

NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19 OCTOBER AT 7.30PM IN NEWBALD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors G. Steward (Chairman) B. O’Sullivan (Vice Chairman), M. Bushby, S. Dongray-Burke, J. Howard, G. Lewis, S. Milner, E. Openshaw, B. Smith, D. Stewart.

In attendance: Suzanne Smith (Clerk to the Council), County Cllr. K. Beaumont (by Zoom), Lloyd Glanville – BACB Renewables

1. PUBLIC FORUM

1.1. *The Chair moved to item 28 – ERYC Councillors*

County Cllr. Beaumont reported that he had no further news on the pig farm or any other matter. He offered to help with any matters that NPC chose to raise with him following the meeting.

Cllr. Beaumont left the meeting.

1.2. Lloyd Glanville, Head of Consultancy, BACB Renewables did a presentation detailing the progress with the feasibility study for Newbald Energy project.

Unfortunately, Lloyd had to share the news that work he had carried out on the technical aspects of the project, combined with the lack of guaranteed income and huge capital costs, had already led him to conclude that the project was not going to be feasible. The National Grid had said that it did not have the capacity to buy back any energy, unless upfront costs of £200,000 were paid to the National Grid to upgrade its network. Battery storage had also been ruled out as non-viable.

Lloyd committed to nevertheless doing a first class job in completing the report and to look at alternative options which may inform future projects.

Members asked whether the project could be stopped at this point in order to prevent spending further public money. Lloyd said that the funders Tees Valley would insist on the project being completed.

The Chairman thanked Lloyd.

Lloyd Glanville left the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr. J. Barrett – shielding

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Lewis – items 5-6), 5-7), 26, 27 – non pecuniary

Cllr. Milner – item 26 – non pecuniary

Cllr. Openshaw – item 26 – non pecuniary

3.2. Dispensations - none

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 August 2020 and of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 September 2020 are signed as a correct record.

5. FINANCE

5.1. Financial Report

Members confirmed receipt and approval of the financial report which had been sent to them by email prior to the meeting. See Appendix 1.

5.2. External Audit Report

The clerk noted that the external audit report had not yet been received.

5.3. Clerk's Pay Rate

The Clerk informed Members of the new national salary award which saw the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay scale increased. This means that, while staying on the same pay point, the Clerk's pay rate will go up to £16.29 per hour and this rise is backdated to the 1st April 2020.

Resolved: that this rise is noted and approved.

5.4. Review of the Effectiveness of NPC's Internal Financial Controls

Members agreed that this should be done by a working group who then report back to Council.

5.5. 2021-22 Budget Proposal

Members agreed that Cllrs. Steward, O'Sullivan and Milner meet with the Clerk to formulate a proposal for consideration at a future meeting. This group will also look at the effectiveness of NPC's internal financial controls (see minute 5.4).

5.6. Funding Request from NPFA for Hand Sanitiser

Members decided that it would not be appropriate to pay for hand sanitiser for NPFA. However, they and other organisations in the village could be signposted to Humber Street Distillery Company, which is providing hand sanitiser for free. Another possibility to be explored by the Clerk would be bulk buying sanitiser on behalf of all the voluntary organisations in the village to keep the costs down for all.

5.7. Funding Request from NPFA for Grass Cutting Costs

Members considered a request that NPC pay the remaining grass cutting costs for NPFA. NPFA has not been able to fund raise in the normal way this year.

Resolved: that NPC pays the £450 but asks NPFA if in future it might like NPC to purchase a petrol strimmer to help them use volunteers to cut the grass in the playground area.

5.8. Approval of Payments

Resolved: In accordance with financial regulations, the following payments were noted and/or approved. Clerk to arrange payment where appropriate.

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason	Type
29/08/20	£5.00	Stargrange Email tools	Send/Receive Emails	Pockit card
30/08/20	£1,207.67	Suzanne Smith	Clerk Salary	Int. Payment
30/08/20	£232.51	HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	Int. Payment
30/08/20	£358.19	ERPF	Pension contributions	Int. Payment
08/09/20	£11.28	Microsoft	Office 365	Pockit card
12/09/20	£3.60	Microsoft	Email- Exchange server	Pockit card
01/09/20	£449.14	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting	Int. Payment
15/09/20	£1,980.00	NYPP	Sober Fund Grant	Int. Payment
30/08/20	£1,207.67	Suzanne Smith	Clerk Salary	Int. Payment
30/08/20	£232.51	HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	Int. Payment
30/08/20	£358.19	ERPF	Pension contributions	Int. Payment
29/09/20	£5.00	Stargrange Email tools	Send/Receive Emails	Pockit card
01/10/20	£449.14	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Grass Cutting	Int. Payment
15/10/20	£53.60	Solopress	Newsletter printing	Pockit Card
19/10/20	£11.28	Microsoft	Office 365	Pockit Card

6. PLANNING

6.1. Notices of Decision

- 6.1.1. 20/01239/PLB and 20/01238/PLF** – alterations, refurbishment and extensions etc. at Mires Farmhouse – **planning permission refused.**

6.2. Planning Applications

- 6.2.1. 20/03137/PLF - External alterations to allow conversion of integral garage to additional living space - Cedar House, Townside Road**

Resolved: that Newbald Parish Council has no observations to make on this application.

6.3. Planning Applications Received After Publication of the Agenda

None received

6.4. Proposed Industrial Pig Farm Down Cliffe Road.

The Clerk informed Members that the Environmental Control Officer at ERYC had requested that noise and odour assessments are carried out at the nearest properties to ascertain whether the development would present noise or odour problems for local residents. If either of those assessments demonstrates an adverse impact on residents, then the Environmental Control Officer recommends refusal of the application.

No date had yet been set for this application to be considered by the Planning Committee.

7. HIGHWAY MATTERS

7.1. Feedback from Meeting with ERYC Senior Highways Engineer

Members had had advance sight of written feedback from the Engineer following a site meeting in Newbald. Unfortunately the ERYC Engineer continued to take the position that, as there had been no serious accidents in Newbald, the area was considered low risk and therefore no funding was available for traffic calming measures. The only option she felt was feasible in the short to medium term would be launching a Community Speedwatch Scheme. She did say that she would look at what costs would be involved in removing the diagonal road across the Green, whilst confirming these would be considerable.

Resolved: that an article is included in the December 2020 newsletter encouraging residents to write to their MP and ERYC calling for action to be taken to improve road safety in Newbald. The article would also call for residents to park on opposite sides of the road as a way to slow down drivers as they go through the village.

7.2. Community Speedwatch

The Clerk said that she had spoken to the Community Speedwatch Coordinator at ERYC. While, from his perspective we could now proceed whenever we are ready, as yet we do not have the minimum of 6 volunteers required to get the scheme off the ground. It was agreed that the Clerk would put another request for volunteers in the December 2020 newsletter.

7.3. Other Highways Issues - None were raised.

8. SAFETY INSPECTIONS OF THE CEMETERY, CHURCHYARD, THE MIRES AND THE GREEN

Members considered the safety inspections which had been carried out by Cllr. Openshaw. Most of the matters raised related to aesthetic matters. It was agreed that these could be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2021-2022.

9. COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME

Members considered the situation as presented by Lloyd Glanville of BACB Renewables during the public forum.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts Tees Valley to determine whether the project could be stopped early given that we already know that it is not feasible. Once that information has been received, Members will consult by email to determine if NPC should pay the outstanding invoice and what should happen next. The Clerk has delegated authority to act on behalf of the Council.

10. LEAKS AND FLOODING

Cllr. O'Sullivan and the Clerk had attended the last meeting of West Wolds Slow The Flow (WWSTF), which had been held on Zoom. Unfortunately, WWSTF had not succeeded in securing a grant to conduct a study into flooding problems in the West Wolds area. However, the group would continue to look for other funding options and was for now trying to determine the best legal status to enable that to happen.

11. SOBER HILL WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

11.1. Re-opening of the Fund

As a new tranche of money was due to be paid into the Sober Hill Fund at the start of December 2020, it was agreed that the fund should once again be opened for applications with a deadline of the end of January 2021.

The applications could then be considered at the February 2021 meeting.

11.2. Request to Defer NPFA Grant

Members considered a request to defer NPFA's most recent Sober Hill Wind Farm Fund grant, which was awarded to partially fund the replacement of the fence at the playground. Given they still had more fundraising to do in order to be able to complete the project, the NPFA committee had asked if they could wait to allow them to have all the money in place prior to carrying out the work.

Resolved: that NPC allows NPFA to defer the use of the grant for one year.

12. STREET LIGHTING IN SOUTH NEWBALD

Cllr. Lewis had gone to considerable lengths to ascertain the thoughts of South Newbald residents about the possibility of installing a street light on the corner of South Newbald Road and Trundlegate. There was unanimous support for the proposition.

ERYC had looked at the cost of installing the lights in that location. The costs would be £2,986.81 for standard light and £3,370.22 for heritage + VAT.

Members agreed that the Clerk should ask what the lead time is for installation of such lights so the Council knows how best to budget for it and can determine which type to go for.

13. CHRISTMAS TREE

The Clerk said that she was still waiting for a quote for a tree. However, this year it would be a different type of tree – a Nordmann Fir – and it would be more expensive. This is due to the fact that there is a shortage of standard trees this year.

It was agreed that the Clerk would consult with Councillors once the quote had been received. She would then use her delegated authority to make a decision.

14. VILLAGE TIDY GROUP

The Clerk said that she had only had a response from one person following her appeal for volunteers to help with jobs around the village.

Cllr. Dongray-Burke felt that the Council should consider employing a handyman for a set number of hours each week and provide him/her with a schedule of works. That way the village would be well maintained. Members agreed that this would be a good idea to consider.

15. DOG FOULING POSTER COMPETITION

Cllrs. O'Sullivan and Smith said that they had this in hand and would report back more at the next meeting.

16. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR TREES

The Clerk reported that NPC had been successful in its application to the ERYC fund and had secured a grant to plant 14 native trees in the village. She had still not heard the result of her other application to the Sancton Hill Wind Farm Tree Planting Fund.

17. CEMETERY CHARGES

Time being short, this item was deferred.

18. REMOVAL OF CHURCHYARD TREE

Members noted that the large beech tree in the Churchyard was in the process of being removed.

19. CYCLE/FOOTPATH PROPOSAL FOR THE A1034

Time being short, this item was deferred.

20. YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST AND THE BECKSIES

Resolved: that NPC formally ratifies a decision to provide written confirmation to YWT that NPC does not intend to activate the early termination clauses in the contract governing YWT's lease of the land. This decision had been made during the lockdown period under delegated authority at YWT's request as the termination clauses were restricting their access to funding.

21. BARKING DOGS

Members considered a request from a resident to take action to stop their neighbour's dogs from barking. Members did not feel that it was appropriate for the Parish Council to intervene. Instead the resident should take it up with ERYC.

22. REPUTATION OF THE VILLAGE

Some incidents of unacceptable behaviour were highlighted by the Clerk and Members.

Resolved: that an appeal for people to treat others and their environment with respect is included in the next newsletter.

23. CLOTHING /TEXTILE BANK – COMMUNITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Given there were two similar banks already in the village, and the Village Hall had long been trying to have it removed, it was agreed that NPC did not want to consider a further one.

24. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Time being short, this item was deferred.

25. NPFA

Cllr. Lewis said he had nothing to report beyond what had already been discussed.

26. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr. Milner said that there was a meeting due to take place on Wednesday when further discussions about Phase 3 would take place.

27. NYPP

Cllr. Stewart said that NYPP had arranged for the Christmas Fair to be held at the Village Hall on 29th November 2020.

28. ERYC COUNCILLORS - See Item 1.1

29. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

None.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Appendix 1 – Financial Report provided to Council

Date 07/10/2020		Newbald Parish Council Current Year				Page 1	
Time 14:35		Council Detail Report 30/09/2020					
	Actual Year to Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% of Budget	
RECEIPTS							
Income							
Precept	48,647	48,647	0			100.0%	
Cemetery Income	1,785	0	(1,785)			0.0%	
Subtotal	50,432	48,647	(1,785)	0	0	103.7%	
Sober Hill Wind Farm							
Sober Hill Wind Farm Income	14	0	(14)			0.0%	
Subtotal	14	0	(14)	0	0	0.0%	
VAT Data							
VAT on Receipts	3,008	0	(3,008)			0.0%	
Subtotal	3,008	0	(3,008)	0	0	0.0%	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	53,454	48,647	(4,807)	0	0	109.9%	
PAYMENTS							
Sober Hill Wind Farm							
Wind Farm Grant - Church Rooms	1,980	0	(1,980)		(1,980)	0.0%	
Wind Farm Grant - NPFA	4,267	0	(4,267)		(4,267)	0.0%	
Wind Farm Grant - Village Hall	3,737	0	(3,737)		(3,737)	0.0%	
Wind Farm Grant - Other	3,980	0	(3,980)		(3,980)	0.0%	
Bank Charges	36	0	(36)		(36)	0.0%	
Subtotal	14,000	0	(14,000)	0	(14,000)	0.0%	
Community Renewable Energy							
Bank Charges	18	0	(18)		(18)	0.0%	
Subtotal	18	0	(18)	0	(18)	0.0%	
Administration							
Clerk	7,246	14,928	7,682		7,682	48.5%	
HMRC Tax/NI	1,395	3,175	1,781		1,781	43.9%	
Pension Cost	2,149	4,873	2,724		2,724	44.1%	
Administration Expenses	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
Training Expenses	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
Staff Expenses	52	156	104		104	33.3%	
Mileage Costs	38	50	12		12	75.5%	
Broadband/Telephone	28	168	141		141	16.5%	
IT & Software	1,178	968	(211)		(211)	121.8%	
Defibrillator Costs	0	247	247		247	0.0%	
Election Expenses	623	0	(623)		(623)	0.0%	
Dog waste costs	60	124	64		64	48.5%	
Community Engagement Fees	30	77	47		47	38.8%	
Audit Fees	285	592	307		307	48.1%	
Room Hire	0	192	192		192	0.0%	
Newsletter & Associated Costs	84	398	314		314	21.0%	
Postage & Stationery	52	50	(2)		(2)	104.4%	
SLCC/ERNLLCA	536	708	171		171	75.8%	
Grants and Donations	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	0.0%	
Contingency Fund	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	0.0%	

Continued over page

Date 07/10/2020

Newbald Parish Council Current Year

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Time 14:35

Council Detail Report 30/09/2020

	Actual Year to Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% of Budget
Bank Charges	42	144	102		102	29.1%
Subtotal	13,798	35,100	21,302	0	21,302	39.3%
Council Activity						
Christmas Tree & Lights	0	391	391		391	0.0%
Maintenance	0	1,768	1,768		1,768	0.0%
Clock	155	164	9		9	94.3%
Street Lighting	0	1,743	1,743		1,743	0.0%
Capital Acquisitions	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%
Subtotal	155	5,067	4,912	0	4,912	3.1%
Cemetery						
Council tax/Utilities	145	159	14		14	91.0%
Maintenance	0	3,900	3,900		3,900	0.0%
Cemetery Development	0	500	500		500	0.0%
Grass Cutting	1,123	2,246	1,123		1,123	50.0%
Subtotal	1,268	6,805	5,537	0	5,537	18.6%
Churchyard						
Maintenance	150	3,000	2,850		2,850	5.0%
Grass Cutting	1,123	2,246	1,123		1,123	50.0%
Subtotal	1,273	5,246	3,973	0	3,973	24.3%
VAT Data						
VAT on Payments	738	0	(738)		(738)	0.0%
Subtotal	738	0	(738)	0	(738)	0.0%
TOTAL PAYMENTS	31,250	52,218	20,968	0	20,968	59.8%
Total Receipts	53,454	48,647	(4,807)			109.9%
Total Payments	31,250	52,218	20,968	0	20,968	59.8%
Net Receipts over Payments	22,204	(3,571)	(25,775)			
plus Transfer from EMR	14,000					
less Transfer to EMR	14					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	36,190	(3,571)	(39,761)			

Newbald Parish Council Current Year
Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 September 2020

Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances
Bank Statement Balances

30/09/2020	Current Bank Account	72,312.30	
31/03/2018	HSBC Current Account	0.00	
31/03/2018	HSBC Deposit Account	0.00	
30/09/2020	Wind Farm Current Account	281.47	
30/09/2020	Wind Farm Deposit Account	1,896.37	
30/06/2020	Pockit Card	402.36	
30/09/2020	Newbald Energy 20427702	82.00	
			74,974.50

All Cash & Bank Accounts

1	NPC Unity Current Bank A/c	72,312.30
2	NPC HSBC Current A/c	0.00
3	NPC HSBC Deposit A/c	0.00
4	Wind Farm Current A/c	281.47
5	Wind Farm Deposit A/c	1,896.37
6	Pockit Card	402.36
7	Newbald Energy	82.00
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances	74,974.50