

NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Meeting of the Council held on 2nd May 2018

Chairman's Report 2017-2018

The Chairman thanked councillors for their attendance at the six meetings held throughout the year and their contribution to parish affairs. He stated that he was grateful to vice-chairman Iain Hunter for deputising and leading funding efforts. He thanked County Councillor Gibson and the clerk Robert Macfarlane for their help and advice. The Council is also very grateful to Deb Hoare, Internal Auditor, Sam Lawrence, Town Hall Caretaker and to Steve Davies and P MacDonald for looking after hedgerows and grass areas throughout the parish..

The Council supports the Tyne Rivers Trust in their quest of looking into streams "without fish that should have fish". After recent flooding, the foot bridge and the weir in Crow Wood has needed maintenance and repair. The Chairman was pleased to see that the Newbrough river path had been restored and kept trimmed thanks to the efforts of The Angling Club, and the Fourstones riverside path will be repaired by the Tyne Rivers Trust. It's good that the Trust has been working with anglers, the Council, land owners, NCC RcfW Officer and the Environment Agency to address these issues. A Newbrough Water Walk leaflet is in printable draft form and should be ready soon.

Thanks to Hugh Walton for all his work for the Sportsfield Association. Following a delegation of young people, the Council pledged their support to assist in the preparation of the sportsfield to facilitate youth cricket. It was also recognised that the Sportsfield also provides parking for Newbrough School and good use is made of the bottle bank situated in the car park. Hopefully issues relating to the recent vandalism to the pavilion have been resolved.

The County Council have granted all six planning applications in Newbrough parish including the very controversial 16 houses between Butt Bank and Red Houses to which the community and Council strongly objected. An appeal to The Secretary of State proved fruitless. However, after sustained lobbying and persistent efforts, the Council finally persuaded the County Council to name this development Charlton Court.

The Chairman recalled the story of when Andy Mitchell found himself in the Red Lion with a sense of déjà vu. Andy realised that nearly ten years ago he had worked on the adjacent Newbrough War Memorial. He visited the memorial and was glad to see it in good condition but noticed one of the bronze plaques had a fixing cap missing. He sent a replacement in the post; how very kind of him.

The project to remodel and allow disabled access to the War Memorial is progressing well. The planning application submitted by Architect Butler Haigh has been approved by the County Council and has Listed Building consent. The Council will produce a booklet to commemorate the end of World War One.

Following up a number of requests from residents/passengers, the parish council working closely with Hexham Town Council, installed a litter bin adjacent to the new bus shelter at Sidgate. A photo opportunity was held with the Chairman, June Kendrew and Dennis Bowman. It will soon have a suitable notice board.

During the year the Council supported several worthy causes including, Newbrough Town Hall, Parochial Church Council, Sportsfield Association, Sport Tynedale, British Legion, Great North Air Ambulance, Tynedale Hospice at Home and Sick Children's Trust.

For the Local Transport Plan Programme the Council identified priorities for the south side of the Stanegate footpath from Butt Bank to the School and traffic speed along Stanegate. The Council has some concerns over inadequate street lighting and one area identified is the stretch between the west junction of Sidgate and the Stanegate to the Lodge.

Following a consultation process by the County Council - Newbrough Parish Council expressed strong objections to any proposal to close Newbrough Church of England Primary School. The Council fully supports the School's Governing Body as well as the parents, pupils and the wider community who are all keen to keep this school functioning in Newbrough. It is an excellent school (as reflected in recent OFSTED and SIAMS inspections) with a growing reputation and an increasing number of pupils. In addition to this the school has excellent facilities, it is a very active community school and has valuable nursery provision.

NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 2nd May 2018

01-05-1 **Present** Cllrs MW Gibson (Chair), J Annan and HA Walton

Also Present: Clerk, R Macfarlane and County Councillor RM Gibson

01-05-2 **Apologies** IS Hunter, Cllr A Smith, MD Newson and KE Bell

01-05-3 **Election of Chairman** Cllr J Annan proposed **Cllr MW Gibson** seconded by HA Walton and all agreed. At this point in the Meeting MW Gibson took the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members of the Council for their support throughout the year. He also thanked Clerk, R Macfarlane and County Councillor RM Gibson for their help and advice.

01-05-4 **Declaration of Office** Cllr MW Gibson signed the declaration of acceptance of office (LGA 1972 s83).

01-05-5 **Election of Vice-Chairman** Cllr J Annan proposed **Cllr IS Hunter** seconded by HA Walton and all agreed.

01-05-6 **Declaration of Interest** All councillors were reminded to keep up-to-date the "Members' and Co-opted Members' Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests" forms. These will be maintained by the Monitoring Officer at County Hall in accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011.

01-05-7 **Minutes** The Minutes of the Meeting of Newbrough PC which was held on 7th March 2018 approved by the Council then signed by the Chairman.

01-05-8 **Matters Arising**

Bus Shelter

It was agreed to order a new Notice Board (A2) for the inside of the bus shelter.

01-05-9 **Public First Focus**

This item was covered in the Annual Meeting of the Parish

01-05-10 **Communications**

The following correspondence has been forwarded to all councillors: CAN Newsletter, Nalc e-news, Tynedale Hospice newsletter, Clerks and Councils Direct and CPRE newsletter

Insurance Quotes Information for the parish insurance were received from Aon (Allianz), Came & Co and Zurich Municipal. The latter being cheaper and also giving better cover.

01-05-11 **Roads**

Interactive Speed Sign

This is to be removed from its present position in the Conservation area. It is hoped that the steel pole can be moved in conjunction with proposed plans for speed restrictions associated with the school.

01-05-12 **Reports**

Northumberland County Council

Cllr RM Gibson presented a verbal report on NCC activities.

Sportsfield Association

Cllr Walton reported some renewed interest in the cricket section.

01-05-13 **Planning**

NNPA Application **18NP0040** Carrawbrough Farm, NE46 4DB – no objections.

01-05-14 **Audit**

External Audit to 31st March 2018

The External Auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP requirements are in line with the Audit Commission and comply with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2016 (Regulations 12-16)

Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/2018

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit has taken place and there were no matters arising. The Clerk was asked to thank the Internal Auditor and invite her for next year. The Internal Auditor has requested that her fee (£60) should be paid to “The Sick Children’s Trust.” This was agreed.

Annual Statement of Accounts

After Cllr Annan proposed and Cllr Walton seconded, it was RESOLVED that the Council approve (in sequence) the Annual Governance Statement, the draft annual accounts 2017/18, the Accounting Statement, and the Explanation of Variance.

Exercise of Electors’ Rights

The notice of appointment of date for the exercise of electors’ rights will be displayed for 14 days in Parish Notice Board and the 30 Working Day Period for the Exercise of Public Rights commences on 4th June and will end on 13th July. The Council will submit the annual return and supporting documentation presented at this meeting to PKF Littlejohn LLP by the agreed audit date of 11th June. Approval of Accounts should be no later than 11th June and Publication of Audited Accounts no later than 30th September 2018.

Assets

Council’s asset register is brought up to date at 31 March. It includes all capital acquisition and disposal transactions recorded in the cash-book during the year. The Council, follows an appropriate and commonly used method of fixed asset valuation for first registration on the asset register at acquisition cost. This means that in most circumstances once recorded in the asset register, the recorded value of the asset will not change from year to year until disposal.

For reporting purposes therefore, the original value of fixed assets will stay constant throughout their life until disposal. The Assets Register has increased to £14,988 to cover cost of Bus Shelter and Rubbish Bins.

01-05-15 **Finances**

Bank Accounts 1st May 2018 BMM £17840.91 Community £1213.97

Income Half precept £4250 and vat £326.57

Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2018/19 The government has confirmed that for the purpose of Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for local councils in England for 2018/19 is £7.86. Electors number 455 so allowance is £3,576.30

Insurance Quotes Quotes for the parish insurance were received from Aon (Allianz) and Zurich Municipal. The latter being cheaper and also giving better cover. The policy premium has remained the same at £257.60 including taxes.

Payments by S/O Clerk's Salary, HMRC and Meeting Room Rent are now paid by standing order.

Payments Approved Expenses £42.91(vat £2.17), OneandOne Website £11.99, Council Insurance £257.60,, Butler Haig Associates £144 (£24 vat) and P&P MacDonald Hedge Cutting £129.60

Payments to be Approved Internal Audit fee payment to Sick Children's Trust £60 (LGA 1972 s137) Nalc, S Davies and CAN to be confirmed and administered at future meetings and at the grant aid meeting in November

Clerk's Salary It was agreed to increase this in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Salary Award from 1st April at Scale LC1 (SCP27)

01-05-16 **Footpaths**

The Council agreed to pursue the possibility of sourcing grant aid to construct a pathway to St Peter's. The Chairman was pleased to see that Newbrough river path had been restored thanks to the efforts of The Angling Club and the Fourstones riverside path will be repaired by the Tyne Rivers Trust.

01-05-17 **Review of Documents.**

Financial Regulations Documentation & Risk Management

It was RESOLVED to continue insurance cover with Zurich Municipal.

01-05-18 **Date and Time of Next Meeting** - 7.00 pm, Tuesday 10th July 2018

The Meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.