

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 22nd February 2022
at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick

Present: Councillors C. Armitage, D. Marchant, V. Marchant, A. Sippets, M. Thew,
B. Whitlock, T. Whitlock, and C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
Matthew Milligan (County Councillor)
Roy Burman (District Councillor)
Andy Penfold as a prospective Parish Councillor
One member of the public

The Chair thanked the members of the public who supported the village during the aftermath of storm Eunice.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – apologies had been received from Cllr. Hodge. Cllr. Wrench was not present at the meeting.
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** – There were none.
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. **To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update** – It was agreed that Cllr. T Whitlock would write this.
5. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were none.
6. **Co-option of up to one new councillor (if candidates have put themselves forward)** – Mr Andy Penfold had put himself forward for the vacancy of Parish Councillor. His co-option as a Councillor was proposed by Cllr. Armitage, seconded by Cllr. Wickens and the rest of the Councillors voted unanimously in favour of Mr Penfold filling the vacancy.

Mr Penfold signed a declaration of acceptance of office front of the Council and Clerk. He was given a register of interests form to be returned to the Clerk before the next PC meeting.

It was agreed to invite Cllr. Penfold to the Environment & Recreation committee.

7. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman** – Mr Burman discussed the preparations of the Lewes local plan. He stated he had attended a budget setting meeting earlier in the day and despite the cost of living increase, the current regime agreed to put the precept up by the maximum. He reported this was not supported by whole Council but was a majority vote. He reported that funds to provide an additional planning enforcement officer was agreed and support for paying council tax for those unable to pay from 80% to 100%. Half a million pounds in emergency funds were agreed to help those with financial difficulties. Mr Burman stated this meant that Lewes continued to be in the highest quartile in the country in terms of Council Tax.
8. **To discuss concerns with District Councillor communication and agree actions** – Councillor Armitage stated the Council had not seen Mr Burman for a year and that he had taken the matter up with various members of the local conservative party. Cllr. Armitage stated that he was horrified that Mr Burman voted in favour of the Ringmer development. Cllr. Armitage said that Mr Burman had reported nothing on LAA to the Parish Council which is of prime

concern. Cllr. Armitage stated that had Mr Burman not attended tonight then he would have contacted monitoring officer with his concerns.

Mr Burman stated that he was not at the behest of the Parish Council. Cllr. Armitage stated that Mr Burman had not sent reports to the Parish Council, attended meetings for a year or replied to emails that Cllr. Armitage had sent. Mr Burman stated that he did not always find it conducive to reply to the emails and that he was going to leave the meeting. Cllr. Sippetts said he seconded what Cllr. Armitage has said and that as a newer member of the Parish Council he had never met Mr Burman. Cllr. Whitlock stated that given the situation Newick is in with planning applications that he couldn't believe Mr Burman voted in favour of the Ringmer development. Mr Burman stated that he had been seconded onto that committee and on the evidence submitted and the balance of policies he came to conclusion that he did. Mr Burman stated that he can't vote with wishes and that he has to vote for policy. He stated his reasoning was that if a derelict site that was in a state of disrepair was developed it would harm no one and take pressure off new developments elsewhere in the district. Cllr. Wickens stated that she felt that Newick Parish Council had been disadvantaged with the Land Availability Assessment report, that Newick had received no briefing from their District Councillor and that Leigh Palmer had sent papers to Mr Burman. Mr Burman said that was a misunderstanding on his part and at 7.14pm he left the meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr. Armitage would speak to the monitoring officer at Lewes District Council.

9. **Report from County Councillor Matthew Milligan** – Mr Milligan reported that all that has happened is that the County Council had passed the budget that had been drafted and reported at the last Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Armitage thanked Mr Milligan for coming back so quickly on the actions from last meeting.
10. **Report from Member of Parliament Maria Caulfield** – Maria Caulfield MP had sent her apologies that she was unable to attend. Her written report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
11. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 25th January 2022** – These were considered and approved.
12. **To discuss climate change** – Cllr. V Marchant confirmed she had received confirmation on the detail for what can be recycled. This will be added to the content to the newsletter and shared with Councillors.
13. **Planning:**
 - 13.1 Approval of draft minutes of the Planning Committee meetings 8th February 2022 – these were approved as an accurate record of the meetings.
 - 13.2 Planning Applications (If plans available on LDC website)

LW/22/0071	<p>Land Rear Of 45 Allington Road Erection of 4no bungalows, creation of new vehicular and pedestrian access via Allington Road, alterations to Public Right of Way and associated landscaping</p> <p>It was agreed to object (with a vote of 8 for and 1 against) to the application for the following reasons;</p> <p>This site has been put forward for development a number of times over the last few years, culminating in an appeal which was dismissed by the inspectorate in March 2020. Whilst the appeal was for 16 dwellings and this current application is for four bungalows the reasons for objecting remain just as valid. In brief the main reasons for the appeal dismissal were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It contravenes both policy DM1 of LPP2 which seeks to protect the distinctive character and quality of the countryside and CP10 of LPP1 which seeks to conserve
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	<p>and enhance the districts natural environment and landscape character, plus EN1 of NNP which states that new development should respect local landscape character.</p> <p>The argument concerning housing land supply and planning balance was also used as a reason for dismissal as it also was at two later appeals in the village (Woods Fruit Farm) LW/20/0298 and LW/18/0351.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significant harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area and the harm to the character of the village would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the moderate benefits which the proposal would provide. <p>NPC appreciates that the applicants have tried to take on board the reasons above in their application but the fact remains that the four bungalows are entirely outside of the planning boundary to the south of footpath 3 and therefore all of the issues are still valid. The proposed access to the site is on a dangerous bend. In addition, the recent Interim LAA from LDC has shown all of the plots to the south of Allington Road are classified as being neither Deliverable nor Developable. As a result NPC strongly object to this application and request that if deemed necessary that it goes to Planning Committee for deliberation.</p>
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13.3 To agree response to APPEAL/22/0003 if documents have been made available – Cllr. Wickens stated that the appeal start date was 1st December but as this is a householder appeal the Parish Council don't comment.

13.4 Approvals/Refusals etc.

It was noted that the following applications have been approved by Lewes District Council;

75 Church Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4JZ
Ref. No: TW/22/0003/TCA

29 High Street Newick East Sussex BN8 4LG
Ref. No: TW/21/0034/TCA

It was noted that the appeal for the Coldharbour Lane application was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

13.5 Tree Works Applications – None other than the decisions reported above

13.6 Land Availability Assessment results – It was agreed that no action would be taken at present. Cllr. Wickens stated that she has been gathering information for future use.

14. Clerk's Report – To note report from Clerks including correspondence received in January/February 2022.

This included:

- Bollards on Green
- Vacancy for Parish Councillor
- NAS work required on trees/hedge
- Stiances project
- Annual leave
- Sports Pavilion Trust
- CCTV training

- Food Fair dates

The following was also reported:

- Storm damage
- Conservation officer meeting arranged Wednesday 23rd February 2022

15. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman – The Clerk reported that she had instructed Treewise to make a tree safe following Storm Eunice and had reported this on the day to the Councillors having consulted with Cllrs. Armitage and Wickens.

16. Financial Matters:

16.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for February 2022 and arrangements for approving payments – it was agreed that Cllr. Armitage and Cllr. Sippetts would authorise the payments.

The following payments were authorised;

List of Payments made between 01/02/2022 and 28/02/2022

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
28/02/2022	Peter Howes	658105642	308.00		Village Handyman
28/02/2022	Lewes District Council	175377752	18.00		Play area inspections
28/02/2022	Mrs SE Berry	568303833	70.04		Locum Clerk cover
28/02/2022	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	16.86		Mobile bill
28/02/2022	NACCA	28252018	300.00		Rent for Parish Office
28/02/2022	Stephen Comber Fencing	359276094	1,135.00		Post replacement & gate KGVPF
28/02/2022	HM Revenue & Customs	868394904	385.04		Tax & NI
28/02/2022	East Sussex Pension Fund	923799017	489.35		923799017
28/02/2022	Mrs E Reece	71712845	1,442.16		Clerk Salary
28/02/2022	Newick Window Cleaning	721833074	275.00		Play equipment clean
Total Payments			<u>4,439.45</u>		

The following payments had already been made;

List of Payments made between 01/02/2022 and 28/02/2022

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
28/02/2022	Amazon UK	DC	6.99		Drawing pins noticeboard
28/02/2022	Amazon UK	DC	15.75		Measure Wheel
Total Payments			<u>22.74</u>		

16.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at end January 2022 – this was noted.

16.3 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – An application for £350 was received from Stiances Archaeological Project (on behalf of Newick Church of England Primary School) Stiances Archelogy project. It was agreed to grant the project the additional £350.

16.4 To consider quotations received (if received) – A quote for £350 from Stephen Comber to replace the bollards opposite the shop on the High Street was considered and it was agreed to proceed with these works.

17. Environment & Recreation:

- 17.1 Approval of draft minutes of the E&R committee meeting 8th February 2022 - these were approved with a minor typo to correct.
- 17.2 Skateboard Ramp project - Cllr. Thew confirmed that designs have been received and an EOI has been completed for CIL funding from LDC. Cllr. Thew stated that the three quotes varied and that the working party have been looking at the options and seeing what was best for Newick. She confirmed that by mid March the Council will hear if the EOI has been accepted. Cllr. D Marchant asked if the council will be obliged to accept the lowest quote. Cllr. Thew replied and said no, it was more important to get the correct design for the village. Cllr. Thew outlined the next steps including consultation with skateboarders, neighbour consultations and a full CIL application.
- 17.3 Outdoor Gym Equipment update from Cllr. Thew stated that she hoped that Chailey Heritage will get involved with design and Cllr. V Marchant will be talking to them again.
- 17.4 Sports Pavilion Redevelopment update from Cllr. Thew and Wickens. It was noted that Cllr. Wickens had previously shared some notes from the last meeting of the Sports Pavilion with the 3rd May being the next meeting.
- 17.5 The Green pavement update from Cllr. Armitage – Cllr. Armitage confirmed that the Clerk was to meet with the LDC Conservation Officer and that the SLR meeting will look at the matter further.

18. Committees' and Councillors' Reports:

- 18.1 Newick Rootz – Cllr. Wickens confirmed that the workday planned for earlier that day was cancelled as the Woodland Trust were too busy following the storm.
- 18.2 VHMC – Cllr. B Whitlock outlined some maintenance issues (flooring, decorating, windows) and some challenges these presented.
- 18.3 LDALC – Cllr. Armitage reported that the local parishes who wrote to Mr Gove regarding the standard method of determining housing need had been approached by other parishes who want to join. The use of electric scooters was discussed and the trials happening in other parts of the country. Electric charging points were also discussed.
- 18.4 Newick Allotment Society – Cllr. V Marchant reported that the minutes had not yet been received to send to Mrs Fuller. Cllr. V Marchant confirmed that she was looking at quotes for work needed on the trees on the boundary of the Cornwells Bank site and a tree which is down on the Cricketfield site.

19. Permissions;

- 19.1 To consider request from Newick Bonfire Society to use the Green for annual bonfire celebrations on 29th October 2022 – This was agreed.
- 19.2 To consider request from Newick Bonfire Society to use the Green for a tea party with marquee erection to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on Saturday 4th June 2022 – This was agreed.
- 19.3 To consider request from Peter Shayler to use the Green for a fun fair arriving Monday 12th September, leaving Monday, the 19th of September (opening days - Friday Saturday and Sunday) – This was agreed.
- 19.4 To consider request from Newick Food Fair to use the Green on Sunday 26th June 2022 – This was agreed subject to public liability insurance and risk assessment.

20. To consider revised CCTV management policy updated to reflect upgraded system – this was agreed.

21. To consider content for April edition of Newick Parish Council Newsletter – A draft content list was circulated and agreed with 25th March deadline for submissions.

22. To consider agenda and plans for Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2022 –

The following agenda was agreed;

- Introductions
- Sign off for 2019 minutes
- Chair's report (written)
- Sports Pavilion Redevelopment
- Stiances Archaeological Dig (Simon Stevens)

Skate Park redevelopment
Q&A

It was agreed to invite clubs and societies to have a table to attract new members. It was agreed to invite the PCSO, District Councillor, County Councillor and Member of Parliament to attend as guests.

At 8.32pm the member of the public left the meeting

23. To consider plans for Queen’s platinum jubilee celebrations 2022 – Cllr. Marchant stated that Jenny Smerdon is setting up a crown trial in the village with money raised going to the local hospice. Cllr. Thew stated that Thursday there would be a beacon lighting with potentially plans for a procession to/from the Church. On Saturday NBS are planning a tea party on The Green. On Sunday there will be a Church service and potentially a big picnic as fundraising for Sports Pavilion.

24. Items for next agenda

Village Spring Clean 2nd April

The meeting closed at 8.44pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
newickpc@newick.net – 07521 511643