

NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM AT NEWBALD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors B. O'Sullivan (Chairman), J. Barratt, G. Lewis, J. Marshall, S. Milner, E. Openshaw, B. Smith, D. Stewart.

In attendance: Suzanne Smith (Clerk to the Council), County Cllrs. B. Gateshill and P. Greenwood, Jade Botterill (Corporate Affairs Advisor, Yorkshire Water), one member of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Following the resignation of Cllr. Gavin Steward due to ill health, there was a need to elect a chairman.

Resolved: that Cllr. Beccy O'Sullivan is elected as Chairman of Newbald Parish Council (Cllr. Smith nominated, Cllr. Marshall seconded).

The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy on the Parish Council had been advertised and she had already received one expression of interest.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved: that Cllr. Milner is elected as Vice Chairman to replace Cllr. O'Sullivan (Cllr. O'Sullivan nominated and Cllr. Smith seconded).

3. PUBLIC FORUM

This item was held first at the discretion of the Chairman.

Jade Botterill from Yorkshire Water gave an update on the capital scheme. Yorkshire Water had done its own survey back in April 2021 and had approved a £500k spend on a scheme to alleviate the sewage issues in Newbald.

They had since employed contractors who did their own survey w/c 21 August. A meeting was scheduled for the next day (14th September) to discuss the results with their contract partners. The results should determine what sort of sewer liner is required. They should also establish a date for the start of the work, which she would update NPC with. The work can be done while the sewer is operational.

She did warn that there are currently supply issues with the liners that come from Germany. This could cause a 4-12-week delay but she assured Members that she would be working hard to try and minimise any delay.

She said that it would also take about 2-8 weeks to agree sewer access plans with ERYC. The Chairman asked if the Clerk could do what she could to speed this process up by making the request of known contacts at ERYC.

When challenged about what would happen in the meantime as the weather worsened, Jade confirmed that Yorkshire Water would regularly check ground water levels and do regular flushing of the system as required.

Asked if YW could do this proactively, rather than waiting for a problem to occur, Jade said that she thought so but was unable to give a full technical response; she would need to consult with her colleagues.

Jade also confirmed that YW works closely with ERYC and the Environment Agency as part of a group called 'Living With Water'. This group had successfully secured funding for some flood alleviation schemes, which will hopefully be installed soon.

The Chairman thanked Jade for her time.

Jade Botterill, Cllr B. Gateshill and P. Greenwood left the meeting.

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Bushby – urgent work matter

Cllr. Howard - ill

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5.1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Lewis – item 27-non pecuniary

Cllr. Milner – items 27, 9.2.1 – non pecuniary

Cllr. Openshaw – item 27 – non pecuniary

5.2. Dispensations – none.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2021 are signed as a correct record.

7. GAVIN STEWARD

Members agreed that they would prefer to do something more permanent rather than gift flowers to Gavin's wife now. It was agreed that members would have a think, and this would be discussed again.

8. FINANCE

8.1. External Audit Report

The external audit report for the 2020-21 period had previously been provided to all Councillors. No issues had been raised.

Resolved: that the external audit report was received and noted.

8.2. 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>
11/08/21	£10.56	Amazon	Waterproof barrier tape	Pocket
11/08/21	£15.75	Amazon	Extra strong outdoor tape	Pocket

12/08/2021	£3.60	Microsoft exchange	.gov.uk email address	Pocket
12/08/2021	£11.28	Microsoft	MS Office 365 subscription	Pocket
27/08/2021	£53.60	Solopress	Newsletter printing	Pocket
01/09/2021	15.00	H. Thurlow-Moss	Delivery of newsletter	Int. Payment
01/09/2021	£1.00	L. Thurlow-Rai	Delivery of newsletter	Int. Payment
01/09/2021	£480.00	PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee	Int. Payment
29/08/2021	£5.00	Createsend/ Com	Send emails to email list	Pocket
31/08/2021	£367.99	ERPF	Pension contributions	Int. Payment
31/08/2021	£1,234.18	Miss. S. F. Smith	Clerk salary	Int. Payment
31/08/2021	£247.50	HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	Int. Payment
06/09/2021	£462.60	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting – cemetery/ churchyard	Int. Payment

8.3. Remainder of Sober Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Members considered whether to spend any of the remaining £5,234.81 left in the Sober Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund which was left over at the end of the 2020-21 period. The Parish Council had previously agreed that up to 10% of the total annual contribution could be spent at the discretion of the Parish Council, providing all applicants had first had the opportunity to secure it.

Resolved: that

- i. £1,200 is contributed to the Christmas light appeal to ensure that there is enough money to install the electrical supply ahead of Christmas.
- ii. Approx. £888 (or whatever is actually spent) is used to get the war memorial cleaned and restored (as quoted for by W.P.Everingham. Clerk will obtain alternative quotes to ensure good value for money.)

8.4. Newbald Christmas Light Appeal - See above.

8.5. Outstanding Credit at Henleys Nurseries

Members were not sure what to spend the £65.44 credit on, so they chose to defer this to give them time to think.

8.6. Meeting to Discuss 2022-23 Budget

It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. Milner and Cllr. Marshall would meet to discuss the budget for the 2022-23 financial year, with a view to putting forward a proposal for discussion by the whole Council.

9. PLANNING

9.1. Notices of Decision - None.

9.2. Planning Applications

- 9.2.1. 21/02642/VAR** - Variation of Condition 4 (soft landscaping) and Condition 15 (approved plans) for approved application 20/01245/PLF Erection of a detached dwelling to South of Holmlea with associated access and works (Revised scheme of 19/04324/PLF) to remove bedding plant border and reduce the rear boundary fence height from 1.8m to 1.2m – Holmlea, South Newbald Road

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

9.2.2. 21/02662/PLF - Conversion of existing garage to storage/gardening room - Yew Tree House 51 Eastgate

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

9.2.3. 21/03088/PLF - Part two storey, part single storey extension to side/rear, alterations to side and rear elevations, conversion of outbuilding to annexe, installation of sliding gate to side and involving demolition of existing single storey rear element. - 3 The Green

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

9.2.4. Other applications received since the publishing of the agenda – none received.

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

The Clerk said she had not received confirmation that the judicial review had been dropped due to the huge expense involved, but that would appear to be what ERYC had confirmed in the meeting that preceded this one.

Nevertheless, the resident was continuing to hold ERYC to account. Most recently she was challenging ERYC and Natural England on why the developers were being allowed to do preparatory work for the pig installation (discharging condition 16) without securing the necessary licence from Natural England.

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

The Clerk said that while ERYC had said that the owners were going to apply for retrospective permission to change the wall height and use the paddock as a garden, they had not yet done so. The Clerk said she was waiting for a response from ERYC as to how long the owners have before they must submit an application and what action ERYC will take if they don't.

10. SEWAGE LEAKS AND FLOODING

10.1. Matters Arising from the Flooding and Sewage Public Meeting on 9 September

The Clerk and Members that had attended agreed that it had been a very productive meeting, with members of the public being very engaged by the discussions. West Wolds Slow the Flow organisers were also very pleased with how it had gone.

John Traill from YWT had been at the meeting. It was clear that he may be able to provide some very valuable advice as far as keeping the beck free flowing is concerned. The Chairman said that she would like to organise a meeting with him to discuss options.

10.2. Feedback from Yorkshire Water and ERYC about Flooding Matters

Feedback from Yorkshire Water had already been discussed. The Clerk said the information she had received from ERYC would be better discussed under agenda item 16.

11. WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEWBALD PARISH COUNCIL AND ERYC

11.1. Meeting with Alan Menzies and Stephen Hunt, ERYC

Members considered the meeting held with the Senior ERYC executives directly before this one. Members did not feel satisfied with the responses they had received from ERYC and did not think that Newbald Parish Council's opinion would be given any more weight in the future.

Resolved: that the Clerk confirms to ERYC that it wishes the matter to be considered an official complaint. In addition, Members would like the Clerk to contact other parishes in the East Riding of Yorkshire and see if they feel the same way. Group action would be more effective than working on our own.

11.2. Response Received from Graham Stuart MP

Members considered the response received from Graham Stuart MP about the UK planning system. He had offered to contact the Minister for Planning at Westminster to express NPC's concerns.

Resolved: that Members would like Graham Stuart MP to go ahead and do that on NPC's behalf.

12. MEMORIAL SAFETY

The reports had not yet been received from the two stone masons that had agreed to inspect the memorials in the cemetery and churchyard, so this item was deferred.

13. TREE SAFETY AND HEALTH REPORT

The Clerk said that the tree surgeon had visited the site and inspected the trees, but this report had not yet been received. Therefore, this item was deferred.

14. GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF STREET FURNITURE

Given the two previous items had had to be deferred, Members did not feel they could make many decisions. It was important to be aware of all potential costs before deciding how to prioritise the work. However, the Chairman reminded Members of a commitment previously made to replace one bench a year with a recycled plastic one.

Members agreed that the bench next to the village green under the lime trees was in a very bad state of repair and requested that the Clerk get some quotes to replace it with a recycled plastic one.

The Clerk said that the contractor NPC had employed to remove the moss from the churchyard path had accidentally removed the moss from the cemetery path instead. She questioned whether members would like to give him something for the time he had put into it.

Resolved: that NPC gives him the same amount as he quoted for the churchyard path, which is £72.

15. THE PRATTWOOD

15.1. New Trustees

As Gavin Steward had now resigned as a trustee of the Prattwood, it was important that the Parish Council elect another one.

Resolved: that Cllr. Marshall is appointed as the new trustee of the Prattwood (Cllr. Smith nominated, Cllr. Stewart seconded).

As the third trustee needed to be nominated by the school, the Chairman and Cllr. Marshall agreed to go and visit the Head of the School to arrange this. It would also provide a good opportunity to get to know the new Head Teacher.

15.2. Maintenance of the Beck

Cllr. Marshall said that the Prattwood tenant and his wife had committed to doing some maintenance work to remove weed in the beck.

However, the work would take some time to complete as there were very long stretches of the beck to tackle. In addition, they would look to remove the Himalayan Balsam next year prior to it flowering.

Concern was also expressed that there was a mains-powered electric fence right next to the beck and this needed to be removed or the power cut off before any such work was undertaken. Water and power are a dangerous combination.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the owner of the fence and queries whether it is properly licensed and if it could be de-activated for the purposes of doing work in the beck, if not all the time.

16. THE BECK

The Clerk said she had heard back from ERYC who stated that the culverts and any problems with them were subject to the same riparian rules as the rest of the beck. In terms of the culvert below the village green, the Parish Council is responsible because that is our land.

ERYC said that they occasionally arrange for their contractors to check and clean riparian owned culverts where there are known issues, as a one off good will gesture, on a “without prejudice” basis.

ERYC confirmed that they would add the culverts in Newbald to the programme but would be unable to confirm any timescales at the moment, it could be next year. Priorities change depending on the risk of flooding in any given area.

ERYC had requested a map of all the culverts in Newbald that were causing concern.

The Chairman, Cllr. Marshall and the Clerk agreed to do a survey to provide this information.

17. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND TACKLING EXCESSIVE PARKING

17.1. Feedback from ERYC

Members considered feedback previously received shared with all Councillors. ERYC continued to maintain that Newbald was too safe to benefit from traffic calming measures and that these could cause more problems than they solve in this situation. The offer to privately fund such measures made no difference to its evaluation of the situation.

Members agreed that, for now, this should be taken off the agenda.

Cllr. Milner said she had heard that PCSOs may be doing some traffic checks in the area. The Chairman asked the Clerk to look into whether this was true.

17.2. Other Traffic Calming Measures

Members did not feel that they wanted to consider other options for now.

18. GRASS CUTTING

18.1. ERYC Grass Cutting

The Clerk said that ERYC had confirmed that it would no longer use weedkiller around the bases of street furniture. Members welcomed this.

18.2. Grass Cutting by Shed Grounds Maintenance

The Clerk said that she had approached Shed Grounds Maintenance about the fact that it used weedkiller around the base of headstones. While it looked OK in the cemetery, it looked unsightly in part of the Churchyard. Additionally, during the recent stone mason inspections, they had advised that weed killer could cause headstones to become unstable because it kills the roots supporting them.

So far, the Clerk had not heard back. She said that she would not expect a change of approach until next year and that would inevitably raise the cost of the grass cutting.

19. FUTURE PLANS FOR CEMETERY

Time being short, this item was deferred.

20. NEWBALD'S MENTAL HEALTH RETREAT

Cllr. Marshall outlined further his ideas for this and the funding that was available to support it. Members were generally supportive and requested that he create a plan and bring it back to a future meeting for further discussions.

21. CHURCHYARD

Members considered a request to grass the left side of the churchyard (left of the main path, next to the old vicarage) Members did not agree that it was necessary or that it would improve the look of the churchyard significantly.

22. NO COLD CALLING ZONE

Members considered whether to set up another No Cold Calling zone in the village

As no-one had requested it and the benefits of the one on Galegate/Westgate were not overly apparent, Members decided against it for now.

23. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS REVIEW 2022

Members considered the current public spaces protection orders (dog exclusion zones, dog on leads zones and alcohol prohibited zones). They were keen that we should keep the current ones but did not need to add any further ones.

24. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

Members considered whether to pay for a website accessibility compliance audit. It was decided that this was not

necessary at this stage.

25. BACK LANE/ SPRING LANE

The Clerk informed members that the owners of no.37 South Newbald Road had been in touch with her because of damp problems they were experiencing as a result of water running down Spring Lane.

The Clerk said she had put them in touch with Graeme Hall and the Playing Field Association and they were all going to meet to see what they could do to tackle the problem.

NPFA had obtained a quote to create a drain down Back Lane, which was in the region of £8,000.

26. NPFA

Cllr. Lewis had nothing to report as there had been no meetings.

27. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr. Openshaw reported that the order had been placed for the walls and roof. Despite longer lead times, the work will still be completed by the end of the year.

Members said how impressed they and all users were with the Hall. The Village Hall Management Committee had done such a good job. The Chairman requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Committee.

28. NYPP

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

29. ERYC COUNCILLORS

No matters were raised.

30. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

30.1. The Chairman raised the matter of the bank account and the need for further signatories following the resignation of Cllr. Stewart. It was agreed that Cllr. Lewis and Cllr. Milner would be added.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.