

Newsham Parish Council Annual Meeting

22/05/25

Chairman`s Report 2024/2025

Finances

The Council`s finances remain at a robust level allowing us to cover our annual budgeted costs , hold the statutory required amount to cover any electoral costs, and maintain a reasonable reserve fund to allow the funding of any ordinary remedial works which may be required. Consequently it was again decided to only marginally increase the precept payment by £200 versus the previous year, to a total of £3000.

Assets

The Parish Council is responsible for a number of assets within the Village, several of which were subject to maintenance work in the last twelve months..

- 1.The Bus Stop was repainted internally
- 2.The telephone box which was adopted from BT was painted both internally and externally and will become an information and educational hub for the Holmedale Nature Network with a specific focus on Newsham
- 3.The rotted Millenium bench was replaced by a semi- circular bench around the tree adjacent to the War Memorial. The funds for this were provided by a resident donation and local authority grant.
4. The cart track adjacent to the Green underwent some remedial work just prior to the last Carnival and this work has lasted well to date.
- 5.The notice board adjacent to the Village Hall had replacement glass and cork tiles fitted , together with a fresh coat of preservative.

6.The Green requires additional protection from vehicles to avoid further damage occurring and some options to achieve this are being considered. However as the Green falls within the Conservation Area of the village we need advice from NYCC as to the extent of works we can carry out , both to the Green and also the Track should we choose to do so. We hope to have the advice needed in the very near future enabling us to formulate a plan.

Planning

Planning remains a core function of the Parish Council. Within the parish in the last twelve months there were twelve validated applications. As a Council we endeavour to always scrutinise each application and ensure that the voice of Newsham residents is heard, ensuring that valid concerns are actually fully considered and that any appropriate amendments or conditions are added to applications. In the last several months both the Fairfield and Smallways applications have been good examples of how considered and relevant comments can make a difference. We currently await the outcome of the applicant`s appeal to the Secretary of State regarding Smallways.

Initiatives

1.Emergency Planning

We have now completed the exercise to develop an emergency plan for the Village. This plan was formulated having agreed the major risks for Newsham, necessary mitigating actions, the identification of solutions and the support required both from wider village residents and the NYCC team. My thanks to Cllrs` Woroniuk and Taylor for their work on this.

2.The Holmedale Nature Network

The Parish Council has an obligation to maintain and enhance biodiversity wherever possible. To this end we have agreed to work with two trustees of the Holmedale Nature Network, and residents of Newsham, Edmund and Anne Baker to help us maximise results in this area. They continue to work closely with the other Newsham residents who support HNN.

3. Village Green Planting

The area around the War Memorial and leading to the semi- circular bench have been planted with Daffodils and Crocus to introduce a splash of Spring colour. Additional planting will take place in September to bring some colour to the other sections of the Green running parallel to the carriageway.

4. The “Stumpery”

The tree stump on the Green which was previously surrounded by the Millenium Bench has now been planted with bio- diversity friendly plants which will also create colour and impact , enhancing the Green. My thanks to our HNN representatives for doing this work.

Village Hall

The Parish Council is the Trustee of the Village Hall but it is managed on our behalf by the Village Hall Committee. My thanks go to the Committee for their enthusiasm and hard work to ensure that the Hall is at the centre of the community and their delivery of excellent events for the benefit of residents.

Finally I would like to place on record my thanks to our Parish Clerk Cllr Bob De`Ath for his continued diligence managing our financial affairs and our communications with NYCC , my fellow Councillors for their continued hard work on behalf of Newsham, Mrs. Val De`Ath for taking the minutes

of our parish meetings and Mrs Karen Gibson-Brown for maintaining the Parish Council website.