

Newton-le-Willows Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 9th March 2016

Present: Councillors: Elaine Bean (Acting Chair), Peter Olsen and Victoria Wilthew; Bob Sampson (Clerk) and 1 member of the public. Elaine welcomed Victoria to her first meeting as a Parish Councillor.

1. Apologies: Paul Barlow and Joyce Harrison,

2. Previous minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2016 were read and approved.

3. Matters arising:

- Road safety – There had been no further communication from Wensleydale Railway.
- Footpaths – There had been no further response from the Rights of Way Officer at NYCC. The Clerk to write again to seek a response.
- Parish Clerk vacancy – The appointment of a new Clerk had been agreed, with the intention that he takes up the post on 1st April with a 1 month hand-over period with the existing Clerk. It was decided that Elaine Bean should apply for a grant for a laptop computer from the Transparency Fund, for use by the new Clerk.
- Village flagpole – The family of Alan Hudson had agreed to the proposed flagpole. Siting to be agreed with Village Hall trustees, subject to discussions with the Post Office on the removal of a redundant overhead telephone wire.

4. The Wheatsheaf - There had been no further information from the District Council. The Building Inspector had said that the concerns about the safety of the structure did not impact on passers by and were not, therefore, a matter for his office. It was reported that children had been playing in the outbuildings and Councillors were concerned about access to the building being freely available. The Clerk was asked to write to the police about this with a copy to the District Council Planning Department.

5. Highways and pavements – Councillors had met the NYCC Engineer to look at problems to the west of the bridge on Station Road. Emergency repairs to potholes have been carried out and he intends to undertake a survey of existing drainage outside Aysgarth School, with a view to an eventual overall improvement of this stretch of road, subject to funding approval. Complaints were also made about the state of the road surface on Sinks Lane, near Low Scroggs House. The Clerk to write to NYCC to seek urgent repairs.

6. Renewable Energy Project – The Energy Survey had been completed and a meeting held on Saturday 9th January to answer residents queries. Information from the survey had been supplemented by oil usage data from the Oil Club. A technical assessment with more detailed design was now awaited.

7 Play area – In response to the report from Richmondshire District Council about the play area it was agreed that, once the cleaning had been carried out as proposed by Paul Barlow, a further examination would be made of the state of the matting and any necessary repairs undertaken.

8. Lower Wensleydale Area Partnership – There was nothing to report.

9. Village Hall Trustee's report - Peter Olsen reported that broadband had now been installed in the Village Hall. Future events planned included: Cricket Club Quiz on 1st April, PIN music event on 7th May, Queen's 90th Birthday Afternoon Tea on 11th June, a Murder Mystery Night in July and a Village Barbecue on 6th August.

Monthly coffee morning had now been re-established, some of which would be run by Village Hall user groups.

The Green Room had shown a healthy financial return on its first year of operation.

Trustees had attended 2 workshops as part of the Lower Wensleydale Village hall network and 2 further workshops were planned.

14. Financial approvals – The Council approved the following payments:

YLCA , advert for Clerk - £15.00; Renewable Energy Project: survey prizes - £100.00; refreshments at coffee morning - £7.54; interim payment for feasibility study - £5400.00; N-I-W Village Hall, room hire - £35.00

11. Items for next meeting :

The Wheatsheaf, renewable energy project, highways and pavements, Lower Wensleydale Area Partnership, Village Hall Trustee's report, play area repairs, frequency of meetings.

12. Dates of next meetings – Wednesday 13th April and Wednesday 11th May at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Paul Barlow,

Chairman, Newton-le-Willows Parish Council