

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Newburgh School, Back Lane, Newburgh on 28 May 2025, commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mike Roughneen, Chair, Newburgh Parish Council and Mrs S Jones, Clerk of the Council.

11 members of the public including Parish Councillors also attended.

1. Parish Council Annual report.

The Chair presented the Annual Report:

Dear Resident,

Where has the year gone? It only seems like five minutes since I wrote last year's report. The Parish Council continues to try and do what's best for our village, despite constraints from West Lancashire Borough and Lancashire County Councils. At a meeting with the Borough Council Clean & Green team at the end of April, we were told that there would be changes to some village services due to the level of cuts required to balance the budget. Some of our services will be cut with grass cutting reduced from 8 cuts to 6 cuts per year and half of our village litter bins are likely to be taken away over the next two years. In addition, there will also be reduced street cleansing and the number of weed control sprays will reduce from 3 sprays to 2 sprays per year. Recent County Council elections have resulted in many new Councillors, which means greater uncertainty over what services we can expect going forward.

On a brighter note, congratulations to Newburgh school and staff for the outstanding category in the Ofstead inspection. Our beautiful village came a close second place in the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition in 2024 and the Post Office received a Highly Commended certificate in the shop category. We have entered again this year and we are hoping to go one better. Congratulations to the Trustees of Appleton Fields, the recently completed path around the meadow looks great and work continues on this important village amenity.

Here is an update on our ongoing issues

- Round O Quarry is still not resolved but we have had some success in how the restoration should be finalised
- With regard to flooding, some work has been done on Back Lane, Course Lane and a resident's property in Newacres. We now wait for a period of rain to see if the work has been successful or not.
- We continue to get meaningful data on volumes and speeds from our Speed Indicator Device and we hope to have a meeting later in year with the County Council Highways Department to discuss how we can improve the safety of our village roads.

We look forward to Newburgh Fair on 21st June. Thanks to Anne Menarry and her Newburgh Fair Association team. The Parish Council will be having a stall at the Fair so

please stop by and meet your Councillors, have a chat or ask us any questions. We are also encouraging residents to sign up for our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and especially our Clerk Sandra for their support over the last 12 months

Regards

Mike Roughneen, Chair.

2. Issues raised by members of the public

None of the members of the public wished to raise any issues.

3. The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.10pm.