

**Minutes of Newton le Willows Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on 27 March 2023**

**Present:** Councillors V Wilthew, T Clarkson, Z Hudson-Peach, W McDermott, R Pulham and parish clerk T Sanderson.

**Also present:** Councillor T Jones and 5 members of the public.

**24/020** There were no '**apologies for absence**'.

**24/021** There were no '**declarations of interest**' in items on the agenda.

**24/022** **The minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 February 2024 were approved and signed – proposed by W McDermott and seconded by R Pulham.

**24/023 Public Participation Session**

The vegetation growing out of the wall past the bridge on Station Road was raised as a safety concern. Approaching traffic can make this situation even more difficult as it is not always possible to step into the road. There is still a safety concern when the vegetation dies back as it can become brittle and sharp. This matter is to be discussed as an agenda item at this meeting.

**24/024 Matters arising:**

- **Playground** – whilst it would be satisfactory to use soda crystals to clean the playground services as it is non-toxic, it was agreed that councillors T Clarkson and W McDermott would use the 'Wet and Forget' that was already available. The parish clerk had asked permission from the Village Hall Trustees for the hall's water supply to be used for this cleaning purpose. It was granted.
- **EV charging station** – Councillor R Pulham reported back that he had met with the Climate Change group to have an initial discussion about this matter. At that meeting, it was agreed that a sub-group would be formed to assess whether there was a need for a suitability assessment.

#### 24/025 Reports:

- **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting was held on Monday 25 March. The event on the 6 April is now a sellout event. A bar training session/meeting was to be held. The roof repair will now go ahead with a quote being accepted. The work is expected to be carried out within the next 6-8 weeks. The plans that were drawn up for an extension have been completely abandoned with a new focus on bringing the existing facilities up to the correct standard. A fire officer will be delivering some training to the Trustees in the new future. The quoits pitch is progressing well with many volunteers having come forward to help build it. The parish clerk had attended the meeting to ask if the Trustees would be prepared to financially support a new website (annual charge) which would benefit both Council and Village Hall. A decision will be made and communicated to the council. The next meeting to be held on 13 May.
- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – there has been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting is due by the end of May.

#### 24/026 Specific matters:

- **Portrait of King** – in light of the fact that the Village Hall Trustees have agreed that a portrait of the King could be hung in the hall, the Parish Council would like to apply for a portrait of the King. This was proposed by V Wilthew and seconded by Z Hudson-Peach.  
**Action** – the clerk will apply for a portrait.
- **Quoits** – a request for some funding has been received to enable the startup of a quoits team/club within the parish. The pitch is currently being built with many volunteers having already stepped forward to help. The work needs to be completed before the first home game on 24 April. There is an away game at Crakehall before that. A fixture list will go in the next Newton News. Some training sessions will be set up for anyone interested to have a go. Club nights will be on a Tuesday. It was proposed by Z Hudson-Peach and seconded by T Clarkson that £200 be allocated for this request from the remaining participatory budget. The motion was carried.  
**Action** – the clerk will draw a cheque which will be handed over to the Village Hall Trustees.
- **Website** – a meeting was held with a new company based in Bedale with councillor R Pulham, the Village Hall webmaster and the parish clerk. This was set up on the basis that there is a drive for all parish council websites to be modified to a gov.uk one. However, this would not be possible for Newton le Willows as both the Village Hall Trustees and Parish Council would need access to update etc. They would still be able to develop a new website with all the functionality

that we require. Ultimately this will come down to cost, which at first glance seemed doable. However, once a full quote came in, the costs become greater than expected, especially with this year's precept already having been approved. The clerk took this to a Village Hall Trustees meeting to ask if they could contribute financially to the annual running costs of a new website. For the time being, this will be put on hold whilst other options are considered and financial sources explored. Councillor T Jones thinks there may be some financial support available from NYC and will forward any information to the clerk if this is the case.

**Action:** the clerk will let the company in Bedale know where we are now at in the process. She will also try and contact other councils who have recently updated/modified their websites to see if there are other options available within our current financial position.

- **D-day commemoration** – the Choir have agreed with the Village Hall Trustees to host an event in the hall on Sunday 7 July. It is believed to be an afternoon tea and concert. The Parish Council would be happy to support such an event.
- **Vegetation growing through the wall past the bridge on Station Road** – the council recognise that this may cause an issue to many residents. Plants had been planted in the wall a long time ago by well meaning residents and whilst it was acknowledged that it does look beautiful, it also can cause a hazard on the footpath. The field behind the wall is owned by the Peach family and councillor Z Hudson-Peach asked for some time to discover if the field could be sprayed to prevent some of the growth through the wall. In the meantime, it was agreed that the council would set up a working party to trim back any vegetation to prevent it being an issue this summer.

**24/027 Financial matters** were approved:

- Wages and expenses to clerk - £871

**24/028 Items** for the next meeting will include the Wheatsheaf, roundels, speeding and the **date** for the next meeting will be Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May and will also be the annual meeting of the Parish Council.

**Meeting declared closed at 7.42pm**