



Newbald Parish Council

Annual Report – May 2021

Chairman's Overview of Council Achievements

The 2020-21 year has been a very difficult one. Covid-19 has placed restrictions on us all. Members of Newbald Parish Council (NPC) and I would like to thank those residents who helped to establish a Covid-19 response in Newbald to support more vulnerable residents. The village can be proud of its community spirit, which is good at the best of times, and has proven a lifeline for many at the worst of times.

At the start of the pandemic, NPC launched a fundraiser for the Community Healthstars charity which raised £896.59. Newbald Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Newbald resident Will Dowson who voluntarily and very generously created and installed the NHS thank you signs on The Green and at the entrances to the village.

Despite the difficulties in holding meetings, and the delay to projects caused by the pandemic, NPC has continued to work hard and keep its normal level of service.

Councillor Changes

NPC welcomed new Member Cllr. Jack Marshall.

It is with sadness that NPC said goodbye to Cllr. Simon Dongray-Burke who chose to leave for personal reasons. We would like to thank him for his valuable contribution to the Parish Council.

Flooding and Sewage Leaks

Top of our agenda this year has been the worsening situation with regards sewage leaks and flooding in the village. Many residents have suffered with blocked drains, toilets, and sinks, while enduring sewage floods in their gardens and nearby pavements. NPC has liaised repeatedly with Yorkshire Water and ERYC about this. Cllrs. Beccy O'Sullivan, John Howard and our now councillor, Jack Marshall, have been particularly instrumental in holding these bodies to account.

Currently, Yorkshire Water is carrying out an extensive survey to find out what is causing the sewers to overflow. They will then inform NPC and residents of what options there are to alleviate the situation.

NPC will monitor this situation very closely and work with the relevant organisations to make sure that action is taken to protect the village. At the same time, we will do all we can to prevent ERYC planning authorities from allowing new developments in the village as these would put more load on the sewerage system.

Looking to the long term, NPC has joined with other nearby parishes to form the group 'West Wolds Slow the Flow', which aims to implement natural measures to prevent flooding in the area. The group is currently in its early stages but has big ambitions to fundraise and come up with practical solutions.

Finance

In line with professional standards, NPC has continued to maintain a healthy financial asset base over the past year, which puts us in a strong financial position for the future. The Sober Hill Wind Farm donations help to ensure that we have plenty of funds to support charities, developments, and initiatives which impact positively on our village.

The Newsletter, Website and Social Media.

The Parish Clerk Suzanne Smith has continued to produce the highly informative newsletter. This quarterly publication really helps to ensure that we as a council communicate effectively with all our residents, including those who are not online. NPC also continued to support and promote village events via its website, social media, and email. We also share information about anything we feel will be of interest, benefit or concern to villagers.

NPC launched its new website in September 2020. This followed new regulations coming in which require all public sector bodies to meet strict 'web accessibility' standards. This means our new website is totally accessible to people with disabilities. It has also given us an updated and modern look, with a user-friendly interface.

We have moved to a new government domain. You can find our new website at www.newbaldparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Community Renewable Energy Scheme

After a year of research and discussions, NPC was keen to launch Newbald Community Renewable Energy Scheme. The aim was to not only make the village more environmentally friendly and self-sufficient, but also to reduce energy costs for residents and even provide the village with an income.

NPC applied to Tees Valley Combined Authority for a grant to carry out a feasibility study.

The grant was awarded, and the feasibility study was carried out. Unfortunately, the study showed that the Community Renewable Energy Scheme is currently unviable.

NPC is very disappointed. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and liaise with experts to see if there is a way to bring it into fruition in the future. We would like to thank all the residents that took part in the community consultation and the Newbald school children who helped to design a new logo for the proposed energy company.

High Speed Broadband

NPC has for many years campaigned hard for the rollout of superfast broadband to include the roads excluded by both KCOM and BT. As a result of this campaign, in Summer 2020, KCOM laid fibre to many of the previously excluded properties on Townside Road, Spring Bank and other nearby roads. Residents were delighted to finally be able to access the internet in a fast and reliable way.

Unfortunately, there are about 13 properties in the village which continue not to have access to superfast broadband. This is because it is commercially unviable. NPC will continue to see what it can do to help. We explored BT's Community Fibre scheme, but the £500,000 cost to the village was prohibitive.

The Cemetery and Churchyard

Apart from the regular grass cutting and general maintenance of paths and fencing throughout the Churchyard and Cemetery, we have closely monitored the trees & shrubs.

Unfortunately, a very large old beech tree in the Churchyard had to be removed to protect the fabric of the church, which had been deteriorating due to a lack of sunlight reaching it. NPC sought and obtained the necessary permissions from ERYC and the York Diocese to carry this work out.

We also had to remove another tree from the churchyard, as it had split and become dangerous.

Fortunately, we planted three new native trees in the churchyard.

Health & Safety and Risk Assessments

Health & Safety together with Risk Assessments form a major part of our duties in respect of all NPC owned or controlled areas, and I would confirm that these have been undertaken thoroughly and efficiently on all occasions where they have been a legal requirement by Councillor Ed Openshaw.

Sober Hill Wind Farm

Donations from the Sober Hill Wind Farm have made a big impact on the village as a whole, and on NPC in particular whose duty it is to administrate and distribute the funds within the legal parameters. These funds which total £24,600.00/year (index linked) have been fairly and justly allocated, awarding the following amounts totalling £32,997.38 this past year:

Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Total Project Cost	Granted
Newbald Primary School	Multi Use Games Area Target Boards	£5,475.00	£33,419.00	£3,980.00
Newbald Village Hall	Car park lighting	£3,736.70	£4,151.70	£3,736.70
St. Nicholas' Church	Stonework restoration	£23,700.00	£28,700.00	£2,304.00
NYPP	Building Repairs & Maintenance	£4,282.56	£58,015.57	£1,980.00
NPFA	Playground Fence	£10,805.91	£13,305.91	£4,267.17
Newbald Village Hall	FCC Third Party Contribution for NVH Phase 3 Option 1 Roof and exterior walls refurbishment - 10.75%	£5,459.71	£77,705.71	£5,459.71
St. Nicholas' Church	Stonework restoration	£3,722.00	£3,722.00	£3,349.80
NYPP	Refurb of main hall to create a brighter, more vibrant, multifunctional space	£7,920.00	£15,502.00	£7,920.00
TOTAL				£32,997.38

Grants

NPC also paid out the following grant:

Newbald Playing Field Association

Grass cutting - playground

£450.00

Streetlighting

After repeated requests and much consultation with nearby residents, NPC commissioned a new streetlight for South Newbald Road. This will help to make pedestrians and road users on this previously very dark corner, feel much safer.

NPC is currently considering whether to introduce some form of lighting to Townside Road. We know that protecting the village from light pollution is an important consideration.

Sancton Hill Wind Farm

NPC is represented on the Board of the Sancton Hill Wind Farm, and though the applications were often not well received, we are pleased to report that all of our village charities received either their full or a major percentage of their funding requests.

Traffic and Parking

NPC has continued to liaise with ERYC to try and persuade them to take action to help with the many parking and traffic issues in the village. Unfortunately, in these cash strapped times, there will be no help forthcoming unless there is a serious accident. Newbald continues to be considered low risk by ERYC.

NPC looked at the cost of paying for traffic calming measures itself. However, at £40,000 for just one chicane, plus more for the necessary signage, this has thus far not been a feasible option. New hope has come from Newbald residents who are considering helping the village to fund traffic calming measures on Burgate. NPC is very grateful for this generous idea and will be sure to explore it fully in the coming months with them and ERYC.

The Mires & The Becksies

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) have been employed to maintain the Eco-environment and general maintenance of both The Mires & The Becksies, both of which I believe have been undertaken to a high standard.

Defibrillators and Emergency First Responders

Both the village's defibrillators continue to be in good working order, ready to serve and save lives when required. One is in the phone box on the Green; the other is in Monckton Court, South Newbald.

Christmas Tree and Lights

Once again NPC provided a magnificent Christmas tree and the lights to go on out. Taking on board the views of the public, we are exploring whether we can install an electrical supply on the green so that we can use brighter mains powered lights in 2021. In the past, the cost felt prohibitive but there may be ways that we can raise the funds.

Planning Permissions

We have naturally been involved in commenting on planning applications, and whilst I believe we have always made our decision in the best interest of the Village, there is always the odd one which gets overruled by the Planners at ERYC who totally disregarded some of our opinions without any in depth discussion.

Notably, the pig farm on Cliffe Road was this year given full planning permission despite huge local opposition and it being initially refused. One resident is pursuing a judicial review as she did not believe that ERYC acted lawfully in reaching its decision. NPC fully supports her.

We have also objected strongly to the planned development of 5 houses on Hall Farm, not least because it will add to the overload of our sewerage system. This is currently still being considered by ERYC.

The Village Hall

During the year NPC has been in close contact with the Newbald Village Hall MC primarily via our representatives, Cllr. Sarah Milner, Cllr. Ed Openshaw and Cllr. Geoff Lewis, who have worked closely as part of the vibrant and conscientious Village Hall Committee to upgrade and extend the existing facilities for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The Village Hall Management Committee is currently in the process working with architects to achieve Phase 3 – recladding the main hall exterior (walls and roof). Work has been slowed down by the pandemic.

Environmental Projects

NPC successfully applied for 15 native trees to be planted in the village. These were planted on The Mires, in the churchyard, in the cemetery, at the Village Hall and on Trundlegate.

A further grant was secured to plant 4 native trees at the Little Beckies (on Beverley Road near the school).

Neighbourhood Watch and No Cold Calling Zone

NPC continues to run a village wide Neighbourhood Watch scheme, using all its usual community engagement channels to keep residents informed of any important matters relating to crime in the area.

NPC would like to expand its Cold Calling Zone further across village once ERYC re-opens the scheme. Currently it only covers Galegate.

The Beck and Water Voles (Protected Species)

Happily, despite the sewage leaks, the water voles continue to thrive in the Beckies and in the beck on Eastgate and The Mires.

General Maintenance

This is an ongoing part of the Council's remit and therefore throughout the year we have regularly overseen and maintained The Beck and The Mires, the many benches, the notice board, and the Centenary Bench.

Dog Fouling

Like many other parish councils, the problem of dog fouling is constantly being raised on our agenda, and we as a council are dedicated to try and resolve this matter as a priority, but we can only be successful if those offending get a conscience.

NPC continues to provide poo bags and to maintain the dog bag dispensers, in the hope that it will go some way to resolving the problem.

We have also commissioned four new permanent signs encouraging dog owners to clear up after their pets. These have been well received.

The Parish Council held another Dog Fouling poster competition for children at Newbald Primary School. We provided prizes for the best designed posters. The children were very engaged in the process and we had some great entries.

Unfortunately, there are always some items which fail to get resolved to the satisfaction of all, even though we as a council have tried our best.

However, I believe that we as a Parish Council have acted responsibly and pro-actively to resolve all manner of issues effectively within the legal and financial constraints under which we are bound for the good and wellbeing of our village.



Gavin Steward
Chairman
Newbald Parish Council

NEWBALD PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Barrett	827662	Ed Openshaw	827589
Michael Bushby	07483860074	Beccy O'Sullivan	827175
John Howard	828932	Beverley Smith	827153
Geoff Lewis	801128	Gavin Steward	801174
Jack Marshall	07730533049	Diana Stewart	827510
Sarah Milner	827961		



OFFICE CONTACT & SOCIAL MEDIA

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Newbald Parish Council Current Year

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2021

Last Year Ended 31st March 2020		Current Year Ended 31st March 2021
	Operating Income	
54,042.91	Income	56,317.19
25,041.83	Sober Hill Wind Farm	24,340.32
0.00	Community Renewable Energy	30,000.00
1,995.85	VAT Data	3,008.39
81,080.59	Total Receipts	113,665.90
	Running Costs	
19,680.02	Sober Hill Wind Farm	29,809.67
0.00	Community Renewable Energy	30,000.00
32,595.53	Administration	27,494.36
4,161.39	Council Activity	5,576.91
4,737.28	Cemetery	2,557.17
5,209.28	Churchyard	2,395.68
3,008.39	VAT Data	2,304.03
69,391.89	Total Payments	100,137.82
	Receipts and Payments Summary	
41,081.57	Opening Balance	52,770.27
81,080.59	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	113,665.90
122,162.16		166,436.17
69,391.89	Less Total Payments(As Above)	100,137.82
52,770.27	Closing Balance	66,298.35
	These cumulative funds are represented by:	
36,472.90	NPC Unity Current Bank A/c	55,275.69
0.00	NPC HSBC Current A/c	0.00
0.00	NPC HSBC Deposit A/c	0.00
481.34	Wind Farm Current A/c	26.09
15,682.53	Wind Farm Deposit A/c	10,704.43
133.50	Pocket Card	310.14
0.00	Newbald Energy	-18.00
52,770.27		66,298.35