

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 27th June 2017 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

Present: Councillors C. Armitage, G. Clothier, M. Halsey, B. Horsfall, I. Nesbitt, J. Smerdon (Chairman), J. White, C. Wickens and K. Wrench.

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

An audio recording was made of the meeting, but an equipment malfunction led to only part of the meeting being recorded.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:-** Apologies had been received from Councillors G. Jones and J. Sheppard.
- 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. Exclusion of the Press and Public –** It was agreed to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion of agenda item 19 Sports Pavilion Lease (legal in confidence – Public Bodies Admission to Meeting Act 1960 S1(2)).

4. Questions or statements by Members of the Public

Mrs Thew read out a statement in connection with agenda item 5 (Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held 30th May 2017). She commented on what she perceived to be a bad atmosphere at the meeting and the negativity and lack of engagement by Councillors. She referred to the Good Councillor Guide and the Localism Act and urged members of the Council to 'pull together' in order to be more effective. Mrs Thew congratulated the Council on the success of the Food Fair, and commented on the vindictive personal attack on the Chairman which had appeared on social media.

The Chairman responded by saying that she felt that members were beginning to work together and that there had been a number of complex issues regarding the Neighbourhood Plan which some new members had found difficult at first but that she hoped that things were now more positive and that the Council could move forward together.

Cllr. Wickens expressed disappointment that some members had chosen not to stand again for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and requested that an agenda item to update members on the current position regarding Neighbourhood Plan issues should be included for the next meeting.

Mr Warren spoke in connection with an issue to be raised by the Clerk in her report (agenda item 6). He advised the Council that Newick Cricket Club would be playing the Piers Morgan Family XI, including several high profile players, on 2nd July 2017. He asked for a hedge on the King George V Playing Field to be cut back in order to assist with the retrieval of balls hit over the boundary.

- 5. Approval of draft minutes of Annual meeting of the Parish Council 30th May 2017 –** It was agreed by those who had been present that the draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held 30th May 2017 could be signed as a true record.
- 6. Clerk's Report –** A list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Clerk gave a verbal report on the following matters:-
 - Flagpoles on the Green had been erected late this year because there had been a robin nesting inside one of the flagpoles.
 - The Council's grounds maintenance contractors would be weed spraying King George V Playing Field early on Monday 3rd July. Members of the public would be prevented from entering the area whilst spraying was taking place and the Cricket Club had been advised as they would be holding a junior cricket session later the same day.
 - The Cricket Club's request for hedge cutting had been discussed with the grounds maintenance contractors and it had been pointed out that as it was an offence to disturb nesting birds the contractors would be reluctant to use their hedge cutting machinery but may be able to cut by hand. Mr Warren had asked that if the contractors were not able to do the work the Cricket Club could be given permission to do it themselves and recharge the contractors. It was agreed that in these

circumstances the Cricket Club could carry out the work as long as the club was appropriately insured and removed the cuttings, but that this would need to be at their own expense and not recharged. A request was made for the Cricket Club to close the Children's Play Area for safety reasons while cricket was being played on 2nd July and for signs to be displayed.

- 7. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – It was reported that emergency work to repair a hole in the wetpour play surface had been approved and that the junior swings had been repainted a second time as the original paint used had not been suitable.
- 8. Statement from Chairman** – The Chairman, Cllr. Smerdon, read out a statement clarifying the position regarding the grant which had been given by Thakeham Homes to Newick Lawn Tennis Club. The statement confirmed that a grant of £4,000 had been received by the Tennis Club towards the resurfacing of the tennis courts and that the Tennis Club would be giving free temporary membership to new residents of the Newick Hill development. As Chairman of the Tennis Club, Cllr. Smerdon recognised that she would need to declare an interest in any matters concerning Thakeham Homes to be considered by the Council. Cllr Armitage said that he was unhappy with this statement and that he considered that the matter should have been declared at an earlier stage. Cllr. Wickens advised that all councillors needed to be careful of their involvement with external organisations and should make sure that all interests were declared.

One member of the public left the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

9. Planning:

- 9.1 Approval of minutes of Planning Committee meeting held 13th June 2017** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 13th June 2017 could be signed as a true record.

9.2 Consideration of Planning Applications

Newick

LW/17/0492

Case Officer:

Mrs Alyson Smith

Newick

LW/17/0506

Case Officer:

Mrs Sarah Sheath

6 Oldaker Road

Planning Application - Single storey rear extension for Mrs Cork

It was agreed to make **no comment** on this planning application.

Farmleigh Fletching Lane Fletching Common

Planning Application - Replacement dwelling and garage (resubmission of planning application LW/17/0135) for Mr S Watling

There had been a problem with Lewes District Council's Public Access system and the Clerk had been unable to download all the relevant documents in connection with this application, therefore, it was agreed to defer consideration of the application until the Planning Committee meeting on 11th July.

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

LW/17/0260 – Newick Lawn Tennis Club, Blind Lane – Erection of further floodlighting to tennis courts

LW/17/0311 - 25 High Hurst Close – Erection of a single storey extension and conversion of garage to provide a wheelchair accessible bedroom and bathroom facility.

LW/17/0340 – Little Grange, Goldbridge Road - Erection of self-contained single storey detached annex and landscaping

- 9.4 Tree works applications** – No tree works applications had been received.

- 9.5 Approval of minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting held 13th June 2017** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the draft minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 13th June 2017 could be signed as a true record.

9.6 Recommendations by Neighbourhood Plan Committee

It was agreed that training by Planning Consultant, Lindsay Frost, would take place on the evening of Monday 24th July at the Sports Pavilion. Clerk to confirm the booking of the trainer and the venue.

Action Clerk

It was agreed to set up a dedicated email address to receive information from Planning Resource at a cost of £25 for set up and £16 per annum thereafter (prices net of VAT). **Action Clerk**

10. Financial Matters:

10.1 To approve schedule of payments for June 2017 – It was agreed that the schedule of payments for June 2017 should be approved. It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Cllrs. Halsey and Horsfall.

Payee	Item	Invoice Amount	Cheque Number
Paid prior to meeting			
Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment instalment	£2,501.01	Direct Debit
	Total amount to be paid for Clerk's Salary, tax & national insurance and pension contributions	£1267.30	Standing Order 201313 201314
Lewes District Council	Dog bin emptying - £187.20 Litter bin emptying - £135.72 Play Area Inspection - £18.00	£340.92	201315
Sussex Meats Ltd	Food Fair Stallholder refund	£40.00	201316
Newick PCC (St Mary's)	Grants:- Upkeep of Churchyard - £500 Dancing for Fun & Fitness - £150.00 St Mary's Lunch Club - £200	£850.00	201317
Newick Sports Pavilion	Grant awarded to Newick Rootz - paid direct	£165.00	201318
Lewes District Citizens Advice	Grant	£200.00	201319
Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance	Grant	£250.00	201320
NACCA	Rental of room for Parish Office - £300 Hire of Community Centre for Food Fair £36	£336.00	201321
PBI Audio Visual Ltd	Annual CCTV camera clean & system check	£420.00	201322
Mrs H Bryan	Reimbursement of expenses for Food Fair	£65.21	201323
Hitachi Capital Invoice Finance	Replacement post for village sign - work carried out by JAKK Country Furniture	£1,320.00	201324
MJ Benson	Ground work at Cornwell's Bank Allotment	£2,415.00	201325
S. Orwin	Village maintenance as per contract	£330.75	201326
S.E. Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk on behalf of Newick Parish Council	£27.98	201327
Mrs. J Smerdon	Reimbursement of expenses for Food Fair	£39.56	201328
D. Sankey Ltd	Routine mole treatment	£100.80	201329
Total		£10,669.53	

Income in June 2017

Food Fair	Stallholder payments	£160.00
Food Fair	Donations from cake decorating stall	£35.00
Food Fair	Donation – The Pantry	£20.00
Total		£215.00

10.2 To note statement of performance against budget as at end May 2017 – The statement of performance against budget as at the end of May 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

11. Committees' and Councillors' Reports

11.1 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – Cllr. Smerdon reported that NVHMC had received a request from Thakeham Homes for permission to be allowed to site an advertising board for the Newick Hill development on the grass at the front of the village hall. Details of the size and design of the proposed board and the proposed length of time that it would remain in place had been requested but had not been received at the time of the meeting. A list of the works that NVHMC intended to carry out in the future was read out and noted.

11.2 Neighbourhood Watch – There was no report.

11.3 Allotments – Cllr. Smerdon reported that the work to relocate the entrance gate to the Cornwell's Bank Allotment site had not yet been done.

11.4 Update on Newick Post Office – It was noted that a letter had been received from The Post Office following the closure of the Post Office. The letter referred to the closure as 'temporary' and stated that The Post Office was investigating possibilities for reinstating the service. It was suggested that approaches should be made to the new owners of The Bull Inn, to Lloyds Pharmacy and to the proprietor of Newick News to see whether any of them would be willing to incorporate a Post Office within their business. **Action Cllrs. Smerdon and Sheppard**

The Clerk reported that she had sent an email to Mr Young following the Parish Council meeting on 30th May but had not received any response.

11.5 Food Fair – Cllr. Smerdon reported that the Food Fair held on 17th June had been a successful event and she thanked the committee of non-councillors who had helped to organise it. It was reported that a debrief meeting had taken place and that the dates had been agreed for another Food Fair to take place as part of Newick Festival over the weekend of 23/24 June 2018. The Clerk advised that a statement of the accounts for the Food Fair would be circulated once all the expenses had been paid. The Council had previously agreed for any surplus to be kept aside in a separate reserve and it was noted that the organising committee had requested that it should be put towards a community project.

11.6 Newick Rootz – Notes from the meeting of Newick Rootz held 12th June 2017 had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and were noted. Cllr. Wickens highlighted that Rootz had submitted comments regarding the pedestrian access to the SANG site and that a detailed response had been received from Dan Witcher at East Sussex County Council. It was noted that Rootz would be contacting Lewes District Council in connection with some of the outstanding issues regarding the SANG. Cllr. Wickens advised that Rootz was looking at the possibility of upgrading some of the public footpaths around the village to make them accessible to disabled people using wheelchairs and those with children's buggies and that Rootz would like this to be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

12. Consultations

12.1 East Sussex Pension Fund Draft Administration Strategy Statement – Cllr. Wrench outlined the background to this draft statement and advised that it was very similar to statements used by other Local Authorities administering the Local Government Pension Scheme. He advised that the contents were not contentious and proposed that East Sussex Pension Fund should be advised that the Parish Council had no comment to make. This was agreed. It was agreed that the Finance & General Purposes Committee would take on the responsibility for ensuring that the Council was fulfilling its obligations in connection with its membership of the Pension Scheme. **Action F&GP**

13. 12 High Street – Cllr. Armitage raised a concern over the dilapidated condition of 12 High Street which is in the Newick Green Conservation Area. He advised that roof tiles were missing and the window frames were rotting. The Clerk advised that Lewes District Council Environmental Health had been involved in the past and it was agreed that LDC should be made aware of the current condition of the property. **Action Clerk**

14. Replacement of tree removed from King George V Recreation Ground – A request had been received from Newick Cricket Club for guidance as to the species and location for a new tree to replace the one

removed to make way for the new cricket net facility. It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Environment and Recreation Committee in consultation with the Tree Warden for further consideration. Cllr. Wickens recommended that the Council's Tree Policy should also be considered. **Action E&R Committee**

15. Merchant Navy Day – A request had been received from Seafarers UK for the Parish Council to consider flying a Red Ensign on Sunday 3rd September to commemorate Merchant Navy Day. It was agreed to proceed with this and the Clerk was authorised to purchase a Red Ensign of a suitable size to be flown from the John Goodwin flagpole. It was agreed that a brief article would appear in the newsletter to ask whether any merchant navy veterans would be interested in raising the flag. **Action Clerk**

16. Community Resilience Plan – Copies of the Council's current Community Resilience Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that the Plan was due for review. The review process would be carried out by the Emergency Plan Coordinators, Cllrs. Horsfall and Sheppard, and overseen by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

17. Complaints of Anti-social behaviour around skate ramp – A summary of recent complaints received regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB) around the skate ramp and other parts of the recreation grounds had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was reported that the Clerk had been in touch with Sussex Police and that arrangements were being made to meet with PCSO Amy Staplehurst to discuss the situation and seek advice.

Cllr Wickens left the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

At 8.57 p.m. it was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended in order to allow Mr Balloch, who was present at the meeting, to give further information in connection with this agenda item.

It was noted that the current CCTV system did not cover the skate ramp area, although in the past there had been a dummy camera overlooking the skate ramp. It was agreed that the E&R Committee would look into the feasibility of extending the range of the existing CCTV system in order to cover this area. **Action E&R Committee**

It was agreed that further consideration should be given to reforming the skate ramp user group in order to engage youngsters and involve them in a project to set up a new skate ramp facility if it is agreed to proceed with this.

Two members of the public left the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

18. Newsletter – The draft newsletter was not available for approval, however, it was noted that the following items would be included:-

- Article explaining why flags on The Green were late this year
- Request for Merchant Navy Veterans to get involved with raising the Red Ensign
- Article about affordable housing on Newick Hill development
- Report and photographs from the Food Fair and dates for Newick Festival 2018
- Article about children riding scooters on the road
- Anti-social behaviour – summary of problems experienced and request for incidents to be reported
- Post Office update (noting letter received from Post Office)

19. Sports Pavilion Lease – In accordance with the resolution made under agenda item 3 above, this matter was discussed in a confidential session. No members of the press or public were present. The main terms of the lease to be offered to Newick Sports Pavilion Management Committee were discussed and agreed based on discussion with the Management Committee Working Group and advice from the Council's solicitor. The Clerk was authorised to communicate the proposed terms to the Management Committee Working Group.

20. Items for next agenda – There were no requests for items for the next agenda other than those already requested and standard items.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

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