

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at Newburgh School, Back Lane commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Roughneen (Chair), Halliwell, Atty, Turner, O'Keefe, Pennington, Lea and Clerk Sandra Jones. One member of the public also attended.

123/24

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr Whittington.

124/24

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Atty declared an interest in Appleton Fields.

125/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 November 2024 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

126/24

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

The member of the public spoke about the Round O Quarry application, which is currently being considered by Lancashire County Council. Just prior to the meeting, an email had been received from Lancashire County Council informing the Parish Council that new documentation relating to the application could be viewed on the website. There were a number of documents including a drainage report to be reviewed and it was noted that it would be difficult for the Parish Council to provide a response within the deadline given due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The meeting was reconvened and the member of the public left the meeting at this point.

127/24

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

No applications were considered at this meeting.

b) To receive a verbal update regarding LCC/2022/0014 - Round O Quarry and agree any actions.

The matter of the Round O Quarry planning application had previously been discussed during the public discussion section. However, following discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk would contact the officer at Lancashire County Council to request an extension to the deadline and that an informal meeting would be arranged at the Red Lion in January to review the new information prior to agreeing any response.

128/24

WORKPLAN

a) To receive a verbal update on village road issues and agree any actions.

Cllr Roughneen confirmed that the latest speed device on Cobbs Brow Lane was due to come down shortly so the relating data should be received from Altham Parish Council before Christmas. Cllr Atty informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Parbold Parish Council, who also have a speed device. It was resolved that the two Parish Councils would work in partnership to combine the data received from both villages in order to lobby the County Council and the Police to introduce some additional road measures to make our roads safer.

b) To receive a verbal update on flooding in the village and agree any actions.

The meeting was informed that the County Council engineer dealing with the Back Lane flooding issue had been in contact to confirm that letters had now been sent out to all the relevant landowners informing them of their obligation to keep clear all drains and culverts on their land. As one of the landowners had not responded to date, the matter had been passed to the County Council Legal department for action. Borough Cllr Jukes has been in contact with the relevant flooding officer at the County Council asking for her to come out to visit Parbold and Newburgh. It is hoped that Borough Cllr Jukes will be able to provide an update when she attends the next weekly Community Coffee morning on 12 December.

c) To consider the purchase of a strimmer to help clear the overgrowth on Newburgh rights of way and agree any actions.

Following discussion, it was resolved to purchase a battery powered Makita strimmer and batteries for a cost of £215.

129/24

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON APPLETON FIELDS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS.

Cllr Atty did not leave the room at this point and provided an update on improvements being made to the site. Cllr Atty informed the meeting that Appleton Fields Association were still looking at funding options to cover the £3,000 shortfall for the accessible path around the field. The Clerk had contacted the Community Infrastructure Levy officer at the Borough Council to find out whether an application could be submitted to fund the shortfall. Unfortunately, due to the lack of development in Newburgh at present, the officer confirmed that it was unlikely that such an application would be successful.

130/24

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY PROJECTS INCLUDING THE WEEKLY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING, NEWBURGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME AND A COMMUNITY MEETING WITH LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS.

It was confirmed that the weekly Community Coffee morning is still poorly attended most weeks, despite efforts to publicise it as widely as possible around the village. It had previously been agreed that a Christmas Community lunch will be held at the Red Lion on 19 December for Newburgh residents, with the Parish Council funding half of the cost of the meal. However, due to a lower number of residents booking a place than expected, it was resolved that the Parish Council would cover the full cost of the meal, if the number of bookings did not increase from current numbers. Any Parish Councillors attending will pay half the cost of their meal.

There has been a slow but steady increase in residents signing up to join the Newburgh Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The current total is 55. Flyers and cards will be circulated with details of the scheme and there are plans for the litter picking group to organise an event in the Spring.

With regards to holding a community meeting with the local groups and organisations, it was resolved that an event would be considered in January, which would take place in the evening at the Red Lion with refreshments provided.

131/24

FINANCE

a) To agree Accounts for Payment for December 2024, schedule attached.

It was resolved to approve the Accounts for payment for December 2024. Payments will be electronic wherever possible.

b) To receive an update on the recent financial check and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that Cllr Turner had undertaken a mid-year check of the Parish Council accounts documentation with the Clerk. No areas of concern were found.

c) To agree the date of the Finance Committee meeting due to be held in January 2025.

Following discussion, it was resolved to hold the Finance Committee meeting on 14 January 2025 at the Red Lion,

132/24

TO NOTE THE CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerk's report was noted.

133/24

COUNCILLORS TO RAISE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION ONLY (10 MINUTES TOTAL TIME)

Cllr Roughneen said that he was planning to review the current delivery rounds for Councillors to take into account that there are now seven Parish Councillors to share the rounds.

Cllr Atty asked if a review of the newsletter and the contents of the website could be considered at a future Parish Council meeting. It was felt that it was a good time to consider how much detail is included and which Parish Councillor contacts which local group or organisation for information updates.

The issue of local electric car points was raised again as the Clerk had looked into the matter and it appeared that it was a planning issue that the Borough Council would have to consider. The Clerk offered to contact the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to see if they could offer any advice.

134/24

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on 22 January 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

Schedule of Accounts for Payment – December 2024

Ref	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 6.00 Direct Debit
n/a	Nest Pension Scheme	£ 95.78 Direct Debit
121224	HMRC – NI and Income Tax payment	£ 152.87
121224	Mrs S Jones – December salary and expenses	£ 1,118.82
121224	Skelmersdale Prize Band – fee for Village Carols event	£ 150.00
121224	Newburgh School – hall hire Jul 24- Nov 24, Village Carols printing exps	£ 136.40
121224	Mr J Horrobin – play area maintenance	£ 30.00
121224	Altham Parish Council – speed device hire for November 2024	£ 234.00
121224	P&R Electrical Ltd – Decoration of tree	<u>£ 396.00</u>
	TOTAL	<u>£ 2,319.87</u>