

**Minutes of Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting**  
**held on 26 February 2024**

**Present:** Councillors V Wilthew, T Clarkson, W McDermott, R Pulham and clerk T Sanderson.

**Also present:** 6 members of the public.

- 24/010** There were **apologies for absence** from Councillor Z Hudson-Peach and PCSO S Diamond.
- 24/011** There were no '**Declarations of Interest**' in items on the agenda.
- 24/012** **The minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2024 were signed and approved (proposed R Pulham and seconded by W McDermott).
- 24/013 Public Participation Session**
- A letter was read out on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees (VHT) requesting financial support for the development of a new quoits pitch which will be available to all residents to use. Currently the VHT are looking at securing a grant as well as any support that can be offered from the Parish Council.  
**Action** – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting and the clerk will notify the Village Hall Trustees of this decision.
  - Growth of shrubs through the wall after the bridge on Station Road. A resident raised this as a concern as the footpath can be unpassable when the shrubs grow in the spring/summer. Another resident confirmed this was the case.  
**Action** – this will be an item for the next meeting.
- 24/014 Matters arising:**
- **EV charging** – R Pulham will attend the next Climate Change meeting on 6 March.
  - **Tree plaques** – have now been purchased. The clerk is sorting out the wooden stakes that are needed and will then be able to install them in the correct locations.
  - **Speed rondels** – we are still waiting for the painting of the signs on the roads but the new repeater signs (indication of 30-mile speed restriction) have been installed.

#### 24/015 Reports:

- **Village Hall Trustees** – Z Hudson-Peach attended the last meeting on 19 February and the next meeting will be held on 25 March. Quotes are being obtained for the flat roof repairs. Permission has been granted to D Brown and T Peach to proceed with a new quoits pitch. The cricket club would like the Village Bar to be open on 1<sup>st</sup> team home fixtures. The Village Hall Trustees would be happy to have a portrait of His Majesty the King up in the Hall. The current bank balance stands at £27,958.95.
- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – this now has a full complement of trustees. The history of the Trust was reviewed for new trustees and 4 applications for grants were approved. The next meeting will be on 20 May.
- **Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments** – as there has been nothing to report on this matter for a while, it was agreed that it would be listed under specific matters when there was something to be discussed.

#### 24/016 Specific matters:

- **Drainage** –the recent downpours have caused issues again on Station Road with water running down the road from the school. Due to blocked drains, it is not flowing away as it should but running down the road often crossing the road as it flows. It brings with it a lot of debris which eventually is deposited in front of residents' homes. This matter was discussed at the NYC highways meeting discussed later in this section. It is possible that the camber of the road does not ease the situation and it appears that the road has 'dropped' on one side due to the volume of water.
- **Grass cutting** – the Council resolved to leave the grass cutting in the parish as it currently stands. NYC are responsible for a small area and other areas are cut by residents.
- **Playground** – the playground is ready for a clean before the start of the warmer weather when it will become more used. The ground under each apparatus needs pressure washing, possibly with the use of 'Wet n Forget'. It was accepted that a date would be set to clean and tidy the playground accordingly. A suggestion was made that soda crystals might work on clearing the algae of any of the surfaces. Councillors T Clarkson and W McDermott will lead on this.  
**Action** – the clerk to contact the Village Hall Trustees before the work is carried out and check that the water supply at the Hall can be used. The clerk will also check if using soda crystals is an option. This information will then be fed back to councillors so that the work can be completed.
- **Website** – several other local parish councils have already changed to a gov.uk website. However, ours is linked with the village website and is managed by a webmaster. We would need to investigate whether this change would be possible along side the village website. A company had approached us offering to carry out the changes as they had for other parish councils at a reduced rate for a limited time period. It was proposed (by V Wilthew and seconded by T Clarkson)

that the clerk and R Pulham should meet with the company and discuss this further and involve the webmaster.

**Action** – the clerk will try and arrange a meeting with all parties assuming the offer is still valid.

- **Feedback from recent NYC meetings** – R Pulham attended the waste management meeting. It was a test exercise for the new website for green waste. New bins and charges are being rolled out to standardise the former district services under the one council of NYC. R Pulham and T Sanderson attended the highways meeting. Due to the exceptional volume of rainwater, drainage issues are currently the main concern of highways. Matters are prioritised according to whether the level of standing water is a cause of concern to human life or livestock. It was stressed that all matters should be reported via the customer or parish portal – both are considered equally. Any issue reported will be assessed. NYC highways would rather a matter had been reported several times than not at all. All drainage is cleaned on an annual rota and it is unlikely they will be cleaned ‘off rota’ due to cost. Concern had been raised by a resident before the meeting about water coming over kerbs. This was put to highways who reported that more issues happen when people lower the kerb outside their property without NYC permission. This would leave properties vulnerable. When roads are resurfaced, kerbs are checked so that water drains along the roadside. It was also stated that NYC highways are only responsible for removing surface water from the roads and any surface water moved to neighbouring land becomes the responsibility of the land owner.

**24/017 Planning approval:**

- ZD23/00579/FULL Full planning permission for construction of a general-purpose building to house machinery for the maintenance of the small paddock and domestic storage of vehicles - Granted

**24/018 Financial matters were approved:**

- Tree plaques – £31.47

**24/019 Items** for the next meeting will include quoits funding, footbath at bridge, portrait of the King and the **date** for the next meeting will be Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**The meeting was declared closed at 7.55pm**