

Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 22nd February 2022

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

Also present: 7 members of the public

1. **There were ‘apologies for absence’** from Councillor V Wilthew, Councillor R Ormston and T Jones.
2. There were no **‘declarations of Interest’** in items on the agenda.
3. The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2022 were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising:

Drainage - NYCC Highways Staff opened a grip into the field between the Aysgarth School and the driveway to Beechwood Farm. However, this has been blocked with turf several times and may need a sign placing there to ensure it is left clear for drainage. The camber of the road by the lower grip at the 30mph sign is not helping as mud is causing a blockage already. It has been reported to NYCC via the Parish Portal and we are awaiting their response.

- **Playground** – a meeting was held on site with the proposed installer and a price was agreed upon for the installation. There is site work that needs to be carried out before the installation can happen. The seesaw has now been ordered and we are awaiting a confirmation date for arrival.
- **Community resilience** – the defibrillator training is currently on hold as the person who has run training in the past no longer has access to the dummies to practice on. She is prepared to talk a group through the process of using the defibrillator if this is needed.
- **Website** – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. No one has so far come forward from the village so consideration of how to proceed needs to take place.

5. Reports:

- **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting was held on 17th January 2022. All first aid boxes have been brought up to date. The fir trees at the front of the Hall are being considered for removal due to age/condition. The trunks could be used to create sculptural pieces. J Brown is now up and running as Village Hall Treasurer. The current bank balance stands at £28,314. However, the heating in the hall appears to need replacing as two of the radiators no longer work and the others are not in a good state of repair. This was made worse with the closure of the hall due to the pandemic. The Trustees would like to work with the Parish Council in making arrangements for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It was suggested a small working party with members of both to meet before the next meeting. There are still finishing touches to be completed in the hall – eg curtains and blinds. The Green Room

takings stand at approx. £3500 since it reopened. Various events are now in the diary and various others are being considered. The Hall is effectively 'back to normal'.

- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – nothing to report due to absence of V Wilthew.
- **Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments** – meeting due to take place in February didn't take place as a quorum wasn't reached. The Climate Change group have been planting a variety of trees including rowan, white beam, hazel, crab apple and oak at various public sites around the village. Daffodil and crocus bulbs are beginning to show which were planted last year. Planters are about to be purchased for the front of the Village Hall. Green funeral arrangements are being looked into as a means of cutting carbon emissions.

6. Specific matters:

- **Participatory budget** – the four applications were discussed and a vote was taken on each of the proposals. All four applications were successful and no objections were raised on any of them. As a result, the following funding has been approved:
 - Thermal imaging camera - £400
 - Cricket memorial bench - £400
 - Bird boxes – max £180
 - Village Hall sign – max £350

All projects should be completed within six months of this meeting and invoices/receipts should be presented to the Parish Council for payment.

- **Wheatsheaf** – this was discussed at length. The clerk had contacted A Madden at RDC after the last meeting. She agreed to carry out a site inspection which she did and then reported back to the planning department. She also wrote a letter to the landowner seeking a meeting to discuss the site and affordable housing options. C Audritt also contacted RDC and spoke with M Robson, the principal planning officer at RDC. He was very informative but this is not a matter which will be resolved easily or quickly as we have found. Due to a pre-existing approved Planning Application for 10 houses the Wheatsheaf was originally included in the 5 Year Housing Land Supply within the existing RDC Local Plan. However, any actual development still requires action from the owner and that has not been forthcoming for some considerable time. RDC cannot force landowners to develop land and, as RDC are currently exceeding their deliverable 5 Year Land Supply requirement, there is not a critical need for housing within the district. A Compulsory Purchase Order would only be considered as a last resort and only if everything else had failed and assuming the land was needed. It (RDC) could intervene if the property was considered derelict and falling down. Whilst the building is not in the best state of repair and is an eyesore, it is not currently classed as derelict. For the time being, all we can do is monitor the situation and report back to RDC when necessary.
- **Photocopier** – this has served its purpose and no longer works properly. It was agreed that it could be disposed of appropriately. The cabinet will be used for storage within the hall.
Action: the clerk will take the photocopier to the recycling centre.
- **Noticeboard** – this will require two new posts to be fitted and the old ones dug out. Ideally the cabinet part will be sanded down and varnished at the same time.
Action: T Clarkson and Z Hudson-Peach will liaise to get this repaired. Invoices for materials will be reimbursed at a future meeting.

- **Banking** – it was agreed that the clerk should make enquiries into internet banking and C Audritt will become the third signatory.

Action: the clerk will contact the bank and make the necessary arrangements.

7. Planning application:

- **21/01007/FULL** - Full planning permission for a new dwelling at Manor House Farm at Manor House Farm, Brompton Road, Newton le Willows, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL8 1SL. The Council had no comments or observations to make on this application.

8. AOB:

- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – this is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. However Z Hudson-Peach and T Sanderson agreed to work with the Village Hall Trustees ahead of the next meeting.

9. Items for the next meeting will include website, Queen's Jubilee and training.

10. Date for next meeting will be Tuesday 29th March 2022.

Meeting declared closed at 8.25pm.