Minutes of the Newborough Parish Council Meeting – Monday 5th October 2026

Present, Cllr N Clarke, Cllr Gould, Cllr Mainwaring, Cllr Rogers; Cllr Mousley
Also present: C Holmes; 17 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for absence**

County Cllr Brown; Borough Cllr Hudson; Cllr Skipper; Cllr Sanders

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on the worthwhile event taking place that evening, providing an opportunity for residents to learn more about the church and its current position.

A reminder was given that the Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on 27 November**.** Planning for the Well Dressing is also underway, with this year's theme being Literacy. The event will take place on Sunday 2 May, rather than the usual May Day Monday.

A village clean-up is also being planned for the coming weeks, with residents encouraged to get involved where possible.

4. **Public Forum (10 mins allocated)**

Potholes within the village were discussed.

It was noted that yellow lines require reinstating in areas where highways works have been undertaken.

Members also noted the positive progress with highway repairs across the village, including recent works to Thorney Lanes and Brick Hill Lane, which were considered to have been completed to a very good standard.

Action: Clerk to contact Staffs CC regarding the repainting of the yellow lines.

5. **County & Borough Cllr Reports**

County Councillor Catherine Brown – Report

Cllr Brown provided the following highways updates:

- **Burton Road – gully cleaning:** Maintenance work has been booked. It had been reported that the gullies had already been emptied; however, Cllr Brown advised that she had challenged this as the work had not been completed and would follow this up.
- **Six Lane Ends:** A further request has been made for a site meeting, but no response has yet been received.
- **Bow Meadow Lane – riverbank:** Works have been completed. Clarification is required as to whether the issues with the riverbank itself have also been addressed.
- **Hollybush Lane resident complaint:** A resident had questioned why maintenance had been undertaken at Bow Meadow Lane while the busier Marchington Cliff and Burton Road had not received similar attention. Cllr Brown explained the different County Council divisions, County Councillor involvement and the highways reporting process. The outstanding issues have been reported.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council held on 7th September 2026

All agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

Action: Clerk to convert to upload to website

7. Matters arising from those minutes.

None

8. Review Planning Applications

Planning No:	Date	Premises	Planning requested	Council Actions	Decision
P/2025/00680	17.09.25	Pur Brook Farm, Bromley Road, Newborough, Staffordshire, WS15 3FX	Erection of an agricultural building for storage & housing cattle	No comments added by the council.	Registered
P/2025/01190	21.10.25	The Villa Duffield Lane Newborough Staffordshire DE13 8SH	Partial demolition of existing single storey lean to to facilitate the erection of a single storey rear extension, alterations to the existing conservatory roof and retention of conversion of detached annexe to form an ancillary annexe / Holiday let.	An issue was raised in relation to parking as currently the residents are parking on double yellow lines and concerns raised for this exacerbating the issue. This has stopped emergency vehicles previously	Registered

P/2026/00334	15.04.26	DOLESFOOT FARM DOLESFOOT LANE NEWBOROUGH DE13 8SP	Change of use of the land for siting of a mobile home and installation of package treatment plant (self-build)	No comments added by the council.	Refuses
P/2026/00581	09.6.26	MILESTONE MARKER LICHFIELD ROAD SIX ROADS END DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY	Listed Building Consent to repair and re-paint the damaged cast iron milepost	No comments added by the council.	Registered
P/2026/00623	11.06.26	NEWHALL FARM THORNEY LANES NEWBOROUGH DE13 8RZ	Repositioning of stable block and formation of equestrian menage.	No comments added by the council	Registered
P/2026/00826	28.07.26	MEADOW VIEW YOXALL ROAD NEWBOROUGH DE13 8SU	Construction of single storey rear extension.	No comments added by the council	Permits
P/2026/00944	07.09.26	BRICK KILN FARM MOAT LANE NEWBOROUGH DE13 8SS	Erection of a first floor side extension and storm porch, installation of dormer windows to rear elevation, formation of brick plinth and alterations to fenestration	No comments added by the council	Registered
P/2026/00250	21.09.26	BRICK KILN FARM MOAT LANE NEWBOROUGH DE13 8SS	Erection of a first floor side extension and storm porch, installation of dormer windows to rear elevation, formation of brick plinth and alterations to fenestration	No comments added by the council	APPEAL AGAINST A REFUSAL
P/2026/01001	01.10.26	BARN AT NEWBOROUGH HALL FARM HOLLYBUSH ROAD NEWBOROUGH DE13 8SF	Listed Building Consent for the structural repairs to wall & timbers, replacement of shutters and door, replacement of concrete infill panels, repairs to brick pillar, installation of lighting and removal of a concrete plinth	No comments added by the council	NEW
P/2026/00250 – No comments added by the council P/2026/01001 - No comments added by the council Action: Clerk to add to ESBC Planning portal					

9. **To receive a presentation from representatives of the Church regarding its current financial position, including concerns that existing funds may only be sufficient to sustain the Church for the next few years; to consider the challenges facing its longer-term future; and to invite Councillors and members of the community to discuss potential options, ideas and opportunities for supporting the Church and its continued place within the parish**

An introduction was given and thanks were extended to the Parish Council, Well Dressing Committee and residents who support the church through regular standing orders. Thanks, were also given to A & S for the work they have undertaken for the church.

It was reported that the regular congregation had reduced from approximately 20 to 6, although this had recently increased to around 10. It was recognised that church attendance has changed considerably over the years and that the church needs to adapt its approach to encourage people to become involved and feel a sense of ownership, whether they regularly attend services.

A summary of the church's financial statements was circulated and discussed. With fewer people attending and maintenance and other costs continuing to rise, income is no longer sufficient to meet expenditure, with a deficit having been recorded in each of the past seven years. It was reported that approximately 17 people currently support the church through regular payments.

It was explained that if the church became financially unsustainable it could ultimately close or potentially move to Festival Church status, with only a limited number of services each year. Concern was expressed that this would result in the loss of the church as an active part of village life.

The need to encourage greater involvement from the community, particularly younger residents, was discussed. Increasing both the congregation and membership of the PCC would significantly help to secure the future of the church. It was recognised that low congregation numbers can themselves make it more difficult to attract and retain new attendees.

It was emphasised that, regardless of faith, the church is an important village building and that supporting it is part of maintaining the wider community. Three main ways residents could help were identified:

- Practical support – assisting with cleaning, paths, windows, maintenance and other jobs, with residents encouraged to offer their time and skills.
- Financial support – through regular or one-off donations. An explanation was provided of the charges payable to the Lichfield Diocese and how these are broken down.
- Using the church – making greater use of the building for services, meetings, family gatherings, parties and other community activities.

A renewed financial appeal to residents was discussed. A previous appeal had taken place some time ago and many newer residents may be unaware of the church's financial position. It was felt that any appeal should clearly explain the seriousness of the situation and exactly what support is required, including asking residents who are able to consider a regular monthly contribution. Whilst fundraising events and one-off donations are important, it was emphasised that a predictable and regular income is particularly important to the church's long-term sustainability. It was suggested that the appeal should be repeated regularly rather than relying on a one-off request.

The possibility of working with the school to circulate information to parents was discussed, together with producing a specific list of practical jobs so residents could clearly see where help was required.

Ideas for increasing community involvement and generating additional income included having a dedicated person or group to coordinate events, with suggestions including BBQ events, bingo nights and other regular fundraising activities. A link with the Parish Council to support ongoing event planning and organisation was also suggested, together with establishing a monthly working party.

Greater promotion of the church as a community venue was discussed, including advertising its availability for parties, meetings and events through local parish magazines.
It was also felt that greater community involvement in activities such as the Carol Service could help residents develop a stronger connection with and sense of ownership of the church.

Applying for community grants was also discussed and it was agreed to investigate this further.

10. Clerk's Report: to include banking changes, finance & correspondence.

- **CORRESPONDENCE & ONGOING MATTERS**

Footpath officers awaiting contact when locations sent to clerk.

Broken curb reported to Staffs County Council

Gullies on Duffield Lane reported to Staffs County Council

30mph sign on Hollybush Lane reported to Staffs County Council

Remembrance wreath purchased and posted created for the service taking place on Duffield Green on 11th November at 10.45am with Rev Chamberlain.

A parishioner raised concerns regarding changes to the 403 bus service following the move from Diamond to BusLink. While the BusLink service has reportedly been reliable, it no longer travels directly via Queen's Hospital Burton, creating difficulties particularly for older residents and those attending hospital appointments.
The Clerk raised the matter with Staffordshire County Council. SCC advised that the section between Burton and Queen's Hospital is already served commercially and that introducing the supported BusLink service along the same section would create direct competition with the existing commercial operator. Under the Transport Act 1985, SCC is therefore unable to require the supported service to duplicate this part of the commercial route.
SCC acknowledged that the current arrangement is less convenient for some passengers. Residents travelling from Newborough can currently change buses either on Tutbury Road or in Burton town centre to continue to the hospital.

Order sent to ESBC for the road closure for the Christmas Lights Switch on taking place on Friday 27th November from 4pm.

- **FINANCE**

Date	Budget Category	Invoice Details	Invoice Amount		
			Net	VAT	Gross
18/09/2026	Precept		£9,331.50		£ 9,331.50
21/09/2026	Bank Interest	Charges	-£4.25		-£ 4.25
24/09/2026	Village additions	Poppies	-£119.00		-£ 119.00

All payments agreed by the council

- **Bank Balances as of 30th September 2026**

Current Account	64993563	£20,377.58
Savings Account	73882462	£15,903.51
Well Dressing Account	73880562	£1850.67
TOTAL		**£38,131.76**

Cumulative Funds Balance:					
Balance B/Fwd - 1st April 2026				£31,112.83	
Add Total Income				£18,681.45	£18,446.14
Less Total Expenditure				£12,239.59	£22,490.26
		Balance C/Fwd	***30-Sep-26***	**£37,554.69**	**-£4,044.12**
Balance Sheet					
Long Term Assets:					
Investments				£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets:					
In Bank (at period end - less cheques not presented)				£37,554.69	
Debtors:					
VAT on payments		unclaimed VAT - type in here at year end			
				£37,554.69	**£0.00**
Fund Balance					
Bank Reconciliation as at	30/09/2026				
HSBC Treasurer Account				£ 19,800.51	
HSBC Business Money Manager Account				£ 15,903.51	
HSBC Business Money Manager Account				£ 1,850.67	
Balance as per Bank Statements				**£37,554.69**	**£0.00**
Less cheques not yet presented					
		Balance as per Cash Book		**£37,554.69**	**£0.00**

11. Councillors Reports

Clerk to chase when the playing field inspection is taking place

Public footpaths and stiles have been reported to Staffs CC

Pothole opposite Dark Lane to be reported by Cllr Rogers

A village clean-up was organised for Saturday 21st November.

Action: Clerk to chase playpark inspection; Cllr Rogers to report potholes

Meeting closed at 20.53pm
Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9th November 2026

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

Signed by Chairman

Name:

Signature:

Date: