

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at Newburgh School, Back Lane commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Roughneen (chair), O'Keefe, Halliwell, Atty, Turner, Pennington and Clerk Sandra Jones. Borough Cllr Whittington and one member of the public were present.

001/24

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

None.

002/24

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Halliwell declared an issue in the payments item and Cllr O'Keefe declared an interest in the Willow End planning application.

003/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2023 AND THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 December 2023 and the Finance Committee meeting held on 17 January 2024 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

004/24

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was not adjourned for public discussion as the attendees had no issues to raise.

005/24

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

2023/1083/OUT - Outline application proposed demolition of existing stables buildings and construction of two detached 1.5 storey dwellings (Some matters reserved) at Wynfield Plants, Rigby's Farm, Back Lane, Newburgh.

Councillors expressed views with regards to supporting the application as there would be some additional much needed housing in the area, balanced with concerns regarding possible inappropriate development in the Green Belt, negative impact on neighbouring properties and accessibility issues regarding Back Lane itself with narrow sections of road, lack of footpath in areas and current problems with flooding after heavy rainfall. Following discussion, it was resolved to submit the following comment:

Newburgh Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt now and possibly in the near future, based on the information submitted by the agent which also confirmed that a further planning application will be submitted for the site. Although the footprint of this proposed development is no larger than the current buildings, the plans appear to confirm that the two new proposed buildings will both be taller than the buildings they will replace. Newburgh Parish Council feels that this will affect the openness of the Green Belt and possibly impact on the privacy of neighbouring properties.

Newburgh Parish Council also has concerns regarding the development's possible impact on the birds and local wildlife population around that area and the impact on neighbour amenity due to the likely traffic disruption and noise. In addition, the Parish Council feels that accessibility will be an issue as Back Lane is a narrow road, with no footpath in places, tight bends and very busy with traffic which regularly speeds. In some places, the road is so narrow that two cars can just about pass each other, but if wagons were to be going to and from the site this would cause additional problems. Parts of Back Lane are currently flooding after heavy rainfall. Newburgh Parish Council has concerns that this development could make this problem worse.

Cllr O'Keefe left the meeting at this point.

2023/1055/FUL - Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling without complying with the condition attached to planning permission ref: 8/5/5681 viz "the occupancy of the dwelling shall be limited to a person employed or last employed locally in agriculture" at Willow End, Tears Lane, Newburgh – No comment.

Cllr O'Keefe returned to the meeting at this point.

2023/1171/FUL - Demolish and repurpose of materials of existing building and conservatory, replacing with a single storey ground floor extension to the rear of the property. Build a new porch to the front of the property at Montrose, Course Lane – No comment.

b) To receive a verbal update regarding LCC/222/0014 Round O Quarry and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had submitted a further comment to the planning officer at Lancashire County Council following a review of the correspondence received from the consultants. At present it is not known when the application will be considered by Lancashire County Council, but it was stated that the Parish Council would consider sending a representative to speak at the relevant Development Control Committee meeting once the date is known.

006/24

WORKPLAN

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

A spread sheet showing the main issues regarding the speed device data had been sent to Councillors, however, it was acknowledged that comparisons will be easier in the future once the speed device has been placed a number of times at the same location. The location of the speed device on Ash Brow will need to be changed as concerns had been raised that the current location was potentially clocking vehicles which were turning off on Cobbs Brow Lane on the way to Skelmersdale rather than going straight through the village. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements and contact both the speed device provider and Lancashire County Council to ensure that this work is carried out appropriately.

b) To receive a verbal update on flooding issues in the village including the possibility of getting flood advice from a former Borough Council engineer and agree any necessary actions.

An update had been requested a few weeks previously from the relevant officer at Lancashire County Council regarding any future planned works in the village to improve flooding problems, especially on Back Lane where an area of the road is now flooding after bouts of heavy rainfall. As there had been no response to date, the Clerk was asked to chase up the relevant officer and copy in the Principal Flood Risk Officer and our County Council representative.

c) To receive a verbal update on the latest position regarding possible entry for the 2024 Best Kept Village competition and agree any actions.

It was resolved that Newburgh would be entered into the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition again this year. Although the village didn't make it through to the second round of judging last year, most of the issues noted on the report were felt to be minor ones which should be easy to resolve this year in order to achieve a better result. Councillors felt that it was beneficial to enter the competition as it has helped to improve community spirit and engagement with many residents and organisations taking part to ensure that the village looked its best. The village assets have already been reviewed as part of the budget planning process and it was estimated that minimal repairs will be required this year. A plan and timetable will be drafted and any volunteer days will be publicised on the village community Facebook page and the new Parish Council website when it is up and running.

d) To receive an update from the Work Plan Priming Group and agree any actions required regarding the Parish Work Plan for 2024.

It was resolved to approve the Work Plan for 2024, which had already been circulated to Councillors.

007/24

TO CONSIDER TAKING PART IN THE HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY PROJECT AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been in contact with both the School and Appleton Fields Association regarding the Hedgehog Highway project, to ask if they would be interested in taking part and possibly using some of the funds passed on by the Parish Council relating to the Lancashire County Council Biodiversity grant. A response was received from the School confirming that they were already involved in hedgehog friendly projects and would look into the information provided by the organiser of this project. Appleton Fields Association confirmed that they were prioritising other projects at present, however, the information would be circulated to the Trustees to consider for the future. Following discussion, it was resolved that the details of the project would be publicised to residents via the village community Facebook page.

008/24

FINANCE

Cllr Halliwell left the meeting at this point.

a) To agree Accounts for Payment for January 2024, (Schedule attached).

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

Cllr Halliwell returned to the meeting at this point.

b) To consider the request for a donation from Newburgh Fair Association.

It was confirmed that a request for a donation had been received from the new chair of the Newburgh Fair Association. It was resolved to donate £100 and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

c) To consider whether to submit a grant application to the West Lancashire Borough Council Capital Scheme 2024/25 and agree any actions.

It was resolved to submit a grant application for new play area equipment to West Lancashire Borough Council up to a maximum of £6,000, with the Parish Council contributing a maximum of £2,000 including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies. The value of the grant application will depend on the play area equipment chosen once quotes are received.

d) To consider recommendations from the Finance Committee and set the Precept and Budget for 2024/25.

All Parish Councillors had attended the Finance Committee held on 17 January 2024 and were aware of the main issues, which centred around the rising cost of inflation and the increased cost of important Parish Council functions such as the speed device, website, email communications, meeting hall charges, insurance and costs relating to the Clerk. Although there was a wish to keep the precept as small as possible for residents, Councillors expressed the view that a large increase would be necessary especially since there had been no increase levied in the current year. It was noted that over the last three years, only one increase had been levied which was less than 4%. All the Parish Councillors were in agreement and it was resolved to increase the precept from £36.40 per year for a Band D household to £47.65 per year. Although this is a large percentage increase, the actual increase for a Band D household would be less than £1 per month. The total budget for 2024/25 will be £22,562, which will be split with £290 from the Council Tax Support grant and £22,272 as the precept collected from residents as part of the Council Tax. Residents will be informed of the increase in the March newsletter.

009/24

TO NOTE THE CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerk's report was noted.

010/24

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

Cllr Roughneen confirmed that a resident had expressed an interest in the school crossing person post following the issue being raised on the village community Facebook page. The resident had been given the contact details for the appropriate officer, so it was hoped that the two week trial may take place soon.

Cllr Halliwell confirmed that he planned to speak to the Red Lion regarding a possible application for a Warm Spaces grant, to add to the current Thursday sessions offered by the Sports Club.

It was confirmed that Giltrees Christmas trees had kindly offered the gift of a free Christmas tree in future years in exchange for a plaque to be displayed confirming their donation and a mention in the December newsletter. Councillors expressed their thanks for the generous offer.

011/24

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 28 February 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8pm.

Schedule of Accounts for Payment – January 2024

Ref No	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 11.99 Direct Debit
n/a	Nest Pension Scheme	£ 70.00 Direct Debit
250124	HMRC – NI payment	£ 28.79
250124	Mrs S Jones – January salary and expenses	£ 948.04
250124	Yates Playgrounds – play area repairs	£ 636.00
250124	Altham Parish Council – speed device Nov and Dec 2023	£ 344.80
250124	Appleton Fields Association – share of LCC Biodiversity grant	£ 150.00
250124	Newburgh School – share of LCC Biodiversity grant	£ 150.00
250124	Newburgh School – hall hire December 2023	£ 9.00
250124	Newburgh Christ Church – maintenance of the Dell contribution	£ 75.00
250124	Mr P Halliwell – meeting room hire expenses	<u>£ 81.15</u>
	TOTAL	<u>£ 2,504.77</u>