

Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting
Held on 30th September 2020

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

Also present: Councillor R Ormston and 2 members of the public

1. There was an **apology for his absence** from J Bell.
2. There were no '**Declarations of Interest**' in items on the agenda.
3. The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th July 2020 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - **Meals on Wheels** – a letter of gratitude was sent to Aysgarth School. The reply from the headmaster was read out and states that this scheme continues to run on one day per week (Wednesday).
 - **Covid-19 group** – this continues to monitor information and messages are beginning to build again after they had settled. P Nunn has volunteered to act as L Ryder's stand in should he be unable to attend meetings. David Poole is the lead on this group. The latest initiative is a befriending service which may be useful going forward. Issues being looked at are isolation and mental health.
5. **Reports**
 - **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting took place on 1st September. The damaged interior wall has been replastered and one of the outside walls has been rendered in order to try and prevent dampness in the storage area. There had been a leak in the Green Room from a faulty water heater that has now been replaced. The flat roof issue above the toilets has been repaired again. The windows are in need of repainting and a quoted for some replacement windows is being sought from Bikers. An external storage unit is been researched. It will sit on the concrete base at the rear of the building. The old marquee is to be sold/disposed of. A more modern one is available for use from Patrick Brompton. Full planning permission has now been granted for the extension. Realistic costings are being looked at so funding can be applied for. The Green Room remains closed but the Hall is currently being hired for five activities per week and follow Covid-19 guidelines. This continues to be monitored. The WI have cancelled their meetings for the remainder of the year. The Treasurer report states the bank balance stands at £36,603 (this includes the £10,000 grant). The Village Hall electricity costs are being looked at. The next meeting is likely to be 28th October, Covid-19 dependant.
 - **Atkinson And Clark Educational Trust** – the last meeting was held on 14th September via Zoom. The Hall is closed and will remain so until the next meeting due 23rd November when a review will be held. It is currently difficult to ensure a thorough cleaning routine due to the current carpet. This is being looked at being

replaced so it can be cleaned/washed on a regular basis. The cleaner is still going in to check on the pipes/water supply. The Hall is being made ready for winter.

6. Specific matters:

- **Playground** – the worn links on the wooden rope bridge have been repaired. Quotes were obtained for replacing the playground surface but all three options were deemed too expensive at the moment. It was agreed that a cleaning regime might be enough for the playground surface for now. One of the swings has broken and needs replacing. The other one on inspection, was found to need replacing also.
Action: the clerk will contact RDC grounds maintenance to arrange a visit/inspection to ensue that the correct parts on the bridge have been replaced. Information about a cleaning product (Wet& Forget) that has been recommended will be circulated to all councillors for consideration. Two quotes will be obtained by the clerk to replace both swings. These quotes will be used to apply for a grant from the Lower Wensleydale Partnership Fund which has just opened again
- **Climate Emergency Policy** – currently we do not have one and there is not a lot we can do as a policy. It was felt that the Village Hall Trustees could be asked to consider checking electricity tariffs and consider solar panels. The Parish Council is already involved in waste, recycling and it has looked at the issue of trees in the parish. A concern could be in terms of planning and how a policy could be applied. As there is already a Climate Change Group in the parish, it was proposed that they could monitor the situation and advise the Parish council on matters as they arise.
- **Drainage below Aysgarth School** – it was discovered that is considered a ‘closed matter’ by NYCC although we thought remedial work was still needed. It was agreed to monitor the situation and take photos of any issues that may present themselves.
- **Speed and road markings/Kerbside outside Bridge House** – this links in with road markings at the bridge we hoped to improve with an AJ1 project application. This was not the case due to limited visibility. It was felt at the meeting that a reduction of the size of the footpath on the left-hand side (approaching the bridge from the crossroads) would reduce the limited visibility. This had been reported to NYCC highways earlier in the year by Councillor R Ormston. There are currently no proposals to install marker posts on the kerbside outside Bridge House. However, the Parish council is pursuing this further and NYCC Highways are looking into installing kerb stones to protect the grass verge and water supply inspection covers which are being damaged by vehicles. It was hoped that the outstanding speed markings may be done soon as the third-party company involved will be working locally in the near future. Footpaths have all now been resurfaced in the parish except for an area on Brompton Road.
Action: Future emails concerning NYCC highways will be copied into Councillor K Sedgwick who has more involvement as a county councillor.
- **Neighbourhood Watch (NW)**– there is currently no local co-ordinator. North Yorkshire Police messaging service would appear to cover some of NW’s remit.

NW has helped to lower household insurance for some residents but would no longer be the case should we remove the NW signs as not being involved. Alternative methods are being used – the Our Watch website and we could possibly set up a local WhatsApp group.

Action: L Ryder will draft an article for the next newsletter to draw attention to the new website and asking for a volunteer co-ordinator to step forward by the end of October.

- **Cherry Tree in School Lane** – this is a commemorative tree that was planted in the school grounds in 1977 and has become rather large. It stands outside the boundary of a property in School Lane and has recently been cut back by the current owners of that house. Concern had been raised whether it is too big for its location. Responsibility was discussed and L Ryder has discovered that Northern Power Grid will cut it back if it gets too close to power lines when necessary.

Action: the clerk will look at historical records and draft a letter to the current owners when all the information has been gathered.

- **Website update** – the webmaster raised the issue with the clerk whether we are happy to continue paying a cost towards this or would we prefer to change to a free site option. A discussion took place with positives and negatives to each approach. It was agreed that the preferred option was to remain as it is but to see if it can be funded in a different way.

Action: the clerk will email those businesses currently listed on the patrons' page of the website to see if they wish to continue to be listed. An article in the next newsletter will ask if any local businesses would be interested in having their businesses listed for an annual £10 fee.

7. Planning applications:

- 200/00458/Full Full Planning Permission for change of use of land to allow extension of existing caravan park and development for 27 additional holiday lodges and caravan holiday homes with associated landscaping scheme at Akebar Caravan Park, Patrick Brompton, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5LY.
The councillors had looked at this ahead of the meeting tonight. No comments or observations were raised. This information was sent to RDC by the relevant deadline.

8. All financial matters were approved:

- Clerks wages £780 and expenses £21 (April – Sept)
- Website fees – domain renewal £28.78 and hosting £86.26

9. Items to include Covid-19, playground

10. Date for next meeting will be Monday 16th November at 6.30pm. It will be a virtual meeting and instructions on how to take part will be posted alongside the agenda nearer the time.

Meeting declared closed at 7.50pm