

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee of Newick Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road on Tuesday, 5th April 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: C. Armitage, B. Horsfall, I. Nesbitt, J. Smerdon,
C. Wickens and K. Wrench

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)
Three members of the public

An audio recording was made of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. G. Jones
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.

Cllr. Horsfall joined the meeting at 6.31 p.m.

3. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public**

Mr Lucas spoke in connection with agenda items 8.1, 8.3 and 8.6. He pointed out that the committee's work in monitoring emerging housing and planning legislation should be broadened to include new planning guidance such as the guidance to be issued to examiners. He also highlighted a link from an online publication, The Conversation, which he had forwarded to the Council. The article suggested that the Government may discard some of the existing European environmental regulations and Mr Lucas pointed out that if it did so there would be an impact on Newick.

4. **Appointment of Vice Chairman for this committee** – There were two nominations for Vice Chairman, 1) Ben Horsfall (proposed by Cllr. Nesbitt and seconded by Cllr. Wrench) and 2) Chris Armitage (proposed by Cllr. Wickens and seconded by Cllr. Horsfall). A vote was taken and Cllr. Horsfall was elected as Vice Chairman (B. Horsfall 3 votes, C. Armitage 2 votes).
5. **Further review of Terms of Reference** – It was agreed to recommend to the Council 1) that the committee should remain as a committee rather than become a working group, 2) that the name of the committee should be the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, 3) that the Scope of the committee should be widened to include 'monitoring relevant legislation, including emerging legislation and guidance', and 4) that the Composition should be amended to include the appointment of a Vice Chairman.
6. **Proposals for co-option of non-councillor members to this committee** – It was agreed to recommend to the Council that, in view of their experience on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Mr John Lucas and Mrs Melanie Thew should be co-opted as non-councillor members of this committee.
7. **Update on ongoing legal proceedings** – There were no updates available.
8. **Consideration of suggested priorities for this committee** – the following priorities for the committee were agreed:_
 - 8.1 Monitoring and consideration of existing and emerging housing and planning legislation and guidance (including the Housing White Paper, the Neighbourhood Plan Bill, National Planning Policy Framework).
 - 8.2 Consideration of the outcomes of relevant court proceedings, including cases involving sites outside Newick.

- 8.3 Monitoring and reporting on national planning issues which may have implications for Newick. It was noted that the sourcing of this information would be helped if the Council were to subscribe to an online source of updates such as Planning Resource (see agenda item 10).
- 8.4 Monitoring and reporting on the progress of local developments including the Newick Hill site (Mantell Close), the SANG site (Reedens Meadow), development sites identified in the Neighbourhood Plan and any other local developments in and around Newick.
- 8.5 Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Lewes District Council Joint Core Strategy including Housing Scale and Distribution Policies SP1 and SP2, Local Plan part 2 (Housing Allocation) and progress on meeting national expectations.
- 8.6 Monitoring and reporting on issues connected with Wealden District Council Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Nitrogen Deposition. It was agreed that Cllrs. Wickens and Armitage would draft a question to be sent to Lewes District Council asking how the outcome of the recent court case between Lewes District Council and Wealden District Council would affect Newick. **Action Cllrs. Armitage and Wickens.**
- 8.7 Monitoring of the progress of Newick Neighbourhood Plan Community Actions

It was agreed that Cllrs. Armitage and Wickens would look at preliminary issues connected with implementing Neighbourhood Plan policy H05 and present a proposal to the Parish Council. **Action Cllrs. Armitage and Wickens**

- 9. **Communication Strategy** – Cllr. Wickens showed a draft presentation which summarised events since the Newick Neighbourhood Plan was ‘made’ in July 2015. It was agreed that the presentation would be shown at the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th April. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the necessary equipment to be made available. **Action Clerk** Cllr. Wickens agreed to liaise with Baroness Cumberlege to avoid any overlap with her speech. **Action Cllr. Wickens**

It was agreed that further communication would include update articles in the Parish Council’s quarterly newsletter and up to date information on the website. Cllr. Armitage advised that he would be preparing a proposal for regular councillor surgeries. **Action Cllr. Armitage.** The Clerk advised that the Council should be wary of asking third parties to post information on social media as it did not have a policy to cover this.

- 10. **Proposal for annual subscription to Planning Resource** – It was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council should take out an annual subscription to ‘Planning Resource’ at a cost of £195.

- 11. **Dates for future committee meetings** – The frequency of Neighbourhood Plan Committee meetings was discussed, taking into consideration the availability of the Clerk and her existing workload.

At 7.40 p.m. it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mrs Thew, who was present at the meeting, to make a suggestion that in addition to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee there should be a sub group which could meet more regularly. Mrs Thew advised that she would be prepared to take notes for this group.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee would be held on Tuesday 2nd May, commencing at 7 p.m. At this meeting the work to be done would be shared between committee members. It was agreed that Mrs Thew would be asked to take the minutes. It was proposed that future committee meetings would be monthly, dates to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May.

The Meeting Closed at 7.50 p.m.

Signed: **Dated:**.....

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