

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31st January 2017 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

Present: Councillors M. Halsey, B. Horsfall, J. Sheppard and J. Smerdon (Chairman)

In Attendance: Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)
Lewes District and East Sussex County Councillor, Jim Sheppard
Twenty-five members of the public including eleven applicants for co-option

An audio recording was made of the meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence:-** No apologies had been received
2. **Disclosure by Members of personal interest in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct: -**
There were no disclosures
3. **Co-option of up to seven applicants to fill Parish Council vacancies**
 - 3.1 Written applications from eleven people wishing to be considered for co-option to the Parish Council had been received and distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk summarised the co-option process that would be followed. Verbal statements in support of their applications were heard from Mr Chris Armitage, Mr Guy Clothier, Mr Gerald Jones, Mr John Lucas, Mrs Melanie Thew, Mr Joe White, Mrs Cathy Wickens, Mr Ken Wrench and Mr Nick Windham-Luck.
 - 3.2 It was resolved that the Council should proceed with the co-option of new Members and that voting should be by signed ballot.
 - 3.3 Ballot papers were issued to and completed by Members of the Parish Council. The votes were counted by the Clerk, results as follows:-

Mr Armitage	2
Mr Clothier	4
Mr Jones	3
Mr Lucas	3
Mr Nesbitt	3
Mrs Thew	3
Mr Thomas	0
Mr White	3
Mrs Wickens	2
Mr Wrench	4
Mr Windham-Luck	0

Mr Clothier, Mr Jones, Mr Lucas, Mr Nesbitt, Mrs Thew, Mr White and Mr Wrench, being the seven candidates with the highest number of votes, were invited to sign Declarations of Acceptance of Office and to join the meeting table. Mr Lucas and Mrs Thew declined to take up their positions as Parish Councillors and left the meeting along with Mr Armitage, Mrs Wickens and several members of the public. It was agreed to postpone the filling of the two remaining vacancies until a later date. Mr Clothier, Mr Jones, Mr Nesbitt, Mr White and Mr Wrench signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and presented them to the Clerk.

New members of the Council were offered the opportunity to declare any interests in matters on the agenda and Cllr. Jones declared an interest in agenda item 12.3 (Allotments) as the Chairman of Newick Allotment Society.

It was agreed that, in order to assist a member of the public who had attended to hear consideration of his planning application, agenda items 5 and 10.1 would be brought forward.

5 Questions or Statements by Members of the Public

Mr Cottingham spoke in connection with agenda item 10.1 (Planning Application LW/16/1018). He advised that his original plans had been amended in order to reduce the impact of his proposed extension on his neighbours and that the proposed extension would be in keeping with others in the surrounding area.

Mr Cumberlege spoke in connection with agenda item 10.4 (Neighbourhood Plan Issues). He thanked various people who had assisted him and his wife to prepare and obtain information in support of their appeal against the Mitchelswood Planning Decision. He advised that meetings had been held with Government Ministers and the Chief Planning Officer for England, resulting in the fact that Newick was now firmly on the map and that Ministers had taken note. He reported that Baroness Cumberlege had put down a number of amendments to the Neighbourhood Planning Bill in order to try to prevent Neighbourhood Plans from being overridden in the future. He also thanked all those who had supported their legal action against the Secretary of State for their generosity. Mr Cumberlege stated that he hoped Newick Parish Council would take steps to rewrite the Newick Neighbourhood Plan in a more watertight way and that it may be necessary for the Council to spend money in order to achieve this.

10.1 Planning Application LW/16/1018 29 Oldaker Road, Newick – It was agreed to make **no comment** on the revised plans for a flat roof single storey rear extension.

One member of the public left the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

4. Appointment of Committees, Working Groups and Representatives to External Organisations – The following appointments were agreed:-

Planning Committee	Cllrs. Mario Halsey, Jed Jones, Iain Nesbitt, Jenny Smerdon and Joe White
Environment and Recreation Committee	Cllrs. Guy Clothier, Mario Halsey, Jean Sheppard, Jenny Smerdon and Joe White
Finance & General Purpose Committee	Cllrs. Ben Horsfall, Jed Jones, Iain Nesbitt and Ken Wrench
Neighbourhood Plan Committee	Cllrs. Ben Horsfall, Jed Jones, Iain Nesbitt, Jenny Smerdon and Ken Wrench
Allotments Working Group	Cllrs. Guy Clothier, Jean Sheppard and Jenny Smerdon
Emergency Plan Coordinators	Cllrs. Ben Horsfall and Jean Sheppard
Tree Warden and Public Footpaths	Cllrs. Guy Clothier and Jed Jones
Neighbourhood Watch	Cllr. Jean Sheppard
Sports Pavilion Management Committee	Cllrs Jenny Smerdon and Joe White
CCTV Management Group	Cllrs Ben Horsfall and Joe White
Newick Village Hall Management Committee	Cllr. Jenny Smerdon
Lewes District Association of Local Councils	Cllrs. Jenny Smerdon Ken Wrench
East Sussex Association of Local Councils	To be agreed at Annual Meeting in May
Trustees of the Lady Vernon Trust	Mr C. Andrews, Mrs S. Armitage, Mr P. Cumberlege, Mrs E. Dunton, and Cllr. Mrs Smerdon. Additional appointment, if required to be agreed at Annual Meeting in May
Internal Auditor	Mr Peter Frost

5. Questions or statements by Members of the Public – This agenda item had been brought forward and dealt with earlier in the meeting. See above

6. **Lewes District/East Sussex County Councillor Jim Sheppard's report on matters affecting Newick** – Cllr. Jim Sheppard congratulated and welcomed the newly co-opted members to the Parish Council. He mentioned the following items which he had been involved with:-

- The continuation of the 31 bus service which had been under threat
- Continued funding for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which had been threatened with withdrawal.
- Meetings with Maria Caulfield MP and Cllr. Andy Smith (Leader of Lewes District Council) regarding Newick's Neighbourhood Plan. He assured those present that Lewes District Council was in full support of Neighbourhood Plans and that in future Neighbourhood Plans would be much stronger.
- Efforts to make planning boundaries more enforceable
- Support for ensuring that the play area planned for the Newick Hill development would be properly equipped.
- Clarification that the earth mounds currently on the car parking area of the new SANG site were only temporary and that the permanent earth bunds planned for the site would be much lower

Cllr. Smerdon asked whether there would be support forthcoming from Lewes District Council to take Newick's Neighbourhood Plan forward and Cllr. Sheppard confirmed that this would be the case.

7. **Approval of draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held 10th January 2017** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 10th January 2017 could be signed as a true record.

8. **Clerk's Report** – A report from the Clerk which included a Tree Warden matter, arrangements for the newly opened Parish Council Office, Clerk's Leave arrangements and correspondence received in December 2016 and January 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there was a bookings clash at the Sports Pavilion on 11th April 2017 and that committee meetings planned for that night would be held at the Community Centre instead.

9. **Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – There was nothing to report.

10. Planning:

10.1 Planning Applications – This agenda item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting, see above.

10.2 Approvals/Refusals etc. – It was noted that the following application had been **approved** by Lewes District Council:-

LW/16/0856 2 Vernons Road – Planning application for removal of garage and replacement with two storey side extension.

It was noted that the following application had been **refused** by Lewes District Council

LW/16/0857 Flat 2 The Bannisters, 20 Church Road – Planning application for replacement window and door to front elevation.

10.3 Tree works applications – It was agreed to make **no comment** on the following tree works application:-
TW/17/0011/TPO 5 North Lodge – 1 x Sycamore (G3 of Order) – Crown reduce by 3-5 metres to reduce height and spread. Adjust sling brace accordingly. 1 x Portugal Laurel – Fell (dead).

10.4 Newick Neighbourhood Plan – Issues to include outcome of DLA Judicial Review hearing if known. It was noted that the outcome of the DLA Judicial Review hearing had not yet been announced. It was agreed that there should be a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee as soon as possible in order to agree the way forward and that former Steering Group members should be invited to join the committee as non-councillor members.

One member of the public left the meeting at 8.48 p.m.

10.5 Newick Hill Development – Cllr. Smerdon reported that she had spoken at a recent Lewes District Council Planning Committee meeting regarding the developer's proposals to amend the S.106 agreement which would affect the provision of an equipped play area on the site. It was noted that the proposed amendments had not been agreed by Lewes District Council and that further discussions were taking place.

11. Financial Matters:

11.1 To approve schedule of payments for January 2017 – It was agreed that the schedule of payments for January 2017 should be approved.

Payee	Item	Invoice Amount	Cheque Number
S.E. Berry	Clerk's Salary	£713.48	Standing Order
Post Office Ltd	Tax and NI from Clerk & PC	£271.03	201235
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Contributions from Clerk & PC	£264.73	201236
D. Sankey Ltd	Routine Mole Treatment	£100.80	201237
CHEC	Printing of newsletters	£232.00	201238
Mr C Goddard	Delivery of newsletters	£120.00	201239
SSALC Limited	Local Council Review subscription	£17.00	201240
CPRE	Membership subscription	£36.00	201241
S.E. Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk on behalf of Parish Council	£76.31	201242
Newick Village Hall Management Committee	Balance of grant monies from previous years	£125.63	201243
Constain Ltd - ESCC	Sign for Newick Village Hall Funded from PWLB monies	£657.84	201244
Dixon Hurst Ltd	Structural report - Newick Village Hall Funded from PWLB monies	£412.98	201245
S. Orwin	Village Maintenance	£236.25	201246
Moova Ltd	Removal of filing cabinets from Village Hall to Community Centre	£66.00	201247
Mr & Mrs P Fuller	Annual rental for Cornwells Bank Allotment	£500.00	201248
Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	Mowing of Highway Verges £1999.30	£1,999.30	201249
Total		£5,829.35	

Income in January 2017

Barclays Bank	Interest	£7.84
Cambridge & Counties Bank	Interest	£945.31
Mr Caulkett	Payment for access across PC land	£5.00
HMRC	Reclaimed VAT	£1,591.50
Total		£2,549.65

11.2 To note statement of performance against budget as at end December 2016 – The statement of performance against budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

11.3 Pension Auto Enrolment – The Clerk confirmed that the Council's obligations in connection with Pension Auto Enrolment had been fulfilled and that a letter of confirmation had been received from the Pensions Regulator.

11.4 Consideration of grant applications from Newick Bowls Club and Newick Amateur Dramatic Society – Consideration was given to grant applications received from Newick Bowls Club and Newick Amateur Dramatic Society. It was agreed to award £250 to Newick Bowls Club (for alteration, renovation and sign writing of the Club's Honours Boards) and £2205 to Newick Amateur Dramatic Society (towards the cost of replacing the stage curtains, running track and black side drapes on the stage at Newick Village Hall). Proposed by Cllr. Jean Sheppard and seconded by Cllr. Halsey. Grants were awarded using the Council's General Power of Competence.

12. Committees' and Councillors' Reports

12.1 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – Cllr. Smerdon reported on NVHMC plans for maintenance and improvements including installing an extractor fan and various signage.

12.2 Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Jean Sheppard reported on three crimes which had occurred over the previous month and had been reported to her by the victims. It was noted that there was now no Police presence in the village following the withdrawal of the PCSO and little communication with the Police.

12.3 Allotments – It was agreed to approve the draft agreement with Newick Allotment Society for the management of the Cornwells Bank allotment site subject to amendment of paragraph 6c. Cllr. Smerdon reported that the Cornwells Bank site needed ground work to make it suitable for prospective allotment holders to take it over. Quotations were being sought, but it was likely that the cost of the necessary work would exceed the amount currently held in the allotment reserve. It was agreed that an additional £2000 should be transferred from the General Reserve to the Allotment Reserve to cover some of the initial costs of ground clearance and plot marking. Proposed by Cllr. Jean Sheppard and Seconded by Cllr. Clothier. Cllr. Jones had declared an interest in this item and did not vote.

12.4 Update on Newick Post Office – Cllr. Jean Sheppard reported that she had been contacted by a new resident who had made a proposal for a Community Post Office to be set up. The proposal was at an early stage and there were a number of issues, including location, staffing and funding, which would need to be resolved.

12.5 Food Fair 17th June 2017 – It was agreed to use the surplus funds from the 2016 Festival (£350) to facilitate the Food Fair in 2017. Proposed by Cllr. Halsey and seconded by Cllr. Wrench.

12.6 Bluebell Railway visit by Flying Scotsman 13th to 19th April 2017 – Cllr. Jean Sheppard reported on a meeting she had attended on 17th January 2017 regarding arrangements that were being put in place for the Flying Scotsman visit to the Bluebell Railway in April 2017. It was noted that large numbers of people were expected to attend and that this would be likely to create problems for traffic management and parking.

One member of the public left the meeting at 9.35 p.m.

13. Beacon to commemorate 100 years of remembrance – 11/11/18 – Information regarding proposals for beacons to be lit on 11th November 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Newick should participate by lighting a beacon and noted that Newick Bonfire Society had agreed to provide and light the beacon. Contact had been made with the Newick branch of the Royal British Legion but no response had been received.

14. Request for access to rear of 40 The Rough – A request had been made from new residents of 40 The Rough to access their rear garden from Parish Council land between The Rough and Vernons Road. A copy of the agreement already in place for other residents had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the document allowed for notice to be given to residents to end the access agreement should the Parish Council decide to dispose of this land. It was agreed that an offer should be made to the residents for the standard agreement to be put in place.

15. Request from Shayler Showtime Amusements to use The Green 2nd to 9th October 2017 – It was agreed that permission should be given to Shayler Showtime Amusements to use The Green between 2nd and 9th October 2017, subject to the normal terms and payment of a deposit.

16. Request from Newick Cricket Club to erect sponsor's advertising banners on match days – It was agreed that permission should be given to Newick Cricket Club to erect their sponsor's banners around the cricket pitch on match days.

17. Bus Service 31 (Haywards Heath/Uckfield) – It was noted that East Sussex County Council had reached an agreement with Compass Travel and that the service would continue to operate for a least twelve months on the revised timetable which had been put in place with effect from 9th January 2017.

18. Items for the next agenda – The following items to be included on the next agenda:-
Outcome of Judicial Review, if known, and progress of Cornwells Bank Allotment site.

The meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

The Clerk: Mrs SE Berry, 18 Newlands Park Way, Newick, BN8 4PG
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