

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WOLD NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor Lockwood (The Chairman), Councillor Dr Meeson, Councillor West, Councillor Cullen, Councillor Barnes and Councillor Botterill. Parishioners Colin Goodman, Janice and Ian Robinson were also present.

ITEM 1 – Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Robinson made his apology for non-attendance and Councillor Cullen declared a non-pecuniary interest through her involvement of Wold Newton Community Centre.

ITEM 2 – Minutes and matters arising from the meeting held on 6th January 2020.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.

ITEM 3 – Correspondence.

It has been a consensus agreement to reduce our paper usage. Therefore, from this month, the correspondence will be emailed prior to each meeting. These were circulated prior to the meeting:-

- The Humberside Police Parish/Town updates.
- Email from ERYC confirming our precept demand for 2020/21.
- 75th Anniversary Community Fund letter advising us we can apply for a grant.
- Email regarding the housing needs survey for our village, along with Burton Fleming and Thwing/Octon. Surveys have been distributed to all houses, and poster added to our website. We will invite David Siddle to our next meeting.
- An email from the Lamp Lighter regarding the faulty streetlight on Back Street, it should be repaired by Northern Powergrid by 1st week in March. The Clerk will follow this up.
- Lissett Wind Farm Community Fund sent details of their grants awarded 2010-20, by each Parish. They also advised their funding is open to applications again.
- Notice of Alterations to Register of Electors and Statistics.
- An email confirmation of our reported faulty streetlight on Butt Lane.
- An email from Samm Campbell regarding the Town & Parish Council Communication Review Panel, asking for feedback on the charter, the Clerk has replied. It also advises of the new website pages to help Councillors and Clerks report issues.
- An email from Wayne Goodwin with an update on the CSW (Community Speed Watch) scheme.

ITEM 4 – Statement by our Chairman

The Chairman announced that he was approached by 2 parishioners after January's meeting, regarding our decision to help fund All Saints Church roofs security. The parishioners believed our decision was against the Local Government Act 1894. ERYC are happy we are can carry out the donation. They referred us to the following statement:-

Contributions to support churches, churchyards and other ecclesiastical property

The National Association of Local Councils takes the view that the “free resource” (section 137 of the LGA 1972) and the power of general competence (sections 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011) cannot be used to benefit churches, chapels, churchyards or other property belonging to an ecclesiastical body (not being a closed churchyard as described above). The reason for this is that section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 prohibits expenditure by local councils on property relating to the affairs of the church or an ecclesiastical charity.

However, NALC's view is not shared by the Government, which says that section 137 of the LGA 1972 and sections 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 are not overridden by the 1894 Act. The fact is that councils have for many years contributed towards the cost of maintaining churches, churchyards, etc. without any apparent challenge or

question at audit. The report to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport entitled The Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals, published in December 2017, recommended that the law be clarified so as to enable a council to use section 137 of the LGA 1972 and the power of general competence to benefit churches, etc. According to the Government, further legislation is not necessary.

ITEM 5 – Acknowledging VE Day 75th Anniversary

We discussed what we could do to acknowledge this important day. We thought a coin or mug for each child in the village, also 2 benches (with plaques) for our new environmental plot. ERYC have offered a grant to help pay so the Clerk will check if the local school are doing anything before pricing up and applying for the funds.

ITEM 6 – Community Speed Watch update.

The volunteers, that include the Clerk, Councillor Barnes and Councillor Robinson, had their first session with Wayne Goodwin earlier in the month. They are now fully trained to organise a full speed check very soon.

ITEM 7 – Railings around green.

Councillor West has obtained a quotation for extending the new wooden fence around the green including a gate. The quote is £1560 for 2 days labour including the gate, and £680.75 for the wood and brackets, totalling £2240.75. It was discussed we probably do not need a working fence as such, just a removable slat would suffice. Councillor West will organise an updated quotation.

ITEM 8 – Accounts to pay.

No invoices to pay.

ITEM 9 – Any Other Business.

Councillor Barnes asked about the gypsy race being blocked outside Sunnyside House. Councillor West will speak with the residents to check they are happy we can use their land to unblock it. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the drainage dept at ERYC to see if they can clear it, also asking them to clear the silt traps and gullies around the green.

Parishioner Colin Goodman asked if the salt bin at the top of Front Street be repaired as the lid is broken resulting in the salt freezing.

We discussed Richard Shipley’s sheep which are still wandering the village despite many letters and conversations asking that they be fully fenced in. The Chairman suggested we write to his sister to see if she can speak to Mr Shipley for us.

Alex Fox has approached the Chairman to ask if he can purchase a bench to put on the green in memory of his late wife Emma. We agreed to the request, it will replace the very old one on the green.

It was agreed we’ll get our benches out 6th April.

The Chairman officially thanked everyone for planting up the new environmental plot. Colin Goodman offered to strim the grass around the trees. We discussed needing more hedging so we will apply for some more saplings from the Woodland Trust in March to hopefully get them planted in November.

ITEM 10 - Date of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 30th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.

Nicola Stephenson, Parish Clerk,
24th February 2020

Chairman.....

Date.....