

## Newick Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 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), C. Wickens, and K. Wrench.

**In Attendance:** Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)  
Eight members of the public including one candidate for co-option

An audio recording was made of the meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence:-** Apologies had been received from Councillors C. Armitage and J. White.
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:** - Cllr. Wickens disclosed a personal interest in agenda item 8.2 (planning application LW/17/0746).
3. **Co-option of applicant to fill Parish Council vacancy**
  - 3.1 One application had been received by the deadline of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and copies had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. The applicant, Mrs Thew, did not wish to make any further statement.
  - 3.2 It was resolved to proceed with the co-option and that voting should be by way of a show of hands.
  - 3.3 It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Thew should be co-opted as a member of Newick Parish Council.
  - 3.4 Mrs Thew signed a declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting.

#### 4. **Questions or statements by Members of the Public**

Mr Smith made a statement in connection with agenda item 11.2 (Consultation on proposal to divert public footpath 3 (Barcombe)). He said that the landowner ought to have been aware that there was a public footpath running across his land when he purchased the property and that the establishing of a deer farm was not a valid argument for the diversion of the footpath as the landowner had a responsibility not to place dangerous animals in a field with a public right of way running across it. Mr Smith urged the Parish Council to resist the proposed change.

Mr Stockwell spoke in connection with agenda item 8.2 (planning application LW/17/0746). He explained that he was the owner of Crouchers Farm and that the resubmitted planning application had taken into consideration the objections raised by the Parish Council when the previous application had been considered in July 2017. He said that the size of the extension had been reduced so as not to impact adjacent trees and that the extension had been moved further away from the ancient boundary wall. The proposed extension would now be less than 10% of the total footprint.

*It was agreed that, in order to assist the above members of the public items 11.2 and 8.2 (LW/17/0570) could be brought forward.*

**11.2 East Sussex County Council** – Proposed diversion of Barcombe Footpath 3 across Newick Park estate land – Copies of an objection to the proposed diversion submitted by local resident, Mr Turk, had been circulated prior to the meeting and these were noted. It was agreed that the Parish Council should **object** to the proposed diversion on the grounds that the proposed alternative route would mean that the existing far reaching views would be lost and the resulting fenced in path would be unattractive. It was agreed that Cllr. Wickens would draft a response to the proposals and circulate it prior to submission to East Sussex County Council Rights of Way Team. **Action Cllr. Wickens**

**8.2 Planning Application LW/17/0746 – Crouchers Farm, Blind Lane** – *Following a question from a member of the Council, it was agreed to briefly suspend Standing Orders in order to allow Mr Stockwell to point out a window on the western elevation which would be relocated under the proposed plans.* It was noted that a letter of objection to the proposed application had been received from Mr & Mrs Willcox. This letter was read out by the Clerk. It was agreed to make **no comment** in respect of this planning application as the objections previously raised by the Council appeared to have been addressed. However, a request was made for assurance that due weight should be given to any comments made by the Lewes District Council Conservation Officer.

5. **Approval of draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the draft minutes of the Parish Council held 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 could be signed as a true record. Cllr. Wickens commented that she considered the planting of a rowan tree to replace the hawthorn removed by the Cricket Club would be appropriate (item 10.1).

*Two members of the public left the meeting at 7.30 p.m.*

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 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 had been circulated in advance and was noted.
7. **Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – It was reported that when drainage work agreed by the Council 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 had been carried out the Clerk had been advised by the contractor that additional descaling was required over and above the agreed quote. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had given approval for the additional work at a cost of £110 + VAT.

8. **Planning:**

- 8.1 **Approval of draft minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017** – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 should be signed as a true record.

8.2 **Consideration of Planning Applications**

**Newick**

LW/17/0737

**Case Officer:**

Miss Michelle Gardiner

**Quineys Cornwell's Bank**

Planning Application - Erection of two stables, tack room and feed room for Mr G Tijou. It was noted that the Forestry Commission had highlighted that the proposed development would be within 500 metres of ancient woodland and that NPPF paragraph 18 would apply. It was agreed to **object** to this planning application in accordance with Newick Neighbourhood Plan Policy EN2 (Protection and/or enhancement of wildlife opportunities) and the objections submitted by the Forestry Commission. (Five votes in favour of objection, three votes in favour of support and one abstention.)

**Newick**

LW/17/0746

**Case Officer:**

Mr Andrew Hill

**Crouchers Farm Blind Lane**

Planning Application - Alterations and extension of existing car port to create new garage and secure bicycle and machinery store, installation of new bathroom within the existing roof void and new ground floor side extension (Resubmission of LW/17/0570) for Mr & Mrs Stockwell. This application had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**Newick**

LW/17/0755

**Case Officer:**

Miss Michelle Gardiner

**Sharps Farm Sharpsbridge Lane**

Planning Application - Erection of a steel framed, open fronted, monopitch building for calf rearing for Sclater Estates Ltd. It was unanimously agreed to **support** this planning application in accordance with Newick Neighbourhood Plan policy LE1 (support for small scale expansion of existing retail and other business premises in the Parish).

*Two members of the public left the meeting at 7.50 p.m.*

- 8.3 **Approvals/Refusals etc.** – It was noted that the following application had been **approved** by Lewes District Council:-  
**LW/17/0652 42 Allington Road** – Planning application for proposed extension and alterations.
- 8.4 **Tree works applications** – It was noted that the Parish Council's Tree Warden had made **no comment** in respect of tree works application **TW/17/0091/TCA – 7 High Street** - 1x unidentified tree - lift and reduce by 25%. Reason: overhanging road.
- 8.5 **Approval of minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017** – It was agreed that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 could be approved as a true record.

## 8.6 Recommendations made by Neighbourhood Plan Committee

- Recommendation that Parish Council should agree to sell land between Vernons Road and The Rough and that legal advice should be sought on how to resolve any outstanding issues - A briefing note prepared by Mr Lucas had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. It was agreed that the Parish Council should approach a solicitor in order to obtain advice on how to resolve the outstanding issues identified by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. The Clerk to be the main point of contact in consultation with Mr Lucas. **Action Clerk**
- Recommendation that another Village Survey, similar to the one carried out in 2015/16 should be undertaken. It was agreed that the Environment & Recreation Committee would look at this at their next meeting. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the 2015/16 report to Cllr. Clothier. **Action Clerk**
- Recommendation that the Council should investigate the possibility of layby parking – It was noted that Cllr. Horsfall would be looking at the file of previous correspondence concerning High Street parking issues. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would investigate this further. **Action Neighbourhood Plan Committee**
- Recommendation that Mr Turk should be asked to prepare a suitable request for Newick Common to be designated as a Local Wildlife Site – It was agreed that Mr Turk should be asked to take this matter forward.
- Request for agreement in principle that the Council should consider being legally represented at future planning inquiries and that a reserve fund should be set up for this purpose – It was agreed that the Council should consider being legally represented at future planning inquiries in order to defend the Neighbourhood Plan, however, it was acknowledged that decisions would need to be taken on a case by case basis. It was noted that the Clerk was making enquiries as to the legality of setting up a reserve fund for this purpose and it was agreed that a decision on this matter would be deferred until further information had been received. The Clerk was also asked to find out whether or not the Parish Council would be permitted to instigate crowd funding to support future litigation. **Action Clerk**

*One member of the public left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.*

## 9. Financial Matters:

**9.1 To approve schedule of payments for September 2017** – It was agreed that the schedule of payments for September 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	Standing Order 201369 201370
Lewes District Council	Play Area Inspection - £18 Litter bin emptying - £135.72 Dog bin emptying - £187.20	£340.92	201371
D. Sankey Ltd	Routine mole treatment KGVPF	£100.80	201372
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Limited Assurance Review of Annual Return	£360.00	201373
Surrey Hills Solicitors	Professional charges re Sports Pavilion Lease Invoice 271 - £138 Invoice 387 - £386.40	£524.40	201374
SSALC Limited	Data Protection Training Course	£57.60	201375
Acorn Technology Services	Website administration April to October 2017	£120.00	201376
Upper Bridge Enterprises	Website annual fee, domain name & emails	£492.00	201377

WEL Medical Ltd	Two replacement defibrillator pads	£77.82	201378
S. Orwin	Village maintenance as per contract	£294.00	201379
S.E. Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk on behalf of Newick Parish Council	£40.12	201380
Drainboss	Replacement manhole cover & frame Descale of drains at pavilion	£780.00	201381
<b>Total</b>		<b>£4,454.96</b>	

#### **Income in September 2017**

Lewes District Council	Precept £26953.00 Grant £744.00	£27,697.00
Newick Allotment Society	Rent for Cricketfield allotment site	£100.00
Newick Stoolball Club	Rent for use of King George V Playing Field	£87.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£27,884.00</b>

**9.2 To note statement of performance against budget as at end August 2017** – The statement of performance against budget as at the end of August 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. It was noted that the play equipment maintenance and environment budgets were overspent as a result of works carried out.

**9.3 To note receipt of Certified Annual Return and publication in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015** – It was noted that the Certified Annual Return for 2016/17 had been returned by the external auditor with no comment made and that this had been displayed on the Council notice board and website.

*One member of the public left the meeting at 8.34 p.m.*

**9.4 Budget preparation** – Members of the Council and committees were reminded that the Clerk should be made aware of any items to be included in the draft budget for 2018/19.

**9.5 Report on meeting with HSBC Bank** – Cllr. Wrench reported that he and the Clerk had met with HSBC Bank and found that they could provide an internet banking service to meet the Council's requirements but that it would cost £21 per month. It was noted that enquiries were ongoing with other banks and it appeared likely that an account was available which would meet the Council's requirements at a cost of around £6 per month.

**9.6 Consideration of quotations received for survey work in connection with Sports Pavilion Lease** – A summary of quotations received for the required survey of the Sports Pavilion had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Oldfield Smith & Co of £350 + VAT.

**9.7 Consideration of quotations received for extension of CCTV system** – Two quotations had been received for the proposed extension of the CCTV system to cover the skate park area. It was agreed that further research was required before committing to expenditure of between £1200 and £1500 and the matter was deferred to a later date.

**9.8 Consideration of request for email alerts from Newick.net website** – A quotation had been received from the website provider to add a facility for email alerts to be sent out every time a news item was added to the website. It was agreed to accept the quotation of £60 + VAT.

#### **10. Committees' and Councillors' Reports**

**10.1 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC)** – Cllr. Smerdon reported that the committee was working on improvements to the hall.

**10.2 Neighbourhood Watch** – Cllr. Sheppard reported that she had been told about a burglary in Oxbottom Close and an attempted telephone scam. She had circulated an email from Sussex Police about 'Operation Blitz' which was aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour. It was agreed that the details of Operation Blitz should be put on the Newick.net website. **Action Clerk**

**10.3 Allotments** – Cllr. Smerdon reported that the Allotment Society would be holding its AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> October and that she would report any issues arising at the next PC meeting.

**10.4 Update on Newick Post Office** – Notes of a meeting attended by Cllr. Sheppard and the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that the proprietors of Newick News were currently going through the application process to take on a Post Office Local and that this appeared to be progressing well. Cllr. Sheppard was thanked for her efforts in helping to move this matter forward.

**10.5 Newick Rootz** – The notes from the meetings of Newick Rootz held 9<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated by email and were noted. The Clerk advised that she had not yet contacted Thakeham Homes regarding the overhanging hedge bordering footpath 11 but that it was still on the 'to do' list.

Cllr. Wickens reported on the following:-

- Works were taking place at Reedens Meadows and it was anticipated that the site would be open to the public very soon.
- Rootz would be removing the stakes and fencing around the Jubilee Oak. They would also lay down bark chippings around the tree and find a way of remounting the plaque.
- Rootz would like to take on the renovation of the large oak posts at the entrance to the King George V Playing Field. At present, it was not known how much work this would entail or what the cost of materials would be but Rootz would provide the labour free of charge. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Parish Council.

**10.6 Newick Festival 2018** – It was noted that a meeting of those interested in being involved with organising Newick Festival 2018 would be held on the evening of Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at the Community Centre. Cllr. Smerdon reported on an idea for a theme which had been put forward by Mr Turk.

**10.7 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC)** – Cllrs. Smerdon and Sheppard reported on the LDALC meeting which they had attended on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The draft minutes of this meeting had already been circulated by email.

## 11. Consultations

**11.1 Lewes District Council** – Proposed Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme – It was agreed to accept the recommendation made by members of the F&GP Committee that no comment should be made.

**11.2 East Sussex County Council** – Proposed diversion of Barcombe Footpath 3 across Newick Park estate land. This matter had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**12. Christmas Tree Festival 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017** – It was agreed that the Parish Council would not participate in the Christmas Tree Festival.

**13. Items for next agenda** – Follow up on 12 High Street (Clerk reported that there had been no response to her enquiry sent to Lewes District Council in July).

The meeting closed at 9.19 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....