

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Newick Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick on Tuesday 8th August 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G. Clothier, M. Halsey, J. Sheppard, J. Smerdon and J. White

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for this committee** – It was agreed that Cllr. Clothier should be elected as Chairman of this committee (nominated by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Sheppard) and that Cllr. White should be elected as Vice Chairman (nominated by Cllr. Clothier and seconded by Cllr. Smerdon).
2. **Apologies for Absence** – There had been no apologies for absence
3. **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** – No disclosures were made.
4. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
5. **Environment Issues:-**
 - 5.1 Issues identified following inspection of The Green and other PC controlled open spaces – An inspection of The Green and other PC controlled open spaces on the estate had been carried out by Cllrs. Smerdon and Clothier and the following items were highlighted:-
 - Wobbly post near to gate on north side of The Green. It was clarified that this post was intended to be removed when required which was why it was wobbly. No action required.
 - Bus shelter window frames in poor condition and replacement glass still outstanding.
 - Bus shelter was untidy with litter and weeds. Village handy person to be asked to clean and clear.
 - Post holding up canopy to the left of SVS Stores rotting. Clerk to make owner aware and ask for post to be replaced.
 - Metal bollard near to traffic lights lifted and leaning. It was noted that this had been reported to ESCC Highways.
 - Fingerpost due for replacement under existing works programme. Clerk to chase the contractor.
 - Wooden posts on Green – one is half missing and needs to be replaced. Clerk to contact Lindsay Baker.
 - Plaque at base of roundel noticeboard in bad condition. No action because various ways of improving condition have been tried in the past but nothing has worked.
 - Damaged wall to community centre car park. It was agreed that the wall should be rebuilt to the level of the last step and more hedging planted to deter vehicles from cutting across and hitting the wall.
 - Debris in community centre car park to be swept up.
 - Horse chestnut tree in Marbles Road open space appears to be dead or dying. It was agreed to wait for tree inspection report for recommended work.
 - Leveller Road open space – the small hawthorns need to be trimmed back and brambles removed. It was agreed to wait for recommendations on the tree inspection report before commencing any work.

- Land between Vernons Road and The Rough – remove wooden post which appears to have no purpose.
- Land at end of Growers End – needs to be cut back. It was noted that this work is included in the Barcombe Landscapes contract. Clerk to contact Barcombe Landscapes.
- Powell Road, hedging near to electricity sub-station is in need of cutting back. This is the responsibility of the landowner but the Parish Council has dealt with it in the past. Clerk to try to find out who owns this land.

5.2 Consideration of request from residents of 34 The Rough for vegetation to be cut back – Photographs from the residents of 34 The Rough showing brambles and other vegetation growing on the boundary of their property had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to get Barcombe Landscapes to tidy this up and remove the brambles. It was agreed that no action in respect of the adjacent sycamore tree would be taken until the tree inspection report had been received.

5.3 Complaint from resident of 53 Oldaker Road about height and spread of tree on PC land to the rear of property – The Clerk explained the background to this case and it was agreed that, in the absence of a tree warden, Cllr. Sheppard would arrange to visit the resident as she had asked for a Council representative to view the tree from her property.

6. Playing Field Issues

6.1 Issues identified following inspection of Playing Fields – An inspection of the Playing Fields had been carried out by Cllrs. Smerdon and White and the following items were highlighted:-

- No significant problems noted at skate park other than wear and tear.
- The rugby goal was missing its cross bar following recent vandalism
- The floodlight cabling was badly damaged and was resting against a metal pole. The Clerk was asked to report this to the Rugby Club as a matter of urgency.
- The five bar gate that was formerly in the corner of the rugby field was lying in the undergrowth. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of Ketches to find out their plans for reinstating the gate.
- There was a pile of MDF wood dumped near to the skate ramp litter bin. Cllr. Halsey agreed to arrange for this to be removed.
- The grass around the David Manwaring Robertson memorial stone needed to be strimmed.
- There was litter in the children's play area and weeds growing around the perimeter. Some of the play equipment needed to be cleaned. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Village Handy Person about this.
- The wet pour surfacing around the rotating cone was lifting at the edge.
- There was cracking in the wet pour surface below the under-fives' climbing frame. The Clerk was asked to report this to HAGS.
- There was some graffiti on the green youth shelter. No action proposed as this was not offensive.
- There had been no further damage to the picnic bench and the graffiti previously noted had weathered. It was proposed to take no action to remove the bench.
- One of the gate posts at the Church Road pedestrian entrance to King George V Playing Field (KGVPF) was loose and there was a loose piece of wood from the fence with a nail sticking out of it. The Clerk was asked to get Lindsay Baker to rectify these problems.
- Some of the chestnut paling erected to close a gap in the hedge alongside Church Road had been broken down. The Clerk was asked to get Lindsay Baker to replace this.
- There was still some chestnut paling with associated wire on the ground in the spinney. This was to be removed.
- The metal gate on the southern side of KGVPF near to Twitten House was rusting and it was recommended that it should be replaced with a wooden gate. Clerk to obtain a quotation for this work.

- One of the Pavilion windows had been shattered and was awaiting replacement. The Clerk was asked to contact the Pavilion Management Committee to ask for it to be boarded up for safety reasons if it was not going to be re-glazed very soon.
- There was a lot of building material including sand, aggregate, paving slabs and wooden pallets beside the storage sheds. It was believed that this was left from the recent paving work and the Clerk was asked to contact the Pavilion Management Committee to ask for it to be removed.
- There were some metal poles in the hedge to the rear of the cricket nets and it was believed that this was following the installation of new cricket nets. The Clerk was asked to contact the Cricket Club to ask for the poles to be removed.
- It was noted that the new nets were not attached to the poles near to ground level and would not, therefore, contain the cricket balls during practice. The Clerk was asked to contact the Cricket Club about this.
- The large oak posts at the entrance to the recreation ground car park needed attention as one was leaning and hidden in the undergrowth. The Clerk was asked to get a quotation for cutting back the hedging to the chestnut paling.
- There was a blackboard and some road pins left out after the Five a Side football tournament. The Clerk was asked to contact the Football Club to ask for these to be removed.
- It was confirmed that the manhole cover in the car park which needed to be replaced was the one nearest to the road as it was not a heavy duty cover.
- It was proposed that signs stating that scooters and bicycles must not be used on the play equipment should be put up in the children's play area.
- Several of the wooden seats and benches were in need of some renovation work. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Antrobus had been asked to supply a quotation for this work.
- It was noted that Cricket Club notices had been on the gate posts around the playing field for some time. The Clerk was asked to contact the Cricket Club and ask them to remove the signs at the end of the season and look at providing a more durable permanent warning sign.
- It was noted that the new owners of Oast Cottage had removed the hedge on their boundary with the car park and replaced it with a close board wooden fence. This had exposed a high chain link fence near to the Scout Hut which has some pieces of metal sticking out. It was proposed that the chain link fence should be removed and some hedging or shrubs planted on the car park side of the fence.

6.2 Monthly Play Area Inspection Report – The Clerk advised that the latest play area inspection report had only highlighted one issue which was that the concrete surface of the skate park was cracking. This was described as low risk and it was agreed to monitor for any deterioration.

6.3 Update on reports of antisocial behaviour – A list of incidents reported to the Parish Council had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Clerk provided a further update of incidents reported in the few days before the meeting. It was noted that some reports had been made to the Police and the Clerk was asked to send the full list to the PSCO contact who had carried out a site visit the previous month. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to continue to report any incidents.

6.4 Possible extension of CCTV system to cover skate park area – A quotation for the extension of the CCTV system had been obtained and was noted. In view of the high cost of this proposed work it was agreed that a second quotation should be obtained. Cllr. White agreed to look into obtaining a second quotation. The Clerk agreed to check the guidelines for CCTV in a public place to ensure that the proposed new installation was compliant.

6.5 Skate Park – To consider the future of this facility – It was noted that the current skate park equipment was nearing the end of its useful life and that its location

was less than ideal. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that a working group should be set up to look at the feasibility of replacing the skate park with more modern equipment in an alternative location between the KGVPF and the rugby field.

6.6 Charitable status of King George V Playing Field – A brief report from the Clerk on the charitable status of KGVPF had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Clerk advised that she was still waiting for a response to an enquiry sent to the Charity Commission.

6.7 Request from Cricket Club for guidance on species and location for replacement tree – It was agreed to recommend that a rowan tree should be planted in the autumn. Cllr Smerdon agreed to place a marker in the spot between the cricket nets and the benches where the tree should be located.

7. **Consultation on Lewes District Council Public Spaces Protection Orders** – Copies of two draft Public Spaces Protection Orders had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to recommend that no comment should be made on the first draft order (Consumption of Alcohol) because this only applied to Lewes Town. It was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council should support the making of the second (Dog Fouling) draft order which would apply to public open spaces throughout the whole of Lewes District.

8. **Items for inclusion in 2018/19 budget** – It was agreed that an appropriate amount for the following environment projects should be included in the draft budget for 2018//19:-

- Renovation of wooden benches
- Renovation or replacement of two fingerposts (assuming match funding from ESCC)
- The replacement of the metal gate to KGVPF with a wooden one
- Renovation or replacement of the oak posts at the entrance to the recreation ground car park.
- Tree works following receipt of the tree inspection report.

It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotations for this work and include the total amount in the draft budget.

9. **Items for the next agenda** – It was agreed that a proposal for hedging to be planted in the recreation ground car park should be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 29th August 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:.....

Clerk - Mrs S.E. Berry
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