

## **North Newnton Parish Council**

**Annual Meeting of the Parish, held at The Seven Stars, Bottlesford on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 commencing at 11am**

**In attendance: Cllr Tony Mulliken (TM), Cllr David Brisker (DB), Cllr Tom Ellen (TE), Cllr Rich Cook (RiC), Cllr for Pewsey Vale West: Paul Oatway (PO). Five parishioners.**

### **Minutes**

1. Tony Mulliken (TM) (Vice-Chairman of the North Newnton Parish Council) welcomed everyone. Apologies were sent from Cllr Andy Gray, who was away on business. The councillors and clerk all introduced themselves to the parishioners present. TM thanked Graham Thomson for allowing the council to hold their meeting at The Seven Stars.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were signed by Cllr DB as a true copy.
3. The Report by the two vice chairmen of North Newnton Parish Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 to 30 April 2023 is available at [www.nnpc.org.uk](http://www.nnpc.org.uk).
4. **Reports from community groups:**

4.1: PCAP Annual Report was summarized by the clerk (RC) a full copy is available at [www.nnpc.org.uk](http://www.nnpc.org.uk)

4.2: Hilcott Village Hall Committee. Carolyn Whistler (CW) gave an annual update of progress with Hilcott Village Hall. A fully copy is available at [www.nnpc.org.uk](http://www.nnpc.org.uk). TM expressed admiration for the Hilcott Village Hall Committee with their perseverance with this project.

4.3: St. James' Church Committee. Jennifer Brisker (JB gave an annual update from the church.) She explained to all present that the church is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with refreshments available. A new informal service called 'Café Church' has started and is growing in popularity. The evening of stories from Tony Mulliken has been rescheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023, with money raised going towards funding the updates to the church including the installation of a toilet. On

the 9th November the church will host a talk on carbon neutral initiatives. The winter warmer appeal was successful and supplied hoodies for under 5s to two local charities, this initiative will launch again this winter. JB wanted to thank all the volunteers who make it possible for North Newnton to be the only parish in the team to have the 'Messenger' delivered to every house. The project to install a toilet and add a kitchenette into the building is ongoing. Cracks have appeared in the bitumen in the church roof, they are awaiting a quote to see what the cost of fixing this will be. There are three new church council members and they are looking forward to the year ahead.

TM expressed thanks to JB and the Church council, on behalf of the parish council, for all their hard work for the parish.

**5. Wiltshire Councillor for Pewsey Vale West, Paul Oatway QPM (PO).**

PO reported that Wiltshire Council have budgeted £13.1 million to be taken out of reserves to help in key areas. The council have received £1 million from the government for Vale of Pewsey buses. The buses have been bought, there is a project leader. The buses will link up with Marlborough, Devizes, Bedwyn station and Pewsey station.

Wiltshire council highways are focusing on approving the conditions of the roads and repairing pot holes, but this is a huge job, with a lot of work still left to do. The Parish Steward system will return in June. The drainage system is now owned by Wiltshire and they can be emailed directly now with any problems.

There are plans to put EV charging points up around the county. The precept increase is predicted to not be as high as this year in the following years as there are so many new homes being built in the county.

Phase 3 of the North Newnton footpath is well under way. PO thanked the parish council for their support with this project.

PO addressed the issue of flooding in Hilcott. Andrew Ford is doing some drainage work and then this will be followed up by some work from Wiltshire Council. PO will support the project to try get Bottlesford changed to a 20mph zone.

**6. Presentation of Parish Awards**

**7. Questions from the public**

CW asked if the topographical survey for phase 3 will be paid for with parish council money? TE responded that this will be paid for by section 106 money.

DB raised a question to the parishioners present. DB informed the parishioners that a suggestion has been made to install gates as you enter each hamlet. They are attractive and could potentially slow drivers down. How would the parishioners prefer the signs on these to be worded? With the individual hamlet names or with 'Parish of North Newnton'?

CW responded that this was looked into a few years ago and that is a great idea. CW would prefer for it to say 'Parish of North Newnton'.

JB commented that the Hilcott village sign near Bottlesford needs replacing. TE will raise this at the next LHFIG meeting.

PO commented that he will support the idea of gates and LHFIG should be able to provide some funding for this project.

A parishioner suggested renaming North Newnton as Woodbridge. This is what it is called on old maps. All present seemed to like this idea, as all three hamlets would have an individual name and belong to the parish of North Newnton. PO will bring this idea up with democratic services. The parish council supported this idea.

TM explained that the council are also working on changing the gates on some footpaths behind The Seven Stars (3 styles to be changed to spring loaded gates), making them more accessible to cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. Parishioners present supported this plan. PO explained that an application could be made to the Pewsey Area Board for funding support for this project. RC will investigate this further.

Attendees had the opportunity to have an informal chat with the councillors.

Rosie Charnock

Clerk to North Newnton Parish Council

27/05/2023