

# NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J. Lucas (Chairman), Cllrs. C. Armitage, (Vice-Chairman), C. Allen, R. Houghton, Mrs. J. Sheppard, Mrs. J. Smerdon, Mrs. D.J. Sprackling, Mrs. M. Thew, and Mrs. L. M. Farmer (Clerk).

Mr. & Mrs. A. Thomas – Village Hall

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs. C. Jago and Mrs. C. Wickens, County Councillor Mrs. M. Stroude, District Councillor J. Sheppard and PCSO Sally-Ann Reed. (PCSO Sally-Ann Reed had sent her report which the Clerk had circulated to members.)
- 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. Mrs. Smerdon declared an interest under Matters Arising 5-1 Allotments, Cllr. Allen declared an interest under item 10 Village Hall as the Parish Council representative on its committee.
- 3. QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mr. Thomas attended the meeting in his capacity as Chairman and Booking Secretary for the Village Hall. He clarified that the Bonfire Society and the Parish Council would not have to pay for hire of the village hall crockery as these organisations had helped to purchase this some years ago. With regards to the hiring policy for the Village Hall he stressed that it was up to the organisations to ensure that the booking was made and not the responsibility of the Village Hall Bookings Secretary to anticipate the use by a society. Mr. Thomas highlighted the costs involved for running the hall and maintaining the building and equipment stating that the hall had to be run as a business as 95% of the income came in from lettings. Mr. Thomas hoped that the Parish Council would not get involved with the workings of the Village Hall as this was the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee. The Chairman for the Council stated that this had been raised by a Councillor who had been informed that it was the society's responsibility to ensure that the bookings were made well in advance. Mr. Thomas was asked if a note about bookings could be put in the Parish Magazine to make organisations more aware. The Clerk stated that if the Village Hall Management Cttee wished to send a letter to all Village organisations it was easy for the Clerk to assist as she had all the addresses and only the letter and headed paper would be required.
- 4. MINUTES:** It was agreed by those who had been present that the Minutes for the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 be signed as a true record after an amendment to (5) fourth para (s) to site and item 12 which should read "It was noted that the area had now been swept and tidied". The master copies would be corrected before publication.
- 5. PLANNING:** Approval of Planning Committee Meeting Minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2012. The Council agreed that these could be signed as a true record.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

There had been no planning applications during June.

## **APPROVALS:**

LW/12/0424      Sharpsbridge Farm Sharpsbridge Lane  
LW/12/0404      Little Bretts, 1 Goldbridge Road  
LW/12/0403      5 Allington Place  
LW/12/0454      Hunters End, The Ridings

## **Tree Work:**

TW/12/0057/TCA      Granary Cottage, 24 High Street – approval given to tree work requested.

TW/12/0071/TPO      The Ridings Allington Road– Tree Work – Lime - remove branch and epicormic growth, Beech – Crown Lift – The Tree Warden for Newick had no objections to this application.

### **Road Closure Order:**

The Bonfire Society had been granted its Road Closure Order for its celebrations to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2012 in Newick.

Cllr. Armitage reported on a request from ThakehamHomes to speak to him concerning the proposals for redeveloping the land at Newick Hill running alongside Cobbs Nest. It was agreed that currently the Council would not have a meeting with ThakehamHomes but it would in the future as it would with any other developers when the Council was developing the Neighbourhood Plan for Newick's future.

Cllr. Armitage stated that to his knowledge the Planning Application for the site at Newick Hill had not been withdrawn.

Cllr. Armitage also reported on a new EU Regulation relating to Ashdown Forest which Mr. Hill the Planning Officer for LDC had told him about which could have an impact on future developments in Newick. Further information on this was awaited.

An email from Mr. Turk relating to the Newick Hill Planning Application and to the Lewes District Core Strategy was circulated to Councillors for information.

## **6 MATTERS ARISING:**

**6-1 Allotments:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that the initial cost of the scheme on land offered in Allington Road would be in the region of £3200.00 and probably work out at approximately £50.00 to £52.00 per annum plus any rent for the land. She felt the cost per week was relatively small however she still had to speak to the Chairman of the Allotment Association before recommending a decision to the Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported on information received from Lewes District Council Legal Department relating to Compulsory Purchase of Land for use as Allotments. It was agreed that the Council should not use this route at the present time but should look at ways allotments could be provided through the Neighbourhood Plan when this was being prepared.

**6-2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Newick:** The Council agreed that the events put on by the various Clubs and Societies for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations had been successful and well supported.

Photo's of the Scarecrows had been taken and given to the St. Peter and St. James Hospice Committee who may consider producing a calendar for next year.

The Council agreed that the balance of the money collected for the Scarecrow competition after deducting printing costs and prize money should be given to St. Peter and St. James Hospice.

**6-3 Youth Council:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she and Cllr. Sprackling would be having a meeting with Ms Jane Spencer to discuss how to form a Youth Group.

Cllr. Mrs. Thew suggested that Councillors attend the Friday evening gatherings at the Sports Pavilion during the summer months as a way of networking and also to encourage younger people to get involved with the Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Sprackling would also let Councillors know when the Rugby Club had social occasions at the Sports Pavilion.

## **7. Actions taken under Delegated Powers by the Clerk in consultation with Chairman and / or Vice-Chairman:**

**Oldaker Road** – The Clerk had reported to LDC that the street name sign at the end of Oldaker Road near the garage along Church Road needed to be secured.

**KGVPF** – Barcombe Landscapes had been requested to cut the back of the Play Area more regularly because of the stinging nettles.

**Village** –Barcombe Landscapes had been asked to cut back the area of hedging by the substation at Powell Road also the area at Growers End near to the Oak Tree. Barcombe Landscapes had also been asked to cut back the hedging and shrubbery on the land between The Rough/Vernon's Road when conditions are correct.

**Sign post** at High Hurst Close to Powell Road twitten was broken and had been reported to Highways at ESCC. The signs on the post had been removed by Clerk and put in store.

**Grit Bins** – The Clerk had completed the survey from Highways giving details of the condition of the bins and how full the bins were ready for the winter.

## **8. FINANCE MATTERS**

It was resolved that the following payments due for June, 2012 be approved for payment. The Council also agreed the payments made prior to the meeting.

## **PAYMENTS:**

Stuart Barns – Performing sheep – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Event 2012	£1000.00	200485
L. M. Farmer – Cash for prizes for the Scarecrow Competition for Jubilee	£175.84	200488
P. R. Hartley – Replacement Cheque	£317.25	200487
<i>The above three items were signed prior to the meeting</i>		
LDC – Emptying Dog Bins	£177.84	200488
ICO – Renewal of Data Protection License	£35.00	200489
D. Sankey – Pest Control in the KGVPF and MRF(Manwaring Robertson Field)	£50.40	200490
Newick Bowls Club – Grant for set of bowls for juniors	£100.00	200491
A. Watson – Village Maintenance	£239.00	200492
Alex Harrison – Website name for Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Event	£11.79	200493
L. M. Farmer - Salary for May, 2012	£709.10	200494
Post Office Counter – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£182.44	200495
L.M. Farmer – Re-imbusement of Parish Council’s expenses	£598.77	200496
Newick Primary School – Coins for Queen’s Diamond Jubilee	£272.85	200497
Upper Bridge Enterprises – Additional Pages for Website re: RASP	£12.00	200498

**Outturn** – The Outturn for the end of May was noted.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 9-1 John Lawson Circus wished to come to Newick Green 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2012** – The Council approved the date that John Lawson wished to come to Newick Green.
- 9-2 Lady Vernon Trust** – It was noted that those currently representing the Parish Council on the Trust had agreed to continue as Trustees.
- 9-3 Waste and Minerals DF** – This had been emailed to Councillors on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2012. It was agreed to keep a watch on this to ensure that there were no changes that would affect Newick parish.
- 9-4 Newick Bonfire Society** – The Parish Council agreed to the Bonfire Society’s request to pay for porta-loo facilities for Bonfire Celebrations
- 9-5 Play Facility at Alexander Mead** – An email received asking if the Parish Council would be providing a Play Area near Cricketfield/Alexander Mead was noted by Council. The Clerk was asked to respond stating that at present there were no plans for this but that this would be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan when it was being prepared.
- 9-6 Maintenance of Parish Fingerposts** –Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that at the Lewes District Association Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June the matter of replacing Fingerposts by ESCC had been discussed and it looked as if those Fingerposts on ‘A’ roads would be replaced with metal ones which collapsed if hit by a vehicle. It was agreed by Council that a letter be sent to East Sussex County Council opposing any suggestion to replace the existing wooden fingerposts on ‘A’ roads as it was felt that the existing posts were unique to East Sussex. The Council agreed that the Clerk place an order to replace the fingerpost at Fonthill by the narrow road at the cost of £250.00 which ESCC would pay half towards.
- 9-7 Various Newsletters:** The following had been received.  
CPRE – Sussex Review  
The Journal of Local Planning  
Handyperson Grant Scheme – (for private individuals)  
ESCC – Highways  
The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home  
Guide to Housing Jargon

## **10. COMMITTEES & Councillors Reports:**

**Playing Fields Committee:** No meeting this month

**Monthly Reports:** These had been received and it was noted that no equipment required attention.

**Environment Committee:** No meeting

**Finance and General Purposes Committee:** No meeting

**Neighbourhood Plan Group:** The notes of the meeting with Mr. Kay were circulated to Councillors for information.

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan would be under the remit of the Planning Committee and that this Committee would be the "Steering Group" for this plan.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by Council that the Parish Council make a formal application to Lewes District Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

It was further agreed that over the next six weeks whilst getting permission the Council would look at how to proceed.

It was also agreed to invite officers from LDC to help assist the Council once more information was available.

It was noted that Newick Parish Council should consult with neighbouring parishes when preparing its plan.

The Parish Council noted Norman Baker MP's letter in response to Newick Parish Council's letter concerning the Neighbourhood Plan and the Newick Planning Boundary.

**Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.

**Newick Rootz:** Nothing to report.

**Village Hall** – Cllr. Allen had attended a project meeting which he had found useful and also the meeting of the VHMC which he felt was very small and needed more members.

**Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Panel Report** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported on the lack of communication coming from the police at the moment. The Neighbourhood Home Watch Meeting held on 25/06/12 at the Community Centre had not been very well attended but it was still better than some areas. She was also told that the leaflets and booklets on home security and crime prevention supplied by the police would no longer be issued due to Home Office cut backs.

The Clerk would contact Inspector Tullett concerning Neighbourhood Panel Meetings in Newick as she had not received a reply to the Council's letter. It was noted that a Neighbourhood Panel Meeting was to be held on 02/07/12.

**Lewes District Association** – Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported on this meeting which had been interesting highlighting the issue about fingerposts as mentioned earlier, Neighbourhood Plans and various other matters. It was noted that Mrs. Lightfoot had been invited by the Chairman for this Association to present her proposals for re-developing her land.

11. **Annual Parish Meeting 2013** – The date for this event had now been confirmed with the Village Hall Bookings Secretary for Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. The Clerk had also provisionally booked Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 as Easter is from the Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April. It was further agreed that an application for a Licence to serve drinks at the meeting should be signed by the Clerk and returned to the Bookings Secretary.
12. **Resignation of Councillor** – It was noted that Mrs. Sharpe had resigned as Councillor due to changes in her circumstances from Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2012. The Clerk had written to the Electoral Registration Officer informing him of this. It was agreed that if no election was called then the Clerk would invite applications for this position to be submitted to the Council by 17<sup>th</sup> September for the Council to consider on 25<sup>th</sup> September.
13. **Retirement of Clerk at the end of December 2012** - It was noted that the Clerk had written informing the Council that she wished to retire on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 after completing 30 years in the post.  
The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk had offered to help with the Neighbourhood Plan if the Council wished. This offer was accepted and it was agreed that the Clerk would be paid for this.  
It was agreed to engage SALC at a cost of £150.00 to handle the vacancy. The Clerk highlighted that it was the responsibility of the Council to place the adverts although the wording would be provided.
14. **Resignation of Village Handy Person at end of July, 2012.** It was noted that the Village Handyperson had given notice that he wished to resign this position at the end of July. An advert would be put on the Website and notice boards inviting applications.  
The work schedule had been reviewed going back to the old system of:  
8 hours per week from beginning of April to end of September  
6 hours per week through October  
5 hours per week from November to end of March  
This equalled 350 hours x £10.00 per hour giving an annual sum of £3500.00 which had been budgeted for.  
This position would be on a self-employed basis.

15. **Website – Map** – Members agreed that the website map could be updated at an initial cost of £60.00 and thereafter £30.00.
16. **Speed of traffic along Allington Road** – Cllr. Jenny Smerdon reported that due to a phone call she had received she had spoken to the Head of Newick Primary School and to PCSO Sally-Ann Reed about the speed of cars travelling along Allington Road. It was noted that parents picking up and dropping off children were responsible for some of this and the Head had written to the parents highlighting the problem. PCSO Sally-Ann Reed was making spot checks and Speed Warning Signs had also been put up although it was felt that a couple more were required.  
The Clerk was asked to arrange for training on the Speed Gun as Cllr. Armitage now had four volunteers.
17. **LDC – New Standards Regime** – This matter was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Members were asked to let the Clerk have any comments on this for the Committee to consider before it made its recommendations to Council.
18. **Approval of Summer Newsletter**- Members would let the Clerk have amendments by Thursday evening. It was hoped to have this distributed during the first week in July.
19. **Village Fun Day** – Although this was not on the Agenda and due to other events being considered the Council agreed provisionally to hold a Village Fun Day in 2013 on Sunday, August, 25<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk was asked to advise the Cricket Club and Sports Pavilion Management Committee.
20. **Items to be referred to next Agenda** – None other than items still to be reported on.

Meeting Closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed: .....Chairman

Date: .....