

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at Newburgh School, Back Lane commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Roughneen (Chair), Halliwell, Atty, Turner, Pennington, Lea and Clerk Sandra Jones. County Cllr Bailey and two members of the public also attended.

108/24

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr O Keefe, Borough Cllr Whittington and Borough Cllr Juckes.

109/24

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Atty declared an interest in Appleton Fields and Cllr Roughneen declared an interest in the Finance section relating to payments.

110/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 October 2024 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

111/24

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

Cllr Bailey commented on a number of issues:

Flooding on Back Lane – Cllr Bailey is going to chase up whether the letters have been sent out to the landowners in that area. He also confirmed that work had been carried out on a ditch, however, there was still some work outstanding on the dip. Cllr Roughneen confirmed that the area had flooded following Storm Bert and the water had gone over a drain and into the garden of a home nearby. The flooding lasted for two days.

Round O Quarry application - Cllr Bailey confirmed that he is on the Lancashire County Council Scrutiny Committee for Environment and a meeting will be taking place next week with representatives from other departments and agencies to discuss ongoing issues. He asked if the Parish Council managed to get the water samples tested following his contact with the relevant County Council department. It was confirmed that despite numerous calls about the samples, nobody in the department responded.

Smart meter connection issues– Cllr Bailey has been contacted by residents including some in Newburgh having difficulties with their smart meter connections, resulting in the meter not working. He asked if the Parish Council could ask the residents if they are having issues, so the extent of the problem can be determined.

West Lancashire Borough Council consultation regarding the proposal to close both Park Pool in Ormskirk and Nye Bevan Pool in Skelmersdale. Cllr Bailey stated that this consultation was still ongoing and he wanted to know if the Parish Council knew about it. Lots of schools in the Borough use the two swimming pools and will be affected if they are both closed with no alternative in place. The original estimate to rebuild the two pools was approximately £38 million but with inflation and cost of living increases, the total has now risen to £50 million.

The two residents attending the meeting voiced their concerns over road issues in the village, including speeding, HGVs mounting the footpaths and overgrown vegetation. One resident enquired whether there was any possibility of another zebra crossing on the way out of the village towards Parbold.

The canal footpath between Newburgh and Parbold was also raised as it is difficult to access in winter months especially and a new surface is required similar to the stretch of canal footpaths in Burscough and Appley Bridge. It was confirmed that Borough Cllr Juckes and Parish Cllr Atty had met with representatives from the Canal and River Trust recently to discuss the condition of the footpath. The Canal and River Trust is short of money and can't afford to resurface this stretch of the canal footpath. The Parish Council confirmed that it had put forward a proposal for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies to be used for this purpose, however, the Parish Council couldn't afford the cost to get the job fully estimated so the proposal was not able to go ahead at the time. It was suggested that the Parish Council could consider other funding sources or possibly club together with Parbold Parish Council to fund the purchase of some stones or chippings to help in the short term.

The meeting was reconvened and County Cllr Bailey and the two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

112/24

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

2024/0859/FUL – Proposed single storey to rear of property at Coachman's Cottage, Ash Brow, Newburgh – No comment.

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.

113/24

WORKPLAN

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

The Clerk confirmed that the Police and Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) had been sent some videos provided by a resident showing HGVs mounting the footpath in order to pass each other. The Parish Council has asked the LRSP if it could arrange for a speed monitoring exercise to be carried out on Ash Brow. Another speed device has been placed near Eden Tearooms during November and it is planned that another speed device will be put up on Cobbs Brow Lane in December. A spread sheet is being maintained by the Clerk showing the main data provided by the speed devices and the first edition of the spread sheet has been sent to the relevant officer in Lancashire County Council for information.

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

This issue was covered previously during the public discussion section. It was confirmed that photos of the flooding on Back Lane after Storm Bert have been sent to the County Council.

c) To receive an update on the village footpaths and consider the purchase of a strimmer to clear overgrowth on the public rights of way in the village and agree any actions.

A verbal update was given regarding the Parish footpaths and it was explained that all footpaths had a reference number used by Lancashire County Council to identify them. As Newburgh decided to join the Lancashire County Council Local Footpath Delegation Scheme this year, footpaths will need to be checked on a regular basis and the Parish Council will be responsible for dealing with any areas of overgrowth. The Clerk was asked to send an electronic version of the Newburgh rights of way to Councillors.

The issue of purchasing a strimmer to assist with this task was discussed and it was resolved that a strimmer should be purchased. However, more research needs to be carried out to decide on the best suitable model. An update will be brought to a future Parish Council meeting.

d) To discuss and arrange a date for the next meeting of the Work Plan Priming Group with a view to drafting a list of suggestions for the work plan for 2025.

All Councillors were asked to be present at the Work Plan Priming Group meeting to consider the priorities for next year and propose a list of suggestions for the Parish Work Plan for 2025. It was resolved that the informal meeting would take place on 16 December to start the process. The Clerk will send the latest work plan update for 2024 to all Councillors to enable comments to be submitted before the meeting by anyone unable to attend.

e) To agree proposed dates for the Parish Council meetings in 2025 and agree any necessary actions.

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the list of proposed meeting dates to the school and there did not appear to be any problems. The proposals were based on the usual schedule of the fourth Wednesday in every month apart from August (summer break) and December (due to Christmas). Following discussion, the Councillors agreed to hold the December Parish Council meeting on 10 December 2025. The Clerk was asked to contact the school to confirm the December date.

f) To receive a verbal update on play area issues and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that the two picnic tables had been purchased and will be installed once the weather is suitable. Cllr Roughneen confirmed that he had attended a training session that morning regarding weekly play area inspections, which had been very useful. It was resolved that the records being kept regarding any play area inspections should be reviewed to ensure that the correct information is being recorded in line with the Parish Council insurance policy.

114/24

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 had been successful in obtaining a grant from Awards for All to go towards the cost for a new accessible path around the field, however, there was still a funding shortfall and he asked if the Community Infrastructure Levy funding might be a possible source of grant funding. The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant department at the Borough Council to find out if the project would be appropriate.

115/24

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE WEEKLY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING AND PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING WITH LOCAL VILLAGE GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS.

It was confirmed that the weekly Community Coffee morning is poorly attended most weeks, despite efforts to publicise it as widely as possible around the village. A Christmas Community lunch was suggested at a previous Parish Council meeting and it was resolved that a Christmas Community lunch would be held at the Red Lion on 19 December for Newburgh residents with the Parish Council funding half of the cost of the meal. Entertainment during the day will be provided by the Red Lion. Any residents wishing to attend will have to contact the Red Lion to book a place and it is estimated that the total attending will be in the region of 30/35 residents. A notice publicising the Christmas Community lunch has been put on the village Facebook page and noticeboards in the village.

The posters advertising the Christmas Carol Sing a Long at the Red Lion on 22 December have been designed by the head boy and girl at Newburgh School and will be circulated to every home in the Parish along with the December newsletter.

With regards to holding a community meeting with the local groups and organisations, it was resolved that the issue would be put on the December Parish Council agenda with a view to choosing a date in January and sending out invites to the event at the Red Lion. It is likely to be an evening meeting to enable as many of the groups to attend as possible.

116/24

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON SETTING UP A NEW NEWBURGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME AND AGREE ANY NECESSARY ACTIONS.

It was confirmed that there had been a good response to the request for residents to join the neighbourhood watch scheme in the village, with 49 members now being registered. Postcards and flyers advertising the scheme have been ordered and will be circulated around the village, with the cost being refunded by the Lancashire Combined Watch Forum. At present, Newburgh is the only neighbourhood village in the county with a scheme covering the whole village. It is hoped that the scheme will not only help to reduce crime, but also enhance community spirit and provide additional support and social interaction. Cllr Lea is planning to set up a Whatsapp group once the scheme reaches 50 members and will do a piece for the December newsletter. Cllr Lea was thanked for her efforts on setting up the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village. An update will be provided at a future Parish Council meeting.

117/24

TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO RESPOND TO THE WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY SCHEMES CONSULTATION

It was confirmed that none of the schemes proposed were based in Newburgh, so it was resolved not to comment on this consultation.

118/24

TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE LATEST REPORT REGARDING THE WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME.

The latest report relating to West Lancashire Borough Council Members Allowance Scheme was noted. It was confirmed that the current mileage rate of 45p per mile and the Chairman Allowance of £200 was unchanged. It was resolved that Newburgh Parish Council would continue to adopt the West Lancashire Borough Council Members Allowance Scheme.

119/24

FINANCE

a) To agree Accounts for Payment for November 2024, including the national pay award in relation to the Clerk's salary, schedule attached.

It was resolved to approve the Accounts for payment for November 2024 including noting the national pay award in relation to the Clerk's salary. Payments will be electronic wherever possible.

120/24

TO NOTE THE CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerk's report was noted.

121/24

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

Councillors enquired how it would be possible to find out how electric car points are allocated to areas and whether any are planned for Newburgh. It was felt that the only place that might be suitable was at the Red Lion.

122/24

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on 11 December at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Schedule of Accounts for Payment – November 2024

Ref	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 6.00 Direct Debit
n/a	Nest Pension Scheme	£ 70.00 Direct Debit
281124	HMRC – NI payment	£ 205.04
281124	Mrs S Jones – November salary, backpay and expenses	£ 1,293.33
281124	Mr M Roughneen – batteries for lights	£ 31.17
281124	KC Computers Ltd – printer ink	£ 84.99
281124	N Buts Bin Co Limited – play area picnic tables	£ 1,668.00
281124	Newburgh School – Biodiversity Grant	£ 300.00
281124	LALC – play area inspection training course	£ 150.00
281124	West Lancashire Borough Council – ID badges	£ 50.00
281124	Altham Parish Council – speed device hire for October 2024	£ 228.40
	TOTAL	<u>£ 3,786.93</u>