

Minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at Newport Village Hall

Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Opening address by the Chair of Newport Parish Council - Councillor Etherington welcomed those present and explained that the meeting was not a Parish Council meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for the Chair of the Parish Council to give an overview of work undertaken by the Council during the previous municipal year. The meeting would also provide an opportunity for members of the public to comment on issues of importance to local residents.

It was noted that subject to final agreement by members of the Parish Council, meetings would be held on the second Tuesday of each month at Newport Village Hall, preceded by a public forum where members of the public could speak on any matter they may wish to bring to the Council's attention. The Parish Council was however limited in terms of its legal powers.

In his annual report Councillor Etherington commented on the following matters.

Councillor Etherington confirmed that following the local elections four members had been elected to serve on the Parish Council. There were currently seven vacancies for Parish Councillors; one application for co-option was yet to be considered. Further information about becoming a Parish Councillor could be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

It was noted that although invited, ward councillors had not attended parish meetings for a period of six months.

During 2018/19 the Parish Council had held eleven meetings.

Twenty planning applications had been received, an increase on the previous year, of which most related to domestic dwellings.

Thanks were recorded to Pete Coates for village maintenance and the company currently carrying out work on the new path in the cemetery.

It was confirmed that the Cemetery was the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Church yard, now closed for burials, was owned by the Church of England but the legal responsibility of the Parish Council in terms of maintenance. Issues in relation to either site were to be directed to Cara Young (Burial Clerk).

Catherine Train was welcomed as the newly appointed Clerk to the Parish Council. Arrangements for the Clerk's post were outlined and it was noted that Catherine will manage the administration of meetings in addition to undertaking the role of responsible Financial Officer and also overseeing the work of the Newport and Gilberdyke Youth Project. Cara Young will manage the administration of burial related matters. Job share arrangements will apply.

Financial records for the cemetery were reported to be in good order.

Works to renew the cemetery footpath were in progress with an anticipated completion date of the 18 May. The original completion date of the 11 May had been extended after the contractor advised the Council that new curb stones would be required in addition to the original planned work.

A joint inspection with East Riding of Yorkshire Council would take place in the first week of June. Outstanding matters arising from last year's village walk about would be raised by Councillor Etherington with the East Riding Officer in attendance.

The continued success of the Newport and Gilberdyke Youth Project was highlighted. Summer activities to develop relations within the local community had been requested by elected members to establish a presence in both villages. Staff on the project were commended for their work.

Litter bins and bins for dog waste provided by the Council continued to be well used.

A working party to consider matters in relation to traffic and parking on the main street had been established. The working party had explored issues in relation to a scheme implemented by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, in some areas of the village where parking restrictions applied for one hour. There had been mixed reactions from residents and shop keepers.

Councillor Etherington reported that a meeting with the Police had taken place regarding the junction of Meadow Lane and the problems associated with traffic moving safely onto the main road due to the give way sign being obstructed by parking bays. A potential solution would be to move the sign forward and undertake some re painting of road markings.

The recent Tour de Yorkshire had been a great success.

A number of complaints had been received in relation to the speed of motorcycle outriders travelling through the village, reported to be well before the arrival of cyclists, as being of concern had humans or animals inadvertently ventured into the road. Speeds were considered to be dangerously excessive in a 30 mph zone. Concerns would be taken up by the Parish Council with the relevant organisations.

A grant of £500 for bunting had been received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Thanks were recorded to Newport Village Hall Committee for bunting and field activities and also to the staff and pupils at Newport Primary School for their input.

A number of complaints in relation to parking restrictions during the Tour de Yorkshire had been made by residents although it was noted that signs had been located in the village well before the date of the event to publicise restrictions required on the day.

It was reported that that Parish Council had awarded grants towards the Defibrillator located at the village hall and also to Newport Gym and the Cricket Club. It was noted that funding awarded to the Cricket Club for new covers had not been taken up.

PUBLIC FORUM

Condition of canal side east - Mr Roy Hunt raised his concern in relation to canal side east which he explained was often used by vehicles as a turning circle. He explained that the area looked untidy and required the bank cutting, curb placing and re-surfacing. Repairs to pot holes in the road surface had also failed. In response, Councillor Etherington advised that the matter had been placed on the list for the forthcoming village walk around with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Humber Drainage Board - It was noted that DEFRA had awarded a grant to Humber Drainage Board to pile both sides of the canal. Slippage adjacent to the M62 Bridge had also been detected. Sensors had been put in at various points along the canal to measure and monitor slips on the bank side.

A grant of £100,000 had been approved to enable the drainage board to address slippage on both sides of the canal from the road to the M62. Mr Hunt congratulated the drainage board for their on-going work and suggested that a letter of thanks be sent by the Parish Council.

Ward councillor representation at Parish meetings - The lack of recent attendance at Parish meetings by a ward councillor was highlighted as being of concern. In response, Councillor Etherington advised that he had personally approached and discussed this matter with the current incumbent. The Clerk confirmed through the Chair that invitations to future parish meetings would continue to be sent to the relevant ward councillor.

Closure of landfill site - Mr Hunt explained that the landfill site was six years into the closure phase however some closure works remained outstanding in relation to water run off and fencing. Mr Hunt advised that he had written to the Environment Agency in relation to the level of funding available to complete the closure work and had been advised that the money was currently held in a bond. Mr Hunt asked that the Parish Council write to the Environment Agency to establish when the issue of closure at the site can be finalised, where funding is to come from and how the impact of closure works on residents can be minimised.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm.