

## NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Annual General Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 in the Sports Pavilion King George V Playing Field, Newick.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. D.J. Sprackling on to the Council.

The Clerk had received all the Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Registration of Interests from Mrs. D. J. Sprackling

**PRESENT:** Councillors J. Lucas (took over the Chair after his nomination was agreed), Cllrs. C. Allen, C. Armitage, C. Jago, Mrs. C. Sharpe, Mrs. J. Sheppard, Mrs. J. Smerdon, Mrs. M. Thew, Mrs. C. Wickens and L. M. Farmer (Clerk).  
Jim Sheppard - District Councillor  
PCSO Sally-Ann Reed  
13 members of the public attended being parishioners plus agents for the proposed company proposing at Cricketfield.

1. **APOLOGIES:** R. Houghton had tendered his apologies for the meeting.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** There was two Declarations of Interest from Cllr. Lucas relating to the Village Hall as existing representative for the Parish Council until the appointment of a new rep: Bowls Club application for funding and Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe relating to Allotments.
3. **Election of Chairman:** One nomination had been received proposing Cllr. John Lucas as Chairman. This was supported by Council who duly elected Cllr. J. Lucas as Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Council for its continued support.
4. **Election of Vice-Chairman:** Resolved that Cllr. C. Armitage be elected as Vice-Chairman.
5. **Questions from the Public:** PCSO Sally-Ann Reed read her report to the Council which had been circulated. Although there had been some crime in the village during the last month it was still low. She was speaking to the young children as there had been some concerns about their activities around the village. She also re-iterated that four people had been arrested regarding the recent oil thefts but although this had reduced the number of thefts they had not stopped completely.  
Thakeham Homes (a Sussex based firm) spoke in favour of its application for 37 houses on land at Newick Hill stating that some of the units would be shared ownership and affordable housing to help meet the needs of those waiting for housing in Newick and using the Saxon Weald Housing Association. According to figures received from Lewes District Council 33 people were on the housing list. The development would be in a traditional Sussex style with materials being sourced locally. The company also stated that they felt the scheme being proposed was in keeping with the rural area. The company wished to work with the Parish Council and the local community and also wished to provide funding for the Parish Council to use as it wished.  
Thakeham Homes had submitted the application as it had heard that there were possibly another two applications to be submitted to Lewes Planning Department.  
Concerns from the Council and from parishioners were as follows:-  
The traffic movements quoted by Thakeham along a country lane did not seem to be correct!  
Concerns raised about the junction of Newick Hill with the A272 High Street.  
It was highlighted that Newick had had a Planning Boundary for the past 50 years which had served Newick well during this time and should be maintained until such time as it could be reviewed.  
The Parish Council was asked not to support this development, which could also lead to other sites being put forward, before a Neighbourhood Plan had been prepared and supported by parishioners.  
It was noted that Lewes District Council was currently in the process of preparing a LDF Plan. Concern was also raised about the line of the public footpath which seemed to go through the existing site and not around as currently used.  
The development did not cater for the needs of the village as parishioners did not wish to see more large housing.
13. **Planning:** It was agreed by Council that Planning should be moved forward so that those members of the public that had attended for this item did not have to wait unnecessarily.

**Newick**  
**LW/12/0484**

**Land At Newick Hill Cricketfield**

**Planning Application - Erection of 37 dwellings for Thakeham Homes** – This application was unanimously opposed by Council for the following reasons:-

Outside the Newick Planning Boundary

The Council is dubious about the Transport Statement and traffic movements along a country lane.

The application failed to meet the current need for additional affordable rural housing under the South East Plan which is 40%.

The Council believe that the application would have a damaging impact on the landscape.

The application had been submitted at a time when there is still a certain amount of confusion with the new planning procedures.

The Parish Council wishes to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan which would allow the community to express its vision for the village and the needs of its community.

The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations only came into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

The Council felt that this application had completely ignored the NPPF in engaging the local community.

It was the wish of Newick Parish Council that any future development within the village is only considered after the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and voted for by residents. Until this had happened, no development outside the existing Development Boundary should be agreed. It was agreed that the Council would send a letter incorporating these comments to the Planning Department.

The Council noted that it had received a number of letters and emails objecting to this application.

**Newick**  
**LW/12/0498**

**Woodgate Farms Dairy East Grinstead Road**

Planning Application - Erection of barn for farm storage – The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

**APPROVALS:**

LW/12/0343	54 High Street
LW/12/0003	Land and buildings at Streeters Farm, Newick Hill
LW/12/0311	4 Springfields

Appeal relating to erection of a replacement garage at Old Stables, Beechlands, Cornwells Bank – This has been dismissed.

**Application(s) for Tree Work**

TW/12/0053/TPO      3 The Pagets – The Council supported the recommendations made by the Tree Officer.

TW/12/0057/TCA      24 High Street – The Council had no objections to the work requested.

Road Closure Order for Bonfire Celebrations on 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Council supported this request.

Hazel Wood Jackies Lane – It was confirmed that the Enforcement Officer was monitoring these premises but there was no evidence of anyone living there.

6. **Delegation of Powers:** It was resolved by Council that the Clerk as the proper officer of the Council in discussion with the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman be given these powers to act if necessary, in accordance with the Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

7. **Appointments to Parish Council Committees and representation on other bodies:-**

The Council proposed, seconded and approved the following appointments.

**Sports Pavilion Committee:** Cllr. Mrs. Thew and Cllr. Mrs. Wickens.

**Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Allen

**Sussex Association of Local Councils and Lewes Association of Local Councils:** Cllr. Allen and Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon.

**Trustees of the Lady Vernon Trust:** Mr. P. Cumberlege, Mrs. S. Armitage, Mrs. S. Hill, Mrs. J. Smerdon, Mr. C. Andrews and Mrs. L. Duncton were to be invited to continue as Trustees. Mrs. Hill was to be asked if she would continue to provide a written report when the Trustees met. It had been confirmed that it is in order for one of the trustees to be the Clerk for this Trust.

**Tree Warden and Public Footpaths Controllers:** Cllr. Mrs. Wickens would monitor the Public Footpaths. Cllr. Mrs. Wickens would act as Tree Warden for the Parish.

**Newick Rootz** – Cllr. Mrs. Wickens would be the link Councillor on Newick Rootz.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard and Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon would look to coordinate this scheme. Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard would continue to be responsible for collecting the old mobile phones and ink cartridges from the local collection points to send off for recycling.

**Neighbourhood Panels** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard.

**Planning Committee:** Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Armitage, Cllr. Houghton, Cllr. Jago, Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard, Cllr. Mrs. Sprackling, Cllr. Mrs. Thew and Cllr. Mrs. Wickens. Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed when the Committee next meets when it will also review its Terms of Reference.

**Playing Fields Committee:** Cllr. Armitage, Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe, Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon Cllr. Mrs. Sprackling, Cllr. Mrs. Thew and Cllr. Mrs. Wickens. Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed when the Committee next meets when it will also review its Terms of Reference.

**Environment Committee:** Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Houghton, Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon and Cllr. Mrs. Sprackling. Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed when the committee next meets when it will also review its Terms of Reference.

**Housing Group:** Cllr. Armitage, Cllr. Houghton, Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Jago, Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon, Cllr. Mrs. Thew and Cllr. Mrs. Wickens. Chairman to be appointed when the Committee next meets when it will also review its Terms of Reference.

**Finance and General Purposes Committee:** Cllr. Houghton, Cllr. Jago, Cllr. Lucas and Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe. Chairman and Vice-Chairman for this Committee to be appointed at its next meeting when it will also review its Terms of Reference. Cllr. Allen was happy to continue to assist when required with reviewing policies

**Internal Auditor:** Mr. Paul Hartley had informed the Council that he was retiring as the Internal Auditor for Newick Parish Council. The Finance and General Purposes Committee would look for a replacement at its next meeting.

**Emergency Plan:** Cllr. Allen and Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe.

**Allotment Working Group:** Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Jago and Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon.

**Neighbourhood Planning Group:** Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Armitage, Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Houghton, Cllr. Jago, and Cllr. Mrs. Wickens. Cllrs. Mrs. Thew and Mrs. Sheppard were willing to help when called upon.

**Youth:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon and Cllr. Mrs. Sprackling

**Newsletter Co-ordinators:** Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard and Cllr. Lucas in liaison with the Clerk.

**Parish Magazine:** The Chairman and the Clerk

**Power of Well-Being:** Adopted again in 2011 until May, 2015

**Email – Power of Well-being repealed and replaced by General Power of Competence** – It was noted that the Power of Well-being had been repealed from 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 and replaced by the General Power of Competence. The Parish Council could continue to use the Power of Well-being until the May elections in 2015 and thereafter only for projects which it started under this power if it does not obtain the General Power of Competence before this date.

**Quality Parish Status:** Obtained again in December, 2011 until 2015

**Risk and Management Controls:** Under continual review by the Clerk and Chairman of the F&GP Cttee.

**All Policies of the Council have been reviewed during the last year.**

**8. Council Meetings:** It was resolved that the Council Meetings continue to be held on the last Tuesday of the month commencing at 7.00 p.m and the item on the agenda for Planning would be dealt with as the first items before Matters Arising. The Planning Committee would meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6.30 p.m. to deal with planning applications received between the last Parish Council Meeting and the second Tuesday of the month. Both meetings would be held at the Sports Pavilion unless otherwise informed. The Annual Meeting of the Parish to be held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at the Village Hall. It was noted that there would not be a Council Meeting in December. Other Committees would be arranged on a quarterly basis or when necessary if required.

**9. Rents:**

It was resolved not to increase the rents for the sports clubs but that the rent for hire of the Green by fairs etc be increased by £10.00 to £100.00, the rents being as follows:-

Cricket Club	£230.00
Football Club	£230.00
Rugby Club	£230.00
Fairs etc	£100.00
Stoolball	£87.00

**Grants:**

Council resolved to adopt the recommendation in the Budget 2012 / 2013 agreed in November:-

Churchyard	£590.00
Sports Pavilion	£380.00
Neighbourhood Watch	£100.00
Village Hall	£1400.00
Misc. Grants	£150.00

It was resolved that Newick Area Community Care Association be given a grant for 2012/13 of **£200.00 under the Power of Well-Being.**

**10. MINUTES:** It was resolved that the Minutes for 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 be signed as a true record.

**11. MATTERS ARISING:**

**11-1 Allotments:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she had spoken to Mr. & Mrs. Fuller again to clarify the boundaries and they had agreed that only one fence line would be required. Regarding the laying of water this would cost in the region of £1000.00 just for connection. A discussion then took place on the viability of this project for just a five year period. Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon confirmed that there was still a need for allotment plots. The following action was supported:-

- That Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon looks at more than one site
- That the working group have a meeting to look at the issues
- That the Clerk pursues information about "Compulsory Purchase of Land" for this project with the legal department at Lewes District Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she had attended an Allotment Forum which had been very helpful and interesting.

**11-2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Newick:** Cllr. Jago reported that all the arrangement for the events over the Jubilee Weekend were well in hand with all the people affected by Road Closure Orders being informed by notices.

It was noted that The Chair of Lewes District Councillor Tony Nicholson would be attending the Dedication of the Jubilee Tree planted in the KGVPF. Cllr. Jago reported that he had emailed the Lord Lieutenant for East Sussex details of the events being held over the Jubilee Weekend. It was noted that Baroness Cumberlege was one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenants for the County.

**11-3 Youth Council:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she was trying to get a group of young people together but needed help. This would now be provided by Cllr. Mrs. Sprackling.

## **12 Action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman / Vice-Chairman:-**

Newick Green – It was confirmed that the Fair due to come to the Green in May had been postponed due to condition of Green.

Permission had been given to Newick Scout Group to close the Car Parking Area at KGVPF for parking for a couple of hours on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May while the cubs and beavers cleaned up like they had last year. It was noted that the area had now been swept and tidied.

## **14. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **PAYMENTS:**

It was resolved that the following payments be approved.

A. Bailey – Village Hall Loan Fund – Refurbishment works Paid on 12 <sup>th</sup> May due to amount.	£761.11 200469
Replacement Cheque paid 12 <sup>th</sup> May Aquarius Solutions – Graffiti remover	£167.40 200470
Barcombe Landscapes Ltd – Mowing KGVPF, Green etc and Verges	£950.94 200471
Jacksons Fine Fencing – Kissing Gate Kit	£177.58 200472
The Blacksmith Shop – Repairs to Skate ramps	£65.00 200473
A. Watson – Village Maintenance	£260.00 200474
Mrs. C. Wickens – Watering Can for Jubilee Tree at KGVPF	£10.98 200475
D. Sankey – Pest Control	£50.40 200476
The Round Timber Supply Company – Timber materials for Queen’s Diamond Jubilee tree	£31.20 200477
Action in rural Sussex – Renewal of subscription	£50.00 200478
The Danewood Press Ltd – Jubilee Walk Footpath Booklet	£235.00 200479
Paul Hartley – Internal Audit for end of year 2011-2012	£317.25 200480
CateringBase – Cooler for VH Bar – Refurbishment Works	£676.59 200481
WeChillit.com Ltd – Glass Washer for VH Bar – Refurbishment Works	£1123.20 200482
L. M. Farmer - Salary for May, 2012	£709.10 200483
Post Office Counter – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£182.44 200484

### **MONEY RECEIVED:**

Rent for Allotments	£100.00
Rent for Green John Lawson Circus	£90.00
Rent from UK Power	£105.92
Precept – LDC	£27200.00
Jubilee	£428.00

**Outturn** – The Outturn for the end of April had been circulated to Councillors for information.

### **Audit:**

The Auditor’s Report had been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that there were no issues to be reviewed or dealt with. On the advice of the Internal Auditor the Fixed Assets Value had been corrected to Cost Value and not Book Asset Value. This was after checking with the Audit Regulations.

### **Audit Return:**

As the Auditor’s Report had been clear of issues and the Council agreed the Annual Governance Statement the Chairman was authorised to sign the Annual Audit Return for Mazars. It was noted that the Council had agreed the end of year balances and permission for the end of year Accounts to be completed for 2011/2012 at the Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

### **Delegation of Funding to Committees**

It was resolved that the budget of £2242.00 set aside for the Play Area be delegated to the Playing Fields Committee.

It was resolved that the budget of £1600.00 set aside for Environment issues be delegated to the Environment Committee.

**Audit Commission** – It was noted that Littlejohn LLP had been appointed as the External Auditor for 2012/13 and future years to carry out the Annual Audit of Newick Parish Council’s Returns.

### **Lady Vernon Trust**

The Chairman reported that in view of the economic climate the interest from the funds invested from the capital held by the Trust was quite good although the Trust had given more in grants this year than had been received.

### **Bowls Club**

It was agreed by Council to give a grant of £100.00 from the Miscellaneous Grant Fund for a set of bowls for junior members to use.

## **15 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 15-1 Fun Fair – postponed due to condition of Newick Green** – The Council agreed that Mr. Shayler could come on either Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September or 15<sup>th</sup> September subject to the usual conditions and subject to the additional request that boarding be used to get vehicles off the Green should the weather conditions deteriorate.
- 15-2 John Lawson Circus** – The Council agreed that the Circus could come next year subject to availability and subject to the new conditions as mentioned above.
- 15-3 Bus Timetable Changes** – Cllr. Armitage reported that there were no real changes to the services other than a slight variation in times. The Parish Council had been informed of some further minor changes but these do not affect the Newick Services. It was noted that new bus timetables were required.
- 15-4 ESCC Broadband** – A Factsheet had been sent out by ESCC and emailed to Councillors on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2012 for information. A further email received on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 regarding updates had also been sent out to Members. Cllr. Armitage informed Council that ESCC were now going out to tender for the Broadband upgrade.
- 15-5 Waste and Minerals DF** – This email relating to “Specific Consultation Body” had been circulated to Councillors. No further action taken.
- 15-6 Funding for Youth Partnerships** – This information had been forwarded to Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon who informed Council that unfortunately it was not relevant for Newick.
- 15-7 LDC Tenancy Strategy** – Consultation Event 30<sup>th</sup> May at Lewes – The Chairman was going to attend this.
- 15-8 Highways Dept – “Deer Warning Signs” at Newick Hill** – The Council had been informed by the Highways Department that “Deer Warning Signs” would not be put up in this area as signs were now only erected in high risk areas in line with the new Policy for “Wild Animal Warning Signs”.
- 15-9 Letter concerning the old tree trunk on the green area at Marbles Road** – The Clerk was given permission to ask Barcombe Landscapes to investigate this area and if necessary fill in any depressions with additional soil.
- 15-10 Email about Community Games** – This had been circulated for information only.
- 15-11 Email from LDC about Domestic Abuse** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard would attend this seminar to be held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, from 9.00 a.m to 2.00 p.m. at the Council Chamber Lewes Town Hall on behalf of the Council, if she was available.
- 15-12 Letter and email relating to new Bill to Empower Local Councils** – Copies had been circulated to Members for information. No further action.
- 15-13 Email from SALC** advising of Housing Workshop and Planning Session – Circulated to Councillors.  
Email advising of Legal and Finance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> September – Circulated to Councillors.  
The Clerk asked that Members inform her if they wished to attend any of the events so that she could book the places.
- 15-14 Various Newsletters** - The following had been received.  
Rural Services Network  
The Clerk  
3VA Supporting Voluntary Action

Action in rural Sussex  
Focus on East Sussex  
CPRE  
Clerks and Council Direct  
Sussex and Surrey County Associations  
St. Peter and St. James  
ESCC – Highways Dept – Proposed Works in County  
Various emails for information only

- 15-15 Newick Green** – Permission was given for the residents at 17 The Green to allow two wedding cars to depart from these premises subject to the weather and the usual conditions.

**16 COMMITTEES & Councillors Reports:**

**Playing Fields Committee:** It was noted that there had not been a meeting. The monthly reports on the play equipment and “Street Course” areas were clear of problems.

**Environment Committee:** Minutes of the Environment Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 were agreed as a true record by those who had been present and were duly signed.

The Parish Council supported the following recommendations:-

**Speed Gun** - That the Council take up the offer from Buxted Parish Council to use its Speed Gun for a small fee. Cllr. Armitage was in the process of finding new volunteers so that training could be arranged through the police to use this piece of equipment.

**Gated effect to either end of the village** – Permission was given for preliminary investigations to take place as to costs and installation in consultation with ESCC Highways Department.

**Wild Flower Planting** - Permission was given for the area of grass alongside the wall at the front of the Community Centre to be planted with wild flowers and that the area in the Manwaring Robertson Field alongside the pond be left uncut during the spring and summer to see what wild flowers grew. It was agreed that the area of grass in the twitten by the Health Centre be left.

**High Street Verge** – The Council were informed that it was unlikely that any of the Section 106 monies set aside for Transport could be used for this project and that the Council would probably need planning permission as well as the plans being reviewed because Teresa Ford was not happy with them in the current format and doubted if the requirements mentioned in the audit could be met.

**Tree Warden:** Cllr. Mrs. Wickens reported that the Government had issued new regulations concerning arboriculture work for trees etc.

**Newick Rootz** – Minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 were circulated to Members for information. Cllr. Mrs. Wickens reported that the stile at the end of the footpath alongside the school had now been replaced with a “Kissing Gate”. Mr. & Mrs. Sharpe were thanked for allowing and paying for this stile to be replaced.

**Neighbourhood Watch**– Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported on the recent burglaries around the area and the time it had taken to get information from the police. It was agreed that if this lack of communications from the police continued then the Council should request another meeting with Chief Inspector Tingley.

Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard informed the Council that on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, as part of Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week, Lewes Neighbourhood Watch had arranged a Co-ordinators Event at Newick Community Centre from 6.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. Representatives from the police will be there to give help and advice, especially on home security.

There will be refreshments and all visitors will be most welcome.

**Neighbourhood Panel** – The Clerk was still awaiting a reply to the Council’s letter from Inspector Tullet.

**Lewes District Association of Local Councils** – There had been no meeting.

**Housing Group Meeting** – It was noted that there would be a meeting of this group on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June commencing at 7.00 p.m.

- 17 Neighbourhood Plan:** An informal meeting had been arranged with John Kay on 19<sup>th</sup> June, from 7.00 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion for Councillors to learn how to proceed with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

**18. Village Hall – Lettings Policy:** Cllr. Jago informed the Council that he was not at all happy with the lettings policy of the Village Hall which appears not to be giving priority to long standing bookings by societies in the village. There had been no consultation with the Horticultural Society regarding the Spring Show which had always used the hall on the same weekend in March for many years and for 2013 the hall had been let out for a wedding reception. The Chairman said bookings had increased since the refurbishment and clubs now needed to let the Village Hall Bookings secretary know their requirements as early as possible.

**19. Newsletter:** It was agreed that the Clerk would request help when needed and that other organisations with items to be included with the newsletter should be requested to help. It was noted that items for the next edition of the newsletter should reach the Clerk by 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Meeting Closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed: .....Chairman

Date: .....