Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting
Held on 2 November 2026

Present: Councillors V Wilthew, T Clarkson, R Pulham, J Messervy-Whiting and clerk T Sanderson

Also present: 5 members of the public

26/054 **There were no apologies for absence.**

26/055 There were no '**Declarations of Interest'** in items on the agenda.

26/056 T**he minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 September 2026 were signed and approved (proposed by R Pulham and seconded by T Clark).

26/057 **Public Participation Session**
Footpath query was raised and will be discussed under matters arising.

26/058 **Matters arising**

- **Footpath –** a reply was read out regarding the path through bonfire field into the woodlands at the edge of the village. The handrail and steps were installed by the parish council to make the path accessible by all. A discussion highlighted that many footpaths in the parish currently have issues or outstanding repairs that need completing.
  Action – clerk to contact the landowners (of the bonfire field footpath) to see if they would wish to help with the repair.
  A site visit will be conducted by the councillors ahead of the next meeting to see what repair needs to happen.
  Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council Public Rights of Way for their advice.

26/059 **Reports:**

- **Village Hall Trustees -** the last meeting was on the 19 October when the clerk attended on behalf of the council. This was also the AGM with reports from Chairman and Treasurer. The bank account stands at £28084.89 and stock at £1336.59 for a total of £29421.48. Takings overall for the year are down with bar takings and hall hire fees being lower. The Trustees are currently working through a 'wish list' of repairs/improvements to the hall and looking for grants wherever possible. There are to be two Christmas trees this year – one at the crossroads where residents are encouraged to decorate with a bauble and the other will be at the Village Hall. The next meeting is on the 30 November when J Messervy-Whiting will attend.
- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust –** the last meeting was on 21 October. Letters of thanks have been received from those who had received grants. Overall, bookings are down. The front door needs painting. Access for hall

hirers is being looked at again with the need for a key safe being installed the likely option**.** The next meeting is on the 16 November.

26/060 Specific matters:

- **Northern Powergrid** – there is work about to commence on 09 November to get excavation work started for underground electricity supply on Station Road from the crossroads to the bridge (lefthand side looking up the road from the crossroads). This has raised concerns with residents so the clerk raised the questions to the project contact. The outcome of this communication is as follows:
  - The first part of the job is due to take place between 09 November – 11 December. This will involve the main laying of cable to the outside of properties. Residents will be contacted on an individual basis for the next phase – connecting supply to their property. This is likely to be after Christmas.
  - There will be some disruption on Station Road for parking. Usually, NYCC request a 100m clearance of works. A request for temporary traffic lights has been made to NYCC.
  - All residents will be notified at around 2 weeks before the job starts.
  - Footpaths will be reinstated in accordance with NYCC standards

  There will be disruption in the parish whilst this work is carried out and we ask all residents to be extra careful whilst walking/driving/riding at this time.

- **Playground** – Inspection reports highlight a range of issues that need to be tackled. These include vegetation encroaching, rust and paintwork of equipment, locking of gates. The council does not believe in our community that locks need to be used although gates should be kept closed. Remedial action will be considered in the spring.
- **Bus shelter –** no comments were received via email from residents following the article in the last newsletter. It was agreed that the old wooden table be removed. Items are still being left there that are unwanted. The area outside needs to be looked at again. Low maintenance and drought tolerant plants need to be considered along with raised beds, gravel and a seat. The fate of the oak tree has not been decided as with some regular maintenance it may be a good feature. This will be reviewed in the spring.
- **Defibrillator –** it has been difficult to assess whether this needs to be replaced as it has been maintained and parts replaced as necessary. The current recommendation is that it is replaced every 8-10 years with ours being older than that. However, the clerk stated that the pads and battery are still in date which allows us a further year to decide on the best course of action. We are looking at grants and the possibility of renting one in the future for an annual fee. A full cost analysis needs to be worked out before a decision is made.

- **Setting of precept –** the precept was set as following:

Audit	£100
Parish Council Insurance	£380
St Patrick's Churchyard	£225
Travel, training, seminars	£100
Richmond CAB	£80
Stationery, post and telephone	£20
Playground insurance/maintenance	£250
Rural Action First/Community First	£30
YLCA	£185
Village Hall Hire	£70
Parish Clerk Salary	£2171.52
Grit bin	£50
Website costs	£80
Maintenance (repairs and renewals)	£100
Parish Online	£60
Total	**£3901.52**

This represents an increase of £141.52 (just under 4%) on the previous precept. The increase is largely due the clerks rate of pay. The clerk has stated that she will be stepping down form the role after 10 years' service. The increase in the rate of pay will hopefully encourage someone else to come forward. An advert will be produced in the new year and hopefully a new clerk can spend some time shadowing the current one before next June.

It was agreed that new wheelie bin stickers would be purchased and circulated for residents in key areas where they are most visible and have some impact.

26/061 Planning:

- **ZD26/00547/FULL -** Full planning permission for floodlit synthetic hockey pitch and two floodlit padel courts with individual canopies, Aysgarth School – comments submitted by deadline (9 October)

26/062 Financial matters were approved:

- Hall hire to Village Hall - £60; Zurich insurance - £351 (proposed by T Clarkson and seconded by R Pulham).
- **Financial statement was accepted and can be seen in appendix one of these minutes**

26/063 Items for the next meeting will include speeding and setting of dates for future meetings. **Date** for the next meeting is 14 December when the council will offer mulled wine and mince pies for attendees.

Meeting declared closed at 8.30pm

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation

Newton le Willows Parish Council

Prepared by: Teresa Sanderson (Parish Clerk/Finance Officer)
Date: 31/10/2026

Balance per statements as at 16 October 2026	£	£
Business Saver Account	9378.35	
Less unpresented cheques		
Add unbanked cash		
Net balance at 31 October 2026		9378.35

The net balances reconcile to the cash book (receipts and payments account) for the year as follows:

Cash Book

Opening balance as at 31 March 2026	8293.59
Add: Receipts in the year	3816.77
Less: Payments in the year	2732.01
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 October 2026	9378.35