

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31st January 2023 at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick

Present: Councillors C. Armitage (Chairman), B. Hodge, M. Thew, B. Whitlock, T Whitlock and C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
East Sussex County Councillor Matthew Milligan
5 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from Councillors D. Marchant, V. Marchant, Sippetts and Wrench and Maria Caulfield MP. Councillor Penfold was not present.
- 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** – Councillor Hodge declared an interest in the application LW/22/0857
- 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. Wickens would write this.
- 5. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** –

Member of Public 1 (MOP1) spoke as the author of the email in item 18.1. She stated that Church Road is often packed with parking outside the Royal Oak pub and in front of her own property. She stated that cars pass each other using the pavement and she has witnessed speeding over 30 MPH early in the morning and later at night. She stated that she is concerned about there being an accident where cars are using the pavement. She proposed a 20 MPH for Church Road and Allington Road and a speed bump opposite pub car park.

A further member of the public joined the meeting at 7.05pm bringing the total to 5.

MOP2 spoke regarding item 16.1. He outlined recent comments from an LDC advisor regarding installing an information board at Newick Common. He stated that he was concerned about the negative impact a board may have on the small site. He stated that the LDC advisor was inclined to advise installing a simple name sign and he urged the Council to take that professional advice on board.

At 7.10pm Councillors B & T Whitlock arrived

MOP3 spoke against application LW/22/0857. He recently moved into the property in Hunters View which sits behind the site. He stated that the proposed office building is a very short distance from the back of his house and that he had not been consulted. He stated it is an extremely tall building, 28ft in height, with a width of 65ft, and is described as having business use employing some 12 employees. He asked NPC to recommend that the application is refused.

Councillor Hodge stated that when he was the previous owner of MOP3's property, he did not receive consultation from the applicants either.

Item 18.1 was brought forward

18.1 To consider email from Anne Bown received 5th January 2023 requesting sleeping

policemen on Church Road – Councillor Armitage stated that the Council had recently considered a 20MPH limit on Allington Road and the Clerk stated the reasons why the Council did not support it at that time. Cllr. Thew stated she did not know if there is an answer to the problem. Cllr. Wickens stated that she was against sleeping policeman but pro traffic calming. The Councillors then discussed nearby villages and what traffic calming measures worked there. It was agreed to revisit the issue after elections had taken place.

A member of the public left the meeting

Item 11.2 application LW/22/0857 was brought forward

11.2 Planning Applications (If plans available on LDC website)

LW/22/0857	<p>Newick Hill House Jackies Lane The erection of a two storey ground and first floor private office building</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to object to this application for the following reasons;</p> <p>This is a poor quality and obtuse application of a large office development designed to take 12 employees with luxury accommodation such as showers, informal breakout space, a board room and three large balconies. It contains many strange references for example, certain information may be purposely omitted owing to the sensitive nature of the clients work, or 'approved documents' such as Part B, Park K, Part M and Part L which are not included with the documents so we have no idea what they are, or MEPH, but no explanation why, or why the current land use is described as Sui Generis when its clearly parking for the residential dwelling and some equestrian use.</p> <p>The site is very large, 5.749 acres but the applicant has chosen to place the building on the most southerly point where it abuts the Planning Boundary thus making it far too close to neighbouring residential properties and the balconies would inevitably cause loss of privacy in some cases.</p> <p>There has been a worrying lack of consultation with neighbours. The Design and Access statement (DAS) refers to Fletching Common to the east of the site, it is in fact Newick Common which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site of some significant scientific importance. It seems unthinkable therefore that the applicant has chosen not to conduct an Ecological Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The location of the site is on a quiet county land which is extremely narrow in places and therefore inappropriate for an office development which ultimately could have at least an additional 12 vehicles making daily use of the facilities. The DAS considers that it would be appropriate for employees to cycle between the office and the local railway stations which to anyone knowing the area would be foolhardy along the already busy A272.</p> <p><i>Councillor Hodge did not vote on this application.</i></p>
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A member of the public left the meeting

11. Planning:

11.1 Approval of Draft Minutes from Planning Committee held 13th December 2022 and 10th January 2023 – these were considered and approved.

11.2 Planning Applications (If plans available on LDC website)

LW/22/0857	Newick Hill House Jackies Lane The erection of a two storey ground and first floor private office building – this application was covered earlier in the meeting.
LW/22/0829	Founthill Farm Font Hill Variation of condition 1 (Plans) relating to approval LW/21/0819 and LW/21/0936 - to increase height of detached garage by 0.75m to enable more efficient use of first floor (roof) internal space It was unanimously agreed to make no comment on this application

11.3 Approvals/Refusals etc.

Councillor Hodge reported that the following applications had been approved by Lewes District Council;

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3no detached dwelling houses
55 Allington Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4NB Ref. No: LW/22/0812

Demolition of conservatory and replacement single story rear extension
2 Hunters View Western Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4LF Ref. No: LW/22/0793
Erection of two storey rear extension with hip to gable end roof extension and installation of side dormer, alterations to fenestration on rear elevations and installation of solar panels to roof at side and rear elevations.
23 Western Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4LE Ref. No: LW/22/0770

Demolition of existing porch and replacement single storey pitched roof front/side extension
26 High Hurst Close Newick East Sussex BN8 4NJ Ref. No: LW/22/0730

Erection of a rear single storey infill extension to connect garage to main dwelling, additional single storey rear infill extension, installation of rear external staircase, alterations to fenestration on all elevations and addition of car port to side
1 Hunters View Western Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4LF Ref. No: LW/22/0625

It was noted that the following applications had been refused by Lewes District Council;

Retention of AC Units and changes to shop front and additional AC Unit to side elevation
1 The Green Newick East Sussex BN8 4LA Ref. No: LW/22/0698

A member of the public left the meeting

11.4 Tree Works Applications – Cllr. Wickens stated there were 3 applications which had all been approved by Lewes District Council at 39 Oldaker (the large Oak belonging to NPC), 8 The High Street and 1 Newlands Park Way.

11.5 Consultation on Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy (deadline 23rd March 2023) – it was agreed that 4 of the Councillors would have a look through the consultation, meeting next week and they would present their findings in the February PC meeting.

11.6 Report on Teams meeting with Maria Caulfield and Parish Councillors – notes from the Teams meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Hodge stated that during said meeting the importance of Parish Councils coming back with views on the Bill consultation (item 11.5) was discussed.

11.7 To note minutes of Planning Services User Group – this was noted.

A member of the public left the meeting

6. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman** – Cllr. Roy Burman was not present.
7. **Report from County Councillor Matthew Milligan** – Cllr. Matthew Milligan reported that there will be budget meeting on Tuesday and that the ESCC current proposal is a high precept an increase of around 5%.
8. **Report from Member of Parliament Maria Caulfield** - Maria Caulfield was not present at the meeting, however, her written report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
9. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 29th November 2022** – These were considered and approved.
10. **To discuss climate change** – A report was circulated prior to the meeting.
11. **Planning: - this item was covered earlier in the meeting**
12. **Clerk's Report** – To note report from Clerks including correspondence received in November/December 2022 and January 2023.
This included:
 - Confirmation £40,000 has been moved from the CCLA Public Deposit fund
 - Confirmation the new skate park has been added to the insurance policy with the addition of the Outdoor Gym equipment being currently finalised.
 - Internal audit booked
 - Clerks working pattern for February Half Term
 - Flag Pole storage
13. **Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – it was reported that the final cost of Outdoor Gym equipment was lower than expected due to a donation from a local society. The total spend on the equipment from the PC came in at £5753.50. It was also reported that a ROSPA sign was ordered and paid for, for the Skate Park and that there may be an invoice from some emergency flag pole repairs in January too.

14 Financial Matters:

- 14.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for January. It was agreed that Cllrs. Armitage and Thew would authorise the following payments:-

Time: 13:06

Unity Trust Bank

List of Payments made between 01/01/2023 and 31/01/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/01/2023	Fresh Air Fitness	720639900	6,978.14		Fresh Air Fitness
31/01/2023	Mrs E Reece	370331177	17.10		Clerks Expenses January
31/01/2023	Lewes District Council	731652338	18.00		Play inspections Feb
31/01/2023	Zurich Municipal	83217018	60.21		Insurance for new Skate P
31/01/2023	Glasdon	955227630	1,137.80		Bench Queen Elizabeth II
31/01/2023	East Sussex Pension Fund	746983068	517.74		Pension contributions
31/01/2023	HM Revenue & Customs	6509117	419.22		Tax & NI
31/01/2023	Mrs E Reece	732963148	1,554.90		Clerk Salary
31/01/2023	NACCA	109666613	600.00		Rent for Parish Office 6 m
31/01/2023	CPRE	432696325	36.00		Membership
31/01/2023	Lewes District Council	236410620	18.00		Play Inspections Jan
31/01/2023	Lewes District Council	948980822	108.58		Bin Emptying
31/01/2023	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	377306715	222.00		Membership
31/01/2023	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	13.20		Mobile phone
31/01/2023	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	73680328	2,484.00		GM Contractors
31/01/2023	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	182935360	2,112.00		GM Contract
31/01/2023	Barclays Debit Card	Top up	317.39		Top Up
31/01/2023	Peter Howes	788496194	440.00		Handyman village

Total Payments 17,054.28

It was noted that the following payments had also been made;

List of Payments made between 01/01/2023 and 31/01/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/01/2023	Sainsburys	DC	4.10		Refreshments Open Morning
31/01/2023	A M SKip & Plant Hire	DC	204.00		Hire for outdoor gym install
31/01/2023	Amazon	DC	1.99		2023 diary
31/01/2023	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	DC	18.50		Training day 13th Jan
31/01/2023	Sussex Sign Centre	DC	88.80		Skate Park Signage

Total Payments 317.39

Time: 11:27

Barclays Debit Card

List of Payments made between 01/12/2022 and 31/12/2022

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/12/2022	The Soleman	DC	9.00		Duplicate Key for Gravity
31/12/2022	Sussex Sign Centre	DC	118.80		Rights of way sign

Total Payments 127.80

As was agreed that in the November PC meeting, Cllrs. D Marchant and Sippetts authorised the following payments in December;

List of Payments made between 01/12/2022 and 31/12/2022

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/12/2022	Gravity Skateparks	51104305	32,400.00		Gravity Skateparks
31/12/2022	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	13.20	Mobile Bill	Telefonica UK Ltd
31/12/2022	Mr M J Benson	85367204	1,575.00	with Groundworks	Youth shelter removal
31/12/2022	Newick Cricket Club	12562778	326.79		Grant
31/12/2022	Barclays Debit Card	Top up	127.80		Top up
31/12/2022	Peter Howes	620841971	231.00		Village Handyman
31/12/2022	Gravity Skateparks	901379252	32,400.00		Gravity Skateparks
31/12/2022	East Sussex Pension Fund	917332196	517.74		Pension contributions
31/12/2022	HM Revenue & Customs	267708902	419.22		Tax & NI
31/12/2022	Mrs E Reece	398915827	1,554.90		Clerk Salary
Total Payments			<u>69,565.65</u>		

- 14.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at December 2022 – this was received and noted
- 14.3 To note quarterly reconciliation of bank statement including receipt of annual interest from Cambridge & Counties bank and completion of VAT return – this was noted
- 14.4 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – there were no applications but it was anticipated that a grant to NBS may be discussed later in the meeting.
- 14.5 To consider quotations received;
It was agreed to proceed with all of the following quotes;

Sussex Sign Centre
Sign for outdoor gym equipment (rospa sign already in place) £61

Stephen Comber
Bollards on the village Green.
4 bollards in total, of various sizes.
2 at the Bull . 1 at the shop. 1 at the pump.
Total estimate £250.

Charlie Layfield
Work recommended from annual tree survey
Quotation to reduce Oak tree, on corner of Oldaker road and Powell road, in accordance with tree survey. £900

Central Line Marking

Disabled icon faded away in car park – to reline the whole car park inc disabled signage - £350
Please note not all of the car park is faded but £350 is the minimum charge regardless.

- 14.6 **Special Motion in accordance with Standing Order 9** – To review decision made on Queen Elizabeth II commemorative bench with a view to increasing the agreed spend from £1700 to £2000 – it was unanimously agreed to remove and replace current base and to increase the total spend to £2000.

15. Environment & Recreation:

- 15.1 Report from Open Morning January 2023 – Councillor Thew stated she was pleased with the turn out and that people were very engaged. She felt it was a good exercise.
- 15.2 Skateboard Ramp project update and to agree approach to project sign off and payment - Cllr. Thew reported that she had site meeting today and that the contractors are over half way through. She stated that she impressed upon Brendan (the company director) the importance of cleaning up the road way when it is removed and that the access lane is likely to need a topper. The practicalities of an acoustic barrier was discussed and it was agreed

- the Clerk would speak to the neighbouring properties about this. The Clerk stated that Brendan had confirmed that there would be a 5% snagging payment held back from the invoicing and the Council were happy with that.
- 15.3** Outdoor Gym Equipment update – Cllr. Thew confirmed that 75% has been paid, that the bin needs to move and there are more matting areas to be installed.
- 15.4** Locking of Playground at dusk – Cllr. Armitage offered to step in during holidays. The Clerk agreed to go back to the residents of Allington Place and discuss the matter further. If they still felt they needed help, a proposal approach to approach a local teenager for a small payment (equivalent of approximately £2 per time) was debated. There were concerns raised about this additional cost. Councillors voted 4 in favour and 2 against this plan if it was required.
- 15.5** Pavilion Redevelopment update – Cllr. Penfold was not present, the minutes have been circulated. It was noted by Cllr. Armitage that plans had come to light that had been created in 2015 that the Pavilion Chair was not aware of.
- 15.6** Update on paving on The Green - Cllr. Armitage reported there was support from the village at the open morning. Cllr. Thew proposed a motion that a village survey gauging residents support should be undertaken on social media and the next Parish Council newsletter. Councillors voted unanimously in support of this proposal.
- 15.7** Update on Scout hut lease – The Clerk reported there was no update.
- 15.8** To discuss plans for The Coronation in 2023 to include agreement of funding and activities – The Clerk/Cllr. Thew.

The following actions were agreed;

The next Newsletter would be a Coronation special

There would be a Big Lunch held at the KGVPF on the Sunday (12 – 3pm)

The Clerk/Jenny Smerdon would ask Jenny Walton if she would be willing to organise a maypole for 3pm on the Sunday.

The Clerk would ask the Cricket Club if they would be happy opening the bar either midday until close, or 12-4.30pm and 7-10pm.

The Clerk/Jenny Smerdon would discuss with the WI if they would like to offer refreshments (Tea/Coffee) in the kitchen end of the Pavilion.

The Clerk would ask the Cricket Club if they could erect their marquee.

The Clerk would discuss with the Church if they would wish to hold their service in the marquee if the Cricket Club agreed to the above.

That Twinning would probably be willing to run Café Rene if the Church service was at KGVPF (Councillor Wickens)

That the daytime on Sunday should be kept simple perhaps with a fancy dress competition for the children.

The Clerk would ask NBS if they would be willing to use the Manwaring Robertson Field for fireworks on the Sunday night (approx 9pm) with the spectator area in KGVPF. The Council would grant a sum of up to £1073 in this financial year to cover the costs of this and NBS would be responsible for all aspects of the display.

The Clerk would contact Ketches and the Rugby Club if NBS agreed to this

The Council agreed that they would cover the cost of three portaloos if there was no additional costs for marquee hire etc at a cost of £3-400. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted an alternative company.

Councillor Thew agreed to run a litter pick on the morning of Monday 8th May for both playing fields so that the area was ready to be used for Cricket etc.

It was also noted that the Hospice was planning on running a character trail, the Church would be showing the Coronation service on Saturday followed by a Choir concert, that the Bowls club would have an open day on the Monday. That Rootz may have a work day on the Monday. It was also noted that there are lots of local institutions with opportunities for the 'Big Help Out' initiative and that the PC could sign post some of these.

A commemorative gift to children was discussed in length. Some Councillors liked the idea of a mug but the cost quoted was around the £2000 mark and there was no budget for this. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the School and the Church to see if there was

anything already planned. The Clerk agreed to speak to CHEC to see if there might be a lower cost option. This matter would need to be considered again at the next PC meeting.

- 15.9 Bench maintenance plans – to agree a plan and funding – It was agreed to accept a generous offer from the handyman and Cllr V Marchant's husband to help refurb the benches. It was agreed to see how much this would cost and the Council agreed to allocate a amount of £1275 from CIL money (the same amount quoted by the previous contractor) with a view to revisiting this amount if necessary.
- 15.10 Potholes – Cllr. Wickens it was agreed to include the details of how to report these on the social media report including the size that ESCC will take action on (4cm deep, 30cm wide).
- 15.11 To agree letter to residents surrounding new wildflower meadows areas – Cllr. D Marchant had agreed prior to the meeting to draft a document.

16. Committees' and Councillors' Reports:

- 16.1 Newick Rootz and Newick Common board – Cllr. Wickens reported that Rootz had undertaken a small work day in the village with some mending and also cleared the hedge at the disabled car space in KGVPF. Cllr. Wickens thanked Tony Turk for his advice of the board and the Council unanimously agreed not to pursue an information board. Cllr Wickens stated that she did like the idea of the sign saying Newick Common, local wildlife site.
- 16.2 Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr. B Whitlock reported on some refurbishment plans and decisions that would need to be made by the Village Hall.

A member of the public left

- 16.3 Newick Allotment Society AGM – Cllr. Thew gave a brief report from this meeting.

17. To agree article for the February edition of the Parish News (submission deadline 7th February) – it was agreed to use a summary of the social media update.

18. Requests and Permissions:

- 18.1 To consider email from Anne Bown received 5th January 2023 requesting sleeping policemen on Church Road – previously covered.
- 18.2 To consider request from Newick Cricket club to use the Cricket pitch for up to three daytime Sussex Seniors matches, during the Cricket season, dates TBC – This was agreed.
- 18.3 To consider request from Newick Bonfire Society for permission to use the Village Green and surrounding area for celebrations on the 28th October and for NPC to fund portaloos – This was agreed

19. To agree format, agenda and speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22nd March – It was agreed to include the following speeches if possible;

- Coronation Past (Tony Turk)
- Coronation Present
- Ovesco
- Wildflower Meadows (Gary Marshal?)

It was agreed to invite the clubs and societies back again and complete the usual Chair report.

20. Items for next agenda

Coronation
Levelling up consultation

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

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