.

A discussion was also held around the use of hands on and digital interaction methods within the museums as well as ensuring the front-line staff in the museums are knowledgeable.

Councillor Halhead asked if the questions could be sent out to Councillors for further consideration after the meeting as well as being included in the next edition of the Round and About Magazine to enable residents to also make comment. Carolyn advised this would be fine and said she would provide an email contact for any comments to be made to her directly.

The Chair, and Councillors, thanked Carolyn for attending the meeting then reconvened the meeting.

(ii) **Clerk report and correspondence:**

The Parish Council are still waiting for Lancashire County Council (LCC)

Highways to respond to the questions raised in relation to the flooding issues on Halton Road. The Resident at Westlyn on Halton Road has been advised by Lancashire County Council that further drainage works in the footway outside their property will be carried out shortly to hopefully rectify the flooding issues within their garden.

The annual Parish Council Precept application has been sent to Lancaster City Council for their consideration.

The Unity Trust banking charges will increase from £6.00 to £7.00 per month from 01.02.2026.

(iii) **and reports since the last meeting including:**

1) **LALC:**

The Lancashire Local Area meeting was held on the 12.01.2026. Councillors Whitaker and Halhead attended the meeting.

The main issue discussed was the proposals for the creation of new Unitary Council Authorities for Lancashire. There are a number of proposals that have been suggested which are currently undergoing public consultation. The consultation process is available for members of the general public to comment on via the Lancashire County Council website.

2) **QUARRY:**

The next Quarry Liaison Meeting is planned for March 2026.

FLY-TIPPING:

There had been one new report of fly-tipping on Bolton Road. The fly-tipped materials have been reported to Lancaster City Council but have not yet been removed.

3) **PRoW:**

PRoW in the area are all currently very wet.

Councillor Mason had notified the Parish Clerk of a damaged kissing gate at sandpit woods leading into Councillor Whitakers field. Details have been passed to the Lengthsman for assessment and repair. Councillor Williams advised that the kissing gate had now been repaired.

The Chair advised that a resident had advised her that there was a sign and post missing on the path that leads from Kellet Lane just south of Pump House Farm. The Parish Clerk said he would report this to the Lancashire County Council PRoW Team

4) **VILLAGE HALL:**

The Village Hall (VH) Chair Tim Cogan provided a detailed update to the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting. Tim presented his update to Councillors at the meeting as below;

The bid for Lottery funding seems to be progressing. Contact has been made by the officer appointed to the case for additional details which have now been provided.

The Games Night hosted by Danny Matthews will be going ahead on 21.02.2026 with tickets costing £10 each. Tickets will be going on sale this week.

The consultation exercise will be going ahead through Round and About this month to establish what villagers want to see from the Village Hall. Bookings are at an extremely high level going forward as is the positive feedback being received. Following a funeral celebration event the customers were so pleased that they would like to donate an Oak tree sapling to the village. Tim asked Councillors if there was a location within the village where the tree could be planted. A discussion was held by Councillors, and it was agreed that further discussion would be held at the March meeting.

The Community Emergency Plan requires updating. Updates have been passed to the Resilience Officer at Lancaster City Council (LCC) as the VH are a designated Community Refuge Centre. Details of the itinerary of equipment are to be requested from LCC by Tim so this can be checked against what is currently being held at the VH. It can also be established if any of the items held are out of date and need replacing.

Rob Smith will be taking over responsibility for VH maintenance issues. The VH would like to thank Councillor Uttley for his contribution prior to Rod taking over maintenance responsibilities.

Field Day planning is proceeding. Two music stages to be promoted as KelletFest. The plan is for one outdoor and one indoor acoustic stage. Musicians and Street Dancers have been confirmed. Danny Matthews will be the MC for the event.

Volunteers at events are to be provided with embroidered polo shirts to give a corporate image and to enable identification. Bar staff will also be provided with the embroidered polo shirts.

A CCTV Policy has now been formally adopted, and thanks to Emma Simpson for her sterling efforts in developing the Policy. This Policy will be stored centrally at the VH along with all other Policies. The current CCTV

system needs to be either updated/repaired or replaced.

The installation of a motion sensor operated light located at the front door has been commissioned.

The Ceilidh event on 24.01.2026 was an enjoyable success. The VH would like to thank Jayne and Dave Crowe for organising the event.

5) **PROJECTS:**

Nothing to report

6) **LENGTHSMAN:**

The Lengthsman monthly Time and Works Record sheet for February had been received and passed to Councillors in advance of the meeting for their information. Summary of works carried out was as follows;

Removal and disposal of the Christmas tree, assessing fly tipped materials on Bolton Lane, carrying out the visual inspection to the play area, and assessing the repairs to the kissing gate from the sandpit woods into Councillor Whitakers field which is damaged.

7) **GRASS/VERGE CUTTING:**

Nothing to report

8) **OTHER MATTERS:**

Councillor Halhead advised that the hedge in the Parish Council owned field running adjacent to the football pitch had now been cut by an arboriculturist contractor.

20569 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS/TRAFFIC ORDERS:**

Application No:	Description & Site Address

The Parish Clerk advised that there had been no new Planning Applications received since the last meeting in January 2026.

20570 **PLANNING AUTHORITY DECISIONS:**

The Planning Applications Comments and Decisions January 2026 document had been updated and passed to all Councillors in advance of the meeting. The Parish Clerk advised that since the last meeting there had been no changes to any of the ongoing applications.

20571 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

Description	Amount £
Mr A Osmotherley Clerks fees and expenses - January 2026	£502.38
HMRC - Payroll Payment for Parish Clerk Salary - January 2026	£115.60
Mr M Ashton Lengthsman fees and expenses - January 2026	£92.30
Unity Trust Bank - Monthly Parish Council bank account fee (taken monthly via direct debit) - January 2026	£6.00
Lloyds Bank Master Card Account Service Charge (taken via monthly direct debit) - January 2026	£3.00

Copies of all invoices had been passed to Councillors in advance of the meeting for their information. After a discussion and explanation of the invoiced details by the Parish Clerk it was **RESOLVED** that all the above payments be made.

20572 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Congregational Church Hall on **Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.00pm**. The Parish Council meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Clerk of the Council: *A Osmotherley*

Date: 14.02.2026

Chair: *J Bentham*

Date: 14.02.2026