

Minutes of Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting
held on 26th September 2022

Present: Councillors C Audritt, V Wilthew, T Clarkson, Z Hudson-Peach and parish clerk T Sanderson

Also present: Councillors R Ormston, T Jones and 7 members of the public

22/022 There was an **apology for absence** from L Ryder who was unable to attend the meeting but sent some comments to be included.

22/023 There were no **'Declarations of Interest'** in items on the agenda.

22/024 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th August 2022 were **approved and signed**. Approval of minutes were proposed by Z Hudson-Peach and seconded by T Clarkson.

22/025 **Public Participation Session**

Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda or of import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question):

- Request to change the location of the remembrance display if considered necessary and to ask if more people would like to participate.
- Request to place a profile of the Council in a future addition of Newton News
- Request to consider sending minutes for publication in the Darlington and Stockton Times.

22/026 **Matters arising:**

- i. **Dog fouling** – to be an agenda item at the next meeting. The clerk met with representative of RDC and this information will be useful at the full discussion.
- ii. **Website** – to be an agenda item at the next meeting. A meeting needs to be set up with the current webmaster ahead of the next meeting.
- iii. **Grass cutting** – the clerk had looked into when this happens and circulated it to all councillors. Some is done by NYCC and some by RDC.

22/027 **Reports:**

- i. **Village Hall Trustees** – the last meeting was held on the 12th September. The heating has been replaced and is working more efficiently. There was a Village Hall tidy up on the 18th July – all who attended were thanked. There is currently a grant application for benches at the front of the hall and the ones at the back are to be repaired. The outside windows have now been stained and a broken window repaired. There is a discussion ongoing with the cleaner now that the hall is open more often and more cleaning may be required. The remainder of the hedge will now be removed and quotes for a new fence are being sought. Electricity charges are still causing concern. Outgoings are exceeding incomings, with the majority of income coming from the bar. Currently the account balance is approximately £25,540. The bar is currently open 3 times a month. A New Year's Eve party is being considered and will await the outcome of a survey to be circulated in the next Newton News. Work to be considered – concrete plinth around the building to be repaired and re-rendered where necessary.

- ii. **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – the last meeting was 26th September. Issue raised – the cleaner has now left and a replacement is being sought. She was thanked with a bouquet of flowers. Until one can be found committee members will take it in turns. University grants were discussed as were a few maintenance issues. The next meeting will be on 21st November.
- iii. **Richmondshire Climate Action Plan developments** – L Ryder attended and Eco-Energy event run by RCAP at the Station Cinema. It was a useful Q & A session covering a wide range of issues from batteries to home insulation to heat pumps (there are air to air as well as air to radiator heat pumps). A reminder that the thermal imaging camera is available to borrow through Don and Jean Brown for up to 48 hours. This is best done when the weather is colder. The Village apple pressing day is scheduled to take place outside the Village Hall on Sunday 18th October.

22/028

Specific matters:

- i. **Fly tipping** – this is an ongoing issue since November 2016 and concerns the 250 illegal bales that were tipped on land at the end of the housing on Sinks Lane. The land was bought In August 2016 and then used for this purpose later the same year. It is part of an ongoing investigation of five sites some of which have upward of 2000 bales on them. C Audritt met with G Brown, the Environment officer who has been dealing with this since the start and a representative from Wensleydale Railway as the land backs onto the railway line. The site is inspected by the Environment Agency every six months – the last time was March. The owner of the land has been traced as has the haulier and both are involved in the ongoing investigation. All the bales have been professionally wrapped which means they should ‘hold’ for longer. It was discovered at this meeting that some of the bales have now slipped and are looking precariously like they could fall of the railway line which could cause a major Health and Safety issue. Unfortunately, no representative from the railway was able to attend this meeting but they have been advised to report the matter themselves. Overall, there is not a lot we can do at this stage. Some of the bales that have moved may be removed pending the railway investigation but it would not be all of them. Costs are prohibitive – suggested cost £100,000.
Action - a future article will be written for the newsletter encouraging parishioners to contact our local MP and send letters.
- ii. **Speeding** – there is a perception that there is a speeding issue in our parish. To that end, the Council agreed at a previous meeting to conduct three surveys at various locations. This should then provide accurate and up to date information on whether there is actually an issue. The Council can then decide what needs to be done with the information. The action was proposed by C Audritt and seconded by V Wilthew and carried.
Action: C Audritt to organise for this to happen,
- iii. **Remembrance** – the Council agreed that this was positively received last year and should go ahead this year. It was in favour of being sited at the bench at the crossroads again. This was proposed by V Wilthew and seconded by Z Hudson-Peach.
- iv. **Community resilience** – if there was to be a local heating emergency declared, then it would be considered a Village Hall decision as there is a cost implication to opening the Hall further. There are several events that take place already in the Hall for a small fee and residents could be encouraged to attend those in the first place.

- v. **Street lighting** – the clerk looked into this matter and can confirm that this is still ongoing and Newton le Willows is still on the list for the lighting to be upgraded.
- vi. **Let's Talk North Yorkshire** – after a discussion it was agreed that more people in the parish would be reached if they attended a coffee morning. They could set up in the bar area if necessary.
Action: the clerk to contact the three groups running the coffee mornings and see if they would be happy for this group to attend. The information will then be sent to the relevant body.
- vii. **Communitree project** – the Parish Council were advised further trees were available to plant under the Communitrees initiative. It was proposed by C Audritt and seconded by Z Peach that we request a further 30 trees to be planted in the parish by B Sampson and T Peach. The motion was carried.
Action – the clerk to notify the Communitree project of this decision.

22/029

Financial matters were all approved:

- i. **Village Hall – hall hire and insurance £172.50**
- ii. **Clerk's wages and expenses £792**

22/030

Items for the next meeting will include website, dog fouling and speeding. **The date** for the next meeting is Monday 7th November at 7pm.

Meeting declared closed at 8.15pm