

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee of Newick Parish Council held at Newick Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillors: B. Horsfall, J. Smerdon, C. Wickens and K. Wrench.
Non - Councillor committee member: Mr. J. Lucas (Chairman of this committee)

In attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllr. C. Armitage and Mrs. M.Thew.
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.** Cllrs. Horsfall and Smerdon both declared an interest in agenda item 12 (Thakeham Homes Development).
3. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public.** There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
4. **Wealden District Council case CO/3943/2016** – It was noted that an email had been received from Lewes District Council indicating that their work on updating the Habitat Regulations Assessment had not raised any issues. It was agreed that this item could now be removed from future agendas.
5. *** Parish Council owned land between Vernons Road and The Rough** – It was reported that an email had been received from Lewes District Council informing that they could not be of any further assistance regarding documentation concerning the transfer of ownership or any covenants in respect of this land. It was agreed that in order to make further progress it would be necessary to consult a solicitor for advice on the personal covenant and any other issues that would need to be resolved before the land could be sold for development. It was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council should engage a solicitor to advise on this matter and that Mr. Lucas would prepare a brief with details of the questions to be asked. **Action Mr. Lucas**
6. ***Newick Neighbourhood Plan Policies and Community Actions –**
 - EN5 – To be dealt with under agenda item 7 below
 - EN6 – It was agreed to recommend that the survey of Newick village, first carried out in 2015/16, should be repeated.
 - HO1.8 – To be monitored
 - TC2 – No action at present
 - TC3 - No action at present, continue to monitor
 - TC4 – It was agreed to recommend that the Council should investigate the possibility of providing lay-by parking in High Street and Oldaker Road. Cllr. Horsfall agreed to look at previously proposed schemes for parking on High Street. **Action Cllr. Horsfall**
 - CF1 & CF2 – It was agreed that these should be deleted from future agendas.
 - CF3 – It was noted that rather than construct a new Sports Pavilion, the Sports Pavilion Management Committee, was intending to renovate and upgrade the existing building. It was agreed to ask for written confirmation from the Pavilion Management Committee that they definitely did not want to pursue the option of constructing a new Sports Pavilion. **Action Clerk**

- 7. Consideration of how to proceed with the Council's intention of having Newick Common and Mill Wood declared Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)** – It was noted that, in connection with Newick Common, the Lewes District Council Ranger had advised that this would not give the common any additional protection as the fact that it is Common Land gives it much higher protection than SNCI (now called Local Wildlife Site or LWS). Nevertheless, it was agreed to recommend that Mr. Turk should be asked to prepare a suitable request to Lewes District Council, asking for Newick Common to be designated a Local Wildlife Site.

In connection with Beechland Mill Wood, it was noted that in 2014 the Woodland Trust had advised that there was insufficient evidence of rare species or historic interest to make a case for designating this area SNCI. It was agreed that until a detailed survey could be carried out, this should be put on hold.

- 8. Consideration of the possible role of the Parish Council in opposing any future appeal against refusal of planning permission for a site not proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan**
It was agreed to propose 1) that the Parish Council should agree in principle that it would consider getting legal representation at the public inquiry stage should there be any future appeal against refusal of planning permission for a site not proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, and 2) that the Parish Council should consider setting up a reserve earmarked for the costs of this representation. It was noted that advice would need to be sought on the legality of holding such a reserve and how it would be funded.
- 9. *Allocation of responsibilities for a watching brief** – The following subject areas had been allocated to individual committee members for monitoring:-
- 9.1 The Housing White Paper – Mr. Lucas – There was nothing to report.
 - 9.2 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 – Cllr. Wickens – It was reported that Locality was still working on the Examination process and that Mrs. Thew had participated in an online survey and follow up telephone interview in connection with this.
 - 9.3 DLA Legal Challenges – Cllr. Wickens reported that DLA had lodged an appeal against the High Court decision announced on 4th August 2017 and that it was likely that the hearing would take place on or about 24th October. The Clerk was asked to circulate a letter from Baroness and Mr. Cumberlege to all members of the Parish Council. **Action Clerk**
 - 9.4 Emerging planning applications in line with Neighbourhood Plan – There was nothing to report.
 - 9.5 Emerging planning applications in neighbouring areas – The Clerk reported that an appeal had been made against Lewes District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for 30 dwellings at Buckles Wood Field, North Chailey (LW/16/0637).
 - 9.6 Progress on Lewes District Council Joint Core Strategy (including Policies SP1 and SP2, Part 2 Housing Allocation and Progress on meeting national expectations) – Cllr. Horsfall reported that the consultation on the LDC Local Plan Part 2 was now expected to commence in November. It was also noted that District Cllr. Jim Sheppard had recently advised the Parish Council that planning permission had been granted for development of a site in Seaford and that this would result in a further 183 homes being built. It was agreed that reference to SP1 and SP2 could be removed from future agendas.
 - 9.7 Wealden District Council directives as a result of Habitat Regulations Assessment and Nitrogen Dioxide, and implications for Newick Parish and Lewes District – It was agreed that this item could also be removed from future agendas.
- 10. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** – It was noted that an email had been received from Lewes District Council advising that there were no plans to update the document on Community Infrastructure Levy circulated in 2014.
- 11. Planning Resource Articles** – It was agreed that the following committee members would monitor emails from Planning Resource over the next three months:-

October – Mrs. Thew
November – Cllr. Wickens
December – Cllr. Smerdon

It was also agreed that there was no requirement for the Clerk to keep copies of the emails or articles circulated.

- 12. Thakeham Homes Development** – It was noted that an email had been received from Mr. Reekie drawing the Council's attention to various landscaping and highway issues regarding the Mantell Close site. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that it should work with Thakeham Homes to try to get the new pavement extended from where it now terminates to meet the end of footpath 11. The Clerk was asked to contact East Sussex Highways to clarify responsibility for cutting back overhanging vegetation which was already impeding the new footway. **Action Clerk** The Clerk was asked to contact Thakeham Homes to ask whether or not it was intending to cut back the hedge on the boundary between the site and footpath 11. **Action Clerk.**

Copies of the email received from Mr. Turk regarding the true line of footpath 11 and the various responses from East Sussex County Council and Lewes District Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. The Clerk confirmed that a copy of the responses had also been forwarded to Mr. Turk.

- 13. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda** – It was agreed that there would be no need to hold a meeting on 3rd October, therefore, the next meeting would be held on 7th November.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: **Dated:**
Chairman