

Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council Annual meetings held on 23rd May 2022

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

Also present: Councillors R Ormston, T Jones and 8 members of the public

Minutes - Annual Parish meeting

1. The **minutes** of the meeting held on the 24th May 2021 were signed and approved.
2. **Chairman's report -**

The Council has been able to meet more regularly during the past year having eight meetings. Keeping us up to the mark I thank Teresa on behalf of us all in making sure our affairs are in order with the precept, accounts and auditing, preparing agendas, drafting minutes, dealing with planning applications and correspondence. Thank you also to Bob Sampson for running the internal audit for us. We welcome Tom Jones as our new Councillor for the North Yorkshire unitary authority. He will be serving alongside Richard Ormston our District Councillor during a year of transition. Richard has been most helpful in directing us to sources of grant support.

During the year we have been pleased to welcome Zoe as a Councillor which brings us up to strength. After frustrating delays, she with Victoria, Chris and Ted have done good work in getting the new see-saw installed in the playground and the rope bridge has been replaced with a rigid one. A picnic bench will complete the upgrade with the support of a grant from Richmondshire DC.

Regular reports have been received from the Atkinson Clarke Education Trust and from Village Hall Committee. Though the planned extension is on hold, Don Brown has had some success in grafting a scion from the Coronation cherry tree to a blackthorn rootstock. Hopefully this will ensure Her Majesty is commemorated beyond her Platinum Jubilee. The Council supported the Village Hall Committee in running a village show to mark the easing of Covid restrictions. Progress is being made in improving signage to the Village Hall and to the defibrillator.

Reports have also been received from the Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership and from our Climate Change Group. This has included the planting of trees, wildlife surveys, distribution of wild flower seeds and recycling initiatives. The RHS grant has enabled planters to be placed at the Village Hall site. An area near the bus shelter has been cleared and planted with spring bulbs. Others have been planted by the Village Hall.

A participatory budgeting exercise has led to grants being given for bird boxes to be offered to residents, a memorial bench for the cricket field, a new sign for the Village Hall and a thermal imaging camera for residents to identify insulation deficiencies.

Our thanks are due to Russ Batley for managing the village website for many years. As he is retiring from this role and a volunteer with the necessary skills is not available, we are looking into a professional contract for a new website design.

The General Manager of the Wensleydale Railway attended a meeting in September which went some way to clarify their work on the track and for improved communication in the future. With Covid restrictions largely now over we have expressed our thanks to Aysgarth School for meals provided for around two years to isolated and vulnerable residents. A quorum of the Resilience Team met following storm Arwen. This led to a review of the equipment supplied by NYCC and the replacement of items no longer in date. Resources available together with names and contact details in the action sheet were brought up to date. The emergency

rucksack and laptop bag are now stored in the cupboard formerly occupied by the photocopier in the Village Hall.

We continue to be linked to the County through the Leyburn community support hub. Their focus includes support to anyone providing hospitality of refugees from Ukraine or Afghanistan, with the latest update focusing on the need to link people to specialist support for financial and employment issues, debt and befriending needs.

Phil Nunn continues as our lead in relation to Our Watch (otherwise known as Neighbourhood Watch). We are most grateful to him for passing on alerts from the Police, North Yorkshire Community Messaging and other sources, mostly using the CovidMAG WhatsApp group. Issues relating to highway drainage continue with some progress being made. Attention has been given to hazards for horse riders and pedestrians from inconsiderate drivers. The fly tipping by Sinks Lane remains in the hands of the Environment Agency for potential prosecution, without a time table relating it is part of an escalating national problem. There was a further authoritative review of the Wheatsheaf site which continues to be in the hands of RDC Planning Officers. Our thanks are due to those who monitor stretches of roads in the Parish clearing accumulations of litter, so important for the image of a cared for village.

Finally, we look forward to a village lunch to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Preparations are being led by members of our Council and Village Hall Committee for a largely bring and share meal Sunday 5th June.

3. Contributions and questions from the electorate:

- Concerns were raised from residents at Laburnum house as one of their garden walls has been hit by vehicles travelling through the village.
Action: this needs to be reported to NYCC by the residents in the first place.
- Seat at Ivy Crescent was reported to need some repair to the legs. It was examined by L Ryder.
Action: it needs to be monitored and the legs will at some stage need to be repaired.

Minutes - Annual meeting of the council

1. C Audritt was elected as **Chairman of the Council**
2. The **Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office** was signed and received
3. There were no apologies for absence
4. **Election of Vice Chairman** – V Wilthew was elected
5. Councillors were elected on to other working groups and organisations as follow:
Atkinson Clarke Educational Trust – V Wilthew
Village Hall – C Audritt
Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments – L Ryder
Community Resilience – L Ryder
Welcome Packs – V Wilthew
Waste and recycling – Z Hudson-Peach
6. The **Annual Meeting** of the council was **declared closed** at 7.20pm