

# NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2021 AT 7.30PM AT NEWBALD VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Councillors B. O’Sullivan (Acting Chairman), J. Barratt, M. Bushby, J. Marshall, S. Milner, E. Openshaw, D. Stewart.

**In attendance:** Suzanne Smith (Clerk to the Council), County Cllr. P. Greenwood.

### 1. PUBLIC FORUM – none.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Howard – ill  
Cllr. Lewis - ill  
Cllr. Steward – ill  
Cllr. Smith – on holiday

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

#### 3.1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Howard – item 22 – non pecuniary  
Cllr. Marshall – Item 14 – non pecuniary  
Cllr. Milner – item 22, 6.2-d – non pecuniary  
Cllr. Openshaw – item 22 – non pecuniary  
Cllr. Stewart – item 23 – non pecuniary

#### 3.2. Dispensations – none.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2021 are signed as a correct record.

### 5. FINANCE

#### 5.1. Approval of Payments

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Payment Type</u>
12/07/2021	£3.60	Microsoft exchange	.gov.uk email address	Pocket
12/07/2021	£11.28	Microsoft	MS Office 365 subscription	Pocket
13/07/2021	£650.00	NPFA	Grant for insurance	Int. Payment
23/07/2021	£3.85	Post Office Ltd	Postage	Pocket
23/07/21	£1.00	The Red Box Post Office	Envelope	Pocket

23/07/21	£44.98	Stink Ink - Solar Electronics Ltd	Ink cartridges for printer	Pocket
28/07/2021	£186.00	The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd	Clock service	Int. Payment
29/07/2021	£5.00	Createsend/ Com	Send emails to email list	Pocket
30/07/2021	£367.99	ERPF	Pension contributions	Int. Payment
30/07/2021	£1,234.18	Miss. S. F. Smith	Clerk salary	Int. Payment
30/06/2021	£247.50	HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	Int. Payment
06/08/2021	£72.16	Miss S. F. Smith	Clerk Expenses Apr-Jul 21	Int. Payment
06/08/2021	£462.60	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting – cemetery/ churchyard	Int. Payment

## 6. PLANNING

### 6.1. Notices of Decision

The following decisions were noted:

**21/01709/CLE** - Certificate of Lawfulness for the erection of a livestock building for the housing of pigs - Wrangmandale Wold – **planning permission granted.**

**21/01710/VAR** – Variation of Condition 3 (landscaping) and Condition 7 (approved plans) of planning permission 13/01722/PLF (Erection of 2 no. general purpose agricultural pig finishing buildings and extension to an existing pig finishing building) to allow additional landscape planting – Wrangmandale Wold – **planning permission granted.**

**21/02336/TCA** - North Newbald Conservation Area – various tree works at Eastwold Cottage, 19 Eastwold – **no objections raised.**

### 6.2. Planning Applications

**6.2.1. 21/02087/PLF** - Construction of external alterations to windows and doors, lowering of existing raised garden area, construction of Juliet balcony to side and skylights to roof - Beck Farm, Eastgate.

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

**6.2.2. 21/00324/PLF** - Construction of a concrete hardstanding to reduce sediment run-off from agricultural vehicle traffic and retention of existing concrete hardstanding to northern end of site (AMENDED PLANS AND DESCRIPTION) - Wrangmandale Wold, Beverley Road.

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

**6.2.3. 21/02323/PLF and 21/02324/PLB** - Erection of a single storey extension to West side following part demolition of existing single storey extension, erection of a two-storey extension to East side, installation of replacement doors and windows, installation of a roof light on West side, installation of sliding door to utility building and replacement steps and paving following removal of existing courtyard steps (revised scheme of 20/01238/PLF) - Mires Farmhouse The Mires.

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

**6.2.4. 21/02436/PLF** - Erection of a replacement dwelling with external and internal alterations to existing outbuilding and alteration to increase width of access – Holmlea, South Newbald Road.

**Resolved:** that the clerk responds on behalf of the Parish Council expressing concerns about plot density

(proposed building is too large), overshadowing and incompatibility with the historic conservation area.

**6.2.5. 21/02266/PLF** - Erection of a Village Sports Pavilion and associated works – Back Lane play area, Back Lane.

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

**6.3. Pig Farm on Cliffe Road (20/01149/PLF)**

The clerk informed Councillors that the person who had applied for the judicial review was being forced by the courts to provide proof of her income or face extortionate fees. Understandably she was concerned about this and was now considering her options.

**6.4. Enforcement Case Against Brown's Farm, South Newbald Road**

Members considered an enforcement case which had been raised by a resident. The wall outside Brown's Farm has been raised and lengthened and this new wall included in a planning application as if it had already existed.

ERYC had confirmed that the wall does need planning permission and the owners need to apply for retrospective planning permission.

It had also been noted that the paddock, for which change of use had previously been turned down by ERYC, was now nevertheless being used as a garden.

**Resolved:** that NPC writes to ERYC to reiterate the fact that it is very important that the matter of the raised wall and change of use of the paddock is addressed and permissions properly sought by the owners.

**7. SEWAGE LEAKS AND FLOODING**

**7.1. Feedback from Yorkshire Water and ERYC about Flooding Matters**

The Clerk said she had spoken to Ben James, Newbald's representative at Yorkshire Water, and he had said that he currently did not have a date for the start of the work. He also did not have an update as to progress. However, this was because he was just back from holiday and had not had opportunity to gather the information. He promised that he would provide an update the next day after having the opportunity to consult with colleagues.

Cllr. Marshall said that he too had spoken to Ben and had been told that he had been added to a 'progress list', which means he should be automatically kept informed about how the Newbald project is progressing and when a start date has been set.

Members discussed the flooding incident which had occurred when there had been a huge downpour the Friday before. Concerns had been raised that the overgrown state of the beck at the Mires had made things much worse. Two residents had voluntarily got into the beck and cleared weed out from the middle of the stream, while taking care to leave the banks undisturbed because of the water voles. It was noted that some of the weeds were so big that they could not really remove them, so they had had to leave them.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is scheduled to carry out the beck clearance earlier than normal – in August – and would be providing a date for this very soon. Members noted that it may be necessary to clear the beck more than once a year. In the past a digger had cleared the length of the beck ahead of the duck race and there had been no problems with flooding.

Members agreed that flooding risk had to take precedence over the water voles and that it may be necessary to re-introduce the use of a digger.

### **7.2. West Wolds Slow the Flow Meetings**

The Clerk said that a date had been set for a consultation meeting with residents, which would give them the opportunity to meet with Bill and Elizabeth Blackledge and express the concerns that they have. They would also be able to learn more about the work of West Wolds Slow the Flow (WWSTF) group and how it may be able to act in the future to reduce the risk of flooding.

The meeting was scheduled for the evening of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September in Newbald Village Hall.

NPC confirmed that it was happy to pay the £16 fee for the room hire.

The Clerk said that the WWSTF technical team is going to look at ways the capacity of the beck could potentially be increased to reduce the risk of flooding. In so doing, they would consult with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to ensure water voles are protected.

### **7.3. Meeting with Steven Murray**

The Clerk confirmed that she, the Chairman and Cllr. Marshall had met with Steven Murray, ERYC Area Engineer. He had shown them the tree on the Mires that needed to be moved and an alternative location had been marked which would not get in the way of the drains. It was noted that this tree was one that was in any case dead.

Steven Murray had said that ERYC intended to install new culverts to improve the drainage on The Mires by November 2021. This type of drainage was much more effective than the pipes that are already there, even though the culverts may not look quite as good. Members were very supportive of this idea.

### **7.4. Flooding on South Newbald Road**

A resident had reported that the flooding on South Newbald Road from the Old Forge towards South Newbald may be exacerbated by a depression in the private land at the side of the road.

Members were not sure they agreed with that as there are natural springs there, which would be much more likely to be the root of the problem.

They did however think that the collapsed drain outside The Cottage on South Newbald Road may be having an impact on the road and path flooding. Although this drain was already on the list for repair, it was agreed that NPC should remind ERYC about it and ask them to take action.

### **7.5. Utilities Map of Newbald**

The Clerk said that she had made some enquiries and had established that the cost of acquiring a utilities map for the parish would run into the thousands.

Members agreed that this was not good value for money.

### **7.6. Other flooding matters**

None were raised, having already been discussed.

## **8. WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL AND ERYC**

### **8.1. Meeting with Alan Menzies and Stephen Hunt, ERYC**

Members considered the meeting with Senior ERYC executives which was scheduled to take place ahead of the September meeting.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk comes up with questions and liaises with Councillors via email to finalise them. They will cover the subjects of local democracy, the planning process, plus the ineffectiveness of the Local Plan and neighbourhood plans. In short, NPC has the feeling that ERYC does not properly consider its opinions in relation to planning and traffic calming measures.

### **8.2. Feedback and further decisions felt necessary**

No further feedback had yet been received.

## **9. MEMORIAL SAFETY**

Cllr. Openshaw provided a summary of the findings following inspections of the memorials in the cemetery and churchyard by him, Cllr. Bushby, Cllr. Marshall and Cllr. Steward. He also noted the limitations imposed by the sheer size of the stones.

The cemetery is a mixture of half height memorials and full height ones. Two people can handle the half height ones. However, the team had no way of laying down any full height ones that were rocking too much, as they are far too heavy.

In the cemetery, a total of 23 headstones need attention. 8 half height headstones had been laid down. Three others, where the relatives were definitely still alive, were left in order that the family could be informed and asked to take action. There are 12 full height headstones which rock and need attention.

Some of still headstones laid down during 2018 inspections had still not been put back up. The Clerk noted that, where possible, the 2018 headstones had been repaired using special masonry glue, but that had not been possible in all cases.

Many of the headstones in the churchyard are rock solid, even if they are at strange angles. The base stones are lower in the ground, they often have a slot that the head stone sits in, which makes the join much stronger.

The team found one unstable headstone that was small enough for them to be able to lay it down. 7 further headstones were unstable but too large for the team to lay down safely.

In addition, there are 12 headstones which are splitting and therefore also need attention.

Therefore, across the cemetery and churchyard, there were 43 headstones that needed attention.

Members agreed that NPC had a duty to ensure that the cemetery and churchyard are safe. However, with a ball park figure of £300 per memorial to do the repair work, it was clear that it was going to be very expensive.

Cllr. O'Sullivan volunteered to speak to two stone masons as a starting point to get some advice on the best approach. She and Cllr. Openshaw would show representatives the problem headstones when they came to do a site visit.

## 10. GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF STREET FURNITURE

### 10.1. Proposed Maintenance Work

Members considered a list created by the Clerk detailing all the maintenance work that had been brought up at previous meetings for consideration. She had got quotes for all the jobs and detailed how these could be paid for out of the 2021-22 budget. It was clear that to do all the work would wipe out most of the budget, not leaving much for eventualities. Therefore, Members needed to prioritise the work that they felt was the most important.

Given that it was clear that there could be a large bill for refixing and repairing headstones, it was:-

***Resolved:***

- i. that NPC waits to find out how much repairing the memorials will cost before making decisions about other maintenance work
- ii. An exception to this is the tree survey and clearing the moss from the churchyard path, both of which are important but not too expensive. Clerk to organise these.

### 10.2. Trees Overhanging South Newbald Road

Members considered tree branches which are hanging over the footpath on South Newbald Road, some of which might be dangerous.

***Resolved:*** that the Clerk writes to the landowner and asks that they look at the trees and get some work carried out.

### 10.3. Other Jobs

None were raised.

## 11. THE PRATTWOOD

### 11.1. Complaints from Local Residents about the Prattwood Allotment

Members considered a recent dispute between the Prattwood tenant and a neighbouring property over a piece of land, belonging to the Prattwood, that the neighbour had cultivated. The tenant had mowed it despite a gentleman's agreement that it should be left as it is for the neighbour to enjoy.

Members felt that the matter should now be closed.

Another neighbour had complained that the tenant was not maintaining his side of the beck. For years she had removed the weed from the full beck but now she felt it was time for the tenant to do his share. Members agreed that Cllr. Marshall and Cllr. Barrett would go and have a word with the lady and see for themselves the area in question.

Cllr. O'Sullivan raised the fact that there was a lot of Himalayan Balsam on the Prattwood. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the tenant and ask him to take steps to remove it.

### 11.1. Prattwood Constitution and Tenancy Agreement

No action was felt to be necessary in relation to this.

### **11.2. Inspection of Ash Tree**

The Clerk said that an Ash Tree on the Prattwood needed inspecting. She would arrange for it to be inspected at the same time as the Mires trees.

## **12. THE BECK**

### **12.1. Riparian Ownership and Working Group**

Members felt that the idea of setting up a working group to maintain the beck where required was not a good one. It would set a precedent and the job of clearing the beck could soon become a parish council duty. Members felt it would be better to continue to encourage riparian owners to play their part and clear the beck.

Cllr. O'Sullivan had distributed a leaflet to those properties next to the beck explaining the duties of riparian owners and detailing how the clearance work could be carried out without harming the water voles' habitat.

### **12.2. Inspection of Culverts and Bridge Points**

The Clerk raised the question of whether the culverts and bridges should be inspected to see if there are any pinch points which might be obstructing the flow.

The idea of putting a camera through was muted and the Clerk said she would take this up with ERYC.

## **13. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND TACKLING EXCESSIVE PARKING**

### **13.1. Proposed 50mph zone from South Newbald to South Cave**

*Resolved:* that Newbald Parish Council is supportive of the proposed reduction in the speed limit.

### **13.2. Feedback from ERYC**

The Clerk said she had still not heard anything back from ERYC traffic department despite making contact again.

### **13.3. Other Traffic Calming Measures**

Time being short, this item was deferred.

### **13.4. Parking at the Village Hall**

Cllr Openshaw said that the Village Hall Management Committee had considered whether walkers and other visitors to the village could use the Village Hall car park.

However, the Committee first wanted to look at either zoning the car park or, better still, getting it re-tarmaced and marking out individual spaces. This latter option would be safer for users of the car park.

This would be a project for which the Village Hall Management Committee would likely apply to the Sober Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund for.

**14. YEW TREE ON EASTGATE**

The Clerk reported that the tree had been inspected by an ERYC tree officer, who was unable to ascertain why the tree was dying. The owners of the tree were very upset about it.

As both the Environment Agency and ERYC were aware of the condition of the tree, no further action was available, and Members agreed that we would have to wait and see how the situation panned out.

**15. STATE OF GRASS CUTTING**

The Clerk said that she had written to the head of the grass cutting department to complain about the use of weed killer at the base of street furniture. This was killing off the grass and made the village very unsightly.

Members were also concerned that the general state of grass cutting was very poor.

The Clerk said she would continue to chase up ERYC for a response and for them to take some action.

**16. FUTURE PLANS FOR CEMETERY**

Time being short, this item was deferred.

**17. NEWBALD'S MENTAL HEALTH RETREAT**

Cllr. Marshall outlined briefly his suggestion for a mental health retreat, which could be accessed via a bridge from The Mires and which would be sited on what is currently the Prattwood.

The retreat would be a natural garden, complete with paths and planting and would include information boards about wildlife and mental health. Being close to nature is proven to have a very positive benefit on people's mental health.

As this retreat would be in the centre of the village, it would be available to everyone, without having to walk far or uphill. This would make it good for elderly and disabled people. It would also be a perfect space for Newbald school to use, providing somewhere for children to learn about plants and wildlife.

The Prattwood consists of a vast amount of land and there would still be more than enough space for John Hatfield to keep the part of the land that he uses. Mental health and protection of nature are very much key local and national policies, so there would be certain to be plenty of funding available to help create the space.

Time being short, it was agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

**18. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Cllr. O'Sullivan said that the fundraising for the Christmas lights was going well. They had secured a £1,000 grant from local company Robert Massey and had in addition raised about £800.

The fund-raising team would be looking for other local companies to support the project, as well as applying for grants and raising funds in the village.

**19. CHURCHYARD****19.1. Grassing of Left Hand Side**

Time being short, this item was deferred.

**19.2. Volunteer Group**

Time being short, this item was deferred.

**20. NO COLD CALLING ZONE**

Time being short, this item was deferred.

**21. NPFA**

Cllr. Lewis not being present, no report was available.

**22. VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr. Openshaw said that the Village Hall Management Committee was still working hard on the Phase 3 project, which included a requirement to revise and resubmit all the figures associated with the grant application.

**23. NYPP**

Cllr. Stewart said that NYPP was not currently meeting so she had nothing to report.

**24. ERYC COUNCILLORS**

No matters were raised.

**25. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**25.1.** The Clerk said that NPC had credit outstanding at Henley's Nurseries of. £65.44. She suggested Members considered what they might like to buy.

**25.2.** Cllr. Barrett sought contact details of a former village resident who has an expansive collection of old photographs of the village. It was hoped that some could be included in a booklet that Howard Fuller was producing looking at the history of the village.

**25.3.** Members raised concern about an animal waste processing facility at Duck Nest Farm, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor. A leaflet had been put through doors in Newbald warning of the environmental consequences of the plant and suggesting it did not have the necessary planning consents. The Clerk was asked to comment on the enforcement case, making it known that NPC objects to the development.

**26. CORRESPONDENCE**

**26.1.** Outside of our parish, but in the East Riding of Yorkshire, there is a **planning application for fracking - 21/02464/STFUL** - To construct an extension to the existing West Newton A (WNA) wellsite, test, appraise and produce from the two existing wells and drill, test, appraise and produce from up to six (6) new wells followed by decommissioning and wellsite restoration. | "Rathlin Energy Ltd West Newton Exploration Well Site, Fosham Road, High Fosham, East Riding Of Yorkshire. – **noted**

**Meeting closed at 9.30pm**