

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newick Parish held
at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 18th May 2022
at Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick.**

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of Newick Parish Council, Cllr. Chris Armitage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approximately 60 parishioners attended the meeting including Newick Parish Councillors: Chris Armitage (Chair of the Parish Council), Brian Hodge, David Marchant, Victoria Marchant, Andy Penfold, Alan Sippetts, Melanie Thew, Cathy Wickens and Ken Wrench. County Councillor Matthew Milligan was also present.

The Parish Council Clerk, Emma Reece, was in attendance to take the minutes.

The Chair thanked the Councillors, introduced East Sussex County Councillor Matthew Milligan and welcomed questions at the end. He thanked the Clerk, Emma Reece and the locum Clerk, Sue Berry.

Apologies had been received from Ruby Gordon- Wilson, Ade Holder and PCSO Stainer.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 17th April 2019

It was agreed that the draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2019 should be approved as a true record of that meeting. Copies had been made available at the meeting and on the Newick parish website.

3. To note Chairman's written report on the activities of Newick Parish Council over the past three years

A copy of this report had been circulated in the meeting and this was noted. Cllr. Armitage also stated that in addition to the report the Parish Council newsletter had been relaunched since 2019 and Speedwatch had also been launched in the past few years.

4. Report from Cllr. A Penfold on the future of the Sports Pavilion –

Cllr. Penfold introduced himself as Chairman of the Sports Pavilion. He gave an overview of the history of the Sports Pavilion and its current use. He outlined the creation of the Sports Pavilion Charitable Trust and the granting of a 30-year lease from the Parish Council. He shared plans to build a new Pavilion which were now being looked at on a smaller scale. He stated the Trust want to provide up to date facilities and a hub for the village. The future plans include new designs on the existing site and applying to various funding sources including the Parish Council. He stated that there will be donation points available for fund raising.

Cllr. Armitage thanked Cllr. Penfold for his work.

Cllr. Armitage asked County Cllr. Milligan to introduce himself. County Cllr. Milligan stated that he had been elected last May and thanked Jim Sheppard for his service. Cllr. Milligan outlined ESCC responsibilities and the budgets for this coming year. He stated he had been making representations to ESCC including improvements in the criteria for pothole repair. He stated the tendering for the highways contract September 2022 has been announced. He also stated he is pushing for rural bus services as a priority.

5. Report from Simon Stevens on the history and future of Stiances Archaeological dig –

Simon Stevens gave a presentation on the Stiances Archaeological dig. This included an overview of the start of the project which has been going since 2010. He stated that this year is the 5th season for digging. He stated that the project started when he was looking for the site of where a WW1 soldier lived which led him to a field owned Mr Sclater, the field had the same name as the cottage listed in records. He was invited by Mr Sclater to dig on the land to investigate further and as Mrs Sclater was a governor at school they worked with Headteacher to bring this together as a project for the school children. He stated they looked at the geophysics and found that the site was a major archaeological project. Every 3 years there is a dig with 2022 being the next one. A 2010 Topographical survey revealed the history of the site including a cottage which was a survivor of a Middle Ages settlement. The children digging have found lots of Victoriana but older pottery too, 13th century onwards. Little bits of stone have been found which are flint tools from 10,000 years ago. He stated they have now dug 74 test pits and in addition to the remains of cottage, they have found tiles from the

roof, glass, pottery, cutlery and buttons. This year the dig will be concentrating on the field summit. Mr Stevens stated there will be an open morning on the 18th June where findings will be displayed and people can have a go at digging on site. He said they hope to carry on project for as long as possible as there is plenty of material. Mr Stevens concluded by thanking all the sponsors this year.

6. Report from Chair of Environment & Recreation Committee, Cllr. M Thew on the future of the skate park and other facilities at KGVPF

Cllr. Armitage introduced Cllr. Thew and thanked her for her work on the Skate Park project. Cllr. Thew gave an overview of what the Environment & Recreation committee look at. She gave an overview of Newick and the green spaces in the village. She stated that our surroundings became more important with lockdown. Cllr. Thew spoke about challenges in Newick including litter picking, the annual asset inspection, maintenance, dog waste, parking, pavements/access and the playing fields. The Skate park condition meant it was priority. She gave an overview of the progress in the Skate Park project so far including the consultation with the village. She shared that the Parish Council has applied for funding from Lewes District Council, has been taking steps to get advice from sports bodies and made an application to planning departments. Cllr. Thew stated the Council is still looking at facilities on the playing fields and outdoor gym equipment was suggested in the youth hut location. Cllr. Thew stated the Council would hold another consultation for the final skate park design to include Outdoor Gym equipment and other options on the fields as PC aims to provide facilities for a range of ages and abilities.

7. Question and Answer Session

Cllr. Armitage thanked Cllr. Thew and the rest of the E& R committee and invited questions from the residents.

Mr Balloch shared his concerns regarding the increase in congestion on Church Road and Allington Road. Cllr. Armitage stated he shared Mr Balloch's concerns and said that the Council has discussed yellow lanes but there is no enforcement. Cllr. Armitage spoke to the owner of the garage and confirmed that there was only one vehicle outside the garage premises. Mr Milligan echoed Cllr. Armitage's thoughts and asked Mr Balloch if he had any ideas as to what actions may help. Mr Milligan said he would keep working with Council Chair to try to resolve the issue.

A member of the public stated that he felt that it would help if someone from LDC came out an enforced parking to ticket people parking on corners. Councillor Armitage said he would put something on the next newsletter and speak to the PCSO.

A member of public asked about speed display sign. Cllr. Armitage spoke about the effectiveness of Speedwatch compared to a sign (which doesn't result in any action).

Tony Bailey asked if they would consider Church Road for Speedwatch? Chair said he would take it away to look at.

A member of the public shared concerns about the crossing on Green and asked ESCC for their help including having a camera on top lights for any driver running the red traffic lights. Cllr. Armitage said he would discuss this further with ESCC.

John Samson spoke about the village defibrillators and showed the section in the latest Parish Council newsletter. He suggested there is a business opportunity to have a defibrillator location map sponsored as fridge magnet. He also encouraged people to use them and shared how straight forward they are to use.

There were no further questions, so the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm.