

North Newnton Parish Council Meeting
Monday 24th April 2023 at 7pm at Seven Stars, Bottlesford

Minutes

Present: Cllr Tony Mulliken (TM) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr David Brisker (DB) (Vice-Chairman), Tom Ellen (TE), Cllr Richard Cook (RC) and Cllr Paul Oatway (PO). In attendance: Parish Clerk Rosie Charnock (RC), 2 parishioners.

23/ Matters of the Council

22 Absence, apologies and declaration of interests

Apologies from Councillors: Cllr Andy Gray, who was unable to attend due to a family bereavement.

Action	Person	Outcome
TE, DB, TM to attend defibrillators and replace electrodes and batteries as required.	TE. DB. TM	Complete
Investigate fibre broadband opportunities	TM	Complete. This scheme if not available in this area.
Email Deborah Bourne about whether it is possible for a parish council to have two vice-chairs rather than a chairman.	RC	Complete. There was no response, but after some internet research it has been decided that two vice chairs can run the council and nominate a chair for each meeting.

23/23 Adjournment. Questions from parishioners (max 3 mins/question. 15 mins total):

The question was raised about whether the council had an up to date emergency and flood plan as there is not a visible document on the parish council website. TM responded by asking about whether the three hamlets had 'what's app' groups which have proven to be a quick and effective way of getting messages out to a community. There are two 'what's app' groups in Bottlesford and one in Hilcott. TM was going to find out if there was something similar set up in North Newnton. TM acknowledged that the roads have flooded this winter and this has been caused by a drainage problem.

ACTION: RC to find relevant emergency plan and flooding plans and update for approval at the next council meeting. 24/05/23

ACTION: TM to find out about a North Newnton 'what's app' group. 24/05/23

23/ Update from Pewsey Vale West Wiltshire Councillor Paul Oatway QPM:

24 PO reported that the budget for 2023 – 2024 for Wiltshire council is £465 million. There has been a 4.9% increase in the precept for households across Wiltshire, but the forecast is that the increases should be smaller in the years to come, partly due to the number of new homes being built in the county. There are reserves of money that have not been spent which councillors are suggesting be used to help increase some existing budget areas. PO informed the council that the Parish Steward scheme will now be run by a different company, so there may be some initial problems as the transition takes place between companies.

The new rural bus scheme is making progress, PO showed all present a picture of one of the new buses, they are small with between 12 and 15 seats, but this enables the buses to reach more rural locations and can also make recruitment of drivers easier. The bus will be able to be booked using an app or by phone, they will cost a similar amount to a normal bus fare and therefore be free for those over 65. Five of these buses will be operating across the Vale of Pewsey at any one time and they will link villages with Marlborough and Devizes.

The new Wiltshire code of conduct for councillors has been agreed and will be sent out to Parish councils with a suggestion that they also adopt this.

There have been many recent proposals for changes of rights of way to become bridle ways, PO stated that these will take a long time for the council to look at.

PO also reported that from 2025 parish councils will be charged for an election, even if it is not contested. PO estimated that this will cost North Newnton Parish Council around £300 and this will need to be budgeted for in an election year.

PO informed the council that the current waste collection contract is up for renewal shortly and the

new contract will be likely to include food waste and charges for garden waste collection will remain in place. An extra £150,000 is being budgeted to help combat fly tipping, £400,000 has been allocated to LHFIG and £200,000 allocated to upgrade white lines on the road over the next three years. £500,000 has been invested into emptying gulleys in the county, which should help with road flooding. The gully clearing teams will not be Wiltshire owned, rather than contracted out. PO met with Andrew Ford about the gulleys in Hilcott and PO is going to provide him with the email address of the gully team. A second gully is going to be put in near Falkners Cottage in North Newnton. In addition to this an extra £4 million is being spent on repairing pot holes, and £8.1 million on making the roads safer.

23/ Updates from Committees

25 1: Hilcott Village Hall Committee: Carolyn Whistler (CW) spoke on behalf of the Hilcott Village Hall Committee and reported that they have received a very generous donation as a legacy from the family of the late Mary Gale, who was born in the parish and attended the hall when it was the Church room in Hilcott. The committee would like to offer their many thanks to the family and to those who donated in Mary's memory. The money will be used for practical purposes i.e. continuing to clear the land at Barnard Meadow and the costs involved with this. The committee have a trusty band of volunteers standing by to help with physical endeavours and publicity work. The aim is to have a small car park to serve the hall and a community space for all to enjoy. The committee will, of course, have to apply for planning permission once an environmental assessment is carried out. Fundraising continues as does the bidding for grants from the National Lottery and others. The committee thanked the parish council for their continued support.

TM asked about the fencing funded by the Pewsey Area Board. CW explained that once the land is cleared then the fencing will go up. The boundaries have been agreed after meeting with the farmer Andrew Ford. TM asked if the committee had a business plan to move the project forward. CW explained that there was a draft business plan in the process of being completed.

2: St. James's Church, North Newnton: There were no new updates from the church.

3: Clerk's Report: RC reported that the last few weeks have been busy with the end of the financial year. The 2022 – 2023 budget and bank reconciliations have been completed. The internal audit has been carried out and the AGAR sheets will be signed in tonight's meeting before being submitted to the external auditor, this information will also appear on the website.

23/ Update from external meetings:

26 Emergency Planning Meeting: DB explained that the main discussion at the meeting had been about the emergency signal test that took place at 3pm on 23rd April 2023.

PCAP: No councillor was able to attend.

23/ Planning:

27 No relevant planning applications to be discussed.

23/ Projects:

28 1: SIDs update. RiC has contacted a person who is able to put the posts in for the SIDs to be set up, the next stage is to mark out the exact locations of these posts and agree costs. RiC will meet with TM on Friday 28th April 2023 to put small stakes in exact spots for the SIDs. RiC will then progress with this. TE asked PO if it would be worth contacting Mark Stansby to ask for advice for where to best place the SID on Upavon Road (A345). PO suggested that near the bus stop would seem an appropriate place, Mark Stansby would be a good person to contact and could put a pole up there.

ACTION: TE to contact Mark Stansby about SID on Upavon Road (24/05/2023)

2: North Newnton footpath update. LHFIG (happening on 26th April 2023): TE explained that there is a sign that is too low currently on the new footpath, this is going to be altered and road markings have been refreshed in this area. Phase 3 of the footpath will link the first part of the footpath with the bus stop, with an estimated cost of £37,000. TE presented a diagram that he is currently working on displaying the different phases of the footpath on a map, with all the costings detailed on this. When this diagram is complete it will be presented on the parish council website. A parishioner asked if there was potential to put pedestrian crossings in the area. PO explained that this would be a county project rather than a LHFIG decision.

3: Progress in changing stiles to footpaths at the back of the Seven Stars, Bottlesford to kissing gates to improve access. This is an ongoing project and there was nothing new to report at the time of the meeting.

4: Spring Clean 2023 update. DB thanked all the volunteers who helped this year in a successful clean up. He suggested that the spring clean take place even earlier next year, before the grass starts to get long.

23/ Finance:

29 1: Bank reconciliations: up to April 2023: Significant expenses in March 2023 were Clerk pay: £346.56. St. James Cemetery contribution £300. The VAT return was completed and £2445.26 was returned to the account.

2: Cheques to be ratified or signed: £1.84 to clerk for income tax fluctuations in 2022 – 2023, HMRC for clerk income tax £240.40

3: AGAR: Internal audit completed and presented to councillors. TM signed the AGAR exemption certificate and accounting statements.

23/30 Future Agenda Items.

1: Discussion of any ideas raised by parishioners for ways to spend parish money.

2: DB raised the issue of how many times a pedestrian has to cross a main road in North Newton to get to and from the bus stop if you live on Woodbridge Close, and worked out it was three of four times. He has a concern that this may have made pedestrians in the area less safe than they perhaps were. PO disagreed with this as he stated that the visibility for crossing the road in these places is good and that the new footpaths will prevent people from having to walk on the road and pavements will always be safer. TE explained that phase 3 of the footpath project will reduce the number of times pedestrians have to cross the road.

3. TM nominated DB to chair the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 24th May 2023, TE seconded this and all voted in favour.

23/ External Meetings:

31 Pewsey LH&FIG: Wednesday 26th April, TE to attend.

Pewsey Area Board: Monday 22nd May 2023, 7pm location TBC. AG to attend.

PCAP: Thursday 20th July 2023, TM to attend.

Parish Council Meetings:

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 24th May 2023, 7.15pm. St. James's Church, North Newton

Annual Parish Meeting, Saturday 27th May 2023, 11am, The Seven Stars, Bottlesford

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 3rd July 2023, 7pm, The Seven Stars, Bottlesford

Date	Action	Person
24/05/2023	Find relevant emergency plan and flooding plans and update for approval at the next council meeting.	RC
24/05/2023	Find out about a North Newton 'what's app' group	TM
24/05/2023	Contact Mark Stansby about SID on Upavon Road	TE