

NEWTON SOLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held 21st May 2024 at 7pm

MINUTES

Present; Chairlady Deborah Smith; Parish Councillors K Makin-Wall, L Charles, S Kelsey; County Councillor D Muller, SDDC Councillor K Haines

1. Apologies

Parish Cllr G Tulley, P Dutton; SDDC Cllr Kerry Haines

2. Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to receive and approve the minutes

3. Chairperson's report

The Chairman gave her report as below:

In 2024 the councillors were Mrs Debbie Smith (Chairlady), Mrs Lynne Charles, Mr Gareth Tully, Mrs Karen Makin Wall, Mr Gareth Fenlon (Vice-chair), Mr Simon Kelsey and Mr Phil Dutton. All councillors were re-elected on the 4th May 2023 and are beginning their second year of a four-year term of office.

We extend our thanks to our parish clerk and responsible financial officer Mr Ron Parker who did an excellent job taking care of administration and financial matters. However he had to retire due to ill health in March 2024. The Parish Councillors bought a gift to demonstrate their appreciation for 14 years of hard work and to wish him well in his retirement. Mrs Sue Stack is our locum Parish Clerk and RFO and many thanks are extended to her for all her help and guidance.

Our thanks also to our Derbyshire County Councillor Mr David Muller, and South Derbyshire District Councillors Mrs Kerry Haines and Mr James Lowe who provide help and advice when required.

Local Groups and Activities

Neighbourhood Watch: Roger Charles continues to oversee this, providing local crime updates, police notices and valuable information while extending his database to include more parishioners. We thank him for his continued efforts.

We are still members of Area 2 for Mercia Safer Neighbourhood initiative and South Derbyshire Area Forum (meetings take place on the same evening), these focus on local crime issues and provide help and advice. Local crime is low level but we need to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity.

Many activities in the village and various schemes continue, these included the purchase and installation of a piece of play equipment for the recreation field (funded by £1000 from Tesco and £1000 from the "Sports Club" plus other donations). Our thanks to Councillor Mr Phil Dutton for organising this.

The storage facility on the recreation field is to be replaced and thanks to the admirable endeavours of Councillors Mrs Lynne Charles and Mr Gareth Fenlon this is continuing to progress.

Village Hall activities continue apace, with activities including badminton, snooker, bowls, and tennis to mention a few, more details can be found in the newsletter and parish magazine. Parish Council would like to extend our thanks to all involved in the village hall organisation.

Our thanks are also extended to the Horticultural Society for maintaining the plants and containers around the village.

Parish Council congratulated the Village in Bloom group for their wonderful success in winning the East Midlands Village in Bloom competition and were delighted when they were awarded gold in the RHS national competition.

Parish Council Activities

Parish Council purchased a new lifebuoy with housing, this was installed by Councillor Mr Gareth Fenlon on the common land by the river.

Parish council continues to support the Village Hall committee on any projects and the monthly newsletter.

A new website is under construction and should GO LIVE shortly. All relevant information of the Parish Council, Village Hall, other village groups is still available on the old website, Planning applications and decisions and strategic documents are discussed and commented upon, representations are made to the planning authority where appropriate, details are available on the website.

Parishioners are encouraged to contact Parish Council about issues in the village such as planning, footpaths, dog fouling, anti-social behaviour etc, also ideas to improve the village.

Parish Council continues to:

Organise upkeep of the common land, recreation field and maintenance of the play equipment, clearing footpaths, tree removal, grass cutting etc, undertaken by South Derbyshire District Council and a private contractor the works being part of a regular maintenance contract. Parish Council thanks Mr Gary Wall for his continuing hard work keeping the village neat and tidy.

Maintain the defibrillator at the village hall.

Donate to the Newsletter, Royal British Legion and Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.

Report on the condition of the roads and footpaths in the parish.

Finances

Parish Council finances:

£24,973.17 in the bank with £6000 on deposit (01.04.2024).

And finally

A busy and happy year with many community groups active within the village.

4. **Questions from the floor.**

5. Training session coming up on using the defibrillator