**Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting**

**held on 3rd July 2023**

**Present:** Councillors C Audritt, T Wilthew, T Clarkson, Z Hudson-Peach

 and clerk T Sanderson

**Also present**: 9 members of the public

**23/034** There were no a**pologies for absence.**

**23/035** There were no **‘Declarations of Interest’** in items on the agenda.

**23/036** The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 were approved and signed (proposed by Z Hudson-Peach and seconded by T Clarkson).

**23/037 The following issue was raised at the Public Participation Session:**

Exit from Sinks Lane – the overgrown hedgerows are making visibility in a car difficult. This will be dealt with as an agenda item at the next meeting.

**23/038 Matters arising:**

* **Blocked gully** – see under specific matters
* **Playground –** W McDermott and T Clarkson have cut back the vegetation near the playground and V Wilthew assisted them at the cricket club entrance.
* **Resilience –** Former councillor L Ryder had attended a recent ‘Cuppa Connect’ in Leyburn but unfortunately no members of the public attended. More sessions are being planned.
* **Participatory budget exercise** – an article was published in the recent newsletter with a deadline for applications of 24 July. Any applications will be discussed at the next meeting.

**23/039 Reports:**

* **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting was held on 5 June with C Audritt stepping down as Parish representative. Z Hudson-Peach attended as the new representative. A company called Alpha Signs have been contacted for a quote for a Village Hall sign. The cement skirting has been completed at a cost of £1500. The picnic benches are going to be stained/varnished in order to protect them from the elements. The current balance stands at £27,988.90 with bar takings of £9,500 so far this year. The Coronation weekend raised approx. £1000 and the Rock Choir raised £527 (with an additional £240 on the raffle for mental health). Cricket takings have reduced and it is noted that the cricket club has applied for an alcohol licence. A request has been made that the profit (£500) from recent music events be used for a specific purpose. New curtains were suggested although likely costs are £5000+. A Julie Andrews tribute act has been booked for later in the year. The Village Hall driveway has caused concerns recently with vehicles driving too quickly. Cautionary signs are being considered to ask drivers to pay mor attention to their speed.
* **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust –** the next meeting is not until September. V Wilthew has formally stood down as representative and the Trust had been formally notified that C Audritt will be the new representative.
* **Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments –** nothing to report. An e-bulletin will be forwarded to councillors from L Ryder.

**23/040 Specific matters:**

* **Vacancy –** C Audritt explained the process of filling the councillor vacancy following the resignation of L Ryder. Two candidates (Will McDermott and Rob Pulham) stepped forward and expressed an interest in joining the Council. They were given the opportunity to present themselves to the Council at this meeting. W McDermott spoke first. He has lived in the village for 5-6 years, has a young family and wants to ‘put back’ into his local community. He was instrumental in bringing the ‘Santa Run’ to Newton le Willows. The McDermott family have taken part in various village events. Will is used to dealing with people and issues and has a very practical, hands-on approach. He recently helped cut back vegetation at the playground in order to make it safer. R Pulham was the second candidate. He had lived in the village for 4 years. He recently joined the newsletter team and talks part in the coffee morning and crafternoon sessions. Rob has 20 years local government experience in IT across many departments. He is also a qualified project manager and is used to dealing with people from various official bodies. He has been the residing officer at the last three local elections in the Village Hall. After both presentations were completed, they were discussed by the Councillors. Both councillors were absent for this part of the meeting. All councillors had a vote and W Mc Dermott was unanimously voted in favour of filling the vacancy. With the decision reached, both applicants were invited back into the room and notified of the outcome. C Audritt thanked both candidates for their interest and presentations. The decision had been a difficult one as both candidates had good values and strengths that would be useful to the Council.

W McDermott was asked to join the Council and accepted.

**Action:** the clerk will ensure that all relevant paperwork is completed and sent back to North Yorkshire (NYC) electoral team.

* **Wheatsheaf –** so far there has been little response from North Yorkshire Council (NYC). There may have been a recent site visit although the clerk has yet to receive a report.

**Action**: the clerk will chase this with A Madden of NYC.

* **80th D-day celebrations –** this was discussed and left as a possible afternoon tea with choir. It will be discussed in detail at a later meeting.
* **Overgrown hedge on the track alongside the Village Hall** – this has now been dealt with. The Village Hall Trustees agreed that the road needed to be made more visible by cutting back significantly the hedgerow. This work was carried out at a cost of £350. With residents also undertaking some clearing work, the road is now more visible for all users.
* **Gully on Station Road –** there has been no further action as yet. It is due to be jet washed but no date had been given. There is concern that this issue could be ongoing so C Audritt had drafted a reply to NYC Highways stating the Parish Council position. All councillors were in agreement that it should be sent,

**Action:** C Audritt to send letter via email to NYC Highways.

**23/041 Correspondence:**

* **Email –** the email from A Clark, church warden was read out by the clerk.

**23/042 Items** for the next meeting will include Sinks Lane, fly tipping, Wheatsheaf, participatory budget exercise and the website. The date for the next meeting will be Monday 14 August at 7pm.