

Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting
held on 29th March 2021

Present: Councillors L Ryder, V Wilthew, J Bell, T Clarkson, C Audritt and parish clerk T Sanderson

Also present: 2 members of the public

1. There was an **Apology for his absence** from Councillor R Ormston.
2. There were no **'Declarations of Interest'** in items on the agenda.
3. The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2021 were **approved** and will be signed by the at the next face to face meeting.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - **Playground** – the 'Wet and Forget' is still to be applied and the end links on the wooden bridge need to be replaced. Aysgarth School had offered to clean the playground once again and it was agreed this would be an appropriate course of action to be taken in September.
Action: Councillors T Clarkson and C Audritt will liaise with each other to complete the works.
 - **Litter picking** – the Chairman wished to express gratitude to all the volunteers for all they do in keeping the village clean and tidy.
5. **Reports**
 - **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting was held in March 22. This was to set an agenda for the next meeting to be held on April 12 when a maintenance programme will be drawn up. Currently there is a rota for airing the building, running taps etc in order to get it ready to be opened to the public when possible. The wall repair is to be carried out shortly, with a cost of £1400 being agreed with RDC. Internal windows broke due to weather conditions and have been repaired at a cost to the Trustees as it was not covered under the insurance. A card reader for payments is being considered for the Green Room. The holly bush at the back of the hall has become a holly tree and is in need of some serious pruning. A tree surgeon has been asked to come and inspect and offer his advice. A resident affected by the tree has kindly offered to pay for the work to be done. The RHS project is going ahead with funding of £500 granted. The Hall is currently only being used by a couple who dance, an election will be held there on May 6 and Pilates should be able to come back May 17. It was thought that a grand village event be planned by the Parish Council for later in the year. The electricity account has now been sorted.
 - **Atkinson and Clark Educational Trust** – met on February 12 via Zoom. The cleaner is still going in and checking taps etc. The next meeting is scheduled for May.
6. **Specific matters:**
 - **Wensleydale Railway** - the vegetation clearance caused upset as there had been a complete lack of consultation. It affected the biodiversity and visual impact to areas of the Parish. An impromptu meeting took place between L Ryder, Graham Ross (a resident) and Toby Lampitt the Wensleydale Railway Infrastructure Manager. A variety of other interested parties was mentioned (including Network Rail for example) but no further contact has been made. However, they would be happy to come to a future face to face council meeting when safe to do so. A concern about trespassing on the railway had also been brought to the attention of the Chairman. This prompted a discussion about other examples of trespass on the railway and elsewhere in our Parish, in particular from dog walkers and also the moving of a flock of sheep.
Action: The Chairman will write an article for the next newsletter highlighting the concerns about the railway and trespassing. The Clerk will invite Wensleydale Railway and Yorkshire Wildlife

Trust to a face-to-face council meeting when appropriate to do so. This follows a vote that was taken and approved.

- **Richmondshire Environment and Climate Emergency developments** – the Richmondshire Climate Action Group has now been set up and has held meetings via Zoom. Works streams have been set up with this Parish being well represented on several of them. Meetings have been well attended (up to 40 attendees) and will now move to involve existing groups and other initiatives that are already working. An example of one such group is the work between RDC and Castle Bolton restoring peat bogs.
- **Drainage on roads** – as the weather has improved, everything has dried up but the issues remain. It was agreed that volunteers would be required to clean the gulleys to ensure that the drains do not become overloaded with debris which can lead to blockages. This would be a preventative approach rather than a firefighting approach which was needed this year. The pipe work at the school is not adequate for the volume of water that flows there. NYCC Highways say it is a resolved matter, however photos could be passed on to them as evidence. Some of the problem areas have recently been cleaned by NYCC which has sorted out some of the issues. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- **Bus shelter** – this is looking very cluttered and the bench is no longer usable as a seat for those requiring it. It was agreed that a polite notice would be placed in the next newsletter asking residents to be mindful of what they leave there and to return to collect it and take it home if still in there after a week. A shelf will be erected above the table for the books to be left on which will ensure the bench is left clear for sitting on.
- **The Wheatsheaf** – the clerk had contacted RDC about this matter. There is nothing new to report.
- **Fly tipping** – the clerk had contacted the Environmental Agency for an update but has not had any reply from them as yet.
- **Parish Council Vacancy** – J Bell has resigned from the Council. The Chairman thanked him for his service and contribution.
Action: The Clerk will notify RDC and start the electoral process.

7. Financial matters:

- The **clerk's wages** (£780) and **expenses** (£5.60) were approved. This includes taxes.
- **Closure of Youth Account** – it was agreed that the account is now empty following repair work to the playground so the account can be closed.
Action: The Clerk will close the account at the bank

8. Correspondence:

- **Bridleways** – discussions have been taken place with J Bell and C Bradley who is the lead on this. She has been contacting the relevant land owners to see how they can help and what support they can offer. When she has collated the information, she has been advised to approach the Council again to see what support they can offer then.
- **Hedge cutting** – a letter was sent to S Coombs after the last meeting. It has been received and he will continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Council should issues arise.

9. **Items** for the next meeting will include Wensleydale Railway, prevention of drainage issues and planning a Village event,

10. **Date** for the next meeting will be May 24 in the Village Hall if possible. This will be the annual Parish Council meeting as well.

Meeting declared closed 19.39