

**Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council**  
**meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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

**Also present:** Councillor R Ormston and 8 members of the public

1. There were no **apologies for absence**.
2. There were no **'Declarations of Interest'** in items on the agenda.
3. The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were **signed and approved**. All minutes from previous meetings held remotely were also signed at this meeting having already been approved.
4. The **report** form from the **internal auditor was received**.
5. **The annual governance statement was approved**
6. **The annual accounting statement was approved**.
7. **Matters arising:**
  - **Bus shelter** – the Parish Council would like to thank B & L Sampson and S Carter for the repairs, painting and added shelving to improve the overall look of the bus shelter.
  - **Bridleways** – there has been no further update or correspondence on this matter.

**8. Reports:**

- **Village Hall Trustees** – 2 meetings have taken place since last PC meeting on 12 April and 17 May (face to face in VH). At the first meeting there were discussions about maintenance works that needed done to the hall.

Concerns were expressed that by focussing on the planned extension the maintenance of the hall was being overlooked. It was agreed that in the current situation, the extension was unlikely to take place for at least a couple of years and it was agreed to separate the two functions to allow us to focus on the works that need doing to maintain and improve the hall for the future and make it attractive to potential hirers.

Stephan Hodges would have responsibility for exploring funding options for the extension but funds would be available to complete any maintenance required. A sub group was formed (Stephan Hodges, Chris Audritt, Steven Coombs And Susan Perkins) to assess the hall and see what works needed doing. By the time of the meeting on the 17 May potential works had been agreed and quotes obtained. The treasurer advised that as of the 8 May the Village Hall funds stood at £ 33,015.51.

The trustees voted and agreed the following works are to be carried out asap (some starting in the next week or so). Costs associated with the works are as follows:

- Painting the main hall and ceiling, gents and ladies' toilets, entrance hall and all exterior windows and doors £ 3844
- Replastering the ceiling in the ladies' toilets and entrance hall £ 750
- New kitchen wall units £ 650
- New front steps £ 850
- New led lights to ladies' toilets £60
- Contingency – glazing bars, bench, blinds, window sills, sundries and electrics £ 650
- Repair broken kitchen window (again) £ 126
- Replace floor in store cupboard £ 250
- Repairs to outdoor benches £ 650
- Total cost £ 7830

Further discussions also took place about the reopening of the hall.

Pilates are back on the 17 May. P.I.N. events have been provisionally booked for September and October. Other possible users include Choir / W.I./ Table Tennis / Climate Change.

Trustees agreed in principle to a village event in August but this will be under review and discussion with the PC. There were discussions about reopening the Green Room, but it was agreed the current Covid restrictions would make this difficult. This also to be reviewed at the next meeting on 21 June.

Further discussions about a card reader and a specific online banking account for the Green Room. There was some opposition to a separate online account although those directly involved in the Green Room felt it was crucial to the growth of the Green Room Village Bar as the major source of revenue for the hall.

Further discussions about signage happened - agreement to put up a user's liability sign in the car park and a sign for the location of the defibrillator needs to be put up were agreed.

Major thanks to the band of volunteer cleaners and grass cutters who have been working hard at get the hall ready for opening.

- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – the last meeting was a Zoom meeting and the next scheduled meetings will be on 28 June and then on 27 September. Discussions have been about when the hall can open again but no decision has yet been reached.
- **Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments** – L Ryder represents the Council on one of the six workstreams that have been set up. The one he deals with is waste and the promotion of energy saving ideas to reduce our carbon footprint. Each workstream meets independently. The climate officer is Valerie Adams. Two youth representatives from St Francis Xavier School attend meetings. A website is set up ([www.richmondshireclimateaction.org](http://www.richmondshireclimateaction.org)) for all to view. A gathering of various organisation is due to take place on 2 October at the Methodist Hall in Richmond. Its aim is to promote energy efficiency. One of the local ideas is to try and extend the current recycling facilities behind the village hall. The Climate Change Group will feed into this and links well with Blooming Newton (a gardening/environmental WhatsApp group).

## 9. Specific matters:

- **Playground** – there is still the 'Wet & Forget' treatment to be applied to the matting surfaces. This will be done as the weather improves. Aysgarth School will come and pressure wash all the playground equipment later in the year (likely to be September time). A grant application has been prepared to submit to RDC to upgrade and improve the playground facilities. The Council are grateful to Councillor R Ormston for notifying them that this grant was going to be made available.  
**Action:** the application will be completed, signed and submitted by the end of the week.
- **BT phone box** – BT/Openreach did recently come out to repair a reported fault on the phone box but despite their best efforts they were unsuccessful and the phone box still does not work. The Council considered the suggestion made that the telephone box house the defibrillator. However, it was agreed that it is better left located at the back of the village hall but to improve the signage to it. The Parish Council would be happy to have the phone box removed and carried a motion that 'no comment' would be their response to the proposal.

**Action:** the clerk will report the Council's position before the deadline of 28 June. An article will be placed in the next newsletter suggesting residents submit their own ideas on the consultation.

- **Village event** – as lockdown is lifted, it was agreed it would be appropriate to plan a village event to highlight the positive impact lockdown has had on the community. Suggestions were a produce show, a sports day, an afternoon tea party or an extended coffee morning. Residents could showcase their creative outlets that have flourished during lockdown. The Parish Council will support the Village Hall Trustees in promoting an event for all.
- **Prevention of drainage issues** – there have been further drainage issues, in particular, along Bedale Road with the recent heavy rainfall. It was agreed that NYCC Highways should be contacted with all of our concerns. As this also involves outside Aysgarth School, it was agreed the school should be kept informed.

**Action:** L Ryder to prepare a report to send to I Beighton of NYCC Highways.

- **Wensleydale railway** – as meetings can now take place, it was felt that the time was right to invite a representative from Wensleydale Railway to attend a future meeting. It would also be beneficial for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to attend the same meeting. The Council is aware that numbers attending a meeting still need to be monitored carefully so restrictions on numbers attending might be needed. It was also raised that people are still walking along the railway line.

**Action** – L Ryder will draft an invite for the clerk to send. Another article will be placed in the next newsletter to warn people about the dangers of walking on the railway line.

- **Cherry tree graft** – this did not work successfully so will need to be attempted again in March 2022.
- **Bridge renewal over Newton Gill** – the Council wanted to publicly acknowledge the work carried out by A Nelson to repair this bridge.
- **Village Sign** – C Audritt reported that at the recent Village Hall meeting signage around the Village was discussed. It was agreed that there should be some signage to highlight the location of the defibrillator. Signage at and to the Village Hall was also deemed necessary. Councillor R Ormston highlighted that a grant may be able to be sourced from the Lower Wensleydale Area Partnership scheme.

**Action** – a working party consisting of V Wilthew, C Audritt and T Sanderson was set up to assess what is needed. This group reflects the interest of both Parish Council and Village Hall Trustees.

- **Vacancy** – following the resignation of J Bell the clerk contacted RDC. The Council is now in a position to co-opt into the role.

**Action** – the clerk will place an article in the next edition of Newton News. Interested parties can contact L Ryder as Chairman or T Sanderson as parish clerk.

#### **10. Financial matters were approved:**

- Donations to CAB £60 and St Patrick's Churchyard £225
- YLCA membership renewal £135
- RDC playground inspection and maintenance charge £133.20
- Replacement defibrillator pads – the clerk is still working on the best replacement cost for these so will email Councillors once an appropriate quote has been sourced. The cost of replacing the pads was agreed in principle.

**11. Items** for the next meeting will include Participatory Budget, Drainage, Bridleways, Wensleydale Railway, Village Event.

**12. Date** for next meeting will be Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

**The meeting was declared closed at 9pm**