



Newbald Parish Council

Annual Report – May 2014

Chairman's Overview of Council Achievements

Newbald Parish Council (NPC) continues to fulfil its statutory duties, which cover consideration of planning applications, caring for the church grounds and cemetery and acting as custodian in respect of The Green and our other common lands.

However, in addition it continues to act in respect of other matters, which although strictly outside its remit are nonetheless important to Newbald and its parishioners.

Thus it continues to seek a solution in respect of Playing Fields access, has represented the village and protected its interests surrounding local wind farm developments and has lobbied ERYC to bring improvements in services and highways matters.

Consequentially, NPC's workload shows no sign of diminishing, resulting in Councillors and lay volunteers devoting considerable time to deliver some outstanding achievements.

Community Led Plan

Chief amongst these this year has been the successful delivery of our new Community Led Plan, published in March.

Almost two years in the making, the importance of this document should not be underestimated, as it will determine NPC's strategic direction for the next ten years and be invaluable to our community in supporting grant applications etc.

Producing the plan required us to undertake a detailed public consultation, including a comprehensive survey delivered to every home and supported by face to face interviews.

Subsequently, a detailed analysis of the findings was conducted, resulting in recommendations that were incorporated into a draft report, before both full and abridged versions of the CLP were published.

The amount of work involved in delivering our CLP was enormous and I would like to thank and commend all those who gave up their precious time to help produce it, particularly members of our Community Development Working Party who spearheaded the process.

Council Matters & Structure

In view of its demanding responsibilities, NPC continues to work within a structure consisting of two Standing Executive Committees (SEC) and two Working Parties.

This not only helps spread our workload, it also results in diverse matters being given greater emphasis and more important issues receiving concentrated attention.

Importantly, it helps involve parishioners directly in our activity, with Working Parties incorporating lay members as well as Councillors. These bodies bring focus to such areas as public health and safety and community development.

Of course the full Council meets every month and parishioners are always invited to attend, be it to bring specific matters to its attention, or simply to see what we do!

Spring / Mucky / Back Lane

For many years 'The Lane' has been at the centre of a dispute regarding access to the Playing Fields and beyond.

The importance of the Playing Fields and access to them, was clearly highlighted in the responses to our Community Survey. Villagers agreed how vital an amenity they are, providing not only sporting facilities, but also a venue for the annual Gala and other community events.

Additionally, they're seen as pivotal in supporting Newbald's sense of community spirit: something it was agreed was a vital component in retaining Newbald's attractiveness to existing residents and newcomers alike.

Consequently, over the years NPC has devoted much time and effort to resolving the matter on the village's behalf and in 2011 we successfully obtained an order for a Public Footpath (DMMO) to be designated over the whole of the Lane's length.

Intended to enshrine in law public access on foot, the order was unfortunately challenged resulting in a Public Inquiry. Despite the inquiry upholding the order, a further challenge was mounted this year and at the time of writing (and yet another year on), we are still awaiting a final decision.

Of course this does not address the matter of vehicular access to the Playing Fields. Therefore, in our CLP we have reaffirmed our intention to facilitate a satisfactory resolution in this respect too and are currently examining some potential options.

Planning, Highways & Infrastructure

NPC continues to monitor the condition of our local highways and services, make representations to ERYC and other agencies where it believes action is required.

This year, following successful lobbying, we have achieved the instatement of a 40mph speed limit along the A1034, between the entrances to our village.

We have also lobbied ERYC with regard inadequate surface water drainage within our parish and work has already been undertaken this year. The problem has historically affected High Hunsley Road, where 'run-off' has resulted in gulleys forming at the roadside and shale being spread across its surface.

As well as reinstating the 'grips', which are dug into the grass verge to collect excess water, we were also successful in having the most dangerous roadside gulleys filled until a more permanent solution can be found.

NPC has also been active in assisting residents of the Mires find a solution to occasional flooding, liaising with Yorkshire Water and ERYC, who after taking emergency action have now completed works to permanently address the matter.

In terms of general maintenance, our Planning & Highways SEC continues to monitor our highways and footpaths, advising ERYC of necessary works as they arise and liaising with residents in respect of such matters as overhanging trees and unsafe walls etc.

NPC also continues to hold stocks of grit and have contractors standing by to clear paths during the winter months should the need arise.

In terms of planning, NPC continues to carry out its duties in respect of examining and passing comments on all applications that affect the Parish.

One such recent example was an application in respect of the building and land on the corner of South Newbald Road and Trundlegate: The grey corrugated 'Officers' Mess' building.

The plans would have seen the building demolished in favour of a modern bungalow, resulting in the loss of a unique village landmark and in the view of NPC, a development that was inappropriate and out of keeping with the surrounding landscape.

NPC registered its objections with ERYC planning officers and lobbied East Riding councillors, with a view to halting further work on the site and pursuing a rejection of the plans.

I am pleased to report the application was indeed rejected.

Therefore, although our powers are largely advisory, through exercising due diligence and lobbying ERYC effectively, in many cases we can be successful in achieving positive outcomes for Newbald.

Church Yard & Cemetery

The maintenance of the church yard and the cemetery, as well as matters relating to health and safety within them, remain a priority and we have again carried on substantial works and improvements this year.

At the rear of the cemetery we have made safe and restored the red brick building, in order that it can again be considered a useful asset. This has included repairing the roof, door and window. As part of an on-going programme of improvements, we now have plans to restore the interior.

These improvements will also see the instatement of a garden of remembrance and may also result in a cemetery extension and new perimeter fence if permission and funding can be obtained.

During the year NPC also surveyed the Churchyard trees with a view to ensuring they posed no safety concerns and to confirm their state of health. After completing the survey, they have been given a clean bill of health for the next three years.

The grass in both areas has been regularly cut and trees, shrubs and monuments continue to be monitored and inspected for safety, with remedial work carried out where necessary.

Otherwise, the Church Clock received yearly maintenance and in the Church Yard it was necessary to carry out some reconstruction on the perimeter wall following a motor accident.

Village Hall

The recent Community Survey demonstrated that parishioners consider the Village Hall as a key village asset, providing a venue for many activities and events.

Whilst not directly responsible for its management and maintenance, NPC has continued to work with the Village Hall Management Committee with a view to developing a strategy for The Hall that will ensure its continued security and relevance within the structure of the village.

Community Support & Emergency Planning

(i) Dog fouling

NPC is committed to supporting and promoting responsible dog ownership in our village through a programme of activities and information provision. As part of this, the Community Support Working Party held Newbald's first 'Dog Day' last May.

This was aimed at providing an opportunity for dog owners to meet each other and engage with local dog welfare organisations and charities. It was so successful, a similar event will take place again this year.

However, some difficulties associated with dog ownership persist, with the problems of dog fouling and barking dogs being recurring themes.

With this in mind, NPC have requested the instatement of revised dog control orders, including 'on lead' status for the Playing Field, Churchyard and Cemetery.

Additionally we are engaging with ERYC in a cooperative approach to implementing anti-dog fouling regulations.

(ii) Emergency Planning

Our Community Support Working Party has successfully developed and put in place an Emergency Plan, which provides Newbald Parish Council with a definitive action plan and a coordinated approach in the unlikely event of a major emergency arising in the village.

(iii) First aid

The Community Support Working Party is also pursuing its aim of encouraging residents to train in first aid and is also spearheading a plan to introduce 1st responders to Newbald.

Both these initiatives are aimed providing rapid medical assistance for patients in the initial stages of a medical emergency, with a view to improving their outcome.

NPC believes that these initiatives will make a real difference to community health.

Community Development

As well as their sterling effort in spearheading the delivery of the Community Led Plan, the Community Development Working Party is looking into the possibility of extending the provision of allotments in the village.

As one of the proposed sites for these is close to the land earmarked for a potential cemetery extension, they are now working on both these projects with a view to bringing forward recommendations in June this year.

Ecological Matters

Several issues have presented themselves to NPC in the last year, which have required us to seek assistance in forming appropriate ecological responses.

Firstly the stretch of the Beck along The Mires was invaded by Himalayan Balsam; a weed which is legally required to be controlled.

Secondly, we became increasingly concerned for the wellbeing of our water vole population, again found in the Beck.

We were grateful to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for their rapid and economical response to both these matters, which allowed us to issue advice to residents with regard the water voles and to agree the safe clearance of the weed.

The Becksies also continues to be effectively and sympathetically managed by them.

Funding, Grants & Donations

Within its limited budget, NPC continues to consider requests for financial help from worthy causes and community groups. 2013 - 2014 has been no exception.

This year we have granted the Village Hall £400 to help with architects' fees; the Playing Fields Association £100 in respect of new nets; the school £300 to help produce their centenary mugs and the community £150 to provide Christmas lights.

NPC has limited funds available for grants, but through its work as the community's representative on the wind farm community funding panel, we have helped local causes benefit from the receipt of substantial grants. We will continue to work diligently in this regard.

Other Activity

This year NPC has considered how our community might mark the approaching centenary of the Great War and also that of our school!

I am pleased to confirm that plans are well advanced to place a 'Centenary Bench' on The Green, which as well as marking these important events, will also provide more aesthetically pleasing seating for villagers and visitors alike.

It is hoped the bench will be in place during Summer 2014.

NPC also continues to develop its website and I would encourage parishioners to view and benefit from the information it provides. However, we continue to improve our printed newsletter (published quarterly), with increased levels of information.

New Councillors

During the year three Councillors have resigned and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Baker, Mick Richards and Mick Jackson, for their many years of service and dedication.

During the year we welcomed Howard Fuller, Beverley Smith and Derek Hart to the Council.

Looking forward

So, this year has been a busy yet a rewarding one for NPC: I have no doubt that next year will be just the same!

Following the publication of the CLP, we are now beginning the work of delivering against its action points, including giving support to the reestablishment of a village store; something that was seen as a key requirement by our residents.

We will also continue to give priority to vehicle access to the Playing Fields and to support the development of our other village amenities.

Although, it is certain that new challenges will arise throughout the coming year, the parish can be assured that NPC will carry out our statutory duties with care and due diligence, whilst working hard to represent the village's best interests.

Chris Waite

Chairman

Newbald Parish Council

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014

2012/2013		2013/2014
£	RECEIPTS	£
29,334.00	Precept	29,647.81
970.64	Allotments	1,160.04
1,469.00	Cemetery	513.00
0.00	Grass Cutting PFA	308.62
2.48	Interest	2.53
1,865.00	Big Lottery Fund Grant	0.00
2,167.37	VAT recovered	1,052.68
0.00	Insurance Payment for Church Wall Repair	750.00
0.00	Cashback on printer	50.00
0.00	Paid back into account via Clerk's expenses and by cash	100.00
35,808.49	Total	33,584.68
	PAYMENTS	
17,844.20	General Administration	17,723.37
300.00	Section S137 Payments	949.97
0.00	Legal Fees	2,359.51
	<u>Running Costs:</u>	
598.50	Allotments	1,197.00
1,250.63	Cemetery maintenance costs	3,323.90
165.00	Clock	170.00
617.24	Grass Cutting PFA	595.87
4,300.00	Grass cutting churchyd+cemetery	4,350.00
1,478.61	Street Lighting	1,522.97
0.00	Severe weather	0.00
1,320.00	Churchyard maintenance costs	865.00
240.00	Maintenance work - Mires and Green	774.00
0.00	Election Expenses	0.00
20.00	Training	15.00
1,592.44	Village Plan	593.00
1,035.18	VAT	2,089.24
30,761.80	Total	36,528.83
<u>5,046.69</u>	NET PAYMENTS/RECEIPTS	<u>-2,944.15</u>
	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY	
24,030.02	BALANCE brought forward at 1st April 2013	29,076.71
5,046.69	Add Net Income/deficit for year as shown above	-2,944.15
<u>29,076.71</u>	Fund Balance carried forward at 31 March 2014	<u>26,132.56</u>

These cumulative funds are represented by

Current Account Balance	22,568.31
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00
add unbanked receipts	0.00
Deposit account balance	3,564.25
	<u>26,132.56</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. Derek Hart	828472	Cllr. Beverley Smith	827153
Sandalgrove, Townside Road	Cllr. John Howard	828932	Cllr. Gavin Steward	801174
North Newbald, YO43 4SL	Cllr. Elsie Huntington	827479	Cllr. Chris Waite	828880
Tel: 01430 828919	Cllr. Mamta Joshi	828994	Cllr. Paul Weatherstone	828325
E-mail: clerk@newbald.co.uk				


Newbald Parish Council Attendance Register 2013-2014


Attendance Newbald Parish Council Full Council Meeting	13.5.13	10.06.13	17.06.13	8.07.13	10.07.13	12.08.13	09.09.13	16.09.13	08.10.13	04.11.13	02.12.13	13.01.14	20.01.14	03.02.14	03.03.14	07.04.14
Bob Baker																
John Barrett																
Howard Fuller											A				A	
Derek Hart																
John Howard		A											A			
Elsie Huntington							A									
Mick Jackson	A															
Mamta Joshi			A	A								A				
Beccy O'Sullivan					A											
Mick Richards	A															
Beverley Smith										A			A		A	
Gavin Steward				A	A			A		A						
Chris Waite																
Paul Weatherstone																

Attendance Finance & Compliance Committee	24.06.13	15.07.13	19.08.13	14.10.13	11.11.13	09.12.13	27.01.14	17.02.14	10.03.14	14.04.14
Beccy O'Sullivan				A					A	
Gavin Steward		A								
Chris Waite								A		
Paul Weatherstone		A					A			A

Key

 = Attended

 = Absent

 = Not on Council Committee

Attendance Planning & Highways Committee	24.06.13	15.07.13	19.08.13	21.10.13	18.11.14	16.12.14	27.01.14	17.02.14	10.03.14	14.04.14
John Barrett				A						
Howard Fuller										
John Howard	A		A				A	A		A
Elsie Huntington			A	A						
Gavin Steward		A			A					
Chris Waite						A		A		
Paul Weatherstone				A	A		A			A