

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR NEWTON ST. CYRES PARISH COUNCIL 2023/2024



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## 1. Parish Councillors

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Your local representatives:

**Parish Councillors:**

**Cllr Graeme Barnell (Chairman)**

Tel: 07564 541572

[graemebarnell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:graemebarnell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Development and Planning Lead

**Cllr Jenna Browne**

Tel: 07572 328984

[jennabrowne@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jennabrowne@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Publicity and Community Engagement

**Cllr John Dean**

Tel: 07778 640025

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Travel and Road Safety Lead

**Cllr Donna Harris**

Tel: 07805 391864

[donnaharris@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:donnaharris@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Environment and Climate Lead

**Cllr Monika Herpoldt-Bright**

Tel: 07834 764471

[monikaherpoldt-bright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:monikaherpoldt-bright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Monika supports Donna with Environment and Climate

**Cllr Liz Ouldrige, (Vice Chair)**

Tel: 01392 851621

[lizoultridge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lizoultridge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Liz supports Peter with Emergency and Resilience

**Cllr Jocelyne Rimbon-Whittaker**

Tel: 07508 71172

[jocelynerimbon-whittaker@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jocelynerimbon-whittaker@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Jocelyne supports Jenna with Publicity and Community Engagement

**Cllr Peter Stephenson**

[peterstephenson@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:peterstephenson@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk)

Emergency and Resilience Lead

## 2. Mid Devon District Councillor Report – Cllr Martin Binks

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The Liberal Democrat controlled council have been, they say, committed to running the council responsibly. We have soft closed the 3 Rivers Project and have increased the housing stock through the purchase of the St Georges Court Site which will be available to residents for affordable rents.

We have reduced the subsidy to the 3 Leisure Centres and reduced the annual budget for leisure by over £400,000.

The collection of rates was 97.5%, business rates 99.4% corporate debt recovery 98.9%.

The State of the District Debate was attended by over 70 people and the feedback from the meeting has proved to be very positive. It was well organised and many outside bodies relevant to the council were present.

We introduced Council Tax exemption for Care leavers and agreed to support them in any way that we could.

Our senior management posts have been reduced by 2, thus saving the council money by this reorganisation.

MDDC's waste disposal collections have become more efficient and we are now amongst the top 10% nationally.

*Martin Binks*

*Mid Devon District Councillors*

[mbinks@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:mbinks@middevon.gov.uk)

[schenore@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:schenore@middevon.gov.uk)

### **3. Devon County Councillors Report from Cllr Margaret Squires**

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I have attended the parish council when able through a difficult year personally having moved house twice.

Behind the scenes I have worked with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer(NHO) to push to get things attended to – including pushing for the flooding issue and resurface needed at Langford Road recently.

I need to thank Nick the parish road warden for all that he does – it makes such a difference!

I attend meetings at County Hall as I sit on a number of committees including Children's Scrutiny, Public Rights of Way and Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee.

As always I encourage all to report issues via the website [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk) one can scroll down to the issue you want to report.

For those that are not online there is a call centre:

- Highway issues - 0345 155 1004. A reference number is given and if the issue is not dealt with in a timely manner please contact me quoting ref. no. and I will follow up.
- To apply for a blue badge 0345 155 1006
- Adult Social Care 0345 155 1007
- Children's Social Care 0345 155 1078
- Disability Information Service 0345 155 1005
- MASH (Safeguarding for Children) 0345 155 1071

I am available should it be necessary to help with issues and can be contacted [margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk) or call 01363 758142

## 4. Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Annual Report 2023-2024

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This is based on the formal Annual Report to the Charity Commission which can be made if requested.

**Trustees** N. Baker, R Chambers, L. Mitchell, J. Salter, P. Watts, N Chambers.

**Objects of Charity** The provision and maintenance of a village hall for the inhabitants of the Parish of Newton St Cyres without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure- time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

**Organisational Structure** The business of the Charity is organised through the Committee of Management, comprising the Trustees (see above), the President, Representative Members and other elected or co-opted members (currently J Furniss, M Bright and E. Taylor). Nigel Chambers is Chairman and Peter Watts is Treasurer/Bookings Secretary. The Church nominee is Nicola Baker and Jenna Browne is Parish Council nominee.

### **Review of Activities**

**Bookings** Income from lettings at £8,795 was slightly lower than in the previous year, largely due to the loss of two regular bookings. However, two new regular bookings and a number of occasional ones are already in place for the new year.

**Hall improvement:** With the exception of routine maintenance no major improvements were undertaken given the need to preserve the financial position. There are a number of projects being considered for the coming year.

**Events** The Hall hosted events as part of the new village Music and Dance festival as well as a number of fundraising events which were targeted at different age ranges and interests. These included a coffee morning, a silent disco, a folk concert and a ceilidh. They generated a net surplus of £2,306, nearly double that of the previous year.

**Public benefit** The Trustees continue to comply with their duties to have due regard to the guidance provided by the Charity Commission on public benefit. A range of different organisations catering for different sections of our community uses the Hall and bookings for family parties have increased.

The twice weekly lunches provided by Adonai Kitchen and the outreach Post Office Service provided from Stoke Canon twice a week continued to provide a valued service to the community.

**Risk assessment and policy on reserves** We continued our policy to maintain reserves of at least £10,000 and the accounts show compliance with an overall positive balance of £23,900. With annual expenditure of circa £11,000 the extremely unlikely event of a year with no income would still leave a healthy balance

**Accounts** The Income and Expenditure Accounts have been examined and approved by an Independent Accounts Examiner.

Overall expenses exceeded income by £2,720. The major cause of this shortfall was that energy costs more than doubled. However, new contracts mean that they should fall back to a more normal level for the coming year. This together with new caretaking arrangements mean that a small surplus is predicted going forwards.

A sixth annual payment of £750 was made into a fund held by the Parish Council to cover the costs of periodic re-surfacing the car park or other major repairs, with both the Hall and the Parish Council contributing £750 annually.

Signed *Nigel Chambers*

*Chairman*

*18<sup>th</sup> April 2024*

## 5. Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting

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### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 29 May 2024 in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm**

#### **Present:**

Parish Councillors (Cllr G Barnell as Chair) and Parish Clerk, and approx. 35 members of public  
Cllr G Barnell welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr J Dean

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 6 April 2023**

Agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

##### **I. A new Parish Council**

The last year has seen major change in the membership of the PC. Several long-standing Councillors did not stand again in May 2023, including Chairman Jim Enright. All had served the people of the Parish for several years, some for many years. We should thank them all for their dedicated work and their service.

Since last May two other long-standing Councillors have resigned, both for personal reasons. Particular thanks must be given to Steve Parker who served as a Councillor for 20 years and worked tirelessly, over that time, for the good of the Parish.

The PC not only has new faces but has seen a major change in the proportions of male and female Councillors. We now have five female Councillors, with a sixth hopefully joining us soon. We now have just three male Councillors including myself. Encouragingly our new Councillors are also from very different backgrounds and are significantly younger than me! These changes are to be warmly welcomed and bode well for the future strength of the Council.

##### **II. New approaches and new ways of working**

The Council has six key priorities for its work. These include:

- working actively with the County Council to improve road safety, repair dangerous roads, and mitigate the impacts of road traffic on our communities. This includes promoting active travel including the Crediton to Exeter Cycleway.
- promoting care for our environment including promoting biodiversity, growing food, planting trees and renovating hedgerow
- responding effectively to real and potential emergencies by ensuring the Parish has up to date resilience plans together with the right equipment and a well organised network of volunteers.
- promoting sustainable growth and change in our communities by engaging actively with MDDC and other local councils in the District Planning process and by producing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- improving local facilities and services through a more proactive engagement and partnership working with key organisations in the Parish like the Parish Hall, Recreation Ground, the School and the Church

- encouraging new projects and volunteering, particularly involving parents and younger Parishioners.

To help us take forward our priorities we have allocated new lead responsibilities for key areas our work to individual councillors. These lead responsibilities are set out below. They may change with two new Councillors joining us.

### **III. The Environment - lead Councillors Donna Harris and A. N. Other**

This work currently includes: -

- Managing the Parish allotments
- Maintaining public grassed areas
- Maintaining roadside banks and verges within village areas
- Hedgerow renewal
- Tree planting
- Conversations with landowners on environmental issues

### **IV. Partnership Work and Volunteering - lead Councillors Jenna Browne and Jocelyne Whittaker**

This work includes: -

- Identifying and encouraging new community schemes and services
- Recruiting volunteers
- Identifying fundraising opportunities to support local schemes and services.
- Partnership working with key community organisations including School, Recreation Ground, Parish Hall and the Church
- Publicising the work of the PC

### **V. Roads, paths and travel - lead Councillors John Dean and A. N. Other**

This work includes: -

- Overseeing and developing the Parish Road Warden Scheme
- Managing the Parish Community Speed Watch scheme
- Overseeing and helping to maintain the local network of footpaths
- Producing locality traffic management and road safety plans (Tytheing, Station Rd, Smallbrook etc.)
- Promoting active travel including the Exeter to Crediton Cycleway (aka the Boniface Trail)
- Partnership working with Devon County Council Highways Dept

### **VI. Resilience including responding to emergencies - lead Councillors Peter Stephenson and Liz Ouldrige**

This work includes: -

- Producing and publicising Parish resilience plans.
- Maintaining and renewing resilience equipment and storage facilities.
- Organising and recruiting a network of resilience volunteers
- Responding to local emergencies including deploying resilience volunteers and equipment and responding to flood warnings and alerts.
- Organising the Parish Neighbourhood Watch scheme



## **VII. Planning and Development – lead Councillors Graeme Barnell and Liz Ouldrige**

- Identifying and promoting local affordable housing opportunities
- Partnership working with the Crediton Cluster of local councils and with MDDC Planning Department
- Producing a Parish Neighbourhood Plan
- Negotiating service and funding agreements with the Recreation Ground, the Parish Hall and the Church.
- Responding to Planning Applications

It is important to highlight significant progress in most of these ambitions. I'm particularly pleased to report:

- the continued success of our Road Warden Scheme
- the successful reestablishment of our Speedwatch Scheme
- the emergence of a local hedgerow renewal and tree planting initiative.
- significant progress with DCC in planning for the Boniface Cycleway.
- The emergence of partnership schemes with the Church, and Parish Hall.

Finally, I would like to thank Jane Hole our excellent Parish Clerk who has responded brilliantly to new challenges. She has ensured that the transition to a new Council has been informed by her skills and knowledge and that we have been properly advised and well supported.

The PC'S workload is both extensive and ambitious. You don't need to be a Councillor to support us with these tasks. Please contact me if you're interested in helping.

## **4. Public Participation and questions**

Questions raised included the need for a crossing at Tytheing Close, a footpath along Station Road, the possibility of getting the Recreation Ground designated as a green space, Parish Council policies and procedures. A request for the flashing sign on the A377 road bridge to be repaired.

## **5. Presentation of Community Volunteer of the year award**

There were three nominations: Nick Gillon for his work on the Road Warden Scheme; Martin and Elaine Taylor for their creative support for parish events and a team nomination for David Vallance, Ron Nethercott and Margaret and Courtney Wear for their work at the arboretum.

The award went to Nick Gillon with a highly commended to the other nominees.

## **6. Neighbourhood Plan Update – presentation by the NHP Group**

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan gave a presentation on the progress made to date with the plan (Presentation is available on the Parish Council website).

Questions and debate followed.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would debate the future of the Neighbourhood Plan at a Parish Council meeting.



## **6. Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground Club Annual Report**

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The year from April 2023 to March 2024 saw activity at the Recreation Ground continue at its usual level. The associated sports clubs, 4 x adult and 1 x junior football teams, 5 x cricket teams, the tennis club, and archery were all busy, with Saturdays during the winter busy with football, cricket on midweek evenings during the summer, archery happening on its ad-hoc basis and tennis taking place all year round.

Other events taking place were the 5 a-side football tournaments for both senior and junior teams, which brought in a large number of people. There were also some occasional events, parties, and celebrations etc and the annual firework display for the local community.

In the 2022-23 report increased costs from suppliers were highlighted as a significant financial risk and these additional costs have led to the Rec making a small deficit for the year. The main reason for this was that government support for increased power costs ended on 31st March and as the club was in a fixed contract with EDF costs rose hugely. When the contract ended in August the Rec changed supplier to Octopus who were much cheaper than EDF and supply 100% renewable energy. 2024-25 will see a large reduction in utility costs and we are expecting that the Rec will move away from making a deficit again.

The length of tenure on the current lease, which ends in 2030, continues to impact grant funding opportunities for the Rec and the associated sports clubs. Communication with both The Church Commissioners and their agents Strutt & Parker have continued during the year looking at options going forward. These conversations continue and when there is a clearer position to report the Rec will ensure the community are made aware of this.

The committee of the Rec continues to work hard to maintain and improve on the facility much of which needs the commitment of a significant amount of time by a small number of people involved in various activities many of which go unnoticed. Without that commitment the Rec could not continue to function.

We thank everyone for their continued time, expertise and effort in maintaining the excellent facilities we have inherited from those who came before.

Dave Harris  
Treasurer

## 7. Newton St. Cyres Primary School

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### Staffing

Staffing arrangements have been fairly stable over the last academic year. Nicola Turner left on maternity leave and has been replaced by Amanda Kersey. Amanda brings a wealth of experience and has had a huge impact on the early year's provision at Newton St. Cyres. We have also recently added Carol Griffiths to our foundation stage unit and nursery manager. She has arrived from Brampford Speke and also has a wealth of experience working in early year's settings.

### Ofsted

Newton St Cyres School was inspected under Section 8 of the Education Act 2005 on 17th July 2018 and judged to be good. The development points identified in the inspection were related to the following:

- the school's tracking and assessment system targets pupils' progress more accurately and as early as possible so that pupils make rapid progress
- more of the most able pupils make good progress to reach the higher standards in writing.

These development points were incorporated into an action plan and considerable work took place to ensure they were addressed. The new inspection framework introduced by Ofsted in 2019 questioned the validity of tracking and assessment systems and replaced this with a new emphasis on the curriculum intent, implementation and impact.

The school was inspected again on 17th and 18th October 2023, under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005, which was a graded inspection. The inspection was led by Gavin Summerfield, who was accompanied by Jane Dhillon for the first day. The overall judgement of the inspection was that the school is judged to be good, with both Early Years and Personal Development being judged to be 'outstanding'.

The report highlights that, beginning in the early years, the inclusive ethos is a strength of the school and children and staff form warm relationships; their nurturing approach helps children develop resilience and learn how to cope with setbacks. The school has high ambitions for its children and the curriculum is well designed so that children build their knowledge over time. The Early Years provision is outstanding and provides children with a love of learning in a caring environment, where the staff know the children well. Personal development is also outstanding, with a strong focus on building positive relationships.

The following positive comments were made:

- Pupils meet the school's high expectations for behaviour, the school is a calm place to learn and pupils are happy. They feel safe and secure
- Pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance rates are high
- The school helps pupils to become responsible, active citizens and the school and eco-councils are democratically organised and proactive
- Pupils have exceptional experiences at this school and trips and visits bring the curriculum to life
- Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school and say the staff 'go above and beyond' to care for their children. All parents who responded to Ofsted's Parent View survey would recommend the school
- Reading is a key focus for the school and children in the early years quickly develop a love of reading and older children enjoy the books that teachers read to them

- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective and staff know how to report safeguarding concerns in a timely manner.

The inspectors recommended the following improvements:

- In some subjects, the school has not identified the precise content that pupils, including those with SEND, are expected to know and remember. The school should ensure that, in all subjects, teachers are clear about the specific content pupils need to know and remember.
- There are some minor issues with some safeguarding records. A small number of records are not clear enough about the actions that leaders have taken to keep children safe. This makes it harder for the school to check that the right course of action has been followed or identify patterns or trends with safeguarding issues. The school must ensure that all safeguarding records contain details that enable staff to have a clear overview of actions taken.

### **Residential visits**

All of the residential visits for the year have taken place in the reporting period. Year 5 went to Bristol and Bath and visited the Roman Baths, SS Great Britain and The Wild Place [the new site for Bristol Zoo] as well as watching the musical 'Wicked'. The year 6 children returned recently from a trip to Heatree where they took part in a variety of outdoor, adventurous activities.

The Year 3s and 4s returned to Okehampton YHA on Dartmoor. The activities organised by the YHA staff included low ropes, archery and climbing and were supplemented by evening activities organised by the school staff team.

### **Federation Review**

The federation-wide review is commissioned each year to give governors an external view of the federation's work and to provide impartial evidence of its strengths and development points or risks. This year's review focused on triangulating what senior leaders said about their schools with evidence from children's work and through child conferencing. The purpose of the review was as follows:

- High level review of the federation's work and impact of leaders' work on improving schools
- Observe adaptations in teaching to support children with additional needs
- Review SEND provision and scrutinise SEND plans for precision and adaptive teaching in classrooms
- Identify impact of outdoor learning for children who are reluctant to engage with school
- Quality assure curriculum implementation at Silverton C of E School, following review
- Report to senior leaders and governors on the federation's strengths and areas for development

The intended outcomes of the review were reasonably well met, although leaders still felt that each school needed a more in-depth visit that would give governors the opportunity to be involved in the curriculum implementation and impact feedback. The new school visit format will provide this and therefore it is proposed that this is used in place of the federation review, with a final meeting between senior leaders and governors at the end of the cycle of visits to bring together the strengths and development priorities that have been identified.

We look forward to ending this year as positively as possible and looking ahead to another fantastic year in 2024/2025.

**JAMES DURWARD-AKHURST - DEPUTY EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER- EXE VALLEY FEDERATION  
HEAD OF SCHOOL- NEWTON ST. CYRES**

## 8. Friends of Newton Arboretum Annual Report 2023-2024

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This has been another good year for the Arboretum. It continues to provide a wonderful area for both relaxation and exercise and has been much appreciated by residents of Newton St Cyres and neighbouring villages and their visitors.

Our programme of tree planting has continued, but during the year we lost one of our iconic trees, the cork oak, and two other large trees. This will though produce space for more new trees. Most of our recently-planted trees have done well, helped by the programme of watering carried out by our volunteers, using water from the Church.

The Friends of the Arboretum held a number of events during the year.

Tours took place in the Arboretum on 12 June 2023. Vaughan Gallivan led a tour looking at newly-planted trees and discussing future planned plantings, whilst the second tour was led by Frances Watkin and looked at mosses, lichens and other lower plants. The AGM was held later that evening in the Parish Hall.

During the year we welcomed to the Committee, Helen and Marcus Iles and Martin Taylor, together with Jenna Browne, as representative of the Parish Council. Peter Watts retired from the position of Treasurer, having looked after our funds so well for 10 years. Many thanks to Peter and thanks to Marcus Iles, who has taken on this role.

Further changes are imminent. David Vallance will retire as Head Warden at our AGM on 12 June. David has carried out this role since the Friends were formed in 2014 and made a fantastic contribution to make the Arboretum the excellent village facility that it now is.

We thank all our volunteers for their tremendous work and our committee for managing the Arboretum. None of this would have been possible without the agreement and support of John Quicke, owner of the Arboretum. Thank you, John. We thank the Parish Council for encouragement and the provision of insurance cover and much appreciate the Church for letting us access the Arboretum through Churchyard.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Friends. The subscription is only £10 annually. Just contact Marcus Iles ([marcus.ilesj@btinternet.com](mailto:marcus.ilesj@btinternet.com)). We are always looking for helpers. If you can join a Working Party, take responsibility for a particular area or help in any way. please contact me.

*Roger Wilkins. Secretary, Friends of Newton Arboretum, May 2024. [rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com)*

## 9. Receipts and Payment Account

### Newton St Cyres Parish Council Accounts - Year ending 31 March 2024

		This year	Last year
		Y/E 2024	Y/E 2023
<b>Receipts</b>			
Precept		£13,431.00	£13,431.00
Grants	Neighbourhood Plan	£3,594.00	£9,899.00
	P3 Public Rights of way	£250.00	£0.00
	DCT - Radios	£0.00	£1,500.00
Allotment Rent		£440.00	£480.00
Donations		£675.00	£589.50
Raddon Hill/Feniton admin payment		£520.00	£320.00
Parish Hall contribution to resurfacing fund		£750.00	£750.00
VAT refund		£635.62	£1,667.43
Transfer from Resurfacing and FP Accounts		£7,560.41	£3,272.40
Other		£0.00	£741.93
<b>Total receipts current account</b>		<b>£27,856.03</b>	<b>£32,651.26</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
	Grants Parish Hall	£500.00	£500.00
	NSC Recreation Ground	£500.00	£500.00
	Citizens Advice	£200.00	£0.00
Admin/running costs	Annual subscription for .gov.uk	£240.00	£264.00
	External Audit Fee	£210.00	£0.00
	Bank Charges	£72.00	£72.00
	Election expenses	£147.35	£0.00
	Clerks wages incl PAYE/Raddon Hills	£5,823.50	£5,517.67
	Expenses - Clerks	£125.38	£83.88
	Expenses - Other	£22.00	£20.50
	Fees and subscriptions	£588.91	£655.56
	Hall expenses & electricity	£333.00	£320.00
	Insurance	£443.89	£413.56
	Printing	£254.73	£141.22
	Training (Clerk and Councillors)	£705.00	£0.00
Village Organisation	Churchyard grass cutting (new/old)	£1,340.00	£1,175.00
	Parish hall Wifi	£200.00	£200.00
	Recreation ground rent	£500.00	£500.00
Repairs & maintenance	Allotment Costs	£0.00	£66.00
	Arboretum licence	£0.00	£30.00
	Bus shelter cleaning	£64.00	£64.00
	Community Resilience	£52.67	£247.00
	Defibrillator related	£128.98	£31.00
	Gardening/Maintenance	£50.00	£107.49
	Grass cutting - parish	£1,460.00	£1,205.00
	Noticeboards	£25.83	£80.00

	P3 Footpaths	£430.00	£0.00
	Rain gauge	£593.00	£505.00
	Road Warden Scheme	£457.50	£546.78
	Signs	£0.00	£154.93
	Village flowers	£44.98	£33.32
Miscellaneous	Coronation medals for school	£404.68	£0.00
	NEW (funds from Jubilee)	£185.50	£0.00
	NHP (inc £9,120.58 grant repayment)	£9,628.00	£778.42
	PH car park maintenance - transfer	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
	Purchase of Litter bin for Rec	£256.43	£0.00
	Community Project Fund	£0.00	£100.00
	Purchase of radios	£0.00	£1,604.00
	Refund to MDDC (paid in error)	£0.00	£741.93
	Bench for Arboretum	£0.00	£826.00
	Hall car park relining and sealing	£0.00	£2,727.00
	PPE	£0.00	£46.51
	Seeds for Jubilee	£0.00	£228.15
	VAT	£664.62	£1,284.41
	Transfer to Resurfacing Account	£7,292.39	£0.00
<b>Total payments current account</b>		<b>£35,444.34</b>	<b>£23,270.33</b>
<b>Financial Summary Current Account</b>			
	Balance b/f as at 1 April 2023	£20,917.94	£11,537.01
	Add Receipts for Y/E 31 March 2024	£27,856.03	£32,651.26
	Less Payments for Y/E 31 March 2024	£35,444.34	£23,270.33
	Balance C/F as at 31 March 2024	£13,329.63	£20,917.94
<b>Financial Summary Footpath Account (now incl in current account)</b>			
	Balance b/f as at 1 April 2023	£268.02	£268.02
	Add Transfers for Y/E 31 March 2024	£250.00	£0.00
	Less Payments for Y/E 31 March 2024	£430.00	£0.00
	Balance C/F as at 31 March 2024	£88.02	£268.02
<b>Financial Summary Resurfacing Account</b>			
	Balance b/f as at 1 April 2023	£5,751.06	£7,514.96
	Add Receipts for Y/E 31 March 2024	£1,604.61	£1,531.50
	Less Payments for Y/E 31 March 2024	£0.00	£3,295.40
	Balance C/F as at 31 March 2024	£7,355.67	£5,751.06
<b>Financial Summary All Accounts</b>			
	Current Account	£13,329.63	£20,917.94
	Car park resurfacing account	£7,355.67	£5,751.06
<b>Total of all Accounts as at 1 April 2024</b>		<b>£20,685.30</b>	<b>£26,669.00</b>

## 10. Road Warden Report

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### 2024 Road Warden Scheme—a year summary of our work

By the first week of July we have been operating for 2 years. All our volunteers have been working tirelessly in our Parish to improve the safety of our roads. A big **THANK YOU** to all these volunteers. Here is a summary of our work this year:

- With **22** different volunteers working since the beginning, we have clocked **602** hours in total on the scheme to date
- **273** hours in the last year worked in filling potholes, clearing verges and flood prevention
- **85** hours filling in potholes and **111** hours clearing flood debris after flash floods, digging drainage ditches and clearing drains to prevent further flooding—it was a wet winter!
- Co-ordinated with DCC on **major repairs** to Station Road and Langford to Shute Cross Road
- Cleared the **school road path** (on A377) of all debris for safe use
- Repaired our historic **Station Rd finger post** sign saving it from removal
- Raised **£600** locally towards RWS future work

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Worked with **several local land owners** to reduce local flooding and helped solve various road and environmental issues



However we cannot do this alone—we need **your help!** If you see anything that causes flooding or creates a hazard in our Parish please report it using our online reporting form using the QR code or contact the Parish Clerk via email: [parishclerk@newtonstcypres-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@newtonstcypres-pc.gov.uk)





## 11. NEW Report

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### Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group

In April 2022, the NEW Group organised a forum to give the community of Newton St. Cyres a chance to give its thoughts on what we could all do in response to the climate and nature emergencies. The most popular idea was for the community to have access to locally grown, seasonal food, produced in a way that will increase biodiversity and help with people's well-being.

Later in 2022 the Parish Council offered the NEW Group the chance to take on a group of unused allotments. Although these allotments needed considerable work to bring them into productive cultivation the group enthusiastically took on the challenge and volunteers came forward to begin the task.

During 2022-23 the top half of the allotment was brought into cultivation. Not only was food starting to be grown but also biodiversity was being aided through the creation of wildlife ponds, the planting and encouragement of wildflowers and the use of the no-dig methodology.

What is no-dig? Well as you can imagine it involves almost no digging. This increases biodiversity by not interfering with the fungal network under the soil which we now understand is key to a well-functioning ecosystem. Additionally, by not digging, carbon remains locked within the soil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing soil fertility. No pesticides, herbicides, or artificial fertilisers are required, only locally sourced compost or manure is applied to the soil.

In 2023 the NEW Group ran the Food Larder at the Parish Hall for a second year. The larder is for the benefit of the whole Parish, providing fresh vegetables produced on the community allotment and by local gardeners. The scheme is designed to help address the cost of living crisis and eliminate food waste, as the vegetables are fresh, free of charge and people can take as little or as much as they want, with no packaging. The produce table is located in the lobby once a month at the Village coffee mornings from 10.30 to 12 and during the Adonai Kitchen sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 12 and 2 pm.

Last year was the first year of the community allotment and this along with drought conditions limited the growth of produce with the first food larder not until August. This year we are hoping to run the larder from June until November. Anyone who would like fresh vegetables produced without the use of any chemicals and with zero airmiles can take as many as they like. The produce is for everyone, not only Adonai or coffee morning customers. Favourites include salad ingredients, particularly tomatoes and cucumbers. Courgettes and green beans always go down a treat!

Last autumn NEW also distributed apples and some other fruit, alongside the vegetables. At the end of each session, any surplus produce is donated to the Adonai Kitchen or given to local families in need.

In 2024 we are hoping to extend the larder by distributing produce at more locations in the village.

David Harris and Helen Charlton