

NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Council Update

Much of the October meeting focussed on updates on items raised previously; councillor recruitment, the budget for 2025-26, websites, Christmas Music on the Green and the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

I am delighted to welcome Laura Baker and Simon Shenton as **new Councillors** in the Parish! We're genuinely grateful that they have volunteered and restored our numbers to a sustainable level. We still have one remaining vacancy if anyone is interested.

As mentioned previously, we are beginning to construct the **budget for the next financial year**. We have to finalise our budget, known as the precept, by January, hence the timeline. By the time you read this, we will have held a public meeting on the 21st October to encourage and capture ideas and initiatives which can be considered as part of the budget-setting process. If you have any ideas for what the Parish Council could spend its money on, please feel free to drop me a line!

Earlier this year, the Parish Council's website host ceased operating so a new host and a new website for the Parish Council was required. Newnham Parish Council's new website

address is www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

At around the same time, there was recognition that the village would benefit from a Village Website, the purpose of which would be to: -

- act as a one stop shop for the village for all recreational activities, groups and clubs and to create an information access point.
- promote events and important dates within the village
- promote a sense of cohesion and pride across the wide variety of community groups and activities that the village has to offer.

The Village Hall Management Committee was also looking into a website for the Village Hall so the two organisations have collaborated and combined their ideas to develop a website for the village. Rachael Shenton, from the Village Hall Committee, has done a fantastic job leading the project and the website is nearly complete; once the relevant training has been completed the site will go live. Keep an eye out at www.newnhamvillage.co.uk

Having saved money by changing providers, the Parish Council has funded the initial set up costs and will fund the ongoing fees to maintain this as a community resource. The Village Hall Committee has contributed towards the set-up of the site, project managed the initiative as well as funded a new booking facility on the Village Hall page of the website. It has been a great example of collaborative working, which hopefully will facilitate much more community development.

Next May marks the **80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day**. At this stage, national guidance suggests that a Beacon and a street party will be the encouraged format for local events. Newnham has a strong tradition of celebrating national occasions and we hope to continue this next year. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. We will be talking to other organisations in the village to ensure they're included.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 4th November**, starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.