

# NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Lucas (Chairman), Cllrs. C. Armitage, (Vice-Chairman), C. Allen, R. Houghton, C. Jago Mrs. J. Sheppard, Mrs. J. Smerdon, Mrs. M. Thew, Mrs. C. Wickens and Mrs. L. M. Farmer (Clerk).  
District Councillor J. Sheppard.

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. D.J. Sprackling, County Councillor Mrs. M. Stroude and PCSO Sally-Ann Reed.
- 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.
- 3. QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no members of the Public. The Clerk had circulated PCSO Sally-Ann Reed's report to the Council.
- 4. MINUTES:** It was agreed by those who had been present that the Minutes for the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 be signed as a true record.
- 5. PLANNING:**  
Approval of Planning Committee Meeting Minutes dated 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2012. The Council agreed that these could be signed as a true record.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

### **Newick**

LW/12/0650

### **1 The Green**

Listed Building Consent Application - Retention of a satellite dish – The Parish Council did not support this application 8 voting against with one abstention. This decision was taken after a discussion, with the Council stating that whilst it did not wish to oppose any business opportunity for sales, the premises were in a Conservation area and the Council did not think it was appropriate to have a satellite dish protruding from the premises.

The Council also asked the District Councillor Jim Sheppard to clarify the regulations on satellite dishes on premises particularly in Conservation Areas.

Whilst dealing with planning the following matters were highlighted:-

The new panel fencing erected at the bungalow near Point Cottage was within the legal limits and did not require Planning Permission.

District Councillor Jim Sheppard reported that the fencing at 26 Newick Drive was being put back to its original locations as although the land to the side of the premises did belong to the property, planning permission to move the fencing was required. It was noted that this property was in the ownership of Lewes District Council.

The Environment Committee were asked to write again to the owners of 1 The Green to see when it might be painted and speak to the Planning Department about the advertising boards.

## **APPROVAL:**

LW/12/0626

5 Newick Drive

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** – The notes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August with officers from LDC were circulated to Councillors for information. It was noted that under apologies Cllr Armitage and District Councillor Sheppard should have been recorded.

- It was resolved that a letter would be sent to Mrs. Lightfoot informing her of the Council's position regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the existing Planning Boundary.
- It was resolved that as well as the letter to go out to the community the Chairman would write a bit for the next Newsletter about progress on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- It was resolved that the Chairman would prepare an application for assistance from either Planning Aid or CPRE/NALC in response to the email from Tal Kleiman which he would submit

to the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at the Sports Pavilion as this had to be submitted before the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## **6 MATTERS ARISING:**

**6-1 Allotments:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that the occupant of the allotment plots at Cricketfield had now written stating that he would like to keep one of the existing plots. A letter had been sent arranging a meeting explaining that he could have a plot but that it might not be possible to keep the area he wished as the Council had planned to clear the site and mark out five or six small starter plots. A site meeting was to be arranged in the autumn.

It was noted that nothing had been heard from the owners of the possible other allotment site and the Clerk was asked to pursue this.

Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon stated that she would speak to Mr. and Mrs. Fuller about the site in Allington Road.

**6-2 Youth Council:** Nothing to report at present. The Clerk was asked to note that it should be called a Youth Forum as forming a Council was more involved.

**6-3 Clerk's Vacancy:** It was reported that 11 applications had been received by the closing date and that these had now been given to the Interview Panel consisting of Cllrs. Lucas, Armitage and Mrs Wickens to make a selection of those for interview to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at the Sports Pavilion from 10.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**6-4 Village Handyperson's Position:** It was reported that Cllrs. Jago and Mrs. Smerdon had interviewed the applicant for the position of Village Handyperson and had appointed Mr. D. Moemkem who had commenced his duties on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> August. References had been requested and the one already received had been very positive. The Clerk reported that so far she had seen an improvement in the village and hoped that Councillors had too. At the Skateboarders User Group Meeting the Young people thanked the new handyperson for edging around the concrete and tidying the area.

**6-5 Councillor's Vacancy:** The Clerk had received two applications for this position so far reminding members that the closing date was Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**6-6 Village Fun Day 2013:** Cllr. Mrs. Thew reported that she would put an article in the next Parish Council Newsletter highlighting the event and seeking volunteers to form a steering group for this event.

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

The Clerk had requested LDC Environmental Office to deal with a Wasps nest in the ground by the junior swings. This action had been completed.

## **8. FINANCE MATTERS**

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

### **PAYMENTS:**

#### ***Signed during month.***

A. Watson – Village Maintenance finished on 31-7.2012	£480.00 200506
St. Peter and St. James Hospice – balance of Scarecrow Competition	£369.00 200516

#### ***Signed at the meeting:***

Mazars – Audit fee for PC Accounts etc for end of period 2011/2012	£480.00 200517
Acorn Technology – Website Administration – Roger Malvern	£180.00 200518
SALC – Course Fee for John Lucas Finance & Legal Day 11-09/2012	£102.00 200519
South East Water – Water for KGVPF etc	£150.96 200520
D. Sankey – Pest Control	£50.40 200521
Newick Sports Pavilion Management Cttee – VAT Claim refund	£442.19 200522
L. M. Farmer - Salary for August, 2012	£709.10 200523
Post Office Counter – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£182.44 200524
D. K. Moemken – Village Maintenance – August	£251.49 200526

**CCTV – Contract Renewal:** The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Advance Computers who had reduced their annual maintenance contract from £500.00 + VAT to £450.00 + VAT and as requested had sought a second quote from a local company whose quote was £325.00 for annual maintenance. The Parish Council resolved to accept the lower quote of £325.00 + VAT for maintenance for the forthcoming year. The Clerk was asked to inform the companies accordingly.

**Outturn** – The Outturn for the end of July would be forwarded to Councillors who had unfortunately received an incorrect copy. Cllr. Jago informed Council that the accounts were where they were expected to be for this period.

It was reported that a letter of thanks had been received relating to the balance of the fund raising activities for the Scarecrow Competition during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event in June from the local support group for St. Peters & St. James Hospice.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 9-1 SALC** – An email dated 7<sup>th</sup> August informing the Council of updates had been forwarded to Councillors for information and comments if necessary. No comments received.
- 9-2 Action in Rural Sussex** – Notice had been received about the AGM to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at the South of England Showground, Ardingly. Information about Village Hall Workshops had been forwarded to the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Cttee.
- 9-3 ESCC** – The Council had received two emails relating to the East Sussex County Council arrangements for the Annual Parish and Town Conference at Eastbourne on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that should no one else wish to go Cllrs. Lucas, Mrs. Smerdon and the Clerk would attend.
- 9-4 ESCC – Waste and Minerals Plan** – An email notifying that the plan had now been submitted for pre-examination had been circulated to Councillors for information.
- 9-5 NHS Sussex Joint PCTs Annual General Meeting** – Details of an invitation to this meeting on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September were forwarded to Cllr. Allen for information.
- 9-6 Various Newsletters:** The following had been received.  
Rural Services Network  
Action in Rural Sussex  
New Opportunity for Town and Parish Councils  
Ordnance Survey  
3View  
Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice

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

**Playing Fields Committee:** There had been no meeting during the month.

**Skateboarders User Group** – Notes of this meeting had been circulated to Councillors for information. Cllr. Mrs. Wickens briefly went through the notes highlighting action being proposed to reduce the noise emitted from the skateboarding equipment. Councillors resolved to support the proposal to fill the voids with sub-soil and box in with marine-ply. Cllr. Mrs. Wickens stated that a group had taken on this project and it was hoped that this would be completed during the second week-end in November.

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

**Hedges around KGVPF** – The Clerk confirmed that these were currently cut once a year unless additional cuts were requested by the Council.

### **Sports Pavilion Meeting:**

A copy of the Newick Sports Pavilion Management's Recycling Procedures had been circulated to Councillors for information.

**Additional Storage:** Members had been circulated with a letter from the Chairman of the Cricket Club asking permission to erect a garage on the concrete base that had been used for cricket net practice next to the Scorebox in the KGVPF. During discussion on this it was noted that the base should have been removed when the additional base was created by Twitten House and that when the extension had been built with the large garage facility it was supposed to eliminate the need for additional storage facility. The Council noted the concerns about fire risk at the Sports Pavilion but felt that could apply to additional garaging and that storage would be damper than in the pavilion. It was resolved by the Council not to support this request after 7 voting not to support with 2 abstentions. The Clerk was asked to inform the Sports Pavilion Management Committee and Cricket Club of the Council's decision.

**Environment Committee:** Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 were signed as a true record. Unfortunately the Minutes of the Strengthening of Local Relationships ESCC had not been forwarded to the Clerk for circulation. The Clerk would pursue these with Jill Gander.

Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported on some of the issues of the Environment Committee:-

**Verge along High Street** – This was proving difficult due to not being able to get hold of officers at ESCC however she and the Clerk had met with Simon Ramm to discuss implementing the audit requirements into the plan. It was hoped that once the holiday season was over a meeting could be arranged with Ms Ford's boss and that the Clerk would have received a reply from the police on its support for the scheme.

**Item 7 – Additional cuts to Newick Green** – After a discussion it was resolved to take no action on this at present and to wait and see what the situation is like next year before considering increasing the number of cuts to the Green.

**Weed spraying around the village** – It was resolved that if the Environment Cttee wished to spend money on getting the verges through the village sprayed with weed killer from its budget prior to any decision from ESCC regarding funding then this was a decision it could make.

**Item 10 – Gated effect to Entrance of Village** – The Environment Committee were advised to get costings of this project and then come back to the Council with its proposals for a decision.

**Speed Gun** – Cllr. Armitage confirmed that he had more than six volunteers.

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

**Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.

**Newick Rootz:** No meeting during August

Cllr. Mrs. Wickens explained that the letter the Parish Council asked to be sent to the Rights of Way section concerning the Bridleway by Cockfield House and Footpath 4 had not been sent due to a phone call to her from Mr. S. Diserens informing her of the following proposed action:- A suitable access across Mitchelswood land to surface the worst stretch of 4a had been identified and agreed by Mrs. Lightfoot but the owner of the land over which this footpath ran still had to be contacted.

Contact had been made with the owners of Cockfield House and Cinder Farm and both parties were very supportive of the planned work to improve bridleway 16 providing space for access and materials.

Tenders had been requested and it was hoped that work to both these areas would either be completed in the autumn or next summer.

**Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Panel Report** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported that there had been some concerns about Cold Calling which she had reported to the police.

**Newick Neighbourhood Panel:** The Chairman reported on the Council's letter to Inspector Tullett and his email response. The Chairman was asked to write to Norman Baker MP stating in this time of economic climate having Neighbourhood Panels in rural areas was a complete waste of funding and the police should be liaising with the Parish Councils.

**Village Hall** – Nothing to report as unfortunately due to work commitments Cllr. Allen was unable to attend the last meeting.

**Lewes District Association** – No meeting this month.

11. **Appointment of new Internal Auditor** – Cllr. Jago reported on his meeting with Mr. Peter Frost Internal Auditor. It was resolved to formally appoint Mr. Peter Frost as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor as recommended by Cllr. Jago. It had been arranged that he would meet with the Clerk and new Clerk at the end of November / beginning of December, 2012 and thereafter in May after the completion of the Annual Return and accounts. Cllr. Jago stated that he seemed very pleased with the procedures the Council already have in place.
12. **Purchase of new Picnic Table for KGVPF** – It was resolved to purchase a replacement picnic table for the area by the multi-goal at a cost of £296.00. This would be wooden. It was noted that metal picnic tables were considerable more expensive.
14. **Items to be referred to next Agenda** – None other than items still to be reported on.

Meeting Closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed: .....Chairman

Date: .....