

Minutes of Newton le Willows Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2019

Present: Councillors P Olsen, V Wilthew, L Ryder, J Bell and parish clerk T Sanderson

Also present: 8 members of the public.

1. The **minutes of the annual parish meeting** held on the 4th June 2018 were approved and signed.

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

'I became a member of Newton le Willows Parish Council in May 2011. At the time the Councillors were:

Paul Barlow (deputy head of Aysgarth School) Chairman, subsequently resigned due to work commitments.

Elaine Bean resigned when she moved to Bury St Edmunds

Joyce Harrison] both sadly passed away

Alan Hudson]

Bob Sampson was the parish clerk.

It all seems a long time ago and without being too sentimental our meetings were a little less formal than has become the norm. The folder with all the relevant paperwork circulated around the Councillors – now its all done by email and dear Joyce often held interim meetings in the kitchen, colloquially known as HQ Central Newton. Many of the issues were the same then as they are now – the Wheatsheaf, dog fouling, speeding, littering, footpaths and so on.

However, along the way many things have been tackled and at the core of it all was the Parish Plan (drawn up in 2012) after a village survey and then we 'marked our homework' and moved it forward in 2015 and indeed have been addressing outstanding issues in 2019.

If the Parish Council is to be effective it is important to have a vision and not just take the fireman approach to local issues as they arise. I have been lucky to have served with Councillors in the past who have shared this ethos and I hope that I have been able to pass this on to the very capable Councillors who I am now serving with. Each of them has brought a particular focus to the council for example:

Tori – championing speeding vehicles/pedestrian safety and I think we're making good progress with Highways in that regard.

Lisle – championing a Green perspective on issues – particularly recycling, looking after our own natural resources like trees) and co-ordination the Resilience Plan

John – who has brought fresh impetus to our greatest issue – the derelict Wheatsheaf in the heart of our village.

I know that NLW is in safe hands and I do sincerely wish that others will come forward to brig the Council up to full strength and share the load.

Having joined the Council in 2011, we moved from NLW to Hornby in 2012. Our previous Clerk, Bob, was quick to point out that as I would be residing within 3 miles of the parish perimeter, I would remain eligible to serve as a Councillor. I joke at Bob's expense about his elastic ruler but I am thankful to him for the encouragement he gave me to continue on the council.

When Bob gave up as Clerk, he was briefly replaced by Charlie Hart who was at the time, also clerk in Bedale. When Charlie decided that the work load was too great, Teresa Sanderson stood up to the task. She has been invaluable and I trust will continue to serve as clerk for years to come.

Having served two terms, eight years, on the Parish Council I have decided not to stand for another term. This is partly for personal reasons but also because I am starting to feel that living in Hornby, I am not so tuned in to what is going on in NLW these days. I also feel that it is time for me to stand aside and let others take up the mantle.

Throughout my time I have been the PC's Village Hall Trustee representative and for much of this time I have been Chairman to the parish council. I have enjoyed my time on the council and also as is often in life, it's the people you work with that makes the difference.

So, I will depart with a final plug – there is a wonderful opportunity for those of you out there who might be considering joining the Parish council – don't sit on the fence do it!

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

- **Playground** – raised by L Sampson. A working party was formed 12 months ago to try and bring the playground back up to date (as good as new). Nothing has moved forward
Action: this item will be on the next agenda with a view to moving the matter forward
- **Fly tipping** – raised by B Sampson. This is a matter that is pending legal action by the Environment Agency and there has been little communication on the matter. What if any pressure is being applied to the landowner to resolve this matter which would include removing the waste material?
Action: the clerk to contact the Environment Agency again to try and chase this matter again.

This meeting was declared closed at 7.20pm