

## NEWTON-IN-BOWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 22 November 2023

### NEWTON- IN-BOWLAND VILLAGE HALL

#### DRAFT minutes

1. The Chair welcomed all present including SE, BD, RT, PS, DC, KS, Rennie Pinder and two parishioners. Apologies were offered and accepted from RS and RE.
2. The Chair asked for declarations of interest and RT declared HARP and the Quaker Burial Ground.
3. The minutes from the meeting held September 2023 were declared an accurate record of the meeting; proposed SE seconded DC.
4. The action plan was updated. DC updated about his meeting with the dog warden regarding dog fouling in the village. The dog warden has undertaken to have more visibility in the village and particularly at the times that dogs are walked. The dog warden has placed some dog fouling signs and the Chair noted that the issue seems to have improved.
5. Rennie Pinder presented about SPIDs showing the type of record that can be made with the units and advised on the installation process. Rennie is to let councillors have the details of the contact at LCC re the installation. Each SPID requires the installation of a backplate costing £80 and possibly a pole at additional cost. **ACTION – COUNCILLORS TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO IMPLEMENT AT FEBRUARY MEETING.**
6. Ben Hargreaves from Lancashire Wildlife Trust spoke over a mobile phone about the project that he is involved with called 'Green Northern Connections' which is to do with looking at protected features in the landscape such as road, rail and energy and developing a way of treating the green infrastructure, looking after the biodiversity value of certain features in our landscape. This is a county wide proposal about biodiversity management. Councillors were interested to find out more and Ben to send further information to the clerk. **ACTION - The additional information to be presented for the February meeting.**
7. There were no pre-notified questions to answer.
8. Finance
  - a. Rural Prosperity fund. The Clerk explained that she had a reply from RVBC and that following the expression of interest, the parish council have the opportunity to apply for £50000; as this is less than the amount applied for, there needs to be a detailed discussion about the application. The next stage requires details of the project and quotations and it was agreed that this would be the subject of a separate meeting. Additionally, it specifically says on the form that only one application per parish can be made and the village hall have also made an application. To avoid any disappointment, the Clerk will speak to the village hall representative about checking with RVBC. **ACTION – KS TO SPEAK TO SP ABOUT THE VILLAGE HALL APPLICATION**
  - b. Christmas light application – PS has applied for the £50 grant – awaiting receipt from RVBC
9. Accounts
  - a. Balances:

- i. 30643084 £1612.20
- ii. 23382419 £5269.81
- iii. 20480398 £1370
- iv. 33509605 £506.01

10. Income

- a. RVBC £131.00

11. Precept

There was a discussion around the amount of precept claimed. The parish council will be experiencing increased costs over the next couple of years and are embarking on some projects that will require matched funding for grants from RVBC. These projects include employment of a clerk, improvement of the river walk, restoring the war memorial surround, an updated website and restoring the access to the village car park. Consequently, a decision was made to increase the precept request to £2250 from £1500.

12. HARP

Councillors acknowledged receipt of the HARP update letter dated 1 November 2023 from United Utilities. The letter has been sent directly to parishioners and so there is no need to distribute.

13. BD has sourced a Christmas tree at a cost of £200 and requested permission for the expenditure. Proposed DC seconded BD

14. The Union Jack flag in the village needs replacing. **ACTION – DC TO BRING PROPOSAL TO FEBRUARY MEETING**

15. There was a discussion about the Lengthsman post. The existing Lengthsman no longer has public liability insurance and on this basis the parish council are not able to employ him. **ACTION – KS TO FIND WHO SLAIDBURN AND DUNSOP BRIDGE USE AND IF THEY HAVE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE ALSO TO CHASE RE TO FIND IF SHE HAD BEEN ABLE TO GET FUNDING FROM THE AONB**

16. The defibrillator was reported to the parish council, by the village hall, to be broken. New batteries were installed but it was still faulty. BD was able to contact someone (who wishes to remain anonymous) who fixed the unit and reinstall it. **ACTION – KS TO WRITE TO THANKYOU**

17. KS reported that the tarmac repairs outside of Curlew Farm had been completed however, the repair does not appear to be very satisfactory. PS reported on his meeting with RS; he has created a document showing the items of concern from the Fell Road through the village and along Back Lane; this has been given to Rupert Swarbrick for him to act upon. **ACTION – PS TO FOLLOW UP WITH RUPERT SWARBRICK**

18. PS met with RVBC regarding the grass cutting contract in order to establish exactly what is scheduled to be cut. He has a schedule in his possession. PS to establish a cutting regime to include the extra grass verge up to where the 20mph signs will be placed and to ask for an amended quotation. **ACTION – PS TO PRESENT AMENDED GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE AND QUOTATION FOR COUNCILLORS TO AGREE AT FEBRUARY MEETING**

19. To note that the application for the Christmas grant has been submitted.

20. Concerns had previously been raised that the BT phone box is not clearly visible; there is limited mobile reception in the village and it is considered essential that the connection to a land line remains in place. BT have been asked to cut back the foliage

and have done all they are prepared to do; when doing the recent the village clean up, some additional foliage has been cleared but concerns have been raised as to how much can be cleared due to the Conservation Area classification. **ACTION – KS TO ARRANGE FOR DAVE HEWITT TO VISIT AND MEET WITH BD TO ADVISE ACTION – PS TO OBTAIN PRICE FOR STICKERS TO PLACE ON THE BT KIOSK**

21. Mel Shutes updated councillors on the project to improve the Quaker Burial Ground. The first stage of the project is to make safe the trees and to fix the dry stone wall to keep stock out of the ground. The cost for these works are £2320 of which £1500 is being given by the Quaker Society and £600 from the AONB leaving a shortfall of £220. Councillors agreed to fund this. Proposed BD seconded SE.
22. It would seem that the road sweeper did not complete the task as requested.
23. PS to attend the RVBC bus meeting in January 2024. **ACTION – TO REPORT TO COUNCILLORS IN FEBRUARY MEETING**
24. KS presented a draft policy to councillors and requested that they read and give any feedback with a view to adopting at the February meeting. **ACTION – COUNCILLORS TO AGREE POLICY AT FEBRUARY MEETING**
25. The following planning applications were responded to with no objections from the parish council:
  - a. 3/2023/0779, The Old Quaker House, Newton Road, Newton, BB7 3DZ
  - b. 3/2023/0890, Oxenhurst Barn, Back Lane, Newton, BB7 3EE
  - c. 3/2023/0891, Oxenhurst Barn, Back Lane, Newton, BB7 3EE

The Clerk wished it to be noted that RVBC requires responses to planning application notifications within 21 days of the letter; as the parish council only meets every four months that the letters from RVBC will be circulated by the clerk to councillors with a deadline for the response and that a no reply would be considered as no objection from the parish council and a reply to RVBC sent accordingly.

26. The PCSO was not present and did not send apologies.
27. The RVBC councillor was not present and sent apologies.
28. The LCC councillor was not present and sent apologies.
29. Correspondence
  - a. Concurrent grant query from Dave Spencer – it would appear that we are not able to apply for more items as the categories are prescriptive. Note that only 25% of the application is paid out. **ACTION CLERK TO RESPOND THE PARISHIONER ABOUT CONCURRENT GRANT**
  - b. A parishioner asked if there any records kept on near misses at the junction of Back Lane and Dunsop Road. **CLERK TO RESPOND TO PARISHIONER AND TO FORWARD THE LETTER FROM LCC ABOUT THIS JUNCTION**
  - c. A parishioner raised concerns about the accident at Marl Hill where a United Utilities vehicle left the road and damaged a dry stone wall belonging to a parishioner. The clerk had reported the accident to the police. Concerns were raised about the movement of these vehicles and the potential for accidents.
  - d. To note that councillors received winter stakeholder bulletins.
  - e. RVBC are checking on any planning breaches at Curlew Farm and LCC are looking at the PROW issues.
  - f. To clerk completed the RVBC sport survey.
  - g. The clerk circulated the Love to Ride - Winter Wheelers email.
  - h. The village hall have confirmed that they are applying for the Storm Arwen Community Resilience Fund.

- i. The RVBC Scams information and poster have been circulated.
  - j. To note that councillors have received NALC bulletins.
30. The website update is still under discussion. **ACTION - DC to contact BARN contact to see if they can help.**

31. AOB

- a. The footpaths officer is looking at the broken fence on the River walk and will let the clerk know whose responsibility it is. **ACTION – CLERK TO PERSUE**
- b. The clerk has posted the information about The Little Green Bus (TLGB) service in the notice board.
- c. Planning information received since the publication of the agenda – LCC/2023/0039 at Waddington Fell Quarry, Slaidburn Road, Waddington
- d. Councillors received the Public Realm Agreement and are taking no action
- e. Councillors welcomed the appointment of the new LALC Officer
- f. Councillors noted the content of the email from David Berryman and in particular his note about referring the issue of rural infrastructure for the supply of electricity.
- g. Councillors received the Parish and Town Council Charter 2022-2024.
- h. Councillors approves the clerk's invoice.
- i. Clerk to change the celebratory meal date to w/c 29 January 2024.
- j. RT updated about items from the Parish Council Liaison meeting **ACTION – CLERK TO ENSURE AGENDA ITEM FOR PC MEETINGS**

32. Date of next meetings:

- a. Parish council – Thursday 8 February 2024
- b. Parish Council Liaison meeting – Thursday 1 February 2024 – PS attending
- c. Parish Council Liaison meeting – Thursday 11 April 2024 – DC attending