

## Newick Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

**Present:** Councillors C. Armitage, G. Clothier, M. Halsey, B. Horsfall (Vice Chairman), I. Nesbitt, J. Sheppard, M. Thew, J. White, C. Wickens and K. Wrench.

**In Attendance:** Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)  
Two members of the public (for part of the meeting only)

An audio recording was made of the meeting

*In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was led by the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Horsfall.*

- 1. Apologies for Absence:-** Apologies had been received from Cllr. J. Smerdon (Chairman).
- 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. Exclusion of the press and public** – It was agreed that there was no reason for members of the press or public to be excluded for any part of the meeting.

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

Ms. Mulford from Newick Park, spoke in connection with agenda item 15 (Proposed diversion of footpath Barcombe 3). She explained that the footpath diversion application had been made in order to facilitate the use of the land over which the line of the footpath currently ran for deer farming. She advised that Mr Reardon (owner of Newick Park) believed that the public should have access to the land and that efforts should be made to resolve any issues. Ms. Mulford referred to a letter sent by Mr Reardon to the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 which contained proposals to amend the previous diversion route in order to address some of the objections made and she showed photographs and plans to illustrate the new proposals. Ms Mulford advised that the revised route would maintain existing views of Newick Park house and enhance views over the Sutton Park estate. Ms Mulford and Mr Tytherleigh (deer farm manager) then answered questions from members of the council.

*It was agreed that, in order to assist the members of the public who were present, agenda item 15 would be brought forward for discussion.*

**15 Proposed diversion footpath Barcombe 3** – Mr Reardon's letter of 12<sup>th</sup> July had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. It was also noted that, although the footpath in question was in Barcombe Parish rather than Newick, Mr Reardon had not been in touch with Barcombe Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council did not wish to amend or withdraw the objections previously made in connection with the diversion of footpath Barcombe 3.

*Two members of the public left the meeting at 7.12 p.m.*

- 5. Report from Lewes District and East Sussex County Councillor** – Cllr. Jim Sheppard had advised that he had nothing to report this month.
- 6. Approval of draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018** – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Parish Council held 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 could be signed as a true record.
- 7. Planning:**
  - 7.1 Approval of draft minutes of Planning Committee meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018** – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 could be signed as a true record.
  - 7.2 Consideration of Planning Applications** – There were no planning applications to be considered.
  - 7.3 Planning Appeal – The Glade, 14 Newick Hill (APP/P1425/W/18/3197657)** – It was agreed that the following representations should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the appeal made

against Lewes District Council's decision to refuse planning permission for erection of a detached dwelling with new vehicular access to Newick Hill:-

- The proposed development is contrary to Newick Neighbourhood Plan policy H01.6 (The construction of additional homes in the gardens of Newick's existing homes will not be supported).
- The proposed development of a detached five bedroom house is contrary to the wishes of the community who, when consulted during preparation of Newick's neighbourhood Plan, stated that 'building homes with more than four bedrooms should be avoided' (Newick Neighbourhood Plan paragraph 3.2).
- The proposed new vehicular access on to Newick Hill is almost opposite the junction with Cricketfield and close to a recently installed traffic calming structure. This location is also near to the junction with the A272, High Street, and the introduction of a new access drive at this busy location is considered to be potentially hazardous.

**7.4 Approvals/Refusals etc.** There had been no approvals or refusals.

**7.5 Tree works applications** – There had been no tree works applications.

**7.6 Approval of draft minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018** – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 could be signed as a true record.

**7.7 PC land between Vernons Road and The Rough** – A plan for disposal of the land between Vernons Road and The Rough had been circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed. It was agreed to form a working group to assist the Clerk in making preparations for the sale of the land. The working group would comprise Cllrs. Armitage, Horsfall and Wickens and the Clerk would produce draft terms of reference. **Action Clerk** It was agreed to invite Mr Lucas to join the working group as it was considered that he had expertise that would help the process. It was agreed that a financial limit of £1750, net of VAT, should be set for this work, further approval to be obtained if costs were likely to exceed this amount.

**8. Clerk's Report** – The Clerk's report had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and was noted. A list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and was also noted. Following a request from Cllr. Wickens, it was agreed that the email from Lewes District Council Planning Policy department regarding the five year housing land supply should be forwarded to Maria Caulfield MP and she should be asked for her comments. **Action Clerk**

**9. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – The Clerk's report given above had advised that the village handy person had resigned her position and that the contract had been given on a temporary basis to another person who had expressed an interest when it had been advertised previously. The temporary arrangement was proving to be successful and it was agreed that Mr Antrobus should be offered the contract on a permanent basis. It was noted that the Environment & Recreation Committee would be considering whether or not the hours for this work should be increased. The Clerk was asked to circulate the handy person's work specification for information. **Action Clerk**

**10. Financial Matters:**

**10.1 To approve schedule of payments for July 2018** – It was agreed that the schedule of payments for July 2018 should be approved. It was agreed that payments this month would be authorised by Cllrs. Horsfall and Nesbitt.

**Payments Schedule July 2018**

Payee	Item	Invoice Amount	Cheque Number
Payments made prior to meeting			
Information Commissioner	Data protection fee	£35.00	Direct Debit
Payments to be approved			

Newick Sports Pavilion	Reclaimed VAT April to June 2018	£218.63	Electronic pmt
Water Choice	Sports Pavilion water supply	£269.69	Electronic pmt
Chailey Heritage Enterprise Centre	Printing summer newsletter	£232.00	Electronic pmt
D. Sankey Ltd.	Routine mole treatment	£100.80	Electronic pmt
Upper Bridge Enterprises	Website cookie consent	£36.00	Electronic pmt
NHS Property Services	Lease of Community Centre car park	£990.00	Electronic pmt
Lewes District Council	Play area inspections	£18.00	Electronic pmt
S.E. Berry, M. Farmer, HMRC & East Sussex Pension Fund	Clerk's Salary, Locum Clerk payment, Tax & NI contributions and Pension Contributions	£1,744.00	Electronic pmts
S.E Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk	£48.85	Electronic pmt
Mrs I Baty	Newsletter delivery	£120.00	Electronic pmt
Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	Grounds maintenance work	£1432.80	Electronic pmt
Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	Mowing highway verges	£1260.00	Electronic pmt
Newick CE School	Festival donation – loan of gazebos and maypole	£50.00	Electronic pmt
Flax Farm Ltd	Food Fair – refund of duplicate payment	£40.00	Electronic pmt
Surrey Hills Solicitors	Charges re land disposal advice	£358.80	Electronic pmt
Mr P Antrobus	Village maintenance work – July	£273.00	Electronic pmt
Treewise Tree Services	Tree works	£27784.00	Electronic pmt
<b>Total</b>		<b>£10,011.57</b>	

**10.2 To note statement of performance against budget as at end June 2018** – The statement of performance against budget as at the end of June 2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

**10.3 Quarterly bank reconciliation** – The quarterly bank reconciliation, checked and signed by the Chairman, had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

**10.4 Closure of Co-operative Bank Account** – Confirmation had been received that the Council's bank account with Co-operative Bank had been closed and that the Council was entitled to receive a copy of the past five years' payment history. It was agreed that, as bank statements were held for six years in accordance with the Council's document retention policy, it would not be necessary to request any further documentation. Cllrs. Sheppard and Halsey signed a letter to Co-operative Bank to confirm this.

**10.5 Update on insurance claim for damaged bench** – The Clerk reported that part settlement for the cost of the damaged bench at The Point had been received from the insurance company. However, taking into account the insurance excess and the cost of obtaining a S.171 licence from East Sussex County Council, it would cost an additional £466 to replace the bench. It was agreed that the damaged bench should be removed and not replaced (2 voted to replace the bench, 2 voted not to replace the bench, the remainder of councillors abstained from voting. The Vice Chairman used his casting vote to decide that the bench should not be replaced). A request was made that the insurance money received should be used towards providing another bench elsewhere at some time in the future.

**10.6 Consideration of grant application** – Copies of the application made by Mr Stevens on behalf of Newick CE School for a grant of £500 towards the 2019 Stiances Archaeology project had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that a grant of £500 should be awarded (Parish Council's General Power of Competence).

**10.7 Quotations for tree work** – Two quotations for tree work had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to accept the quotation of £486 (including VAT) from Treewise Tree Services for the removal of a dead tree on The Green and the grinding of two silver birch stumps on Oldaker Road. The Clerk was asked to obtain a second quotation for the annual inspection of the oak tree (tag 974) at the junction of Oldaker Road and Powell Road and to accept the lower of the two quotations. **Action Clerk**

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

**11.1 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Working Group** – It was agreed to approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Community Infrastructure Levy Working Group subject to some minor amendments and to the removal of the final paragraph. It was noted that the working group could co-opt non-councillor members with relevant expertise to assist the group. It was reported that some useful feedback had been obtained from the CIL briefing session with potential applicants and that a number of issues had arisen from this. Cllr. Wickens reported that she had arranged an informal meeting with representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee to give guidance on their bid for CIL funding.

**11.2 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC)** – There was nothing to report.

**11.3 Newick Post Office** – Cllr. Sheppard reported that the person who had been considering setting up a Community Post Office in the former PO premises was no longer interested in taking this on. It had been rumoured that one of the existing businesses in Newick may now be interested in taking on the Post Office but no further information was available. Cllr. Sheppard was asked to revisit the possibility of an outreach Post Office service. **Action Cllr. Sheppard**

**11.4 Newick Rootz** – The minutes of the meeting of Newick Rootz held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and were noted.

**11.5 Sports Pavilion Management Committee** – Notes prepared by Cllr. Wrench on the ownership of King George V Playing Field (including the Sports Pavilion) and the ongoing project to replace the Sports Pavilion had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Wrench explained the background to his suggestion that the Sports Clubs could form a Community Interest Company to take on a lease on a non-commercial basis which may allow them to obtain grants from their various governing bodies. He proposed that a small group of councillors should discuss these suggestions with representatives of the Sports Clubs before proceeding any further. It was agreed that Cllr. Wrench would attend the next meeting of the Sports Pavilion Management Committee to explain the suggested course of action and try to ascertain whether or not the sports clubs were likely to want to pursue this. **Action Cllr. Wrench**

*Cllr. Nesbitt left the meeting at 8.33 p.m.*

**11.6 Allotments** – Cllr Clothier reported on correspondence from Newick Allotment Society which highlighted an issue of the landowners gaining access to the site without giving prior notice. Cllr Clothier had checked the lease agreement which specified that prior notice should be given to the tenant (Newick Parish Council) if the landowner wished to access the site. It was agreed that the landowners should be contacted regarding this matter and that the initial approach would be an informal approach by telephone. Cllr. Clothier agreed to prepare a list of items to be raised during this discussion. **Action Cllr. Clothier**

## **12. Consultations**

12.1 – Natural England – Byelaws for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Cllr. Wickens had studied the documentation in connection with this consultation and had prepared suggested responses. The suggested responses were agreed and the Clerk was asked to forward them to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which was coordinating the response from local councils. **Action Clerk**

## **13. Request for permission to place small sign beside Memorial Stone on The Green**

A letter from Mr Antrobus asking permission to place a small sign beside the Memorial Stone on The Green had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The sign directed people to the notice board outside the bakery which contained a comprehensive list of the fallen from Newick. It was agreed in principle that a sign could be erected but it was considered that the proposed colour, material and design of the sign were not suitable for this location. It was suggested that the wording and material should be reconsidered.

**14. WW1 Beacon of Light** – Correspondence regarding the national WW1 Beacons of Light project had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Cllr. Halsey reported that Newick Bonfire Society would be erecting and lighting a beacon on The Green in the same location as for HM Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

celebrations. He confirmed that discussions had been held with Rev'd Mundy and that there would be a peal of bells, the sounding of the Last Post, and an address by Rev'd Mundy. Newick Bonfire Society would supply a risk assessment for the event.

**15. Proposed diversion footpath Barcombe 3** – This agenda item had been brought forward and dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**16. Items for next agenda** – Updates on Post Office and Sports Pavilion development project

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....