

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th January 2021. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom software.

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

In Attendance: Mrs E Reece (Clerk)
Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman
Members of Councillor's families were in the same room as those participating in the meeting for brief periods
Three Members of the public

An audio and visual recording was made of the meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. V Marchant had advised the Clerk that she would be attending the NAS AGM which had the same start time and then joining the Council meeting when that finished.
- 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. D Marchant disclosed an interest in item 9.2 LW/20/0851 and item 9.9. Cllr. C Armitage declared an interest in 9.2. LW/21/0011. Cllr. Wickens declared an interest in item 9.4 TW/21/009/TPO.
- 3. Exclusion of the Press and Public** – There was no reason to exclude the Press or members of the public from any part of the meeting.
- 4. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** –

Resident 1 spoke in support of the application for bungalows at the Vernons Road/The Rough site. He stated that Neighbours to the site have to recognise that there are some compromises with the application because it is less bulky and less oppressive. He raised concerns that a future occupant could convert to a dormer style extension and if the roof was to be hipped it would make a dormer more difficult to install and it would be a less imposing roofline for neighbours. He suggested a request could be made for removal of permitted development rights so that a roof conversion could not be done without application for planning. He asked on behalf of the residents he represented that the Parish Council support the application with the conditions above.

Resident 2 spoke against the application on the land to the rear of Oldaker Road. He stated his concerns that neighbours had not yet been consulted and it will overlook his garden.

Resident 3 also spoke against the application on the land to the rear of Oldaker Road. She raised concerns that this application had already been turned down and the proposed building was too large.

- 5. Co-option of up to one new councillor (if candidates have put themselves forward)** – No candidates had put themselves forward for co-option.
- 6. To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update** – It was agreed that Cllr. Deacon would write the update for this month.
- 7. Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman** – Mr Burman spoke about the challenge of the district allocation of housing and the change of emphasis on need rather than plan. He said he was very pleased to see land in Vernons road/The Rough have progressed to a compromise. He reported LDC has carried on with services and encourage neighbourly support.
- 8. Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 24th November 2020** – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 24th November 2020 could be signed as a true record.

- 9. Planning:**

- 9.1 Approval of draft minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 8th December 2020 and 12th January 2021 – It was agreed that both sets of minutes could be signed as a true record.
- 9.2 Consideration of Planning Applications: (if any)

| | |
|------------|--|
| LW/20/0816 | <p>1 High Hurst Close Proposed two storey front extension</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make no comment on this application</p> |
| LW/20/0842 | <p>Land To The Rear Of Oldaker Road Planning Application - Erection of a 4-bed detached dwelling with associated access and on-site parking (resubmission of LW/18/0191) for H Monteiro</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to object to this application for the following reasons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the conservation area, the large house will have a significant effect. The proposed building is disproportionate in terms of size with respect to the Listed Building. - Not a separate plot, is part of the garden of 4 Church Road as per the entry in the land registry and in conflict with the Newick Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) Policy H01.6. - Prominent in its location, excessively large and disproportional in terms of the site coverage and general massing and height. Not in keeping with other neighbouring properties on Church Road and towards the Village Green. - The application does not accord with the Lewes Local Plan Core Policy 11 which essentially require it to safeguard historic assets and to protect or enhance designated Conservation Areas. - Overall, the proposal conflicts with the NNP policies EN1, HO1.1 and HO1.6. adopted within the Lewes District Council Local Plan Part 1. |
| LW/20/0851 | <p>Land Adjacent To The Rough And Vernons Road Reserved matter for the appearance, scale, access, parking, bin and cycle storage and landscaping of application LW/18/0048 - for 2no. bungalows and associated works</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to support this application but to make the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The council is concerned about the height of the apex of the roof due to lack of measurements on the plans. The Council would prefer to see a hipped roof and support the residents views on this latest application. The Council would like the removal of automatic development rights so that any future extension to the proposed bungalows would be given due consideration. <p>Councillor D. Marchant did not vote</p> <p>Resident 1, 2 and 3 left the meeting 7.31pm</p> |
| LW/21/0011 | <p>3 Bullsfield Cottages The Green Proposed timber frame Sussex Style detached workshop/carport</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make no comment</p> <p>Cllr. Armitage did not participate in this discussion</p> |

- 9.3 Approvals/Refusals etc. – It was noted that Lewes District Council had granted permission for the following application:

LW/20/0818 **5 Marbles Road**
Planning Application for Proposed first floor extension over existing porch

- 9.4 Tree Works Applications – TW/20/103/TPO It was agreed to make no comment

TW/20/105/TPO It was agreed to make no comment
TW/21/007/TPO It was agreed to make no comment
TW/21/008/TCA It was agreed to make no comment
TW/21/009/TPO It was agreed that another member of the Council would look at this tree as the Tree Warden, Cllr. Wickens had declared an interest.

- 9.5** Update on **Woods Fruit Farm** appeal – There was nothing to report.
9.6 Update on **Mitchelswood Farm** Inquiry – Cllr. Wickens and the Councillors discussed communication from a neighbouring property raising concerns about activities at the farmhouse.
9.7 Update on **55 Allington Road** – Cllr. Wickens stated the inspection was due on week commencing 25th January

7.37pm Cllr. V Marchant joined the meeting

- 9.8** Update on **Telephone Exchange site and response to email from Mr. R Boswell** –

There was no update on the site other than the highways report which had been published since the last meeting. The council has received two questions from a member of the public and these queries were discussed;

How do the Planning Committee view the comments in the Highways Report regarding the footpath from the site to Church Road not being practical or maintainable?

The Council agreed that a footpath or twitten is so important even if it is not an ESCC formal right of way. The owner of the land has stated that they are happy for the pathway to be used and it was surveyed by the rights of way team when the Neighbourhood Plan was written.

What mechanism there is to remove a 'preferred' site from the Neighbourhood Plan if it becomes unattractive because the envisaged plans are undeliverable and consequently the site cannot then meet the criteria set at the time of the referendum?

Councillors stated that as the site is part of the neighbourhood plan it will not be removed.

- 9.9 Vernons Road/The Rough** (APPEAL/20/0025) – There was nothing to report.
9.10 . Report on meeting with Matthew Hitchen from Lewes District Council – Cllr. Wickens stated that she was disappointed that the meeting content doesn't match the draft Interim Policy Statement.
9.11 To finalise response to Lewes District Council's Draft Interim Policy Statement for Housing Delivery and Approach to Disaggregating Local Housing Need for the purposes of the five year housing land supply – A draft document had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr. Wickens thanked Mr Turk for his historical input and Mr Cumberledge, Mr Jago and Mr Lucas for their support. The response was agreed. It was agreed to copy the document to LDALC members, Ian Cotterill and Emily O'Brien. It was agreed to place it in noticeboards and on website. Cllr. Armitage thanked Cllr. Wickens for all her hard work and was extremely grateful that Cllr. Wickens took this project on and with what she has delivered.

Mr Burman left at 7.51pm

- 10. Clerk's Report** – To note report from Clerk including correspondence received in January 2021.

The following items were reported;

- Newsletter delay
- Balcombe Landscapes –delay in some of their work
- The Scouts were invoiced for their annual rent in December but have not yet made payment
- The storm between Christmas and New Year did result in some debris and damage throughout the village. All these have been reported and resolved.
- Following some delays due to the pandemic, the fingerpost replacement work has started will be completed by early February.
- It is now recommended that town and parish councils use a .gov.uk domain – I have contacted Roger at UBE to ask the cost and approach of making this change.
- The PCSO contacted me on 20th January to discuss a focus that Sussex Police are having on people not following lockdown rules (e.g. meeting in groups) and behaviour in

the rural areas (dogs allowed off leads near sheep, damage to paths from lots of use etc). Resident can report by calling 101. Any reports of issues I will email her directly.

11. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman. – The Parish Office printer was replaced, the Councillors gave their approval via email and the Chairman granted written permission.

12. Financial Matters:

12.1 To note payments which were made in December – these were noted

12.2 To authorise Schedule of Payments for January 2021 and arrangements for approving payments

It was agreed that the following payments should be made and that signatories Cllrs. Armitage and Thew should authorise them.

Time: 15:14

Unity Trust Bank

List of Payments made between 01/01/2021 and 31/01/2021

| <u>Date Paid</u> | <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Authorized Ref</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 31/01/2021 | Mrs E Reece | 643491010 | 1,382.11 | | Clerk Salary |
| 31/01/2021 | HM Revenue & Customs | 163189937 | 304.60 | | NI & Tax |
| 31/01/2021 | Mr & Mrs Fuller | 454021980 | 500.00 | | Rent Cornwells Bank Allotment |
| 31/01/2021 | Lewes District Council | 28066687 | 18.00 | Play inspection | Lewes District Council |
| 31/01/2021 | East Sussex Pension Fund | 864016416 | 472.61 | | Pension contributions |
| 31/01/2021 | Telefonica UK Ltd | DD | 25.54 | | Mobile phone |
| 31/01/2021 | Barclays Debit Card | DC top up | 237.58 | | DC top up |
| 31/01/2021 | Barclays Debit Card | Printer | 600.00 | | Printer |
| 31/01/2021 | Newick Window Cleaning | 960205468 | 40.00 | | Removal of rubbish |
| 31/01/2021 | Peter Howes | 119277688 | 367.50 | | Village Handyman |
| Total Payments | | | 3,947.94 | | |

The following payments have already been made and were reported to the Council;

Time: 15:14

Barclays Debit Card

List of Payments made between 01/01/2021 and 31/01/2021

| <u>Date Paid</u> | <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Authorized Ref</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 31/01/2021 | Printerland | DC | 616.80 | | Kyocera and Toners |
| 31/01/2021 | Zoom Video Communications | DD | 14.39 | | Zoom Video Communications |
| Total Payments | | | 631.19 | | |

12.3 To receive statement of performance against budget as at end December 2020 – this was received and noted

12.4 To note quarterly reconciliation including bank statements – this was received and noted.

12.5 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – none had been received.

12.6 To consider purchase of speed gun, to be lent to Newick Speedwatch, at the cost of £487.80 (including VAT) paid for using Community Infrastructure Levy funds – Cllr. Hodge spoke and said that the Police used to provide the devices. Cllr. B Whitlock suggested that it could be lent out at a fee to other parishes. Cllr. Thew spoke in support of the purchase. Cllr. T. Whitlock asked what the upkeep is, for example calibration. Cllr. Armitage said that the Police will recalibrate for no charge. Cllr. Armitage discussed his recent communication with M.P. Maria Caulfield and that the new devices have a better range. Cllr. Wickens spoke in support of the purchase. Cllr. Deacon asked about prosecution rates. Cllr. Armitage explained the process and the evidence of no tax/MOT. The matter was taken to a vote with 8 voting for and 2 Councillors abstaining. It was therefore agreed to purchase the device using CIL funds.

12.7 To consider quotes (if received) including bench renovations and fence repair at KGVPF. To agree whether bench repairs and maintenance are paid for using Community Infrastructure Levy funds. Matt Coppard provided a quote for bench repairs £148 exc VAT and maintenance at a cost of £1275 exc VAT. It was agreed to proceed with both quotations and pay for the benches using CIL funds.

- 12.8** To note receipt of interest £1003.12 on 1st Jan 2021 from Cambridge and Counties and receipt of £1,130.15 VAT reclaim on 13th January 2021 – this was noted.
- 12.9** Consideration of how to use Community Infrastructure Levy funds in earmarked reserves – Cllr. Thew suggested that the Council might earmark £5,000 in the future to support the revamp of the skate ramp project with further details to be discussed 13.1.
- 12.10** Independent Remuneration Panel Report for Lewes Towns and Parish Councils - Cllr. Armitage – Cllr. Armitage outlined the latest report. It was proposed and agreed not to take Councillor allowances. However travel costs could be claimed where necessary.

13. Environment & Recreation;

- 13.1 Skate Ramp – Cllr. Thew/Cllr. Deacon** – Cllr. Thew circulated a summary of her research. Cllr. Thew visited the Burgess Hill facility and contacted the builders of the Newhaven pump track. She stated that subject to Covid restrictions when the company are next in the area then a meeting can be arranged.
- 13.2 Future of the Sports Pavilion including agreement/lease for existing building** – Cllr. Thew and Cllr. Wrench have looked at the Fields in Trust agreement. Fields in Trust recommend 30 years for the term of the lease. Cllr. Thew suggested seeking the solicitor's advice on the issue of internal and external maintenance. It was agreed to seek his advice and submit the rest of the document for his approval. It was agreed that his fees would be paid for using CIL money as eligibility was confirmed by Emma Kemp at LDC.
- 13.3 To agree action on the abandoned car in the Community Centre Car Park** – Cllr. Thew contacted the tenant of the owner's property and has confirmed that it will be moved.
- 13.4 To consider request from B Kempton for NPC to remove the lower branches of the acer tree on Oldaker Road/Leveller Road** – The Council agreed the tree is magnificent. One resident stated to the Council that in their opinion one or two of the lowest branches could be removed, the symmetry and beauty of the tree would not be too adversely affected. The Tree Survey recommended that minor dead should be removed at the end of 2021. It was agreed that the Council would apply to LDC for the removal of deadwood and one or two lowest branches in Autumn 2021.
- 13.5 Newick Allotment Society AGM – Cllr. Thew/Cllr. V Marchant** – Cllr. V Marchant reported that a full new committee with officers had been agreed in the AGM. Clerk agreed that she would look at the lease of Cricketfield for terms of the lease.

14. Newick Village Hall Management Committee – Report from Cllr. B Whitlock including Emergency Planning – Cllr. B Whitlock reported from the virtual Village Hall Management Committee meeting that the committee has applied for various grants and is keen to start renting to local hirers when they are able. Emergency use was discussed. It was agreed that in the Commanding officer has power to second public spaces in the event of an emergency and in such an event the Parish Council would want the community to pull together.

15. Community Speed Watch – Cllr. Armitage covered earlier in item 12.6

16. To discuss continued approach to COVID-19 outbreak - Cllr. Armitage received a figure from a local resident regarding the number of residents who contracted COVID-19 at the start of the year. Cllr. Armitage stated how phenomenal the response was from Mid Downs Medical Centre. Cllr. Thew suggested a thank you in the social media update.

Social media update will include –

- PC meetings continuing
- Planning
- Speed watch
- Litter
- CIL money available
- Mid Downs medical centre thank you

17. Items for next agenda

- Cricketfield allotments lease

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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