

Minutes of the Newton le Willows Parish Council meeting
held on 7 September 2026

Present: Councillors V Wilthew, T Clarkson, R Pulham and clerk T Sanderson

Also present: 3 members of the public

Before the meeting began the council accepted the resignation letter of Zoe Hudson-Peach. The parish council expressed gratitude for her service and efforts whilst a councillor.

26/044 There were no **apologies for absence**.

26/045 There were no **'Declarations of Interest'** in items on the agenda.

26/046 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 29 June 2026 were **approved and signed** (proposed by R Pulham and seconded by T Clarkson).

26/047 Public Participation Session

- **Poppy display** – a request was made to the council about placing a commemorative poppy display at the bus shelter now that improvements have been made there. However, the council could only offer an agreement in principle as there is still work to be done in clearing the vegetation. The council fully support the poppy displays that are erected by volunteers for Remembrance Day.
- **Damage/repairs to footpaths** – a request had been made for two footpaths to be repaired with the council involvement. Following a recent briefing from Public Rights of Way it was decided that all footpath issues should be reported to North Yorkshire Council (NYC) via their portal on their website. Repairs are the responsibility of the landowners. Residents are encouraged to report issues as they come across them and submit reports to NYC including photographs where possible.

26/048 There were no matters arising.

26/049 Reports:

- **Village Hall Trustees** – the parish council no longer has a representative, no report. Next meeting will be on 19 October and is believed to be the AGM.
- **Atkinson Clarke Education Trust** – there has been no meeting since our last meeting.

26/050 Specific matters:

- **Vacancies** – there are currently two vacancies on the council. Tonight a candidate stepped forward and presented herself to the council. Julia Messervy-Whiting moved to the parish in October 2022 with her partner. She attended school in Richmond before going to university where she studied Law. Julia has 39 years

legal experience and is currently a Director in her law firm. As she is about to reduce her working hours, she is actively looking to make a positive difference in her new community. She wishes to play a part in the council to help enhance the quality of life of residents by working with the Village Hall Trustees, Aysgarth School and other local groups to improve communication and connections.

Following her presentation, she was asked to step outside so that the councillors could discuss her presentation. A vote was taken and Julia was duly elected with a vote of 3-0 in favour. She was asked to join the other councillors and continue with the meeting.

- **Spending review** – much of the work has now been completed at the bus shelter although there is still work to be done with the vegetation including deciding about the oak tree. There is approx. £550 left in this fund and many ideas are being considered. These include hanging baskets and planters, a new seat, low maintenance options (gravelling the area for example), water butt. All need careful consideration and may need advice from other authorities (NYC for example).

Action – the clerk will contact NYC highways to see what we can do with the grass verge. She will also place an article in the next newsletter asking for resident ideas for this space.

- **Allocation of Village Hall Trustees representative** – due to resignation of our previous representative there is now a role that needs to be filled. However, the council is also carrying a vacancy and a new councillor has just been co-opted. It was agreed that for the foreseeable, V Wilthew, J Messervy-Whiting and T Sanderson would share the responsibility for attending Village Hall Trustee meetings. The next one will be attended by T Sanderson on 19 October.

Action – the clerk will notify the Village Hall Chair of this information.

26/051 Communications:

- **Acknowledgement of donations** from CAB and St Patricks churchyard were received.

26/052 Financial matters were approved (proposed by R Pulham and seconded by V Wilthew):

- **Clerk's wages and expenses** - £510
- **Website costs** - £31.18
- **Parish Online invoice** – £54.00
- **Bus shelter improvements** – invoice for works carried out £946.74
- **Financial statement** was accepted. See appendix 1

Before the meeting was declared closed questions regarding the defibrillator were raised – does it get checked regularly, how long has it been installed and is it always in use. As a result of this, it will be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

26/053 Items for the next meeting include setting the precept, defibrillator, bus shelter and Northern Power grid. The date for the next meeting will be 2 November.

Meeting declared closed 8.27pm

Appendix 1

Newton le Willows Parish Council

Prepared by: Teresa Sanderson (Parish Clerk/Finance Officer)

Date: 06/09/2026

Balance per statements as at 04 June 2026	£	£
Business Saver Account	11877.59	
Less unpresented cheques		946.74
Add unbanked cash		
Net balance at 06 August 2026		<u>9913.53</u>

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	3787.95
Less: Payments in the year	2168.01
Closing balance per cash book as at 06 August 2026	<u>9913.53</u>