

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 29th October 2019 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick

Present: Councillors C. Armitage, B. Deacon, B. Hodge, D. Marchant, V. Marchant, M. Thew, K. Tibbs, P. Tibbs, B. Whitlock, T. Whitlock and C. Wickens

In Attendance: Mrs E. Reece (Clerk)
Mrs S. Berry (Locum Clerk taking minutes)
Eight members of the public

An audio recording was made of the meeting

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman
- 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** – None
- 3. Exclusion of the Press and Public** – It was agreed that any members of the press and public still present would be excluded for agenda item 17 (report from Chairman following appraisal of Clerk's performance). (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 S1 (2) – confidential employment matter).
- 4. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** –

Mr West, owner and developer of the land between Vernons Road and The Rough spoke about the difficulties he had experienced in obtaining approval from Lewes District Council in connection with the planning consent reserved matters. He stated that he would be appealing the refusal to grant reserved matters and that he had submitted amended plans to Lewes District Council (copies had been circulated to members of the Parish Council in their agenda packs). He asked to be informed of the date of the Parish Council/Planning Committee meeting when these would be considered so that he could attend.

Mr West left the meeting at 7.06 p.m.

Mr Reekie spoke on behalf of NEASSA (Newick Emergency and Armed Services Support Association) about their plans to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. He stated that NEASSA was concerned about the financing and insuring of the event (some of which was planned to take place on Parish Council owned land) and would like to work in partnership with the Council in order to share the burden.

Mrs Stockwell circulated copies of the draft timetable of proposed events for the VE Day anniversary and stated that NEASSA would be happy to provide most of the manpower required to plan and run the event but that NEASSA was not in a position to take on the financing of the whole event.

Mrs Smerdon stated that the VE Day anniversary would be a good opportunity to bring the community together and that Parish Council involvement would be welcomed.

Following questions from members of the Parish Council it was clarified that NEASSA anticipated the cost of running the event would be a maximum of £5,000 including insurance and that it was hoped that the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute 50% of this with the PC contribution being capped at £2500. It was also hoped that an enthusiastic member of the Parish Council would be willing to join the organising committee. The committee would have a better idea of the costs within the next month and would present them to the next Parish Council meeting.

It was agreed to bring forward agenda item 10 for discussion

10 Financial Matters

10.1 Draft Budget 2020/21 Copies of the first draft of the 2020/21 budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting and each budget item was considered in turn with explanations being given where necessary. It was agreed to delay approval of the final draft budget until the next meeting in order to allow for any minor

amendments to be made. It was agreed that the cost of the Village Handy Person service would be discussed at the next F&GP Committee meeting.

10.2 Schedule of payments for October - It was agreed to approve the schedule of payments for October 2019. Councillors Thew and Tibbs were authorised to release the payments from the bank account.

Payee	Transaction Detail	Amount
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Contributions (PC & Clerk)	£426.00
Mrs E Reece	Clerk's Salary	£1245.28
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & National Insurance contributions	£275.50
Mrs E Reece	Clerk's expenses	£20.39
C. Armitage	Mileage expenses – ESALC AGM	£20.07
Lewes District Council	Monthly play area inspection	£18.00
Mrs M Firth	Newsletter delivery	£120.00
Matmos Computer Systems	Printer cartridge	£65.99
Telefonica UK	Mobile phone contract	£16.20
SSALC Ltd	Planning Training – Cllr Hodge	£84.00
SSALC Ltd	ESALC AGM & conference	£72.00
D. Sankey Ltd	Routine mole trapping	£100.80
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	Annual licence & support for financial software	£145.20
CCLA	Deposit into capital fund	£100,000
P. Howes	Village maintenance work	£367.50
Matmos Computer Systems	Laptop system reconfiguration	£78.00
M&M Services	Flagpole removal & storage	£72.00
JR White Electrical	Supply replacement defibrillator cabinet	£474.00
Mrs E Reece	Clerk's additional expenses	£10.03
Total		£103,538.96

10.3 Copies of the statement of performance against budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and this was noted.

10.4 There were no grant applications to be considered.

10.5 There were no quotations to be considered

10.6 A draft policy for the funding of capital projects had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was discussed in detail and it was suggested that wording should be included to make it clear who was eligible to vote in respect of each application. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to this matter and a further draft of the policy would be presented at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that agenda item 13 should be brought forward for discussion

13. Consideration of letter from NEASSA regarding planned VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

A letter from NEASSA had been circulated prior to the meeting and NEASSA members had given further information during the public participation session earlier in the meeting. After various issues had been clarified with members of NEASSA who were still present at the meeting, it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the event in principle and that NEASSA would supply more detail as to costings in time for the next meeting of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that the Food Fair committee would be consulted as to whether or not funds from the Food Fair earmarked reserve could be used towards the costs of the event. It was agreed that Cllrs. Deacon and V. Marchant would join the event organising committee.

Six members of the public left the meeting at 20.08 p.m.

5. Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman – There was no report from Cllr. Roy Burman

6. Approval of draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held 24th September 2019 – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 24th September 2019 could be signed as a true record of that meeting.

7. Planning:

- 7.1 Approval of draft minutes of Planning Committee Meeting 8th October 2019 – These minutes were approved as a true record of that meeting.
- 7.2 Consideration of Planning Applications:

LW/19/0563	Toad Hall, Lane End Common The construction of three buildings to form five holiday lets. Demolition of building used for livery purposes and erection of replacement equestrian/agricultural building. It was agreed to make no comment on this planning application.
LW/19/0723	Sharpsbridge Farm, Sharpsbridge Lane Re-position of dwelling in relation to planning approval LW/19/0171 It was agreed to object to this planning application on the grounds that the Parish Council's original grounds for objection i.e. that this site is outside the planning boundary for Newick and therefore contrary to Newick's Neighbourhood Plan and the Lewes District Local Plan, were still considered to be relevant.

- 7.3 Approvals/Refusals etc. The following decisions made by Lewes District Council were noted:-
LW/19/0570/CD 6 Church Road, Newick Discharge of condition 2 relating to planning approval LW/19/0121 and listed building consent LW/19/0122 and condition 3 of planning approval LW/19/0121 – **conditions discharged in full.**

LW/19/0517 Land adjacent to The Rough and Vernons Road Approval of reserved matters for the erection of a pair of semi-detached houses following outline consent granted under LW/18/0048 - **Refused**

- 7.4 Tree Works Applications – Cllr. Wickens reported that 2 applications had been received

29 High Street (G1 cherry and laurel, drive of North Lodge remove overhang to 29 High Street) – no objections had been raised to this application.

39 Oldaker Road (T4 Oak reduction and reshaping of crown by approximately 4-5m including the rebalancing of the lower crown to the west and the removal of component dead wood) – no comment was to be made as this application had been made on behalf of Newick Parish Council.

It was also reported that a number of Ash trees growing on land belonging to Newick and Sutton Hall Estates adjacent to Sharpsbridge Lane were to be felled as they were suffering from Ash dieback. Lewes District Council had confirmed that the work was considered essential on the grounds of public health and safety.

- 7.5 Update on Mitchelswood Farm appeal if available – It was reported that the Secretary of State had decided that the Public Inquiry into the Mitchelswood Farm planning appeal should be reopened. A briefing note had been prepared and circulated by email prior to the meeting. The Clerk was asked to forward copies of correspondence from the Secretary of State to District Councillor Roy Burman **Action Clerk**

It was noted that the Planning Committee would be looking into the feasibility of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed that Cllr Tom Whitlock would join the Planning Committee.

It was agreed that Cllr Thew would review Planning Resource articles received in October and that Cllr Wickens would review November articles.

A member of the public left the meeting at 8.35 p.m.

- 7.6 Update on Lewes District Local Plan if available – no update available.

8. **Clerk's Report** – The clerks report and correspondence report had previously been circulated and included;

- The Public Sector deposit fund had been opened with an initial deposit of £100,000, further deposits to be made in due course.
- Matt Coppard had taken down and stored the seasonal flagpoles
- Arrangements for Clerk's annual leave
- Feedback regarding lack of publicity for new Post Office
- Work has commenced on claiming a right of way between Newick Village Hall and Newlands Park Way
- Final details still awaited for Emergency Plan
- Quotation for work at Community Centre car park still awaited
- Contact had been made by Mr West following Parish Council's objection to LW/19/0517
- New arrangements for dedicated PSCO
- Complaints received regarding dogs off lead at King George V Playing Field

Additional items brought to the Councillors attention were;

- Minutes of SLR meeting with ESCC would be presented to the next meeting
- Further information from ESCC regarding the forthcoming night closure of the A272

9. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman. – It was noted that the Clerk's laptop had required reconfiguration.

10. Financial Matters: This agenda item had been brought forward and dealt with earlier in the meeting.

11. Environment & Recreation:

- 11.1** Approval of draft minutes of Environment & Recreation Committee held 8th October 2019 – Copies of the draft minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held 8th October 2019 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and it was agreed that these could be signed as a true record of that meeting.
- 11.2** Donate a Morning – Cllr. Thew reported on the joint litter picking venture with Newick Primary School held 15th October 2019. It was agreed that this had been a very worthwhile event.
- 11.3** Autumn Village Tidy Up – It was reported that another Village Tidy Up event was planned for Saturday 9th November. The event was being advertised on notice boards and social media. It was noted that Cllr Thew would contact Lewes District Council in order to arrange for the loan of additional equipment. **Action Cllr Thew**
- 11.4** Email from Newick Rootz – An email received from Newick Rootz regarding problems experienced when cutting back overhanging vegetation in a residential area had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was agreed that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Environment & Recreation Committee.
- 11.5** Sports Pavilion Management Committee meeting 22nd October – This meeting had been postponed therefore there was nothing to report.

12. Committees' and Councillors' Reports:

- 12.1 East Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM** – Cllr Armitage reported on the ESALC AGM and conference that he had attended. The Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex Police had spoken at this meeting and had outlined new arrangements for dedicated Police Community Support Officers and a new specialist Rural Crime Officer. There had also been a presentation on communication which had been already been forwarded to members of the Council.
- 12.2 VHMC** – Cllrs B and T Whitlock had attended a meeting of Newick Village Hall Management Committee and reported that plans were in place for the refurbishment of the hall in summer 2020. It was also reported that members of NVHMC had been concerned that the hall might potentially be used in the event of an emergency as there had been no consultation about this. It was reported that the monthly cinema was making a profit.
- 12.3 Youth Engagement** – There was nothing to report.
- 12.4 Newick Rootz** –Notes from the October meeting of Newick Rootz had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. Cllr. Wickens reported that Rootz member, Malcolm Smith, had made and installed a new fingerpost at Mantell Close. The annual clearance of Newick Common had taken place and the wood gathered would be burnt on the bonfire as part of Newick Bonfire Celebrations.
- 12.5 Community Engagement** – It was reported that the next Community Engagement event was planned for 17th January 2020.

13. Letter from NEASSA regarding plans for VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations in May 2020 – This agenda item had been brought forward for consideration earlier in the meeting.

14. Speedwatch –Cllr. Armitage reported that he was in the process of recruiting new members to the Speedwatch Team.

15. Request for ashes to be scattered – It was reported that the family who had made the request for ashes to be scattered on Parish Council land had informed the Clerk that they had made alternative arrangements and that the ashes would no longer be scattered in Newick. It was agreed that the Council should consider drafting a policy in case of any future requests.

16. To agree who will prepare the next informal update to be posted on social media – It was agreed Cllr. Thew would prepare this to include felling of trees in Sharpsbridge Lane, Post Office now open in Newick Drive and the Parish Councils support for the VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations. **Action Cllr Thew**

In accordance with the resolution made under agenda item 3 the following item was dealt with in confidence. There were no members of the press or public present. The Clerk, Emma Reece, left the meeting room at 9.08 p.m

17. Report from Chairman following appraisal of Clerk’s performance – The Chairman gave a report following the appraisal of the Clerk’s performance since taking up her position in April 2019. The Clerk’s hourly rate was considered and an increase agreed to take effect 1st April 2020 with further increase on successful completion of CiLCA qualification.

The Clerk returned to the meeting room at 9.11 p.m.

- 18. Items for the next agenda** – it was agreed that the following items should be included in the next agenda:-
- VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations
 - Minutes of Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with ESCC
 - Final draft of Capital Project Funding Policy
 - Lewes DC amended Code of Conduct

The meeting closed at 9.17 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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