

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newick Parish held
at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 18th April, 2018
at Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick.**

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of Newick Parish Council, Cllr. Jenny Smerdon, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those who had helped to set up the audio visual and sound equipment prior to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Lewes District and East Sussex County Councillor, Jim Sheppard, Parish Councillors Jean Sheppard, Chris Armitage and Iain Nesbitt, and from Newick Badminton Club and Mrs Gordon-Wilson.

Approximately fifty parishioners attended the meeting including Newick Parish Councillors: Guy Clothier, Mario Halsey, Ben Horsfall, Jenny Smerdon, Melanie Thew, Joe White, Cathy Wickens and Ken Wrench.

The Parish Council Clerk, Mrs. Sue Berry, was in attendance to take the minutes.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 19th April 2017

It was proposed (Mr Ian Reekie), seconded (Mrs Kate Francis) and agreed that the draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2017 should be approved as a true record of that meeting. Copies had been made available at the meeting and on the Newick parish website.

3. Report from LDC and ESCC Councillor Jim Sheppard – Cllr. Jim Sheppard had sent apologies that he would not be able to attend the meeting, however, he had sent written reports on the activities of both Lewes District and East Sussex County Councils and these were made available at the meeting. It was noted that, following cuts to the East Sussex County Council library service, the mobile library service would cease and that the nearest library to Newick would be in Uckfield.

4. Newick Parish Council – Chairman's Report

Copies of the Parish Council Chairman's report were circulated at the meeting. The Chairman's Report covered items with which the Parish Council had been involved during the year including Parish Council finances, neighbourhood planning and planning updates, the opening of Reedens Meadows, problems of anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood watch, replacement of fingerposts, the new allotment site at Cornwell's Bank, the food fair, liaising with the Post Office in an effort to get a PO service back in Newick, the primary school crossing patrol, the Christmas tree on The Green, production of a new edition of Newick Directory, management of public spaces, the parish website and the community speed watch team.

The Chairman also gave thanks to former Parish Councillor, Jed Jones, who had resigned his position during the year and welcomed Cllr. Melanie Thew back to the Parish Council.

5. Presentation on Community Infrastructure Levy and how this funding source can help fund projects in the Parish

Cllr. Cathy Wickens gave a presentation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a relatively new source of funding which would be available from the developers of new dwellings within the Parish and which would help to fund the provision or improvement of some of the infrastructure required as a result of new development in the parish. It was stressed that as CIL is quite new the Parish Council does not yet have experience of how the system will work but it was known that the Parish Council would receive 25% of the CIL money direct and would be able to bid for additional funding from the various pots held by Lewes District Council. It was stated that further information would be sent out the Clubs and Societies and that the Parish Council would be facilitating a consultation event to find out about any planned projects and what the community wanted in terms of infrastructure. There would also be a questionnaire delivered to all households. In response to

questions from members of the public present at the meeting it was stated that Newick was expecting to receive approximately £400,000 (*NB this figure also included the anticipated proceeds of a sale of Parish Council owned land*) and that CIL payments from developers would be made at the start of the construction process and would need to be used on infrastructure projects within a five year period. It was also confirmed that highway projects such as a pedestrian crossing could be achieved by working together with East Sussex County Council. It was unclear as to whether or not the revision of the conservation areas would count as an infrastructure project.

6. Reports from Newick Clubs and Societies

The following representatives of Newick Clubs and Societies gave reports on their club/society activities over the previous year:-

Newick Rootz – Mr John Samson reported on the activities of Newick Rootz, a group of approximately thirty local residents whose primary role was to help to keep Newick's public rights of way clear. In addition, Rootz members, some of whom had specialist knowledge, were involved with maintenance and survey work at Newick Common and the newly opened Reedens Meadows. Mr Samson issued an invitation to anyone who might be interested in this kind of work to get in touch with the group.

St Mary's Church Pastoral Support Team – Mrs Patsy Bailey spoke about the work of St Mary's Pastoral Support Team who were involved in approximately twenty-three different activities aimed at supporting the spiritual, physical and mental health needs of local residents. She told those present how they could find out about these activities and said that new volunteers were always needed, and that the team was particularly in need of somebody with public relations skills. Additional volunteer drivers would also be welcomed.

Newick Cinema – Mr Mike Berry reported on Newick Cinema which had been running for four years. He stated that the monthly film showings (with intervals during which refreshments were served by members of Newick Amateur Dramatic Society) had a loyal following and that with increased attendance numbers the cinema was now making a small surplus.

Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – Mr Berry also spoke on behalf of Newick Village Hall, a registered charity administered by trustees and run on a day to day basis by a management committee. He spoke about planned works which included the redecoration of the main hall, enhanced lighting and re-sealing of the floor. Various items had been replaced during the previous year including the stage curtains, kitchen extractor fan, hand dryers, refrigerator, and cutlery. Mr Berry thanked trustees and committee members for all their commitment and support and local residents for supporting village hall activities.

Newick Distress Trust – Mr Reekie spoke about the work of Newick Distress Trust which had been set up thirty years previously when a group of people got together to help a local family affected by a tragedy. The Trust is funded by voluntary contributions, donations and legacies and is used to assist individuals in Newick who find themselves in hardship as a result of serious illness or other unforeseen reason for sudden loss of income.

St Mary's Church – Revd Paul Mundy thanked the Parish Council for its support for St Mary's Church in terms of grants towards the upkeep of the churchyard and pastoral work. He said that over the past year there had been nine weddings, seven christenings and fourteen funerals at St Mary's. Revd Mundy spoke about the Church's desire to reach out to the local community and he reported that over 3,000 people had visited the church during the 2017 Christmas Tree festival and that the pastoral team were involved in a number of activities such as Knit and Natter, Dancing for Fun and Fitness, Memory Cafe and the monthly lunch club. New projects included caring for carers and youth and families work in conjunction with Fletching and Barcombe parishes.

Newick Twinning Association – Mr Andy Wilson spoke on behalf of Newick Twinning Association, reporting that forty-one members of NTA had travelled to Itteville in France in May 2017 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of twinning between the two villages. He said that a group of people from Itteville would be coming to Newick in May 2018 and amongst other things would be joining in

celebrations taking place for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Mr Wilson said that the Twinning Association would be taking part in Newick Festival in June 2018 and that the regular annual wine and wisdom quiz would take place in January 2019. Finally, Mr Wilson pointed out the display cabinet at the village hall which contained various pictures and items of memorabilia from twinning visits over the last 25 years.

Newick Allotment Society – Mr Jed Jones spoke on behalf of Newick Allotment Society which had been in existence for approximately 10 years and was originally formed when there were very few opportunities to have an allotment in Newick. He thanked those members of the Parish Council who had been involved in trying to find suitable land for allotments and reported on the first year of growing at the new Cornwell's Bank allotment site. Despite problems with water supply and rabbits, allotment holders had worked hard to get their plots ready and several of them had won prizes for their vegetables at Newick Horticultural Society's Annual Show in September 2017.

Defibrillator Training – Mr Justin Carding, a critical care paramedic with South East Coast Ambulance Service, spoke about his willingness to provide training for local groups on the use of the defibrillators and basic training on resuscitation techniques. He asked those who might be interested in organising training sessions to contact him after the meeting.

7. Question and Answer Session

The following questions were asked during the question and answer session:-

- Is something being done about the fact that one of the 30mph signs in Western Road has been turned round? Cllr. Smerdon confirmed that this had been reported to East Sussex Highways and that it would be rectified shortly.
- What is happening about the damaged bench beside the bus stop in Western Road? Cllr. Smerdon confirmed that this was in hand and that an insurance claim was being made so that the bench could be replaced.
- Mr Samson advised those present that they could report highway problems direct to East Sussex County Council via 'Fix My Street', an online reporting tool.
- Why did the Post Office turn down the application from Newick News to install a Post Office in their shop? Cllr. Smerdon said that the Parish Council did not have that information, however, it was possible that a new Post Office might be reinstated in the old premises as a community run facility.
- Post from the post box outside the former Post Office in Allington Road is often collected before the stated time of 4.30 p.m. It was noted that this would need to be reported to Royal Mail who operate the postal service.
- Cllr. Smerdon spoke about Newick Festival and Food Fair which would take place over the weekend of 23rd and 24th June 2018 and gave a brief overview of the activities that would be on offer.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and thanked the Clerk and Parish who had been working hard over the past year.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.