



Newbald Parish Council

Annual Report – May 2022

Chair's Overview of the 2021-22 Year and Council's Achievements

The 2020-21 year has been a very busy one for Newbald Parish Council. It has also been a very sad one as we lost two of our councillors in the worst possible way.

Our long-time Chairman Gavin Steward was admitted to hospital in July 2022. While initially he and we all hoped he would recover, unfortunately he was referred to palliative care in August. He resigned from the parish council at this point. Very sadly he died later in the year.

In January 2022, we also lost John Barrett, who passed away in hospital following a fall in his house. John was our longest serving councillor, having been on the council since 1984.

We continue to miss both these members and friends. We have shown our appreciation for their long and valuable service to the village by way of the new smart memorial bench on the village green. I am sure you agree that this is a very fitting tribute to them. We are pleased to note that the bench is already very well used by residents and visitors alike.

Sarah Milner, our Vice Chair, resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. We were very sorry to see her go and wish her well for the future.

We welcomed three new Councillors onboard. These are Sam Wright, Dave Blamires and Jenny Platt, all of whom are proving to be excellent Members.

Flooding and Sewage Leaks

Top of our agenda at the start of the 2021-22 year was the dire situation with regards sewage leaks and flooding in the village. Many residents suffered with blocked drains, toilets, and sinks, while enduring sewage floods in their gardens and nearby pavements. For a while, Yorkshire Water had to use 'vactors' to pump excess water and sewage out of the sewage pipes to get it down to a manageable level. The situation was so dire, it ended up being featured on Look North and in other local media.

NPC liaised repeatedly with Yorkshire Water and ERYC about this and lobbied them to take long term corrective action. Cllrs John Howard and Jack Marshall were particularly instrumental in helping me hold these bodies to account.

Consequently, Yorkshire Water carried out an extensive survey to find out what was causing the sewers to overflow. This then led to them making the decision to line a large part of the sewers that run through the village. This has been carried out recently. It remains to be seen how well these measures will protect the village in the future when there is torrential rain.

NPC will monitor this situation very closely and continue to work with the relevant organisations to make sure the village is protected. 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.

After lobbying by NPC, ERYC agreed to install some new culverts on The Mires to combat the flooding problems.

NPC continues to be a very active member of 'West Wolds Slow the Flow', which is a collaborative group of councils, organisations, agencies, landowners, and individuals who share a common aim of implementing natural measures to prevent flooding in the 'Mill Beck Catchment' area. The group is gaining in strength, support and influence and is in the process of securing funding to make very solid on-the-ground changes. The work is likely to start with the beck in Newbald as this is the most upstream part of the catchment area and therefore has an impact on all the other places.

In September 2021, NPC facilitated a successful public meeting where WWSTF liaised with residents to understand the main issues facing the village. This will help to inform their future projects.

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 supports 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 residents.

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.

NPC made a decision to spend some of the remaining money from the 2020 Sober fund on cleaning and restoring the War memorial. This work is currently underway. In addition, a new marble plaque dedicated to Michael Jones, who died during the Afghanistan war, will be added.

Members considered re-surfacing the surface of the main path that goes through the churchyard to the main entrance. The cost of doing so is prohibitively high for the benefit that it will give, so this is currently still on a back burner.

Health & Safety and Risk Assessments

Health & Safety and Risk Assessments form a major part of our duties in respect of all NPC owned or controlled areas. These have been undertaken thoroughly and efficiently wherever there is a legal requirement.

This year we also did more in-depth checks on the safety of every headstone and memorial in the cemetery and churchyard. This was a considerable amount of work for the councillors involved. Thanks goes to Cllrs Steward, Openshaw Bushby and Marshall. We identified a large number that needed attention to keep them safe. After getting further professional inspections and quotes, the work is currently being carried out by an experienced stone mason. The work in the cemetery is complete. The work in the Churchyard is awaiting a faculty approval before we can proceed.

NPC paid for a tree safety report to be carried out on the trees on The Mires, a particular tree in the Prattwood, and some trees in the Churchyard. We obtained quotes for the recommended work, and this will be carried out in the Autumn of 2022, which is the most suitable time of year for such tasks.

Sober Hill Wind Farm

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

Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Granted
Newbald Village Hall	Car park lining out	£906	£815
St. Nicholas' Church	Development of a café area	£6,250	£5,625
NYPP	Lights and Equipment	£948	£853
Newbald School	Guitars	£1,628	£1,465
NPFA	Spring Lane surface water drain	£4,600	£4,140
The award below has been earmarked for NPFA and the Football club but is subject to the pavilion securing the necessary funding to make it feasible.			
NPFA and Newbald Football Club	Services and foul water drainage for proposed sports pavilion	£13,200	£11,800

Grants

NPC also paid out the following grant:

Newbald Playing Field Association Grant to help with insurance **£650.00**

Streetlighting

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

Members gave considerable thought as to whether to introduce streetlights on Townside Road, including obtaining quotes. However, it was felt that it might spoil the night sky and not be a popular move with the majority of residents. As ever with this issue, it is a difficult balance, with some residents very keen for more lights to enhance safety, but many others very opposed to the idea.

Christmas Lights

In response to strong public demand, Newbald Parish Council played a key role in organising the fundraising activities to raise money for a new electrical installation on the Green. This then enabled new mains Christmas lights to be purchased to replace the battery-operated ones. Coupled with an extra-large Christmas tree, Christmas 2021 in Newbald was far brighter and festive than in previous years. Thanks go to the many partners who worked with us to help this to come about, notably Leo De Luca, Fiona Oakes, Matthew Smith, the Levitts, and the many residents who contributed generously to the fund.

NPC committed £1,200 to the Christmas Funds (from the Sober Fund), but actually far more was raised than was spent, so there is still money in the fund for future Christmases.

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 did not seem a very feasible option. Some very generous Newbald residents offered to help the village to fund traffic calming measures on Burgate. NPC was very grateful for this but unfortunately ERYC continued to maintain that Newbald was not suitable for such measures, even if they were self-funded.

NPC has not accepted this and continues to fight for traffic calming measures in many different parts of the village. Speeding vehicles, large vehicles and inappropriately parked cars continue to be the number one thing that we hear from residents about.

We recently wrote to our three Ward Councillors pressing them again to help us with lobbying ERYC. As a direct result of this, Newbald has been invited to be one of only 3 places in the East Riding of Yorkshire where ERYC is reviewing the issues raised by NPC and residents, and ERYC's previous refusal to help, to see if anything can be resolved.

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 have been undertaken to a high standard.

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

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.

Planning Applications

We have as usual commented on all planning applications, and whilst I believe we have always made our decisions in the best interest of the Village, there are always some which get overruled by the Planners at ERYC, who totally disregard some of our opinions without any in depth discussion.

Notably, we 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 was considered by ERYC Eastern Planning Committee, and I attended to make representations on behalf of NPC and the village. Unfortunately, the Committee still granted planning permission.

NPC was so disillusioned with ERYC's decision about this and other applications that we wrote a letter of complaint to ERYC to voice our concerns about our opinions on planning matters not being given enough consideration. As a result, a meeting was held with two senior Planning Directors at ERYC in Newbald. Members were not reassured by the meeting and went on to liaise with other parish councils about the possibility of a joint complaint.

Recognising that to a large extent, ERYC is tied by the Government, NPC also lobbied Parliament for change via Graham Stuart. Unfortunately, we received a standard written response, but no action was taken.

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 has worked hard to bring Phase 3 to fruition – recladding the main hall exterior (walls and roof).

Neighbourhood Watch

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.

General Maintenance

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

The noticeboard on the Green was in very poor condition, so we replaced it with a new one which is environmentally friendly, smart, and much more in keeping with its surroundings.

NPC organised for the footpath from Westgate to the cemetery to be widened and also the one running alongside South Newbald Road. Both of these paths had verges that were so overgrown that they were virtually not visible.

Following on from that, resident Simon Dongray-Burke (ex-Councillor) chose to widen other footpaths around the village, something that we greatly appreciate.

There are a large number of other maintenance jobs under discussion, which are either waiting for the necessary funds or which are in the pipeline for the contractor. These include adding steps up to the bench on South Newbald Road and replacing rotten bench planks with environmentally friendly wood-effect plastic ones.

The Prattwood and Proposed Mental Health Retreat

Cllrs. Marshall and Howard were appointed as new trustees of the Prattwood Charity. They have worked hard to bring the constitution and operations of the charity up-to-date, in consultation with the Council.

The parish council has discussed and supports the idea of converting a large part of the Prattwood to a public open space, which will be a nature reserve and consequently beneficial to people's mental health. This long-term project is a very exciting opportunity to enhance the village and make positive environmental changes. At the time of writing, the Prattwood has been awarded a large amount of trees, which will be just the starting point.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

NPC made the decision to hold a Platinum Jubilee celebration for all residents. Work to organise this is ongoing, with the help of other organisations in the village. The occasion will be marked by the lighting of a Platinum Jubilee beacon on 2nd June, which has been paid for by a grant from ERYC. The main celebration will be a Musical jubilee Picnic Party, which includes live music, games and fun competitions.

Asset of Community Value

NPC applied to make the Tiger an Asset of Community Value. The application was successful, meaning that if the owners of the pub are minded to sell it, they have to give a 6 month window of opportunity to the community to fund-raise so they can purchase it. If successful, they could then keep it as a community pub, rather than letting it go into private ownership.

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.

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.



Beccy O'Sullivan
Chair
Newbald Parish Council

WWW.NEWBALDPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

Please visit Newbald Parish Council's website for Newbald information and news. Meetings usually take place on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Newbald Village Hall. Sometimes, the dates may change. Agendas are published on our website. All welcome.

NEWBALD PARISH COUNCILLORS

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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