

**Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council**  
**meeting held on 10 October 2023**

**Present:** Councillors C Audritt, Z Hudson-Peach, W McDermott and clerk T Sanderson

**Also present:** 10 members of the public

**23/054** There were **apologies for absence** from Councillors, V Wilthew, T Clarkson and T Jones.

**23/055** There was a '**declaration of interest**' received from Z Hudson-Peach for the agenda item waste matter at Rock House Farm.

**23/056** The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 31 August 2023 were approved and signed (proposed by Z Hudson-Peach and seconded by W McDermott).

**23/057 Public Participation Session**

At this stage in the meeting a statement was read out in favour of the EV charging points from B Sampson who was in attendance. This was supported by another member of the public at this stage. Following the work on School Lane, it would appear that the plaque on the cherry tree commemorating the late Queen's Silver Jubilee has gone missing and should be replaced.

**23/058 Matters arising:**

- **Gully on Station Road** – although clear and free flowing, there is a possibility of it getting blocked again with falling debris (leaves and conkers). It would be beneficial to add a grate to cover the outlet pipe to stop this from happening.
- **Wheatsheaf** – the clerk had sent a letter of concern to NYC regarding the closure of this case. A reply was received stating that a new case would be opened when the new enforcement officer started (9 October).

**Action:** the clerk will contact NYC before the next meeting to see where we are at.

- **Sinks Lane** – this has been cut back and is tidy.
- **Bus Service** – the Council's reply was submitted by the deadline.
- **Planning application for proposed caravan site** – C Audritt read out the reply from NYC regarding this matter. It is in the hands of the Caravan Club whether to grant a licence for this site.

**23/059 Reports:**

- **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting was on 9 October and the next one will be the AGM on 6 November. The new Village Hall sign

has arrived and been erected. No quote has yet been received for the sewage pipe repair and windows are to be cleaned shortly. The Village Hall tidy up took place on 1 October with the toilets and kitchen being the focus. Coffee morning charges are to be increased to £3 from the current £2.50. Several events are being planned including a potential book talk on 26 November and D Day event with the choir on 9 June 2024. A full report will be given at the next meeting.

- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – the meeting was attended by C Audritt on 11 September. It is a confidential and private meeting with some grants allocated.
- **Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments** - there is nothing new to report on this matter.

**23/060 Specific matters:**

- **Waste matter at Rock House Farm** – all councillors had been asked to try and view this before the meeting. Z Huson-Peach explained that this is an ongoing issue and there is a long-term plan for it which the owners would be happy to discuss with concerned neighbours. C Audritt had asked advice from the Environment Agency who informed him that as long as it was waste from that site it was perfectly legal to be stored on their site. Whilst it was not an ideal situation for everyone, it was perfectly legal. On that basis it was proposed by C Audritt that this was not a council matter and seconded by W McDermott. The motion was carried.
- **Website** – the website is now totally in the hands of a new webmaster who is regularly updating it. Anyone wanting something adding to the website should email it to the webmaster. New ideas and designs are being considered but there are the limitations to what can be done within the current website.
- **EV charging points** – in principle, it was agreed that a feasibility study would be useful before any further decisions about EV charging points could be made. It is to be decided whether the Parish Council need to be involved but would support the Climate Change Group carrying this out. It was proposed by C Audritt that a feasibility study be carried out and seconded by W Mc Dermott.

**Action:** to be discussed again at a future meeting.

- **Parish Charter** – this is aimed at giving more power to Parish Councils over street lighting and pot holes, for example, without the funding for such items. The Council does not have to take on any extra responsibilities unless it feels it has the time to do so. The council adopted the final Parish Charter document and will maintain

its current arrangements. (Proposed by C Audritt and seconded by Z Hudson-Peach).

- **Planting of cherry tree** – a new plaque for the tree is now necessary as it has been planted in the Village Hall Garden.

**Action:** the clerk to arrange for plaques for both cherry trees mentioned in these minutes to be purchased and installed.

- **Policy documents** – the relevant policy documents (Standing orders, Code of Conduct, Parish Clerk Contract) were adopted by the council. (Proposed by C Audritt and seconded by W McDermott)
- **Fly tipping on Sinks Lane** – C Audritt and T Sanderson recently met the new Environment Agency (EA) Officer (Mark Rumble) on site. He agreed to produce a summary report of where we are at with this scenario. Unfortunately, there is to be no prosecution. However, he agreed that something needs to be done with some of the bails that are in a precarious position. It was suggested that removing all the bails would come at a huge cost (possibly a six-figure sum) which neither the EA or Parish Council has. Mark will discuss with his legal team, NYC and contact the land owner to see what are the options going forward. Once these discussions have taken place, he will arrange a further site visit and possibly arrange for a re-distribution of all bails to make them safe within the site. We may be asked to contact our local MP at that stage.
- **Remembrance display** – the council voted to support parishioners erecting a remembrance display at the village crossroads.

**23/061 All financial matters were approved:**

- Hall hire and insurance £172, payment to B Sampson £180, Clerk's wages and expenses April – September 2023 £882.65

**23/062 Items** for the next meeting will include the precept, Wheatsheaf and reallocation of councillor roles. The **date** for the next meeting will be Monday 27 November at 7pm.

Before the meeting was declared closed, the Chairman, C Audritt announced his retirement with immediate effect. It was always his intention to stand down in the future but after a couple of health scares, which fortunately turned out okay, he felt after nearly four years in the Council the time was right to do it a bit earlier.

**Meeting was declared closed at 7.55pm**