

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newick Parish held  
at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023  
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 50 parishioners attended the meeting including Newick Parish Councillors: Chris Armitage (Chair of the Parish Council), David Marchant, Victoria Marchant, Alan Sippetts, Melanie Thew, and Cathy Wickens. County Councillor Matthew Milligan was also present.

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

**2. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

It was agreed that the draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 should be approved as a true record of that meeting these were published on the Newick parish website.

**3. Chairman's report on the activities of Newick Parish Council over the past year+**

Councillor Armitage gave an overview on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year. This included; The upcoming elections and he gave sincere thanks to the existing Councillors who had worked tirelessly. ly. He thanked the Clerk and Peter Howes. He thanked those who run the Ukraine and Community Hub, which is very popular, Cllr. Armitage stated that the PC continue to defend the Newick neighbourhood plan and gave examples of recent appeals and cases. He noted the death of the Queen, thanked the Clerk for executing the policy. He stated that a bench has been installed on the Green to commemorate the Queen and the PC is now working on the maintenance of the other benches in the village. Cllr. Armitage stated that the Skate Park phase 1 is nearing completion as is the outdoor gym equipment. Both will need landscaping before they are up and running. He stated that the PC attended a Litter picking morning at the Primary School and held an open morning in January on Skate Park and Outdoor Gym equipment. The open morning also included a consultation on replacing the pavement on The Green and the survey is now online. He thanked those involved in the Spring Clean. He stated he hoped the PC will have enough candidates for an election. He stated the precept demand for Newick Parish Council has gone down a little but the LDC, ESCC and Police have all increased. A Dark Sky Policy has been introduced by Cllr. V Marchant. Councillor Armitage thanked all the hardworking parishioners involved in the wonderful clubs and societies who give so much. He thanked Matthew Milligan, who has attended most NPC meetings. He reminded the audience that there would be a Question and Answer at the end.

**4. A presentation from Tony Turk on the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.**

Tony Turk gave a presentation about the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Tony stated he was living in Newick aged 7 in 1953. Each pupil at Newick School pupil had a photo taken and this was presented to the children. He went to London with his parents and brother to see the Coronation decorations and to feed the pigeons. Tony stated that the Queen visited Uckfield before the coronation and during the visit the Duke went to Cowdray to play Polo. A copy of the program from 1953 was shown on the overhead screen which included the Coronation Committee of 23 people. The day itself started with the unfurling of the Flag, the national anthem, prayer on The Green, and the official opening of the bus shelter. Tony shared that his friend Bob Bird was probably the first person to use the shelter as he snuck in there to eat some biscuits. After the shelter was opened, there was a rush up to the Village Hall (then known as Derek Hall) there were 6 televisions around the hall which were 9-inch screens, with the children sat on the floor watching the ceremony. Tea and biscuits were served for the old people and a car service was provided. At 4.30pm in Church Room, next to the vicarage there was a presentation of commemoration mugs, handed out by PC Chair followed by a buffet tea in reading rooms. At 6pm a historical pageant was performed at the Playing Fields. Tony showed a copy of the Sussex express article covering the event and named some people in the feature photo. After the pageant prizes were given for best decorated business and house. At 9.30pm there was a bonfire and fireworks on the Green followed at 10.30pm by a dance at the Village Hall with 130 people attending. Charlie Wood and his band played at the dance. Tony invited the audience to share their memories of the 1953 Coronation and several people shared their experiences.

## **5. A presentation from Councillor Thew on the plans to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III**

Councillor Thew gave a brief biography of King Charles' life so far and his work and interests. She stated that King Charles III wanted a coronation which is simpler, with a shorter ceremony to reflect modern Britain. Cllr. Thew stated that the Parish Council has agreed to coordinate events initially contacting Clubs & Societies last year to see who wanted to be involved. She stated that a program will be published and delivered to every household. She gave an overview of all the events happening over the Coronation weekend in Newick (timetable published on Newick.net). She stated that she hoped Parishioners would support as much as they could. Lastly, she stated that the Council wanted to provide a memento to children of Newick. She said after much research the Parish Council came up with the idea of a bookmark presented to every child at Newick Primary School and an appeal on Newick Talk has been made for children not in the village Primary School. She thanked the Clubs and Societies involved and the Clerk.

## **6. A presentation from Gary Marshall on the benefits of wildflower meadows –**

Gary Marshall gave a presentation on the benefits of wildflower meadows and the rationale for the Parish Council changing their mowing regime in certain parts of the village. He shared that he was asked to look into the creation of wildflower meadows by the Parish Council. He stated that mowing prevents flowering and plants are becoming endangered because we don't let them flower. He stated the open spaces could be far more diverse and that meadows (with associated wildlife) used to cover large amount of Britain. 91% of these areas have now been lost. Gary stated that there is a lot lost. But what can we do to help to regain?. By changing to infrequent mowing and removing cuttings this mimics old hay meadows so finer grasses should increase. He stated that Newick Common is a good example of an area of improvement. He stated he is excited by the prospect and the potential for increase in the number of butterflies and bees. He said fewer cuts may be radical for some, but weeds are eliminated by calling them wildflowers! He said that some people may think it looks a mess but not to bees and butterflies. Gary stated that nature needs a break from our over tidying., there should be an increase in colour in grassy areas, reduction in fumes and noise from mowers and benefits to biodiversity. Children and adults can learn more and this is a chance for good environmental practice. He stated that now is Newick's chance, we can observe what we already have, enhance over the years and if the small meadow scheme succeeds, then may see neighbouring parishes follow suit.

Gary then displayed a series of photos of different wildflowers and where they might be found.

## **7. Question and Answer Session**

Cllr. Armitage then invited questions from the audience.

Member of the public one (MOP1) shared that the Memory Café was struggling for attendees and shared with everyone what the café offers.

MOP2 – talked about the Ukraine and Community Hub and appealed for accommodation for a family looking to stay in the village until the end of July.

MOP3 asked why NPC is not actively reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Wickens replied that it had stood up to challenge thus far and outlined the issues with LDC currently reviewing their plan.

Cllr. Armitage spoke about parking issues and recent experiences on Newick Speed watch which saw. 36 cars speeding through village in one hour.

MOP4 appealed for someone to assist with the school crossing patrol as there is currently one vacancy.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

MOP5 thanked the Chair and the Council for their work.

***The meeting closed at 8.43pm.***