

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 29th August 2017 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

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

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

An audio recording was made of the meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence:-** Apologies had been received from Councillors C. Armitage and C. Wickens.
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 15 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 spoke in connection with agenda item 8.6 and advised the Council that DLA Delivery Ltd had lodged an appeal against the High Court ruling which quashed the Secretary of State's decision to grant planning permission at Mitchelswood Farm. It was understood that DLA must present their grounds for appeal within one year. The Chairman thanked Mrs Thew for this information.
5. **Approval of draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held 25th July 2017** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the draft minutes of the Parish Council held 25th July 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. A report on the progress of various items raised at the Parish Council meeting held on 25th July 2017 had been circulated in advance and was noted. It was agreed that a copy of the Tree Condition Survey would be circulated to councillors for information. **Action Clerk**
7. **Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – There was nothing to report.
8. **Planning:**

8.1 Consideration of Planning Applications

Newick LW/17/0652 Case Officer: Mrs Sarah Sheath	42 Allington Road Planning Application - Proposed Extension and Alterations for Mr & Mrs S Long. It was agreed to support this planning application as the proposed extension and alterations would be in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan Policies H01 and EN1 and the Council considered that they would greatly improve the existing building.
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8.2 Approvals/Refusals etc. – It was noted that the following applications had been **approved** by Lewes District Council:-

LW/17/0492 6 Oldaker Road – Planning application for single storey rear extension

LW/17/0497 Land rear of units 10 and 11 Sheffield Park Business Estate, East Grinstead Road – Planning application to lay excavated soil on top of railway track (addition to LW/17/0132)

LW/17/0506 Farleigh, Fletching Lane – Planning application for replacement dwelling and garage (resubmission of planning application LW/17/0135)

LW/17/0521 1 Western Road – Planning application for installation of a cooker hood extraction system for an existing kitchen including fan/silencer mounted on top of the flat roof.

LW/17/0528 Flexerne, Fletching Lane – Planning application for front porch extension, first floor side extension and single store rear extension, recladding of external walls and roof.

8.3 Tree works applications – There had been no tree works applications.

8.4 Approval of minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 1st August 2017 – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 1st August 2017 could be approved as a true record.

8.5 Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Draft Neighbourhood Plan – It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee had recommended that no comment should be made in respect of the Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston draft Neighbourhood Plan and this was agreed. It was agreed that Mr Lucas should be thanked for studying and reporting on this draft document.

8.6 High Court decision CO/16/2017 Cumberlege v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and & DLA Delivery Ltd – The High Court ruling announced 4th August 2017 that the Secretary of State’s decision to grant planning permission for development at Mitchelswood Farm should be quashed was noted, as was Mrs Thew’s report (see item 4 above) that DLA Delivery had subsequently lodged an appeal. It was agreed that Baroness and Mr Cumberlege should be thanked for taking on this case on behalf of residents of Newick.

9. Financial Matters:

9.1 To approve schedule of payments for August 2017 – It was agreed that the schedule of payments for August 2017 should be approved. It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Cllrs. Smerdon and Sheppard.

Payee	Item	Invoice Amount	Cheque Number
S.E. Berry, The Post Office Ltd & East Sussex Pension Fund	Total amount to be paid for Clerk’s salary, tax, national insurance and pension contributions	£1267.30	S/ Order 201356 201357
Lewes District Council	Play Area Inspection -	£18.00	201358
Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	Grounds maintenance work - £3400.80 Mowing highway verges - £1512.00	£4,912.80	201359
NACCA	Hire of community centre side room August to October 2017	£300.00	201360
WEL Medical Ltd	Replacement defibrillator pad	£44.88	201361
Lindsay Baker Fencing	New wooden post (Green), Erect flag poles, new posts & re-hang gate (allotment)	£360.00	201362
Nicholas Jones Consultants Ltd	Tree condition survey	£570.00	201363
South East Water	Water supply to Sports Pavilion	£277.71	201364
D. Sankey Ltd	Routine mole treatment KGVPF	£100.80	201365
S. Orwin	Village maintenance as per contract	£330.75	201366
S.E. Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk on behalf of Newick Parish Council	£6.72	201367
Came & Company	Insurance renewal premium	£1,826.35	201368
Total		£10,015.31	

Income in August 2017

Newick Football Club	Payment for use of KGVPF 2017	£230.00
HMRC	VAT reclaim Apr to June 2017	£756.13
Total		£986.13

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

9.3 Renewal of Parish Council insurance policy – It was agreed that the Parish Council's insurance policy arranged through Came & Company should be renewed and that the payment for the annual premium of £1826.35 should be added to the payments schedule for this month.

9.4 Consideration of quotation for replacement manhole frame and cover in recreation ground car park – Further enquiries had been made regarding the requirement for a replacement manhole frame and cover in the recreation ground car park and for descaling of the drains. It was agreed to accept the quotation submitted by Drainboss at a cost of £648 + VAT. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the work was carried out at a time when it would cause minimum disruption to users of the recreation ground and car park.

9.5 Proposed subscription to financial software service – A report from the Clerk which detailed the costs and benefits of subscribing to a financial software service had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Council should accept the discounted offer made by Rialtas Business Solutions (RBS) for installation of the Alpha system before the end of October 2017.

10. Committees' and Councillors' Reports

10.1 Environment & Recreation Committee (E&R) Meeting 8th August 2017 – It was agreed that the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee meeting held 8th August 2017 should be signed as a true record. It was noted that Cllr. White was in the process of obtaining a second quotation for the extension of the CCTV system to cover the skate park area. The following recommendations made by E&R were considered:-

- Signs for Play Area – it was agreed to order two signs for the play area stating that scooters and bicycles must not be used on the play equipment. The cost was quoted as £49 + VAT per sign plus the cost of any fixings.
- Skate Park Working Group – it was agreed to set up a working group to look at the feasibility of replacing the current skate park equipment. Councillors Horsfall, Halsey, Smerdon and White agreed to be part of the group which it was hoped would ultimately include other interested parties. **Action Cllrs. Horsfall, Halsey, Smerdon & White**
- Planting of tree on KGVPE – It was agreed that, in accordance with the committee's recommendation, the Cricket Club should be asked to plant a rowan tree on King George V Playing Field to replace the hawthorn which had been removed to make way for the new cricket nets. This was subject to consultation with Cllr. Wickens in view of her knowledge about native trees.
- Lewes District Council draft Public Spaces Protection Orders – It was agreed to accept the committee's recommendations that no comment should be made on the LDC draft Public Spaces Protection Order (consumption of alcohol) as this only covered Lewes Town. It was agreed to support the LDC draft Public Spaces Protection Order (dog fouling) as this covers all open spaces to which the public have access within the whole of Lewes District.
- Proposal for hedging to be planted beside new fence in recreation ground car park – It was considered that no action should be taken to plant hedging at the current time, however, this could be looked at again at some time in the future if it were considered to be necessary.

10.2 Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) – The minutes of the SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways held on 9th August 2017 had been circulated in advance and were noted. It was agreed not to proceed with commissioning a speed data survey for Allington Road.

10.3 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – There had been no meeting in August, therefore, there was nothing to report.

10.4 Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Sheppard reported that she had been told that a cold caller had been in the village asking residents if they had any antiques or jewellery for sale. This had been reported to the Police, although there had been some difficulty in getting through on the 101 non-emergency phone number.

10.5 Allotments – Cllr. Smerdon reported that the work to relocate the entrance gate to the Cornwell’s Bank Allotment site had been carried out.

10.6 Update on Newick Post Office – Cllr. Sheppard reported that the proprietors of Newick News had been waiting several weeks for paperwork from the Post Office in connection with their application to take on the Post Office service for Newick. This had been followed up with the Post Office and Maria Caulfield MP was aware of the problems. Baroness Cumberlege had organised a meeting with the Chief Executive (Retail) to discuss the problems experienced. Cllr Sheppard and the Clerk would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

10.7 Newick Rootz – The notes from the meeting of Newick Rootz held 11th July 2017 had been circulated by email and were noted.

10.8 Newick Festival 2018 – It was agreed that a meeting of those interested in being involved with organising Newick Festival 218 would be held on the evening of Wednesday 27th September at the Community Centre. Cllrs. Smerdon and Sheppard would represent the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to send an email to local Clubs and Societies inviting them to attend. **Action Clerk.**

11. Consultations

11.1 Lewes District Council - Draft Public Spaces Protection Orders – This had been dealt with under item 10.1 above.

11.2 Lewes District Council – Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Draft Neighbourhood Plan – This had been dealt with under item 8.5 above.

12. Casual Vacancy – The Clerk confirmed that the casual vacancy created following the resignation of Cllr. Jones would be filled by co-option. Posters advertising the vacancy had been displayed on Parish Council notice boards and on the website and there had been some expressions of interest. Applications would need to be with the Clerk by 18th September and it was anticipated that the co-option would take place at the Parish Council meeting on 26th September.

13. Vacant positions – It was noted that following the resignation of Cllr. Jones there was a vacancy for the position of Tree Warden and that the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee was in need of another committee member. It was agreed that Cllr. Clothier would take on the role of Tree Warden. It was noted that Cllr. Armitage had previously served on the F&GP Committee and that he should be asked whether or not he would be willing to do so again.

14. Parish Council Newsletter - It was agreed that the following items should be included in the Autumn edition of the Parish Council newsletter:-

- Post Office update – Cllr Sheppard
- Update from Neighbourhood Plan Committee on development issues
- Newick Festival dates
- Request for consideration when lighting bonfires
- Copy of new signs to be installed at play area

15. Newick Sports Pavilion Lease – In accordance with the resolution made under agenda item 3 above, this matter was discussed in a confidential session. Two members of the public left the meeting at 8.10 p.m. The Clerk outlined the position regarding the proposed Sports Pavilion lease and updated the Council on advice received from the solicitor. It was agreed to accept the Management Committee’s request regarding Trustee’s liability.

16. Items for next agenda – There were no suggestions for items for the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....