

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newick Parish held
at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 13th April, 2016
at Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick.**

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of Newick Parish Council, Cllr. Nick Berryman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Mr Chris Jago, Mr Ross Houghton, and Mrs Jean Sheppard, District & County Councillor Mr Jim Sheppard, PCSO Sally-Ann Reed, Mrs Christine Houghton, Mrs Ruby Gordon-Wilson, Ms Carol Hart, Mrs Sue Balloch and members of Newick Badminton Club and Newick Cricket Club.

Approximately sixty parishioners attended the meeting including Newick Parish Councillors: Mr C. Allen, Mr. C. Armitage, Mr. N. Berryman, Mr. M. Halsey, Dr. B. Horsfall, Mrs J.Smerdon, Mrs. M. Thew, and Mrs C. Wickens.

The Clerk, Mrs. Sue Berry, was in attendance to take the minutes.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 15th April 2015

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th April 2015 should be approved as a true record of that meeting. Copies were available at the meeting, on the Newick website, and at Newick Post Office.

3. Reports from PCSO, Newick Village Hall Management Committee, Clubs and Societies

Report from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) – PCSO Sally-Ann Reed had sent her apologies that she was unable to attend the meeting. Copies of her written report had been printed and were available at the meeting. The Chairman advised that copies of the report would also be available on the Newick Parish website in due course. It was agreed by all present that they wished their appreciation for the services that PCSO Reed has provided to Newick to be recorded.

Report from East Sussex County and Lewes District Councillor Jim Sheppard – Cllr. Jim Sheppard had sent his apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting. Copies of his written reports of East Sussex County Council and Lewes District Council matters had been printed and were available at the meeting. The Chairman advised that copies of the report would also be available on the Newick Parish website in due course.

Report from Chailey and Newick Colts Junior Football Club – Mr Nigel Dean, Chairman of Chailey and Newick Colts advised that the Club had about 120 players and as such was probably the biggest and most competitive sports club for children in the area. He listed the Club's successes in the 2015/16 season, including those of the under 16 and under 14 teams and reported that two club members had gone on to become professional footballers. He advised that it took at least 25 volunteers and cost around £16,000 each year to run the Club. Finally, Mr Dean mentioned that the Club had launched an appeal to refurbish its Clubhouse and that it needed to raise a further £20,000 to complete the project.

Report from Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – Mr Mike Berry, Vice Chairman and Treasurer of NVHMC, reported that during 2015 the floor in the committee room had been renewed and work had started on the new disabled egress. It was hoped that this work would soon be completed. The major plan for the future was to redecorate the interior of the hall. Hall hire charges had reluctantly been increased, but the new pricing structure had proved to be more attractive to one-off hirers. Mr Berry highlighted that the number of NVHMC trustees had declined and that four of the seven trustees did not live in Newick. He asked for support for the hall from the many local clubs and societies that use it. Finally, Mr Berry thanked the Village Hall Bookings Secretary, the Hall Caretaker and all the hirers for helping to keep the facility going.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service – Peter Lilley from Barcombe Fire Station spoke about changes to the Fire and Rescue Service and the role of the Service in fire prevention. He reported that a number of fire

engines had been withdrawn from service and that each fire engine crew across East Sussex had lost one member as a result of the financial cuts which took effect on 1st April 2016. Mr Lilley promoted the Home Safety Visit Service and encouraged those present to take advantage of it. He offered to come along to give a Home Safety presentation to any groups that wanted this or to bring the fire engine to events or Festivals. Mr Saunders raised the problem of badly parked cars preventing a fire engine from reaching a property in an emergency. Mr Lilley acknowledged that this was an increasing problem but assured those present that if there was an emergency, the fire crew would find a way of getting through.

Report from Newick and District NADFAS – Mrs Sarah Tasker, Chairman of Newick and District NADFAS gave details of the aims and objectives of this leading arts charity. She spoke about the work of the organisation's volunteering and conservation projects, including Church Recorders who were working at Chailey Church and would document their findings, which would be preserved in the County Archives. Mrs Tasker advised that the Newick and District NADFAS had 136 members but that it was her ambition to increase this to 200 before she retired the following year.

Report from Newick Twinning Association (NTA) – Mrs Melanie Thew, President of NTA, gave details of the association's activities over the past year, including the visit to Newick's twin village of Itteville in France, the well-attended Wine and Wisdom quiz and the Progressive Dinner. She reported that Newick would be hosting a group of about 60 people from Itteville in May 2016, the visit coinciding with Newick Festival, and asked for offers of accommodation for the visitors. Mrs Thew highlighted that 2017 would be the association's silver anniversary and that plans were being made to celebrate this.

Report from Newick Rootz – Mr Tony Mayes gave a report on behalf of Newick Rootz. He outlined the practical work undertaken by members of Rootz in helping to monitor and maintain public footpaths within the Parish of Newick. East Sussex County Council provided the enthusiastic volunteers with training and equipment. Mr Mayes reported that the group meets monthly to discuss the work required and to plan the monthly work days. The varying skills and knowledge of the group's members had enabled them to extend their activities include to plant and wildlife studies on Newick Common, hedge laying, and surveying what was hoped would become a SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) site on the village boundary. Mr. Mayes gave an explanation of SANGS and the process that still needed to be followed before the land in question would be designated as such. Finally, Mr Mayes advised that Rootz would like to organise some first aid training and asked whether any other local organisation would like to join in with this.

Newick Festival Organising Committee – Cllr. Jenny Smerdon, Chairman of Newick Festival Organising Committee outlined the activities that were planned for Newick Festival 2016, which would be held during the weekend 27th to 29th May. On the Saturday activities would be centred around a Food Fair on the Green and on the Sunday there would be a number of family focussed activities at King George V Playing Field. There would also be a Scarecrow Trail throughout this period and Cllr. Smerdon asked everyone to get involved.

Speed Watch – Cllr. Jenny Smerdon briefly outlined the work of the volunteer Speed Watch Team and asked for people to volunteer to join the team in order to ensure speed monitoring could take place on a more regular basis.

Newick Lawn Tennis Club – Mrs Smerdon advised that the Tennis Club would be holding an Open Day in July 2016 when people could go along to take part in a free tennis session.

Report from St Mary's Church Pastoral Team – Mrs Patsy Bailey spoke on behalf of St Mary's Church Pastoral Care Team (known as TLC) who do an enormous amount of work for housebound people in Newick and surrounding areas. A new lunch club had just started and was reported to have been very successful. Mrs Bailey asked for more people to volunteer as drivers to take elderly and disabled people for their various appointments to doctors, dentists etc.

Report from Newick Cinema – Mr Mike Berry spoke about the community based cinema that had been running at the Village Hall since May 2014. This was held on the fourth Sunday of each month when a major film was shown. Refreshments were available, provided by Newick Amateur Dramatic Society, who were raising funds to replace the stage drapes at the Village Hall. Attendance at the screenings had

improved and it was hoped that this improvement would be maintained. If the cinema were to make a financial surplus, it was intended to provide a free children's film at some time in the future.

Report from Newick Horticultural Society (NHS) – Mr David Faulke, Chairman of NHS, told the meeting that the Society's membership remained stable at about 200 members. He said that finances were robust, but that it cost around £4,500 each year to stage the Society's two main shows. The Society organised talks and visits which were well attended and often sold out. Mr Faulke thanked Mr Tony Turk for documenting the history of NHS, copies of which were available to purchase. He stated that there was a good level of entries for the shows and that Society members were engaged in two community projects, the first to assist Newick Primary School pupils to understand gardening, and the second to tend the flower beds beside the A272 at either end of the village. Finally, Mr Faulke made an appeal for younger people to join the committee or to help the Society in any way they could.

Report from St Peter & St James Hospice, Newick and Chailey Support Group - Mrs Glenda Blackaller thanked Newick parishioners for their continuing support for the hospice and gave details of a Summer Garden Party to be held in June 2016 and a tour of the Bluebell Vineyard, which would take place in July.

Newick Pre-School – Mrs Louise Luck, manager of Newick Pre-School, advised that the Pre-School is a 'not for profit' charity funded partly by government and partly by fees. The Pre-School had been inspected by Ofsted in 2015 and had been found to be Outstanding. Mrs Luck stated that the Pre-School was keen to get involved with the Community and she had identified several local groups that could help with this and asked for anybody with a skill that they would be willing to share with the children to get in touch with her.

4. Newick Parish Council - The Chairman's Report

Copies of the Parish Council Chairman's report were circulated at the meeting and can be found on the Newick Website. The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Berryman, highlighted that the membership of the council remained largely unchanged with nine members of the previous Council having been re-elected in May 2015. He welcomed new Councillors Mario Halsey and Ben Horsfall to the Council. He thanked the Clerk for her assistance during his first year as Chairman of the Council. Cllr. Berryman described the work that was ongoing to improve the appearance of the village and spoke about the findings of a survey that had been carried out by Councillors in December 2015. He highlighted the concern of the Council at the impending changes to Neighbourhood Policing which would see the loss of Newick's well respected Police Community Support Officer, Sally-Ann Reed. Concerns about legal challenges to Newick's Neighbourhood Plan and a planning Public Inquiry into a proposed development at Mitchelswood Farm were also mentioned. Cllr. Berryman reported on the efforts being made by the Parish Council to try to ensure that Newick retains its local services including the Post Office and pharmacy, which were both believed to be under threat. He reported that the upgraded children's play area had been in place since the summer of 2015 and thanked those involved in successfully managing the project. Future projects mentioned included the setting up of a new allotment site, a new school crossing patrol to be run by volunteers, the Centenary Stone to be unveiled by the Newick Branch of the Royal British Legion, Newick Festival 2016 and the lighting of a Beacon to celebrate Her Majesty, The Queen's 90th birthday.

5. Question and Answer Session:

The following matters were raised during the Question and Answer Session:-

- Mr Clive Maxwell asked whether the hedge cutting that had taken place in Oldaker Road would continue in other parts of the village. It was clarified that the hedge cutting in question had been initiated by East Sussex County Council Highways, but that the Parish Council had identified other hedges that were overhanging and that contact would be made with individual residents to ask them to rectify this. Cllr. Smerdon confirmed that the Council hoped that residents would be willing to take on responsibility for the areas immediately in front of their properties and keep them neat and tidy.
- Mr Tony Mayes highlighted the problem created by increased car ownership of parking on and damage to grass verges. He asked whether consideration had been given to trying to provide additional parking within the village in order to alleviate this problem. The Chairman advised that the Council was aware of the problem and was still looking for a solution. Mrs Blackaller asked whether

lay-bys could be provided, but the Chairman advised that there would be difficulty with the funding for this kind of project.

- Baroness Julia Cumberlege, on behalf of everyone present, thanked the Chairman and members of the Parish Council for everything that they did for the village.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them to take some refreshments.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 p.m.