

**Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council annual meetings**  
**held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

**Present:** Councillors C Audritt, L Ryder, V Wilthew, T Clarkson, Z Hudson-Peach and clerk T Sanderson

**Also present:** Councillor T Jones and 5 members of the public

**Minutes - Annual Parish meeting**

**23A/01** The **minutes** of the meeting held on the 23rd May 2022 were **signed and approved** (Z Hudson-Peach proposed and L Ryder seconded).

**23A/02** **Chairman's report –**

This is my first report as chair of Newton le Willows Parish Council and before I go in to detail, I would like to say a sincere thank you to all my fellow Councillors, and to our Parish Clerk, for all their work and support throughout the year. Of special note is Lisle Ryder, who is standing down at the end of this evening after six years on the Parish Council. Lisle has been both Councillor and Chairman and has worked tirelessly for the community and the village over the years. We would all like to say an especial thank you Lisle - you will be sadly missed.

Being a Parish Councillor can sometimes be a thankless task but it can also be very enjoyable and rewarding and it's been great to be part of this team.

I would also like to express gratitude to Richard Ormston, who as District Councillor for many years has helped and supported us on numerous issues. He has now stood down, following the recent North Yorkshire Council reorganisation, and we wish him well for the future. The responsibility is now with Councillor Tom Jones who has already helped us on a number of matters.

Phil Nunn continues to work with Our Watch (also known as Neighbourhood Watch). Bob Sampson has again done an excellent job running the internal audit for us. Our thanks go to both of them. Another thank you goes to Russ Batley for continuing to manage the website, despite his best efforts to retire from it. I'm pleased to say that he is now working closely with another resident to hand eventually over the Webmaster reins.

One of the major events of the year was the reorganisation of the district councils, including Richmondshire, into one major entity now known as North Yorkshire council. It is early days and it's difficult to see at this stage what impact this will have directly on the Parish Council. We still consider our priority is to deal with issues that directly affect the village and the residents.

There have been a number of issues the Parish Council has dealt with over the past year – some old and some new. The Wheatsheaf, and its condition and future, have been discussed on a regular basis by the PC, alongside the District Council, as it has been for many years. It's fair to say there is no simple solution. Be assured we are all residents and as a Parish Council we will continue to press all interested parties for a resolution however long it takes. Another long standing issue is the fly tipping in Sinks Lane that occurred over five years ago.

In the past year we have had several contacts with the Environment Agency including an on-site visit. The latest information we have is that their legal department are expected to make an imminent decision about prosecution. However, it is likely to be some time before any action is taken to remove the waste. The PC will continue to pursue the process.

There were a number of more successful outcomes throughout the year. Following the new see-saw being added in the playground towards the end of last year the picnic table and chairs were also added and the main climbing apparatus updated.

The year also saw the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village with various events organised by the PC and Village Hall committee proving a great success. This was then followed by the very sad death of the Queen in September. The recent coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla also saw a weekend of events in the Village Hall which were again organised by the PC and the Village Hall committee all of which were a huge success. The Saturday evening was a joint music and quiz with Patrick Brompton. That generated a significant profit for the Village Hall and also a £300 donation to the King's charities.

This has been a very busy year for the Village Hall with a number of improvements to the hall both internally and externally. The various celebrations, and a very busy diary of events, with everything from opera to rock and theatre, promoted by both PIN and the Village Hall itself, generated important revenue for the hall. A big thank you goes to everyone who gives their time and energy to running the Village Hall.

One of the issues constantly raised with the PC is dog fouling in the village. Over the past year we have replaced and relocated the poo bin at the bus stop and also received funding for a new one at the top of Station Road by the firework field. This is now in place. We would encourage all dog owners to clear up their dog poo and to use the bins provided.

Another continuing concern is the question of traffic speeding through the village. After the issue was raised the PC decided to invest in a speed survey to get an accurate picture of the situation. Speed measuring lines were set up across the road at 3 separate points within the village for a period of 7 days to accurately measure the speed of vehicles:

- Outside the Village Hall in Station Road
- Brompton Road as you leave the village
- Bedale Road between Phoenix House and the bridge

The results showed that whilst there were certainly instances of excess speed the vast majority of vehicles travelled within the highways recommended speed tolerances. More details are available on the parish council website. However the survey did identify a particular issue with excess speed in Bedale Road. Following discussions with Highways it was agreed that this section would benefit from additional signage to emphasise the applicable speed limit and road conditions. As a result we are planning to put new additional roundels in the road and further speed disc signage up to the bridge and just beyond. This has been kindly funded by Councillor Tom Jones and should be in place in the near future.

Regular reports are received by the Parish Council from the Climate Change Group and this provides a link to the Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership which itself is adjusting to how it links to the new North Yorkshire Council. The new council is developing a strategy on climate change to which we may hope to link directly.

A big thank you must also go to the Blooming Newton Group which has enhanced the area around the Village Hall and Bus shelter. There has also been another round of tree planting organised by Bob Sampson as part of the Communitrees project.

The Parish Council successfully supported a resident in their objection to being denied free school transport which is important as an issue because it helps to encourage younger families with children to move in to the village.

The Village Show is now an annual event and goes from strength to strength and this year will take place later in the summer.

The Parish Council is here to represent the interests and concerns of the village and the residents and to do that we need your support and interest. It is your parish council and we welcome you to our regular meetings to see exactly what we do and perhaps get more involved.

Chris Audritt  
Chair  
Newton Le Willows Parish Council

**23A/03** There were no **Contributions or questions from the electorate.**

The meeting was declared closed at 7.15pm

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

**23A/04** C Audritt was elected as **Chairman of the Council.** This was proposed by Z Hudson-Peach and seconded by L Ryder.

**23A/05** The **Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office** was signed and received.

**23A/06** There were no **apologies for absence.**

**23A/07** V Wilthew was elected as **Vice Chairman.** This was proposed by C Audritt and seconded by T Clarkson

**23A/08** Councillors were elected onto other working groups and organisations as follows:

**Atkinson Clarke Educational Trust – C Audritt**

**Village Hall – Z Hudson-Peach**

**Community resilience – V Wilthew**

**Welcome packs – V Wilthew**

**Climate Strategy – C Audritt**

**Parish clerk wages review – C Audritt**

**23A/09** The **Annual Meeting of the council** was declared closed at 7.28pm