

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. J. Smerdon 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** – No disclosures were made.
3. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

#### 4. **Environment Issues:-**

4.1 Update on issues identified following inspection of The Green and other PC controlled open spaces – A list of issues reported at the previous committee meeting updated with action taken had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. The following actions were agreed:-

- Bus Shelter on The Green – Clerk to obtain quote for renovating window frames and for replacing Perspex with glass. **Action Clerk**
- Community Centre car park wall – Approaches have been made to local bricklayer but he has not yet responded. Clerk to obtain quote from alternative contractor. **Action Clerk**
- Community Centre Car Park – Clerk to clarify with village handy person that debris needs to be swept up. **Action Clerk**
- It was noted that one of the replacement fingerpost was now in place and that the second one would be erected within the next week. The fingerpost on The Green would be removed from site and the contractor had advised that it would be reinstated with approximately two weeks of removal.

4.2 Consideration of proposal that Village Survey should be repeated – It was agreed to recommend that the village survey, first carried out in 2015/16, should be repeated during the summer of 2018 and that further consideration should be given to adapting the survey to concentrate on issues that the Council was likely to be able to influence.

4.3 Concern from resident over size of Norway Maple on Green at junction of Oldaker Road and Leveller Road – It was noted that the tree condition survey carried out in August 2017 had recommended that work (raise low canopy and remove minor dead wood) should be carried out to this tree and would be done as part of the recently agreed contract with Treewise Tree Services. It was also noted that an email had been received from another resident expressing concern that any general reduction in the size of the crown would destroy the beauty of the tree. It was agreed that no work should be done to the tree other than that recommended in the tree condition survey.

4.4 Complaint from resident about cages/bins etc. stored outside SVS Stores on The Green – A letter from a resident highlighting the wire cages and bins stored alongside the external wall of SVS Stores on The Green had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. It was believed that the area in question was not adopted highway but the Clerk was asked to check this with East Sussex Highways and also to ask Lewes District Council whether it had any powers to

intervene as the area in question is in the Newick Green Conservation Area. **Action Clerk.** In the meantime, it was agreed that Cllr. Halsey would speak to the owner of the premises and ask him to keep it as clear as possible. **Action Cllr. Halsey**

4.5 Overhanging vegetation – various reports received – It was agreed that the Clerk would send the standard vegetation notice to a property in High Hurst Close where the hedge was overhanging the pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk on the grass verge. Cllr. White mentioned another property on Oldaker Road but was unsure of the address. It was agreed that this would be checked and a notice sent if necessary. **Action Clerk**

## 5. Playing Field Issues

5.1 Update on issues identified following inspection of Playing Fields – A list of issues reported at the previous committee meeting, updated with action taken, had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. The following actions were agreed:-

- Skate Park – Draft terms of reference for skate park working group and check guidelines for location of skate park facilities (Cllr. Smerdon has approached Lewes DC for clarification)
- Send a letter to Fairfax Homes asking them to clear their site of old wood as this is being used to form unofficial ramps around the skate park area. **Action Clerk**
- Deal with outstanding wet pour surface issues. **Action Clerk**
- Obtain quotation for removal of graffiti on youth shelter. **Action Clerk**
- Check the picnic bench as village handy person reports there may be further damage. **Action Clerk**
- Clarify location of fallen chestnut paling so that Clerk can give instructions for its removal. **Action Clerk/Cllr. Smerdon**
- Proceed with replacement of rusty metal pedestrian gate with a wooden one (quotation £225).
- Proceed with removal of redundant metal fencing beside scout hut (quotation £175).
- Clerk to order new signs for play area, previously agreed by Parish Council 29/08/17. **Action Clerk**
- Based on quotation received include in £1000 to 2018/19 budget for renovation of benches. Committee members to inspect benches in order to identify those most in need of attention. **Action Cllrs. Halsey, Clothier & White.** Cllr. Clothier to seek an additional quotation in order to comply with financial regulations. **Action Cllr. Clothier**

5.2 Monthly Play Area Inspection Report – It was noted that there were no issues raised in the most recent monthly play area inspection report from Lewes District Council.

5.3 Update on reports of antisocial behaviour – It had been reported under agenda item 5.1 above that there was more graffiti on the youth shelter. Agreement already reached that the Clerk would obtain quotations for its removal. **Action Clerk**

5.4 Abandoned vehicle in recreation ground car park – It was noted that an apparently abandoned vehicle had been removed from the recreation ground car park as a result of having been reported via the Operation Crackdown website.

6. **Sports Pavilion Lease** – It was reported that the Surveyors Report required under Charity law had been received and that the Clerk had obtained advice from the internal auditor regarding the reclaiming of VAT for Sports Pavilion expenditure once the lease had been signed. These matters would be reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council and a meeting would be set up with the Sports Pavilion Management Committee. Cllr. White reported that the Sports Pavilion Management Committee was in the process of setting up a limited company to take on the lease of the pavilion.

7. **Budget issues** – It was reported that East Sussex Highways had confirmed that the grass cutting contribution for 2018/19 would remain at the same level as for 2017/18. However, the matter was under review and it was likely that the contribution would be reduced with effect from 2019/20. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had a three year agreement with Barcombe Landscapes which meant that grass cutting costs up to April 2020 were fixed.
8. **Items for the agenda of the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meeting with East Sussex Highways** – It was agreed that the following items should be put forward for the agenda of the SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December:-
- Resident request for indication of cost of flashing speed indicator sign in Allington Road
  - Resident request for 20mph speed limit to be imposed in Cricketfield in order to help safeguard local children
  - Resident request for double yellow lines to be provided at junction of Church Road and Allington Road
  - Problem pavement surfaces – e.g. twittens between High Hurst Close/Allington Road and between Leveller Road/Marbles Road
  - Unsafe kerb in Church Lane
  - Options for lay-by parking to be provided in High Street and Oldaker Road
9. **Items for the next agenda** – It was agreed that the bench renovation project and the skate park project should both be included on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.18 p.m.

Signed: .....

Dated:.....

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