

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th February, 2012 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

PRESENT: Councillors J. Lucas (Chairman), C. Armitage, (Vice-Chairman), R. Houghton, C. Jago, Mrs. C. Sharpe, Mrs. J. Sheppard, Mrs. J. Smerdon, Mrs. M. Thew, Mrs. C. Wickens and Mrs. L. M. Farmer (Clerk).

PCSO Sally-Ann Reed who read her report to the Council and then left the meeting. A copy of the report was circulated to Councillors.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. C. Allen. The reason for absence was noted and accepted. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Mrs. M. Stroude and District Councillor J. Sheppard.
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 and Cllr. J. Lucas declared an interest under item 10 Village Hall as the Parish Council representative on its committee.
3. **QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**
4. **MINUTES:** It was agreed by those who had been present that the Minutes for the 31st January, 2012 be signed as a true record after a correction to 5-3 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations (or) should be (for).

5 MATTERS ARISING:

5-1 Allotments: Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she had met with Mr. & Mrs. Fuller who owned some land at the rear of 45 Allington Road. They were offering a strip of land running alongside north to south of the boundary hedge of the David Manwaring Robertson Playing Field. This would be enough to provide about six half size plots. Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon had discussed the possibility of a five year lease with Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, but a ten year lease was not an option. She had also mentioned to them the possibility of purchasing the land at a future date but this was not pursued. The following was resolved:

That the Council support Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon in acquiring this plot of land for allotments and advise Mr. & Mrs. Fuller that any agreement could be either with the Allotment Society or the Parish Council.

That Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon contact Mr. & Mrs. Fuller thanking them for the offer and make enquiries with them as to the ownership of the Public Footpath.

That Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon inform the Allotment Society about this offer for its support to proceed.

It was noted that the area would have to be fenced and a new access to the site made, together with the installation of a water supply from Allington Road.

The Clerk was reminded to prepare a map of the areas of land that had been looked at.

It was also noted that follow up letters had been sent out to those landowners who had not responded to the Council's letter asking if they had any land available and obtain use as allotments. Two other landowners identified had also been written to.

5-2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Newick: It was reported that a poster advertising the event had now been put up around the village and that the programme for the celebrations was nearing completion. Arrangements for the inter-pubs games competition were in hand. It was noted there would be no "Road Closure Orders" applied for by the Parish Council but any events using the roads would be well supervised. It was noted that the "Dancing Sheep" display was mainly being sponsored by local people and groups.

Cllr. Cathy Wickens informed Councillors that it had been agreed that an Oak tree of about 15ft to 16ft would be planted in the area of the old Beech tree which had been taken down a few years ago. It had been confirmed that the area was suitable and Newick Rootz would do the planting and fencing under the guidance of Peter Thurman (Arboriculturalist). The tree would cost in the region of £172.00 + £70.00 for delivery + materials for fencing and protecting the tree. The Horticultural Society may make a donation towards this project. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make up any difference between the amount already budgeted and donations received. There would be a "Tree Dedication Ceremony" on Sunday, 3rd June, 2012 at 12:15pm.

The Clerk would put the poster on the Newick Community Website.

It was further noted that Allington Crescent would be holding a Street Party but it was not known on what day of the celebrations this would be held.

The Parish Council asked the Clerk to write to the organisers of the celebrations for Newick giving permission to use the Green for the period arranged.

Wild Flowers:

The Clerk read an email from a resident asking if the residents of Allington Crescent could be given permission to plant "Wild Flowers" on the verge at the end of the road. After a short discussion the following was resolved:

That this matter be deferred to the Environment Committee to head up a small group from the village to look at the matter to see if this was feasible and determine who would then look after the areas and report back to Council for a final decision.

That an article about this suggestion be included in the Parish Council Newsletter to go out at the end of March.

5-3 ESCC – Bus Services: In response to the Parish Council's email concerning the 31 bus travelling to Haywards Heath empty and why it could not be used just on a one-way journey, the Council had been informed that this bus was not actually going into Haywards Heath but back to the depot at Burgess Hill. Further information about changes to the timetable had been received. This was noted by Council. No further action.

5-4 Youth Council: It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon and the Clerk would try to move this project forward before the next Council Meeting. The Clerk was asked to try to obtain information from ESCC relating to the 2011 Census particularly for the number of children and young people in the parish and also SALC to see if other Parishes had any experience of this.

6. Action taken under Delegated Powers by the Clerk in consultation with Chairman and / or Vice-Chairman:

Resignation of Councillor – The Clerk had received notification of the resignation of Mrs. Seona Lightfoot and had informed the Electoral Registration Department LDC so that the relevant legal notifications and procedures could be carried out.

Grounds Maintenance – The Clerk had received an enquiry from a company relating to tendering which she had put on file.

7. PLANNING:

The Planning Committee Meeting Minutes dated 14th February, 2012 were agreed to be a true record by those who had been present and were signed.

APPLICATIONS:

Newick

LW/12/0003

Land And Buildings At Streeters Farm

Planning Application - Change of use and conversion of agricultural barn buildings to treatment rooms (D1) to create a health retreat plus extension and alterations to roof – The Parish Council supported this application.

Newick

LW/12/0163

9 Goldbridge Road

Planning Application - Erection of one and a half storey extension to side incorporating new garage, porch at front and single storey extension at rear and 1.2m post and rail fence to front – The Parish Council supported this application.

Members noted that a copy of a letter had been received relating to the Planning Application LW/11/1422 Hazel Wood, Jackie's Lane which was expressing concerns about the proposals.

Wealden LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard and District Councillor Sheppard, along with Mr. Turk have looked at the reports and could not see anything which would directly affect Newick. This would be monitored.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

It was resolved that the following payments due for February, 2012 be approved for payment.

PAYMENTS:

Jane Johnson – Delivery of end of year newsletter	£85.00 200414
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT – Rent for Community Centre Car Park	£992.00 200415
Acorn Technology Services – Website Maintenance by Website Manager	£180.00 200416
A. Watson – Village Maintenance	£235.00 200417
D. Sankey – Pest Control	££52.80 200418
L. M. Farmer - Salary for February, 2012 + Additional hours	£991.06 200419

Post Office Counter – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£312.67 200420
Barcombe Landscapes – General Maintenance Work	£222.00 200422
S. Young – Tree Work in respect of Tree Report	£2980.00 200423
South East Water – Water for King George V Playing Field	£424.08 200424
SALC – Local Council Review, Localism Conference, Chairmanship Training	£324.50 200425
Catering Systems– Refurbishment of Village Hall Kitchen	£15409.44 200426

Outturn – The Outturn for the end of January had been circulated to Members for information and Cllr. Jago highlighted that it was likely that there would be a larger surplus than forecast in the budget 2012/2013.

The Clerk was reminded to inform Barcombe Landscapes not to put a weed killer on the Green through the 2012/2013 financial period but to apply fertilizer only.

9 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 9-1 Emails from the police** - These were circulated to Councillors for information over the last month. Emails from Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership forwarded to members for information.
- 9-2 ESCC – Flag for ESCC** – Rampion of Sussex had produced a Sussex Flag and had sent one to all Parish Councils in the hope that it would be flown but particularly on Saturday, 16th June to mark the sixth annual Sussex Day, this being the feast day of Saint Richard of Chichester. The emblem of the flag goes back to 1611. The Council supported the recommendation of the Environment Cttee to fly this flag.
- 9-3 Proposed merger between East and West Fire & Rescue Services** – This email had been circulated to members for information. It informed the Council that at present the merger would not proceed because of funding issues.
- 9-4 SALC – Legal Topic Notes from NALC** – Copies of these Legal Topic Notes were circulated to Councillors for information.
- 9-5 Newick Bonfire Society** – Annual request to use the Green for its various events – It was resolved by Council to grant permission for these events subject to the usual conditions.
- 9-6 Action in Rural Sussex** – A copy of the Newsletter was circulated to Councillors for information.
- 9-7 LDC – Scrutiny Review for Provision of Affordable Housing in Rural Areas** – A copy of these minutes were circulated to Councillors for information. There was nothing of significance to report.
- 9-8 Various Newsletters:** The following had been received.
 The Clerk
 Rural Services Network
 Clerks & Council Direct
 3View
 Newick Community Care Association
 Information relating to Middle Ouse Restoration
 Various information relating to NHS

10. COMMITTEES & Councillors Reports:

Playing Fields Committee: There was no meeting this month

Monthly Reports: These had been received and noted, showing that there was nothing to be done to any of the items.

Equipment needing repairs that the Annual Inspection, being 2 platforms, end of crawling tunnel, replacement of round logs to steps and bridge to the Multi-Play were in hand.

Environment Committee: Minutes of the Environment Committee held on 14th February, 2012 had been circulated to Councillors for information. It was agreed by those present at the meeting that they be signed as correct.

The Verge High Street – nothing further to report.

SVS Stores – It was reported by Cllr. Jean Sheppard that the Enforcement Officer for LDC had visited the shop and had been assured that South East Water would be coming this week to sort out the water meter and fill in the hole. The Enforcement Officer however felt that the covering to the air conditioning units was sufficient. The Clerk was asked to monitor and report back to the Chairman of the Environment Committee should the area in front of the

shop not be re-instated. The Chairman for the Committee was authorised to instruct the Clerk to write a formal letter to the Enforcement Officer in due course.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – No meeting this month

Tree Warden: Cllr. Mrs. Wickens had already reported on the Jubilee tree project under 5.2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Cllr. Mrs. Wickens reported that the tree work required in the Tri-annual Tree Survey had now been completed and that the cost had been reduced as the Tree Officer for LDC had not allowed all the work mentioned in the report to be carried out.

Changes to the way Tree Applications are dealt with – This had been dealt with at the Planning Committee when it was noted that due to changes in the timescale for decisions to be made to LDC, Cllr. Mrs. Wickens would have to make a decision but would request an application to be deferred if she felt it warranted a full Council decision.

Newick Rootz – The latest notes for this group had been circulated. Cllr. Mrs. Wickens reported that approval had been granted by the landowner of Footpath 4b that the Stile 0084 (at the back of the Newick Primary School) could be replaced with a kissing gate. The owners would pay for the materials and volunteers involved with Newick Rootz would install it.

Village Hall – Cllr. Lucas Parish Council representative on the VHMC reported that work on the refurbishment of the kitchen had commenced which would be followed by improvements to the bar. He continued to inform the Council that any balance of funds would be used to improve the insulation to the Village Hall and to form a car parking area at the front of the property.

Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Panel Report – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported that there had been a number of incidents in the area where heating oil had been taken from oil tanks in gardens. She asked that people be vigilant.

Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported that PCSO Sally-Ann Read had apologised for not being able to attend the last Parish Council Meeting as she had to attend a Neighbourhood Panel Meeting as police attendance at such meetings is a Government requirement. The Clerk reported she had been informed that funding for Neighbourhood Panels would be withdrawn during the next financial year.

The last point Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard had been concerned about the SVS Stores selling alcoholic drinks to under-aged young people which PCSO Sally-Ann Read was dealing with. It was also suggested that the "Trading Standards" department be asked to check the premises.

It was noted that both Natalie Carron and Katy Woolford left the Sussex Police Force in December to take up new posts. The Clerk had therefore made arrangements for Chief Inspector Jason Tingley to attend the March Parish Council Meeting so that matters raised with Inspector Woolford could be addressed.

Lewes District Association – As Cllr. Allen was not present there was nothing to report at the meeting.

11. **Annual Parish Meeting –** After a short discussion it was agreed to ask officers from LDC Planning Department working on the Core Strategy to attend this meeting giving an update and explaining how the number of comments that had been received regarding this document were being addressed.
12. **Resignation of Councillor –** Formal notices informing parishioners of the Council Vacancy had been put on the notice boards. The Council would be informed after the 8th March if an election had been called but if not then the Clerk was authorised to place a notice in the notice boards and website inviting parishioners to submit a letter offering themselves to be considered for co-option to the Parish Council. This would be considered at the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 27th April, 2012.
13. **Play Area –** Cllr. Armitage informed the Council that the canopy to the Multi-play required replacing along with the other items previously noted. It was agreed that the Playing Area Maintenance Fund be increased by £800.00.
14. **Affordable Housing –** It was resolved that the Housing Working Group would call another meeting before the next Parish Council Meeting to look at the options for another Affordable Housing Development.

15. **Items to be referred to next Agenda.** No new items were raised.

16. **Items not on the agenda which the chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances:**

Meeting Closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed:Chairman

Date: