

**Minutes of Newton le Willows Parish Council**  
**Annual Meetings held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Minutes - Annual Parish meeting**

1. The **minutes** of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved and signed.

2. **Chairman's report:**

'It has been another strange year meeting remotely and coping with the pandemic, so it is good now to be able to meet face to face at a suitable distance.

I would first like to thank Teresa as Clerk for preparing agendas, drafting minutes, dealing with correspondence and keeping us on side with official requirements including the precept, accounts and their auditing. Her duties have been made harder alongside the challenges of Covid-19 for her other work. Thank you also to Bob Sampson for running the internal audit for us.

We have had five meetings during the year, including the one immediately following our last AGM. Shortly after our last AGM the promised resurfacing of the pavements in Station Road was completed. The installation of the remaining street lights with LED fittings has still to be completed.

Our core Resilience Team has continued to function with links to the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum and the local coordinator of the Leyburn District Hub for community responding to the pandemic. Our thanks are due to Aysgarth School for lunches provided to some vulnerable village residents. Thank you too to Peter Perkins with volunteers for organising their collection and distribution.

The village Covid Mutual Aid WhatsApp group continues to be useful and we owe gratitude to Phil Nunn of our Resilience Team who has nobly stepped forward to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator under the umbrella of what is now called Our Watch, and uses this WhatsApp group to keep us posted with alerts and police messages.

We are grateful to Will McDermott for assisting us with a high pressure wash to remove an accumulation of moss and algae from the playground rubberised asphalt. This is to be treated with a Wet & Forget preventative product. Following inspection, the swings have been replaced and repairs are due to the rope bridge. A new opportunity has arisen to apply for a grant from RDC which may enable this latter to be replaced, for a new see saw to be installed and for more comfortable benches.

Following the extension of the 30 mph speed limit along Sinks Lane and the Masham Road, and the establishment of a 40-mph limit past Aysgarth School, Victoria has been especially pleased with the marking of roundels in the highway with funding enabled by our County Councillor Karin Sedgwick.

The high volume of rain during the winter and in May has highlighted outstanding drainage problems. Firstly from the beck by the railway bridge over the Bedale Road. Secondly with the drainage from above Aysgarth School down Station Road. The pipe work is shown to be inadequate and we need to continue challenging NY Highways to get both these matters resolved.

Following the RDC declaration of an Environment and Climate Emergency a Climate Change Officer has been appointed. Our Council has asked the village Climate Change Group to monitor what we can achieve in response to this through its Action Plan. Four members of the Village including myself are involved in the Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership through three out of six 'workstreams'. Alongside this there have been the initiatives of Blooming Newton and the grant from the RHS achieved through the good work of Rowena Simpson carried over from last year. You will have seen that shelves have been put up in the bus shelter for books and produce, and the noticeboards have been repainted. Our thanks are due Bob and Liz Sampson and to Shaun Carter.

The planned extension to the Village Hall has put at risk the cherry tree commemorating the Queen's Coronation. Slips from this were taken to Braithwaites for grafting onto new rootstock. This has not been successful and a further attempt needs to be made.

During February a number of residents in the village raised concerns about the track side clearance of trees and vegetation by the Wensleydale Railway (WR). The primary concern was the lack of consultation or notice relating to this work. The effect on biodiversity and the nuisance caused by smoke from fires was raised by many in the village. The WR leases the track from Network Rail which was informed and also the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust with whom the Railway claimed to be liaising. It is intended that the latter be invited along with a representative of WR to a future meeting of the Council.

Other causes for lament have been the lack of progress in relation to the fly tipping by Sinks Lane and the state of the Wheatsheaf site. The former remains in the hands of the Environment Agency for potential prosecution, but there is no time table relating to this which is part of an escalating national problem. The latter continues to be in the hands of RDC Planning Officers.

The Council was approached by Caroline Bradley about restoring the surface of the Occupation Lane bridleway which with flooding has become all but impassable for equestrians. We are grateful to John Bell for liaising with her and ascertaining local landowners as stakeholders. It is the responsibility of NYCC Highways but the Council agreed to support work towards improvement.

We are sorry that pressures of work have meant that John Bell has resigned from our Council. We thank him for his service, especially in having another go at the Wheatsheaf issue. This leaves a vacancy now to be filled by co-option.

A final thank you to my fellow councillors for their support and to our Clerk Teresa for the extra work involved in preparing for this meeting.'

### **3. Contributions and questions from the electorate:**

- **Bob Sampson – Participatory Budget.** It has been over ten years since the Parish was awarded money for being awarded Village of the Year by Calor Gas. He asked if the Parish Council would stage another participatory budget exercise to allocate the outstanding prize money (£2000).

**Action** – it was agreed to discuss this at the next Council meeting.

## **Minutes – Annual meeting of the council**

1. L Ryder was elected as **Chairman of the Council**.
2. To **declaration of acceptance of office** was signed by L Ryder.
3. There were no **apologies for absence**
4. **V Wilthew was elected as Vice Chairman**
5. **Councillors** were elected onto other **working groups** and **organisations as follows:**
  - Atkinson Clarke Educational Trust** – V Wilthew
  - Newton le Willows and Patrick Brompton Village Hall** – C Audritt
  - Community Resilience** – L Ryder
  - Welcome Packs** – V Wilthew
  - Waste & Recycling** – L Ryder
  - Climate & Environment Emergency** - the village climate change group will represent the Parish Council and report as necessary
6. **The meeting was declared closed at 7.50pm.**