

Minutes of Newton le Willows Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 4th June 2018

Present: Councillors P Olsen, V Wilthew, S Coombs, L Ryder and parish clerk T Sanderson
Also present: 14 members of the public and Councillor R Ormston

1. The **minutes of the annual parish meeting** held on the 5th June 2017 were approved and signed.

2. The **Chairman's report was as follows:**

'The Council met on 8 occasions since the last annual meeting. On that occasion I concentrated on the human element which is so vital to our Parish. I would once again like to thank the team who give of their time and energy – not only the Councillors and the Clerk, but also those villagers who regularly participate at our meetings. We are also very fortunate to have the continuing support of Councillor R Ormston.

In September we were visited by councillor K Sedgwick and in January by both S Hutchinson from the Police & Crime Commissioner's (Julia Mulligan) Office and our local officer, PCSO Tracie-Lee Taylor Page, which made for an interesting and useful meeting.

I would conclude by passing tribute to Councillor J Harrison for her unstinting support for the village and the Council. We miss her and her direct way of dealing with things.

As a Parish Council, and I am sure like all other PCs, we have a number of perennials which are on the Agenda at most meetings. We do our utmost to address these matters – things such as the Wheatsheaf, roads & pavements, dog fouling and most commonly vehicle related matters – speed, mobile phones, inconsiderate driving, malicious damage and parking of school vehicles in the village during snowy weather. We win some battles and persevered with others.

During the year we have revisited a number of topics – recycling, village cleanliness and the Community Resilience Plan – and we are working on the tree survey, children's play area and the Parish Plan amongst other things.

I am grateful to my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their enthusiasm and good humour in dealing with all the matters that come before the Parish Council'.

3. **Contributions and questions from the electorate** raised the following issues:

- **Speeding** – a lively discussion followed as many parishioners are concerned about the speeding of vehicles through the village resulting in near misses, verbal abuse, lack of enjoyment in outdoor pursuit (cycling and horse riding). Most of the complaints appear to be from the railway bridge up to Bank Terrace.

Action – this is an ongoing issue with the Council looking at ways of trying to manage it and as such will be on the agenda again.

- **Street lighting (raised by Climate Change Group)** – in light of changes being made by NYCC, it was requested that the Council considered switching street lighting off at midnight. The matter was discussed and an informal vote by those present indicated a 2/3 majority of those not in favour due to a possible increase in crime. This supports a previous decision taken on this matter.
- **Planning applications (raised by H Hepworth and M Whaley)** – both parties were enquiring whether there would be support for their potential planning applications from the Parish Council. The Council agreed in principle to both potential developments, although they would still need to be involved in the planning stage.
Action – the clerk to notify M Whaley about the decision as he was unable to attend the meeting.
- **Christmas Tree 2018 (raised by B Sampson)** – a tree would be a positive addition to the village. It was agreed that this could be a joint venture between the Parish Council and the village hall. In principle, the outcome is positive.
Action – the Chairman will raise the issue at the next village hall meeting.
- **Wheatsheaf (raised by C Audritt)** – concern was raised about the vegetation around the building and in particular around the footpath and bench. It was explained that local residents have carried out remedial action in the past as the landowner has been non-responsive to a variety of organisations contacting him.
Action – the clerk will take photos of the current situation and send them to A Pilkington of RDC to see if there is anything further that can be done.
- **Tree Survey (raised by L Ryder)** – this has been carried out following questions raised at last year's meeting.
- **Village cleanliness** – the Chairman wished to express the gratitude of the Council to all those parishioners who litter pick around the village and help maintain a clean village.

This meeting was declared closed at 6.40pm