

**Minutes of Newton Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 held at Newton Village Hall**

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Those Present

Paul Presland	-	Chairman
Lee Parker	-	Babergh District Councillor
Dave Crimmin	-	Parish Clerk

10 residents, registered as local government electors in Newton.

2023/01 The Chairman welcomed both guests and residents to Newton's 129th Annual Parish Assembly. He stated that the turnout for the Assembly was disappointing.

2023/02 Apologies

David Everett, Laura Smith and James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor) sent their apologies.

2023/03 Minutes

The minutes of the Assembly held on the 27th April 2022 were agreed by those present and the Chairman signed the minutes.

2023/04 Police Report

No Police report was submitted.

2023/05 Suffolk County Council Report

No Suffolk County Council report was submitted.

2023/06 Babergh District Council Report

Lee Parker gave the Babergh District Council report.

2023/07 Chairman's Report

Paul Presland delivered the Annual Report on behalf of the Parish Council. He explained that once again, it had been a very busy year for the Council. The normal round of monthly meetings had taken place and it was good to get back to face to face meetings with Councillors and the public. In addition to calendared meetings, Councillors met to discuss planning applications that required urgent attention.

He explained that his report was an overview of processes, procedures and decisions that had been taken over the last 12 months. He drew the public's attention to the fact that agendas and detailed minutes are published on the Around the Green website.

Councillor Presland then went through the following headlines of the work of the NPC.

- He thanked all his Councillors for their commitment to their roles and for the due diligence they showed in all the decisions they took on behalf of parishioners. He thanked District Councillor Lee Parker and County Councillor James Finch for the guidance and support they had provided to Councillors over the past year. In addition, he stressed the importance of having a competent and very knowledgeable Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. He thanked David Crimmin for his professionalism and integrity with all aspects of the work of the Council. His performance had been exemplary.
- Newton Neighbourhood Plan. After over three years of hard work, the adoption of the Newton Neighbourhood Plan in March 2022 was a major achievement for our village. Although it was referred to in the APA 2022 report, the Chairman took the opportunity of reiterating his thanks to everybody who had been involved in that process. It really was a Herculean effort. The NPC now

Signed..... Dated.....

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use that document to decide whether to support or object to planning applications they receive. The chairman underlined the fact that Babergh District Council also consider the NNP when it receives any planning applications related to Newton village. He went on to say that a planning application that is refused by Babergh can be referred to an independent adjudicator who makes the final decision.

- Newton Action Plan 2022/23. To help the Council manage the many projects it was dealing with, the Council drew up an Action Plan to ensure that progress of projects was monitored, and deadlines were adhered to. The chairman expressed his pleasure in announcing that all targets set had been achieved within agreed timescales. Details of the plan can be found in the minutes of Parish Council meetings March 23. under Year Action Plan. He then read out a list of all the things that had been achieved over the past 12 months offering explanations where appropriate.
- Leading from the Year Action Plan, NPC is developing a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan that draws together the views of the village about future developments people would like the Council to move forward in the next 4 years.. Gathering villagers' views from the very recent Parish Survey is the first step in that process and the data has already been analysed.
- All NPC end of year accounts had been independently assessed and there were no financial or procedural issues brought to Councillors' attention.
- A new budget for 2023/24 has been set and approved by Councillors.
- A new Parish Precept 2023/34 has also been set and approved by Councillors. It reflects the increased costs of insuring and maintaining all the new equipment on the village playing field.
- All Council policies and procedures that needed to be reviewed, have been updated.
- NPC has ceased using Barclays for banking and has introduced internet banking through Unity Trust.
- Michael Oliver has given the community allotments to Newton Parish Council. On behalf of the council, solicitors are currently preparing the change of land ownership documentation.

2022/07 Newton Green Trust

Phil Taylor gave the NGT update. "With Michael Oliver leaving the village there will be changes required to the Trust Deed which are currently being explored. He thanked Michael and his father for setting up the Newton Green Trust on behalf of the village. Solicitors are also reviewing the Trust's land boundaries. He thanked the Golf Club for its maintenance of the Green." He was asked questions on when the Trust's accounts and minutes will be published as well as the right of villagers to attend the Trust meetings.

2023/08 Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust Representative

Shona Shipp was unanimously elected as the Parish Assembly's Newton Green Trust representative.

2023/09 Village Hall

Alan Vince gave the Village Hall report. "The past year has been a busy one with the rebuilding of the storeroom at a total cost of £27000, including new doors and windows, and the external cladding. I think you will agree that this improves the external appearance of the building. Of the £27000 some £5000 was paid during the previous year so the repair bill in this year's accounts includes the remaining £22000. Looking at the opening and closing balances you will notice that our total funds have dropped by about £17000 over the year which means that a profit of about £5000 was made on the year's lettings and fundraising. Our letting charges were raised as from 1st May 2022 but still remain at a very reasonable level.

Signed..... Dated.....

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We spent money during the year having the curtains refurbished and rehung with pull cords at the long windows. The curtains are in good condition and should last for many more years. We have just taken delivery of 50 new chairs and hope you approve of them. The colour should help brighten up the room. Looking ahead, bookings have returned to a good level although much of this comes from outside organisations. We offer special rates for residents of the village and it is disappointing that there is not more use of the Hall from our own villagers.

As I have mentioned before, many of our committee are quite ancient and we desperately need some enthusiastic younger members. Hopefully some of the newcomers to the village will get involved. Finally I would like to thank the Management Committee for all their efforts. Special thanks go to Wendy who after many years of involvement has decided to retire. Thank you Wendy. We have recently welcomed Fergie as a co-opted member of the committee. He has already been getting involved and helping out. Lastly a big thank you to Janet Weavers for all the work she carries out for the Village Hall, not forgetting the Garden which she maintains without much help. Thank you Janet.”

2023/10 Newton Charities (Plampin and Alston)

Sue Presland reported that “The William Alston Charity is traditionally referred to as the Alston and Plampin charities. The charity was created in 1564 and has continued to offer support to villagers in need, those who are sick and the bereaved, ever since. The benefactors gave rentcharges over land so that income could be used for the relief of poverty. The capital has been added to over the years to produce a small annual income, and currently stands at £10,556.24. A copy of the accounts has been provided for inspection.

Although there is probably little actual poverty in the village these days, the Trustees have continued the tradition of making small cash gifts at Christmas to a few of the more needy in the village. Occasionally we are able to offer help to those who have severe health and financial difficulties. In addition, a contribution of £50 has again been made towards the Christmas parcel fund set up by the Parish Council and the Trust. Gifts of flowers or pot plants and cards are made to those who are sick or needy or experiencing stressful circumstances. These gifts are much appreciated by the recipients who take comfort in the knowledge that the village is there for them and thinking of them. If you aware of anyone in such circumstances, please let one of the Trustees know.

Our income is supported by donations and we are always grateful to receive these. Several years ago Newton Green Trust resolved to support the Charity on an annual basis and in 2022, kindly donated £250. The Parish Council were also kind enough to donate £100. We plan to hold a coffee morning on 28th October this year.

The current Trustees are Robert Parker McGee, Sue Presland, Janet Taylor and Maureen Williams.”

2023/11 Parochial Church Council

The Chairman read Fiona Garman’s PCC report. “ Church services continue to be held on the third Sunday of each month. We are now holding coffee mornings every third Wednesday and this has attracted more residents from the village and people from surrounding areas. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday, 23 April 2023.

Our end of year finances were independently assessed and approved. We are continuing to fulfil our parish share commitment despite the imbalance between income and expenditure. PCC members: Christine Cornell, Vera Cutts, Churchwardens Miranda Doyle Ferguson and Paul Presland, Secretary Fiona Garman.

Signed..... Dated.....

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Approval has been received to go ahead with plans to install a toilet and servery at the church and proceeds from fundraising are going towards this project. Having these facilities will help with the church holding a variety of events. With the success of the Harvest Cream Tea last year, we shall go ahead again and this will be held on Sunday, 24 September. The quiz has always been a popular event and we hope to get a date organised soon. We have more volunteers helping with various aspects of keeping the church in good order: a flower rota, cleaning rota including a yearly spring clean.

Thank you to all those who continue to give their support in one way or another.“

2023/12 The Fireside Club

Sue Presland gave the Fireside Club report.” The Newton Green Fireside Club continues to be well supported within the village with a total membership of 31 with a core group of approximately 24 attending each fortnightly meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are an inclusive village association and there is now no age limit [upper or lower,] to becoming a member – all are welcome.

Since April 2022 we have been meeting regularly in the village hall. Outings have stayed within our local area, however, we have two bus trips planned for June and July to Hyde Hall Chelmsford and Felixstowe, with hopefully more in the pipeline. We have had a varied programme with craft activities, games, speakers and our favourite, food and drink – we have enjoyed cream teas, a midsummer munch barbeque, wine tasting, a Halloween lunch, a Christmas lunch at the golf club and lunchtime fish and chips, not to mention a fair few bottles of prosecco.

Our expenses for activities this year have included £140 for visiting speakers, £140 for craft activities and prizes and £963 on food and drink. Our biggest fund raiser was the midsummer munch which made nearly £500, we made nearly £150 on raffles, a plant sale and asking for donations for Alan’s walnuts. Subscriptions totaled £1293 which along with a kind donation of £100 from Newton Parish Council, and a very kind donation of £250 from the Newton Trust gives us a healthy bank balance of approximately £2,400. We are in the process of moving banks from HSBC to Nat West because HSBC now charge for community accounts whereas Nat West don’t. This will save us £60 per year for just servicing the account plus the cost of paying in any cheques or cash. This hasn’t been an entirely painless experience – thank you Sue for persevering and sorting us out.

We aim to continue to give a varied programme of events with something for everyone, so if you are free every other Tuesday afternoon, partial to a drink and delicious home made cakes please come along to the Fireside Club.”

2023/13 Questions to the Chair

There were no issues raised.


The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

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Newton Parish Council

	NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL		
	Receipts & Payments Account for the year ending 31st March 2023		
		2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023
Receipts			
Precept	£10,518.00		£13,625.97
Grants	£76,122.29		£2,975.23
Recycling	£1,023.87		£251.23
Bank Interest	£7.14		£150.37
CIL	£20,322.33		£17,579.58
Other	£2,880.00		£37.00
VAT Repayment	£14,204.26		£2,529.97
		£125,077.89	£37,149.35
Payments			
Clerks Salary	£10,301.64		£11,571.48
Admin	£1,259.29		£1,718.33
Donations	£650.00		£400.00
Annual Subscriptions	£382.30		£441.51
Footpath Maintenance	£300.00		£300.00
Insurance	£1,218.51		£1,497.60
Inspection	£635.00		£635.00
Maintenance	£410.66		£0.00
Village Hall Hire	£0.00		£425.00
Projects	£57,355.26		£2,718.62
CIL	£22,725.67		£18,083.66
Repay VAT overpayment	£3,910.38		£0.00
NNP	£1,005.00		£0.00
VAT Paid	£16,381.59		£3,599.17
		£116,535.30	£41,390.37
Excess of Payments over Receipts		£8,542.59	-£4,241.02
Add Balance Brought Forward		£40,814.72	£49,357.31
Balance Carried Forward		£49,357.31	£45,116.29
Represented by			
Barclays Community	£100.00		£0.00
Barclays Premium	£31,357.98		£0.00
Barclays Tracker	£1,165.17		£0.00
Unity Trust Current Account	£16,734.16		£19,996.62
Unity Trust Savings Account	£0.00		£25,119.67
		£49,357.31	£45,116.29

Signed.....

Dated.....

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Charities Accounts

**NEWTON CHARITIES
ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

An Account of the William Alston Charity in the Parish of Newton for the year ended 31st December 2022, to be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on 26th April 2023.

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE	
Balance b/f:			Flowers etc for sick	86.95
Cash	45.13		Christmas Parcels	50.00
Natwest Bank	537.14	582.27		
Donation NG Trust		250.00		
Donation Newton Parish Council		100.00	Monies Distributed	355.00
4 x Quarterly dividend COIF		301.85	Cash in hand	220.18
			Natwest Bank Balance	521.99
		-----		-----
		1234.12		1234.12
		-----		-----

The current capital of the Charity is represented by 556.18 units in C.O.I.F is £10,556.24

Signed..... Dated.....

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Newton PCC

Newton Parochial Church Council			
Receipts & Payments Accounts as at 31st December 2022			
Income			
3	Cash Collections	£378.00	
1	Gift Envelopes	£470.00	
9	Events	£1,657.19	
8	Grants	£0.00	
7	Legacies	£0.00	
6	Gift Aid	£0.00	
11	Headstones	£172.00	
4	Wall Safe	£16.74	
11	Funerals	£1,819.35	
11	Weddings	£495.00	
10	Bank Interest	£41.36	
12	Trading Activities	£0.00	
13	Other	£0.00	
			£5,049.64
Expenditure			
23	Churchyard	£565.00	
17	Events	£256.95	
24	Electricity	£612.00	
21	Incumbent Expenses	£917.17	
23	Church Expenses	£1,033.83	
20	Salaries	£1,764.40	
18	Commitments	£50.00	
19	Quota	£10,309.50	
23	Organist / Verger Fees	£485.00	
23	Organ Repairs	£0.00	
23	Insurance	£660.23	
23	Audit Fee	£35.00	
22	Mission & Evangelism	£0.00	
25	Cost of Trading	£0.00	
29	New Building Work	£0.00	
27	Major Repairs	£0.00	
99	Other	£0.00	
			£16,689.08
	Surplus / Loss for year		£11,639.44
	Surplus Brought Forward		£100,385.13
	Surplus Carried Forward		£88,745.69

Signed..... Dated.....

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Village Hall Accounts

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL					
RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023					
<u>BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1/4/2022</u>	£	£	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	£
Cash at Bank Current A/C		£12,377.85	Insurance		£661.03
Cash at Bank Deposit A/C		£30,325.25	Rates & Water		£661.23
Cash in Hand		£280.85	Electricity		£875.91
Rent Receivable		£25.00	Cleaning		£1,164.49
			Repairs & Maintenance		£23,736.51
			Sundries		£684.33
					£27,783.50
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
Lettings					£9,392.60
DONATIONS					£10.00
FUND RAISING					
Coffee Mornings					£896.37
			<u>BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31/3/2023</u>		
			Cash at Bank Current A/C		£4,744.91
			Cash at Bank Deposit A/C		£20,707.12
Deposit Account Interest			Cash in Hand		£454.26
					£25,906.29
TOTAL		£53,689.79	TOTAL		£53,689.79
I have prepared this account from the books and records of the Newton Village Hall Fund, and certify that it is a true record of the fund's transactions					
..... A A J VINCE : Treasurer					2023
Audited and found correct					2023

Signed..... Dated.....

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Fireside Club

Expenses			Income		
	Materials for Activities				
12.4.22.	Easter Egg/Craft	35.51	10.5.22.	Plant Sale	23
26.4.22.	Prizes	4.35	June	Midsummer Munch	490.98
4.10.22.	Quiz Prizes	8		Raffles[Nov & Jan]	124
6.12.22.	Byfords	39.6			637.98
6.12.22.	Table Decs.	27.02			637.98
			Subs	May	76
23-Mar	Easte Craft/Snowdrops	25.72		June	48
		140.2		September	425
		140.2		October	92
				November	95
	Speaker Fees			January	430
24.5.22.	CWGC	40		February	43
15.11.22.	British Legion	50		March	40
7.2.23.	CAB Singers	50		April	15
		140			1264
		140			1264
	Food and Drink				
			Donations	Newton Trust	250
21.6.22.	Suffolk Cream Tea	25		Newton Parish Council	100
	Midsummer Munch	157.1			350
2.8.22.	Old Joes Cream Tea	292			2251.98
5.7.22.	Wine Tasting	65			
1.11.22.	Refreshments	4.05			
1.11.22.	Pumpkin Meal	43.69			
29.11.22.	Prosecco	33.75			
	Soft Drinks	9			
6.12.22.	Prosecco	35			
13.12.22.	Xmas Lunch	100			
21.2.22.	Prosecco/Nos	37			
March	Fish & Chips	136			
	F & C Sundries	25.03			
		962.62			
		962.62			
		1242.82			

Signed..... Dated.....