



Newbald Parish Council

Annual Report – May 2015

Newbald Parish Council (NPC) has statutory duties, such as considering planning applications, looking after the Church grounds and cemetery and caring for our common lands.

As such, as the year has unfolded we have continued to conduct Council business and meet our obligations in respect of the village's maintenance and our duty of oversight concerning the planning process.

But as a responsible council, NPC also works to address other matters, which whilst strictly outside its remit, it feels bound to act upon due to their importance to our community and residents.

Therefore, it continues to work with partner agencies on such issues as road safety & maintenance; care of our wildlife and environment; protection and improvement of our amenities and the health and safety of our parishioners.

These and other responsibilities place a heavy workload on NPC, resulting in our Councillors and Clerk devoting considerable time and effort to regularly delivering outstanding achievements.

What Have We Been Doing?

Environment

Much of our non-statutory activity surrounds **protecting and enhancing our village's environment** and in this regard, the last year has seen a number of successes.

As well as continuing to work closely with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) in managing and protecting **The Becksies** nature reserve, we agreed to appoint them to maintain two sections of the beck: that running through The Mires and that between Townend Road and The Becksies.

We have also asked YWT to keep a 'watching brief' on the rest of the beck, performing an annual check and advising on any work that needs doing.

The Mires has also seen activity surrounding its **trees**, where those that have been damaged or become diseased, have been removed in readiness for planting of replacements later this year.

Heritage

November saw the village commemorate the start of The Great War and the opening of our village school, both occurring in 1914.

To mark these events, NPC oversaw the design and building of a Centenary Bench on The Green and organised a successful and poignant commemorative event on Remembrance Sunday.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Gavin Steward for designing the bench and John Danby for building it, along with Gavin's assistance.

The construction was made possible through funding from commuted sums and time given generously by John and Gavin.

Funding

Without doubt, an achievement which will make a vast difference to our community in the very near future is NPC's securing of the **Sober Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund**.

The fund, which was awarded by the developers after the success of negotiations instigated by NPC, is worth £24,600 per year and will be distributed *only* within Newbald!

Our charities and interest groups have already begun making applications to NPC for grants and it is sure to be the source of much needed funding in our village for many years to come.

Protecting & Developing Amenities

Few would disagree that our village pub is an important hub and crucial to village's character.

With this in mind, NPC agreed to seek '**Asset of Community Value**' status for **the Tiger Inn**. Awarded this year, it is the first pub in the East Riding of Yorkshire to be granted this and gives protection should the owners decide to close or sell it.

In fact we would have six months to look for a solution that would keep it open.

We have also been successful in persuading the **Tiger's** owners to fund the replacement of the **concrete paving** path which leads to the front door. It was agreed this path was not in keeping with The Green and surroundings and it will now be replaced very soon with more traditional materials.

Although we have yet to secure a viable solution, we are also actively working to facilitate a new **village store**, which was identified in our Village Survey as a key requirement for the vast majority of parishioners.

After promising negotiations to open a store at the Tiger pub stalled recently, we are still optimistic that with the help of those in the community who are keen to bring plans for a new shop to fruition, a way forward will be identified that NPC can actively support.

Anyone interested in helping this come about should contact our Clerk.

Public Safety

Also highlighted in the CLP was the need to examine if anything could be done to help with emergency medical response times. Although we have been working with the authorities in this respect, we have also taken steps to help meet concerns by organising first aid training sessions.

However, to address the specific need for urgent action in the case of heart attacks, we have applied for and secured a grant which will fund a **defibrillator** being placed in our telephone box on The Green.

The device which can be operated without any training, will replace the telephone which has fallen out of use due to the use of mobiles and should be available in the coming months.

Community Led Plan

In 2014 we published our new Community Led Plan and since then we have been working to bring about some of the objectives it outlined. As well as the attempts to address the loss of our village store outlined above, here are a few examples of matters we are progressing.

The proliferation of wind turbines was of great concern to those expressing their views during the CLP's writing.

Consequently, we have successfully lobbied against a number of **wind turbine applications** and have supported activity to resist the extension of larger wind farms close to our village. In order to greater empower the wider community in this regard, we have offered our support to those opposing wind farm development in Sancton.

Their campaign is well organised and they have a web page at www.newbald.com, which is constantly updated by our Clerk. Please visit the page if you wish to become involved in the campaign, or simply to get further information.

We have also begun to consider how **The Green** can be protected and made better use of in the future.

As part of our considerations, preliminary discussions have been held with regard traffic management and whether the closure of one or more of the roads across The Green might improve its utility, whilst at the same time help to address road safety concerns.

Clearly The Green is a hugely important hub and village asset and our wish is to ensure it is maintained and protected for future generations. As such, any alterations that may be considered would only take place after full consultation with the community and with parishioners' agreement.

High speed broadband provision was also highlighted in the CLP as a matter of concern for parishioners and your Council has been lobbying hard to bring an improvement in internet access to our village.

As well as having on-going discussions with existing providers, we have met with BT, ERYC, our County Councillors and MP, with a view to impressing upon them the importance we place on achieving high speed connectivity for Newbald.

Following these discussions, we are pursuing several avenues of investigation and we are optimistic that a significant improvement in service provision will result in the not too distant future.

For many years, the issues surrounding access to the **playing fields** occupied NPC and the wider community.

Finally, earlier this year and following a public enquiry and subsequent appeal, we saw the implementation of an order to create a public footpath along the whole length of **Spring Lane / Mucky Lane**.

Although this does not in itself protect vehicular access to the playing fields, it does ensure the Lane can never be closed to the public. Furthermore, whilst the width agreed in the order does not increase it significantly, it cannot be reduced any further.

However, whilst vehicles can and should continue to use the Lane for access to the playing field and residences surrounding it, NPC and the PFA remain concerned in respect of the future development of the grounds and the subsequent need for greater access.

With this in mind, NPC conducted discussions with ERYC and other interested parties during the year with a view to finding a practical solution to these concerns.

One possibility was to relocate the playing fields and turn the existing fields over to alternative recreational facilities. This would mean the community not only gained a playing field and sporting facility with long term viability, but also an additional amenity for future generations to enjoy.

Although initial feasibility studies have placed doubts on the viability of this approach, NPC is still committed to helping the PFA pursue options for the playing field that will secure the facility's future.

Other notable works in progress for NPC are: **'Co-op corner'**, the land at the corner of Eastgate and Galegate; an extension to the cemetery and the provision of allotments.

Co-op corner is the subject of an application by NPC to acquire the land from ERYC by means of a community asset transfer. This will mean that responsibility for its maintenance would fall to the Council and we can then make plans for its future.

As part of our overall consideration of the cemetery grounds and their perimeter fencing, we have instigated discussions surrounding the possibility of extending the cemetery. As well as providing increased burial provision, this will also allow us to instate a larger garden of remembrance for the interment of ashes.

Consideration of providing garden allotments stalled due to the need to do so in the light of the cemetery extension and the possibility of relocating the playing field. However, it is hoped that we can readdress this matter in the coming months.

Councillor Resignations and Appointments

During the year two Councillors have resigned and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mamta Joshi and Derek Hart for their service and dedication.

During the year we welcomed two new councillors: Meryl Bainbridge and Ed Openshaw. I would like to welcome them to the Council and thank them for their commitment.

Looking forward

So, this year has again been a full yet rewarding one for NPC. There is no doubt that with the exciting developments surrounding funding and improved amenities beginning to come to fruition, next year will be equally challenging.

Work will continue to support and improve our village amenities and to fulfil our duties with care and diligence. Most importantly NPC will continue to work hard to represent the best interests of our community.

Chris Waite

Chairman
Newbald Parish Council

Chairman Chris Waite announced his resignation from Newbald Parish Council after delivering this speech on 18 May 2015 at the Annual Meeting of the Parish. His reasons were personal. Newbald Parish Council would like to thank him for his dedicated service of 17 years as a Councillor, 5 of those as Chairman, and wishes him all the best for the future. His contribution to the achievements of the Council has been immense.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

2013/2014		2014/2015
£	RECEIPTS	£
28,480.00	Precept	29,364.00
1,167.81	ERYC Council Tax support funding = grant to reduce precept	0.00
1,160.04	Allotments	1,526.32
513.00	Cemetery	3,020.00
308.62	Grass Cutting PFA	325.00
2.53	Interest	2.48
0.00	Big Lottery Fund Grant	0.00
1,052.68	VAT recovered	2,089.84
750.00	Insurance Payment for Church Wall Repair	0.00
50.00	Cashback on printer	0.00
100.00	Paid back into account via Clerk's expenses and by cash	94.99
0.00	Commuted sums for centenary bench	1,273.00
0.00	Former charity money ring fenced for good causes	4,630.63
33,584.68	Total	42,326.26
	PAYMENTS	
17,723.37	General Administration	18,304.52
949.97	Section S137 Payments	270.22
2,359.51	Legal Fees	0.00
	Running Costs:	
1,197.00	Allotments	1,197.00
3,323.90	Cemetery maintenance costs	563.43
170.00	Clock	155.00
595.87	Grass Cutting PFA	650.04
4,350.00	Grass cutting churchyd+cemetery	4,350.00
1,522.97	Street Lighting	1,342.29
0.00	Severe weather	0.00
865.00	Churchyard maintenance costs	200.00
774.00	Maintenance work - Mires and Green	0.00
0.00	Election Expenses	0.00
15.00	Training	20.00
0.00	Big lottery fund repayment due	256.67
593.00	Centenary bench project	1,424.18
2,089.24	VAT	832.36
36,528.83	Total	29,565.71
<u>-2,944.15</u>	NET PAYMENTS/RECEIPTS	<u>12,760.55</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

29,076.71	BALANCE brought forward at 1st April 2014	26,132.56
-2,944.15	Add Net Income/deficit for year as shown above	12,760.55
<u>26,132.56</u>	Fund Balance carried forward at 31 March 2015	<u>38,893.11</u>

These cumulative funds are represented by

Current Account Balance	35,326.38
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00
add unbanked receipts	0.00
Deposit account balance	3,566.73
	<u>38,893.11</u>

N P C C O N T A C T D E T A I L S & C O U N C I L L O R S

Suzanne Smith	Cllr. John Barrett	827662	Cllr. Beccy O'Sullivan	827175
Clerk to Newbald Parish Council	Cllr. Meryl Bainbridge	801112	Cllr. Beverley Smith	827153
Sandalgrove, Townside Road	Cllr. John Howard	828932	Cllr. Gavin Steward	801174
North Newbald, YO43 4SL	Cllr. Elsie Huntington	827479	Cllr. Paul Weatherstone	828325
Tel: 01430 828919	Cllr. Ed Openshaw	827589		
E-mail: clerk@newbald.co.uk				


Contact Details correct 29 May 2015


Newbald Parish Council Attendance Register 2014-2015


Attendance Newbald Parish Council Full Council Meeting	12.05.14	02.06.14	02.06.14	07.07.14	11.08.14	01.09.14	06.10.14 Ex	06.10.14	01.12.2014	15.12.2014	12.01.2015	02.02.2015	02.03.2015	13.04.2015
Meryl Bainbridge						A			A			A		
John Barrett				A										A
Derek Hart				A		A					A	A	A	
John Howard										A				
Elsie Huntington														
Mamta Joshi	A	A		A										
Edward Openshaw													A	
Beccy O'Sullivan														
Beverley Smith		A		A	A		A			A	A			
Gavin Steward							A	A						
Chris Waite						A								
Paul Weatherstone				A										A

Attendance Finance & Compliance Committee	16.06.14	21.07.14	15.09.14	20.10.14	20.11.14	19.01.2015	16.02.2015	09.03.2015	20.04.2015
Beccy O'Sullivan							A	A	
Gavin Steward					A			A	
Chris Waite		A	A						
Paul Weatherstone				A					A
Edward Openshaw									ANC
John Howard									ANC
Elsie Huntington									ANC

Key

 = Attended

 = Absent

 = Not on Council/ Committee

Attendance Planning & Highways Committee	19.05.14	16.06.14	21.07.14	15.09.14	20.10.14	20.11.14	16.03.2015	20.04.2015
John Barrett								
John Howard								A
Elsie Huntington								
Gavin Steward	A			A		A	A	
Chris Waite	A		A					
Paul Weatherstone	A				A			A
Beccy O'Sullivan								ANC

ANC Attended although not on committee