

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th February 2023 at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick

Present: Councillors C. Armitage (Chairman), B. Hodge, D Marchant, A Sippetts, M. Thew, and C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
10 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received Cllr. V Marchant, Matthew Milligan and Maria Caulfield MP. Cllrs. B & T Whitlock were not present. It was noted that Councillor Penfold had resigned from the Parish Council, Cllr. Armitage thanked him for his work on the Parish Council.
- 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 declared an interest in item 20.1. Cllr. Thew declared an interest in item 11.6 and 20.5.
- 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. Hodge would write this.

A member of the public arrived at 7.01pm bringing the total to 10

5. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public –

Member of Public 1 (MOP1) spoke against the application to be discussed in item 11.6. He stated that the 2019 draft Wealden Plan made no new major employment land allocations in Uckfield and that The Land and Premises Supply Study, Locate East Sussex, May 2020, suggests a maximum release in Uckfield of 4 ha. (The proposed site is 31 ha). He stated that the existing Ashdown Business Park has not been a successful commercial development (and is not sustainable) as demonstrated by 40% of the plots having had to be marketed for out of town retailing or hotel. He stated this clearly suggests that there is limited demand for out of town commercial space in this location with no effective public transport infrastructure. He stated there has been a complete failure to involve the general public in the process of selecting this site for a strategic commercial development. The substantial adverse impacts of the development would breach national policy, the policies of the Wealden Core Strategy and the Local Plan because:-

- 1.This application is premature and completely negates the properly planned and managed provision of employment and related housing land across the whole area;
- 2.There is an excessive amount of commercial floor space which would substantially exceed the 2028 target;
- 3.The thousands of additional vehicle movement each day would cause major adverse effects on the local highway network, especially the A272 and A22 which are already congested, especially at peak times; The impact of this out-of-town office and business development, which would almost certainly also have shopping in due course like the existing business park, will be severe as there is no effective public transport. ESCC highways have objected.
- 4.If these jobs do come, they will drive the need for yet more housing, and more traffic - this part of Sussex will be fundamentally changed;
- 5.The application would cause unacceptable loss of productive agricultural land which has never been previously developed and which is outside any development boundary; and create harm to the landscape character of this part of the Low Weald;

6. This development would cause the loss of the strategic gap/buffer between Maresfield/Uckfield and the rural hamlet of Piltdown and the parish of Fletching;
7. The design of buildings lacks any contextual approach; the design is not actually defined and fixed, given the lack of binding parameter plans and design codes – anything could be built later;
He urged the Parish Council and the community to oppose the scheme.

MOP2 introduced himself as the Chair of Piltdown Residents Association and former District Councillor for Maresfield. He stated that there were 300 objections registered on the planning portal for this application with only 2-3 people in support, by end of the week the action group hoped to have 500. He stated the importance of the weight of objection and the lack of consultation. He stated the application was originally slipped through without a Design and Access Statement or travel plan and that it would be the largest employment base to ever hit Wealden District with zero public consultation. He stated it was District Council elections in May, and that Wealden has no local plan. He stated he had suspicions that they are trying to slip this through for political reasons and was concerned about the unusual haste. He stated the real issue for Piltdown is the traffic and that ESCC this afternoon have objected.

MOP3 spoke against the same application. She referred to the ESCC Highways letter of objection. She stated there was a Pre-app made and little of that advice was followed. She stated that ESCC objected as the site cannot be sustainably accessed with non car mode. She stated that Wealden have declared a climate emergency. Wealden District Council has one of lowest unemployment in Sussex, and that there is not a demonstrable employment need. Linking to the climate crisis she stated there is also a biodiversity crisis, with a loss of species with the main driver being habitat loss. She stated that the site is immediately adjacent to ancient woodland and is surrounded by green fields with springs.

MOP4 referenced the paper from ESCC as she felt it is a very strong objection and also stated concerns over habitat loss. She stated that where she lives on on Goldbridge Road they are going to have one new housing site at Telephone exchange and one new housing site at Woods Fruit Farm with a total of 69 houses. She stated that a transport assessment for one of those sites was carried out during the early stages of covid in March 2020. She stated that she felt the Fletching PC paper is good.

MOP5 spoke about the concerns on traffic. She urged the Parish Council to find the policy numbers and object accordingly. She stated that as part of the Ridgewood extension in Uckfield an extension to Bell Brook industrial estate was agreed but this has not yet been built as not enough commercial interest. She shared concerns about the impact on bio diversity and stated that DEFRA are working really hard and that this application makes a mockery of that work.

MOP6 echoed everything that had been said before and raised concerns about the impact this application would have in increasing antisocial behaviour. She stated she felt it would result in gangs gathering late at night.

6. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman** –. Cllr. Roy Burman was not present.
7. **Report from County Councillor Matthew Milligan** – Cllr. Matthew Milligan was not present.
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 31st January 2023** – These were considered and approved.
10. **To discuss climate change** – Cllr. V Marchant was not present.

11. Planning:

Councillor Hodge stated that the house building referenced by MOP4 earlier was in the Neighbourhood plan.

Item 11.6 was brought forward

11.6 To discuss application to extend Ashdown Business Park WD/2022/3319/MAO (note this is a WDC application) – Cllr. Sippetts stated that he feels the Council should give their views to Wealden District Council. Cllr. Armitage stated he put it on the agenda to gauge whether the PC should comment. Cllr. Thew commented that the timing of the application was another example of what NPC have experienced in Newick and that NPC was very familiar with this sort of battle. Cllr. D Marchant stated he would like to object strongly to this proposal, that he finds it abominable and it will put enormous pressure on the village, so he would like to object strongly. Cllr. Wickens stated she was horrified but agree with Cllr. Thew and that NPC have been heavily involved appeal after appeal and never had support from neighbouring villages.

It was agreed to **object** to this application (Cllr. Thew did not vote).

Item 20.5 was brought forward

20.5 To consider request from Fletching Parish Council for in support seeking legal opinion on the validity of the planning application for the extension of the Ashdown Business Park – it was unanimously agreed not to support this request (Cllr. Thew did not vote).

9 members of the public left at 7.30pm

11.1 Planning Applications (If plans available on LDC website:

<p>LW/23/0013 & 0014</p> <p>LW/23/0067 & 0068</p>	<p>Hurstbourne Cottage Cornwell's Bank Erection of single storey pool house with associated hard and soft Landscaping</p> <p>Replacement of outbuilding to rear consisting of brick walls and seam metal roof and internal alterations including removing and adding walls to annex</p> <p>It was agreed to make no comment</p> <p>With a vote of 5 in support of this motion and 1 against.</p>
<p>LW/23/0056 & 0057</p>	<p>Beechlands Cornwell's Bank Replace glazed roof to natural slate roof with roof lights to front side extension, replacement front lobby window, removal of internal partition wall between sitting room and kitchen, new partition wall to lobby, replacement French doors to living room and fenestration alterations to Grade II Listed Building</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make no comment</p>
<p>LW/23/0086</p>	<p>Sharps Farm Sharpsbridge Lane Erection of a new grainstore</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to support this application.</p>

11.2 Approvals/Refusals etc. There were none

- 11.3** Tree Works Applications – Cllr. Wickens reported that TW/23/0002/TCA 2 Springfields had been refused by Lewes District Council.
- 11.4** To agree response to Michael Copeman’s email dated 30th January 2023 regarding Newick Conservation Areas – It was unanimously agreed to reply asking what is the process and timeline, what steps can NPC contribute to, who is going to conduct the work and how is it funded. It was agreed that NPC would state that it does believe it should be reviewed.
- 11.5** To agree response to consultation on Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy – a draft document was circulated prior to the meeting and it was unanimously agreed to submit this document unchanged. It was agreed to send a copy to Nick Beaumont. Maria Caulfield, Leigh Palmer, James McCleary and the LDC lead on planning.
- 11.6** To discuss application to extend Ashdown Business Park WD/2022/3319/MAO (note this is a WDC application) – this was covered earlier in the meeting.
- 11.7** Report from LDALC meeting held on 15th February 2023 – Cllr. Armitage reported that he attended the meeting by Zoom. Cllr. Armitage reported that LDC closing are closing Southover House and moving to Newhaven. He stated that Trevor Leggo was present at the meeting and reported that NALC have made representation to make remote meetings valid and have been looking at extending the powers of competency.

12. Clerk’s Report – To note report from Clerks including correspondence received in January/February 2023 this was noted.

13. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman – it was reported that a sample pack of Coronation book marks was ordered in consultation with the Chair.

14 Financial Matters:

14.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for February. It was agreed that Cllrs.D Marchant and A Sippetts would authorise the following payments:-

List of Payments made between 01/02/2023 and 28/02/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
28/02/2023	East Sussex Pension Fund	295510318	517.74		Pension contributions
28/02/2023	HM Revenue & Customs	203141942	419.22		Tax & NI
28/02/2023	Mrs E Reece	88821994	1,554.90		Clerk Salary
28/02/2023	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	13.20		Mobile phone
28/02/2023	Stephen Comber	575440583	330.00		Stephen Comber
28/02/2023	Castle Water	579187851	522.64		Water KGVPF
28/02/2023	Mr & Mrs Fuller	138669948	500.00		Rent for Cornwells Bank Allotm
28/02/2023	Mrs E Reece	800893680	8.10		Expenses
28/02/2023	Newick Village Hall	345364511	122.00		APM Hall Hire
28/02/2023	M J Benson	225884543	895.00		Bench base and install
28/02/2023	Gravity Skateparks	385682337	37,800.00		Gravity Skateparks
28/02/2023	Lewes District Council	994195270	18.00		Play inspection
28/02/2023	Peter Howes	132880275	308.00		Village Handyman
28/02/2023	Barclays Debit Card	Top up	60.50		
Total Payments			43,069.30		

It was noted that the following payments had also been made

List of Payments made between 01/02/2023 and 28/02/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
28/02/2023	Baker Ross	DC	10.90		Bookmark sample coronation
28/02/2023	Viking	DC	49.60		Paper and black sacks
Total Payments			<u>60.50</u>		

14.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at January 2023 – this was received and noted

14.3 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – there were no applications.

14.4 To consider quotations received;

The following quotes were agreed;

Outdoor gym project;

Fencing £60 per week supplied by Martin Benson

Top soil £185.83 exc VAT fir 3x1 Ton sacks

Turf £377.01 exc VAT

Additional hours for Peter Howes to work on this area

Parking cones of up to £75 to assist with the closure of the Community Centre Car Park for line marking.

Protect our Place security, CCTV extension costing up to £2260

Treewise (£500) for overhanging trees from KGVPF if it was established that the tree cutting was not the responsibility of the utilities company.

15. Environment & Recreation:

15.1 Approval of draft minutes of Environment & Recreation Committee held 14th February 2023 – these were considered and approved with one minor amendment.

15.2 Skateboard Ramp project update including transfer of funds from PSDF - Cllr. Thew discussed quotes for acoustic fencing and the price of a noise modelling survey but it was noted that this could not be done by acoustic engineers until once the skatepark is in use. Cllr. Thew stated she would speak to LDC for further advice. The access road was discussed and the various options for future surfacing. It was agreed to transfer £30,000 from the Public Sector Deposit Fund into the Unity Trust bank account.

15.3 Outdoor Gym Equipment update – This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

15.4 Update on Scout hut lease – The Clerk stated there was no update and that she had sent a reminder to the Scouts that their rent payment is overdue.

15.5 To discuss plans for The Coronation in 2023 including commemorative gifts Cllr. Thew/The Clerk. It was agreed to purchase 5 packs of bunting. It was agreed to order 270 book marks and presentation sleeves at a cost of £383.45 (including labels and presentation sleeves). It was agreed to give these to all Newick Primary School children and to share on Newick Talk that any Primary school age children living in the village but not attending Newick Primary can have one by contacting the Parish Clerk.

15.6 To agree the future management of the Wildflower areas – Cllr. D Marchant discussed the future of the wildflower areas and stated the need for a group of people to help with the management, going out once per month and checking the areas. Cllr. Wickens stated she would discuss the matter with Newick Rootz..

16 Committees' and Councillors' Reports:

16.1 Newick Rootz and Newick Common board – Cllr. Wickens agreed to speak to LDC about having a board. It was noted that Newick Rootz no longer used the Pavilion to meet It was agreed to move future updates on Rootz activities to the Environment & Recreation agenda.

16.2 Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr. B Whitlock was not present.

- 17 **Update on plans for the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22nd March** – Councillors were asked to arrive at 6.45pm.
- 18 **To agree content of the April edition of Parish Council Newsletter (submission deadline 23rd March)** – it was agreed to submit articles to the Clerk by 17th March.
- 19 **To agree article for the February edition of the Parish News (submission deadline 7th March)** – It was agreed that the Clerk would send an edited version of the social media report
- 20 **Consultations, Requests and Permissions:**
 - 20.1 To consider email from Edward Johnstone on 8th February requesting the use of an outside space on Thursdays or Saturdays for the Sussex Peasant to sell seasonal Sussex produce – on a Thursday by the Oak on the grass. It was agreed to clarify that what was being sold was only local and that the Parish Council would support a Thursday market. A suitable location was discussed and it was suggested that the Village Hall Car Park as an initial location.
 - 20.2 To consider request from Newick Cricket Club to increase the number of Sussex Seniors games from three (agreed in January) to five – this was agreed.
 - 20.3 To consider email from Hadlow Down Parish Council on 10th February requesting support in campaigning ESCC to improve highway maintenance – it was agreed not to join this campaign.
 - 20.4 To consider email from Amanda Taylor on 11th February requesting the Parish Council address parking issues in the village – it was agreed to raise the issue with Sussex Police at the next JAG group meeting and to add the item to the next SLR meeting agenda.
 - 20.5 To consider request from Fletching Parish Council for support seeking legal opinion on the validity of the planning application for the extension of the Ashdown Business Park – this was covered earlier in the meeting.
 - 20.6 To consider road closure consultation from ESCC dated 14th February for the annual Newick Bonfire Celebrations – it was agreed to support this closure.
 - 20.7 To consider request from Shaylers Funfair to use The Green arriving 11th September, leaving 18th of September (Opening days will be from Thursday to Sunday) – this was agreed unanimously.
- 21 **Items for next agenda –**
 - Coronation
 - Conservation area

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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