

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Newborough Parish Council – Monday 7th April 2025

Present: Cllr N Clarke, Cllr Skipper, Cllr Bell, Cllr Sanders, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr Mainwaring
Also present: C Holmes; 2 Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Jessell, Cllr Hudson, Cllr Gould,

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2024.

All agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

Action; Clerk to convert to upload to website.

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

None

4. Chairman's Report

The Parish Council

Again, we have managed to maintain a level of stability this year within the Parish Council with a re-elected Chairman, namely me and new councillor in the form of Gill Clarke (no relation). Gill is also a member of the church council, and we hope to welcome some combined events throughout the year.

Goodbye to 2024

May day fate

Whilst we were unable to produce a well dressing May Day event this year, we still managed to put on a great day, which was again a roaring success. A well-attended event with so many activities created and designed by Councillor Deane Bell in the main.

We also had a good number of villagers and people from outside the village helping with planning, organisation and delivery.

Remembrance Day

This year we had the event delivered by Reverend Terry and the pupils from Needwood Primary school. We rolled out the spectacular display of poppies which was created by Margaret Gaal, June Bullingham and the Knit 'n' natter members.

Christmas lights switch on

Chairmans Initials.....

I think I would like to say, I think we made the best of it without the Red Lion. We put together our own bar which was drunk dry, and the event was very well attended. We had a new addition this year that included the decoration of the fir trees with lights and baubles. Entertainment was provided by Tom and Lucy Vignoles and our Clerk, Charlotte. A thank you went out to Brian Beck and to Rev Terry for all the hard work with the Christmas quiz held at the church.

2025

Well dressing

It's back again this year with what will hopefully be bigger and better. All planning is in full flow with Councillor Deane Bell

Best Kept Village

We entered the Best kept village competition again this year and bearing in mind the effort we put in, hopefully we stood a good chance. Unfortunately, may be to do with the change in the judging criteria and not quite hitting the heights required, we didn't feature.

We have decided this year that we will not be entering but still carry out the maintenance and upkeep the best we can.

Village Clean-up days

This year we have already had our first village clean-up day. There are several stalwarts who attend most of the days, but it would be nice to see a few others joining us.

These will continue throughout the year so please look out for adverts in the Parish Post.

Litter

It infuriates me, the amount of litter that we see on our roadsides, as I am sure it does others. It is a thankless task keeping the verges tidy, but I have endeavoured to maintain Duffield Lane up to the Mitre crossroads and Councillor Gould along with Adrian and Gill Forbes look after Hollybush Road. I am also aware that James and Ami Swift and family pick up as they walk their dogs, and Fiona Pickett does her bit too.

I would like to see if we could get a bigger, organised team together to combat an issue that will not go away. No sooner have we cleared, the following day some inconsiderate individual will decide that our verges are a better place for their rubbish than a bin.

Potholes

We are aware of the dis-repair of our roads, and we are in constant contact with the Highways department about this.

We have had some progress this year, but I still cannot comprehend the planning process from East Staffs when it comes to arranging a repair. Why can they not deal with a whole road, rather than doing one and then going away!

Could I ask you to help us with this by reporting of anything you see. You can report through the mystaffs app.

Riverbank Park

The play park has been through another inspection and apart from a couple minor items, I can report it is in full working order for all to enjoy. A fence has also been replaced as it had rotted and fallen.

Riparian owners

Please could I just remind riparian owners of their responsibilities. Please clear any over-hanging branches which could disrupt the flow and please do not leave anything on the banks which could be washed down stream and cause blockages.

Speed watch

This has taken a little bit of a lapse, especially as we have now got the SIDS in place. From what I have observed, these seem to be doing the trick and generally car drivers are respectful of the speed required through the village. There is obviously still the odd one who feels it is a racetrack!

5. Annual Accounts: Unaudited Balance Sheet

Income

The precept for 2024/2025 increased by 4%, resulting in a total of £16,976.00. The grant from ESBC remains unchanged at £308.00.

There was a slight decrease in bank interest this year, due to a reduction in reserves following the purchase of the Speed Indication Devices (SIDs).

Additional income included a VAT refund of £1,557.80 and a grant of £273.00 towards the restoration of the village wells.

Expenditure

The Parish Council has remained largely within budget throughout the year, with key investments including the installation of SIDs in April.

Minor overspends were recorded in the clerk's salary, stationery, and a small amount under village enhancements and maintenance.

All other budget lines have been met or underspent.

Excluding Well Dressing costs—which are managed through a separate account—total expenditure amounted to £16,808.08 against an income of £19,312.65.

Current Position

The council's current bank balance is £34,850.39, which includes earmarked reserves of £15,756.37 for the forthcoming traffic calming project and £2,494.85 allocated to the Well Dressing fund.

Chairmans Initials.....

6. Reports from Committees, Borough and County Councillors

May Day Event Report

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it was not possible to dress the Well Boards for 2024.

It was therefore decided by the Committee to hold a traditional village fete on May Day instead.

This event was equally well attended and had all the fun of the Well Dressing Event despite not having the Well Boards

2025 will see the return of Well Dressing and we hope for good weather and another successful day.

Speed Watch 2024

2024 was not a successful year for Speed Watch.

Due to work commitments and adverse weather conditions, it was difficult to coordinate the availability of the volunteers. We do still have good intentions to carry on with Speed watch sessions during 2025.

The good news is that 2024 saw the installation of two Speed Indicator Devices - one by Duffield Green and the other on Hollybush Road.

It has already been noted that these flashing speed indicators are successfully alerting and encouraging motorists to reduce their speed when driving through the Village.

7. Comments & Questions from Parishioners

The parishioner discussed the drains within the village. Workmen appeared in the village w/c 7th April 2025 looking at the issues with the collapsing drains and the roots in the pipework. The new task force at Staffs CC was discussed and it was agreed to report this to them for review.

The damaged stones in the middle of the village were discussed and it was established that this is from the John Taylor School Bus. This has been reported to Staffs CC asking for the middle section of the road to be decreased to stop this happening.

The recent introduction of Smart meters and the planning permission for the phone mast was discussed. It was established that no further information has been passed on regarding this matter with no immediate plans for installation.

Rev Terry has sadly handed his notice in and will be leaving later in the year.

Lastly, The Red Lion was discussed, and the parish council have been informed that contracts have been exchanged with the hope of opening in June.

Action: Clerk to contact the ESBC taskforce regarding the drains; Clerk to continue to pursue Staffs CC regarding the damaged bricks.

Chairmans Initials.....

Meeting closed at 20.30pm
Next Meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 12th May 2025.

Parish Council information can be found on the internet at -
www.newboroughparishcouncil.org.uk

Signed by Chairman

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Chairmans Initials.....