

# NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Lucas (Chairman), Cllrs. C. Allen, C. Jago Mrs. J. Sheppard, Mrs. J. Smerdon, Mrs. D.J. Sprackling, Mrs. M. Thew, Mrs. C. Wickens and Mrs. L. M. Farmer (Clerk).  
District Councillor J. Sheppard and PCSO Sally-Ann Reed. PCSO Reed left after giving her report.

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs. C. Armitage, (Vice-Chairman), R. Houghton, and County Councillor Mrs. M. Stroude,
- 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:** There were no members of the Public. PCSO Sally-Ann Reed read her report to the Council mentioning that there had been 8 crime incidents during the period April to June. The Council mentioned the new gate at the bottom of the Public Footpath 6a by Newick School which had wire cut on more than one occasion. The Clerk was informed to ring in on 101 so that this is recorded as an incident and given a crime number.
- 4. MINUTES:** It was agreed by those who had been present that the Minutes for the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 be signed as a true record after an amendment to item (12) which should be 25<sup>th</sup> September not 28<sup>th</sup>. The master copies would be corrected before publication.
- 5. PLANNING:**  
Approval of Planning Committee Meeting Minutes dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. The Council agreed that these could be signed as a true record.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

**Newick  
LW/12/0596**

### **The Glade 14 Newick Hill**

Planning Application - Erection of a detached dwelling – The Council strongly opposed this application for the following reasons:-

- The Council felt that the proposed dwelling was too large and overbearing, dominating the plot and would overshadow the dwelling to the south of it.
- There was concern that there was no garaging and there only appeared to be enough parking for two cars and not enough space for turning which would mean that cars would have to back on to a busy lane and the exit from Cricketfield.
- As this was a large five bedroom house it was envisaged that it could be a family home with more than two cars being driven in the future. Parking in this area is already very difficult with double yellow lines being implemented in the near future because of the development at Alexander Mead.
- The Council were concerned about the proposed new access coming out opposite Cricketfield.
- Finally, what impact would the requirements for SANGS have on this proposal which the Council has been advised Lewes District Council is still trying to resolve.

**Newick  
LW/12/0651**

### **3 Allington Place**

Planning Application - Erection of a conservatory to rear – the Council supported this planning application

## **APPROVALS:**

LW/12/0498

Woodgate Farms Dairy East Grinstead Road

Notice given that application LW/12/484 Land at Newick Hill had been withdrawn

**Tree Work:**

**TW/12/0071/TPO**

The Ridings, Allington Road – Permission granted to carry out work requested.

**APPEAL DECISION:** - LW/11/0927 – Development of two detached houses with twin garage. Nightingales Care Home 38A Western Road – this application was dismissed by the Inspector

**Report on Basic Training on Planning for Town and Parish Councils** – This had been attended by a number of Councillors who had found it very informative although the Chairman was disappointed that nothing was mentioned about SANGS ((Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace)) or Neighbourhood Plans.

Information from District Councillor Jim Sheppard about SANGS had been forwarded to the Councillors for information.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** – The Chairman reported that he, Cllr Jago and the Clerk had attended a training session organised by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) which had been very informative and beneficial. The Plan would take between 12 – 18 months and although Lewes District Council had not completed its Development Framework Plan the Parish Council could proceed and delay finalisation of the Plan if necessary so that it took into account the District Development Framework. The delay to the District Development Framework Plan was due to the impact that SANGS could now have on development in the area. It was highlighted that the Neighbourhood Development Plan was not there for cribbing against the District Plan and it was important that this message was expressed to parishioners from the beginning. The Neighbourhood Development Plan was there to get the best for Newick by way of securing the types of housing that were needed as well as looking at other areas of life in Newick such as securing employment opportunities.

The Chairman recommended that when the notes of the Training Session given by CPRE were sent out, Councillors look at Kirdford Parish Council's Plan as well as Upper Eden – Cumbria and Ringmer. It was noted that Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan had been put on hold.

It was agreed to form a Steering Group of the Chairman, Cllrs. Allen, Mrs. Smerdon and Mrs. Wickens. Other Councillors would attend the group if one of the Steering Group was unavailable. The first job of the Steering Group would be to produce a draft programme of action to include the meeting with Tal Kleinman and Susie Mullins, meetings with potential landowners and developers, meetings with local groups including the Village Society, arranging a Public Meeting for Parishioners in November.

The first meeting of the Steering Group was arranged for Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion.

The Clerk was asked to speak to CPRE about arranging a training session for the Council.

District Councillor Sheppard was asked to try to find out the Lewes District Council timescale for the Lewes District Development Plan (Core Strategy) and if there would be another consultation period before the final copy was produced for further consultation.

Notices of the Parish Council's formal application to produce a Neighbourhood Plan received from Lewes District Council had now been put on the notice boards and Community Website.

It was noted that Tom Warder, Housing and Community Engagement Team Leader for Action in Rural Sussex, had offered professional service to support communities producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

**6 MATTERS ARISING:**

**6-1 Allotments:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that 15 people had shown interest in the land identified for use as a possible allotment site which was enough to consider pursuing further with the additional site at Cricketfield. Members were informed that another possible site had been identified as the present owners were seriously considering what to do with land currently in their possession. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the owners indicating Parish Council interest in securing 2 – 3 acres. It was agreed put a hold on the option that Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon was involved with while the possibility of the other site was investigated. Information from the Allotments Regeneration Initiative was passed on to Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon.

Cllrs. Mrs. Smerdon and Mrs. Wickens reported on an email from The Tree Officer for Lewes District Council Daniel Wynn relating to an elderly resident living along High Street who was offering her garden for use as a possible allotment site in return for some tree work. It was suggested that the Newick Distress Fund may be able to assist and Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon would mention this to Mr. Jones but it was agreed that the Parish Council could not help financially.

**6-2 Youth Council:** Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that this had been put on hold until the end of August when the young people went back to school.

**6-3 Website:** It was confirmed that NewickServices.net would be cancelled at the end of August as notice not to continue with the service had to be given. Regarding the new mapping system which had previously been approved by the Council the Clerk reported that Mr. Malvern had informed her that this was not suitable. It was agreed not to pursue this for the present time. No money had been spent.

**6-4 Clerk's Vacancy:** The Chairman reported that after some issues with the Application Form and the Person Specification prepared by SALC the position had now been advertised. The Council agreed that the Recruitment Panel should consist of the Chairman, Cllr. Armitage and Cllr. Mrs. Wickens. Cllr. Mrs. Thew would replace Cllr. Mrs. Wickens if needed. It was noted that the interviews would be held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September. Venue to be confirmed.

**6-5 Village Handyperson's Position:** The Clerk reported that initially three people had shown interest in this position but that she had only received one application. It was agreed that Cllrs. Jago, Mrs. Smerdon and the Clerk would invite this applicant for interview on Friday, afternoon 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**6-6 Councillor's Vacancy:** The Clerk confirmed that an election had not been called for and that notices had now been displayed on the noticeboards and Community Website advertising the vacancy. It was noted that applications had to be submitted to the Clerk by Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September.

*It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the following special resolution be passed "That the public be excluded from the meeting during the selection of the replacement Councillor due to the small size of Newick's population and the resultant tendency for widespread Village gossip, which could discourage unsuccessful candidates from offering themselves for selection or election on a future occasion".*

*It was further agreed that a paper ballot would take place and that each ballot paper would be signed and handed to the Clerk for the count and retention in the records. Should there be no outright winner then the candidate with the lowest vote would be disregarded and voting would continue in this way until the selection had been made.*

It was agreed that the applications would be reviewed prior to the meeting of the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 6.15 p.m.

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

Notices had been put on the Newick Community Website and notice boards about free cavity wall and loft insulation

Notices had been put on the Newick Community Website and notice boards about a new Grandparent group set up by AIRS

Notices put on the Parish Council notice boards about Register of Electors.

A letter had been sent to a resident living in Allington Road in response to a request to the Parish Council about cutting down a tree at the rear of 6 – 8 Allington Road which appeared to be on Parish Council owned land. It was confirmed that these particular trees had been in the hedge line and were not the responsibility of the Council.

A letter acknowledging Six-a-Side Football Tournament by Newick Football Club on 28<sup>th</sup> July had been sent to the Newick Football Club. It was also noted that copies of the Risk Assessment and Public Liability Cover had been received.

The Council had been informed that the Cricket Club would be holding its Annual Friendly Match with Piers Morgan and Friends on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**8. FINANCE MATTERS**

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

**PAYMENTS:**

***Signed during month.***

Peter Thurman – Jubilee Tree in KGVPF	£185.40 200499
S. Carter – Delivery of Parish Council Summer Newsletter	£100.00 200500

***Signed at the meeting:***

Upper Bridge Enterprises – For Newickservices.net section	£12.00 200501
Jacksons Fine Fencing – Kissing Gate – Replacement Cheque	£177.58 200502
The Blacksmiths Shop – Repairs to Skateboarding Ramps	£55.00 200503
Newick Area Community Care Association – Hire of Room for NW	£18.00 200504
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Paint for Play Area Equipment	£140.62 200505
Malcolm Smith – parts for kissing gate along footpath 4	£63.80 200507
Upper Bridge Enterprises – Website Renewal	£598.32 200508

D. Sankey – Pest Control	£50.40 200509
L. M. Farmer - Salary for July, 2012	£709.10 200511
Post Office Counter – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£182.44 200512
L.M. Farmer – Re-imburement of Parish Council's expenses	£102.82 200510
P. Anderson – replace fingerpost at Fonthill	£250.00 200513
Mrs. A. Cork – reimbursement for placing advert with Friday-Ad	£160.31 200514
Mrs. Jean Sheppard – Neighbourhood Watch Expenses – Social get together	£28.19 200515
A. Watson – Village Maintenance – it was agreed that this cheque (200506) could be signed once the Clerk had received the invoice for July.	

To decide whether to continue to pay maintenance for CCTV – The Clerk was asked to seek other quotes for the maintenance of this equipment.

Advance Computers £600.00 for the year

**Outturn** – The Outturn for the end of June was noted by Councillors.

Bank Balance for end of June - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter was noted by Councillors.

**Council Tax Support – Council Tax Benefit and the effects on Parishes** - It was noted that this Government proposed change could have an effect on the community charge as the Government would give District Councils, which would in future administer the Council Tax Support scheme, a grant of only 90% of the amount provided by the Department of Work and Pensions under the current arrangements. An email from SALC about consultation on this had been circulated to Councillors. No action had been taken due to the lateness in receiving the information and because it was felt that the Parish Council's comments would have little effect.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**9-1 ESCC – Waste and Minerals DF – Pre-Examination Meeting for the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2012** – An email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012 was sent to Councillors on 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Clerk had been informed that the documents had now been submitted to the Inspectors for consideration.

**9-2 ESCC – Adult Social Care** – Cllr Allen has looked at this and had no comments to make.

**9-3 NHS Sussex** – Cllr. Allen had looked at this document for the Council stating that no further action needed to be taken.

**9-4 Sussex Police Authority** – An email from SALC & LDALC had been forwarded to members on 17<sup>th</sup> July which was making the Council aware of elections for a Commissioner of Police for Sussex in the autumn. No action to be taken.

**9-5 Various Newsletters:** The following had been received.

The Clerk  
Rural Services Network  
Latest East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
ETE in your Area – ESCC  
East Sussex Focus  
Your County – ESCC  
Districtnews  
BT Community Connections  
Clerks & Councils Direct  
LCR  
Fields in Trust  
Action in Rural Sussex

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

**Playing Fields Committee:** Minutes of the Playing Fields Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012 were circulated to Councillors for information and approved by those present at the Committee Meeting for signing.

Cllr. Mrs. Wickens reported that a meeting had been held with a representative from Evolution Skatepark ramps for some advice which had been very helpful and that a meeting had been held with users of the facilities and parents which had been very encouraging and that a users group had been formed. A second meeting had been arranged for the 21<sup>st</sup> August to which Mr. & Mrs. Balloch, Mr. & Mrs. Shorter, PCSO Sally-Ann Reed and Ed Hele Environmental Officer for LDC had been invited. Unfortunately Mr. & Mrs. Balloch and PCSO Sally-Ann Reed would not be able to attend this meeting due to other commitments.

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

**Sports Pavilion Meeting:** Minutes of the last Committee meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Sports Pavilion had been sent to the Clerk for the Council's records.

Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon was concerned about the recycling of bottles, cans etc at the Sports Pavilion and District Councillor Sheppard was asked to enquire about the provision of bins for the Pavilion and how much this would cost.

**Environment Committee:** No meeting

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

**Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.

**Newick Rootz:** Notes of the last meeting had been sent to Councillors for information. The Chairman was concerned to see on the notes an item about the EU Habitat Regulations and the mention of the Neighbourhood Development Plan stating that this was a Parish Council matter and not a Newick Rootz issue although Cllr. Mrs. Wickens stated that the group were only interested in the possibilities of additional Public Rights of Way.

The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to send a letter to the Rights of Way Section at ESCC about the state of the Bridleway from Cornwall's Bank.

The Parish Council also noted the earlier comments about the gate at the end of Public Footpath 4a which the Clerk was asked to deal with.

**Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Panel Report** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported that she had had a social meeting for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators on Monday, evening the 30<sup>th</sup> July which 10 people had attended. She continued to report that a further amount of £23.30 had been received from the Recycling Charity.

Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard informed the Council that a grant of £200.00 toward the costs involved for trying to reduce the noise emitted from the skateboarding ramps when they were being used, had been given by the Sussex Police Authority to the Parish Council.

**Newick Neighbourhood Panel:** The Clerk had received an email from Inspector S Tullett which had been forwarded to Councillors. After a discussion on this it was agreed to reply stating that the Parish Council felt that the remit he had quoted had not been addressed as the meetings were not public and an agenda was not displayed.

**Village Hall** – Cllr. Allen reported that he had attended two meetings.

**Lewes District Association** – Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June were circulated to Councillors. There had been no meeting during July.

11. **Village Fun Day 2013** – It was agreed to form a Steering Group comprising Cllrs. Mrs. Smerdon, Mrs. Thew, Mrs. Sheppard and Mrs. Sprackling . Cllr. Mrs. Wickens offered to run the raffle.
12. **LDC – Abuse Action Group** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported on this meeting she had attended stating that it had been very informative. She was asked to write a short article about this for the Parish Magazine and also about the fund raising event in November.
13. **Appointment of new Internal Auditor** – Cllr. Jago reported that due to the retirement of Paul Hartley as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor the Clerk had consulted with SALC to identify three Internal Auditors who had been asked for quotations. The one which he wished to recommend was based at Lindfield, Mr. Peter Frost. The Council gave permission for the Clerk to contact this person inviting him to met representatives of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

Finally although not on the Agenda Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon wanted some guidance on an email received from Teresa Ford Senior Development Officer for ESCC who was advising the Council that it was unlikely that permission would be granted to carry out improvements to the verge along High Street. The Clerk was asked to pursue this matter with County Councillor Mrs. M. Stroude. It was felt that the Council should be able to fund the project as this would improve the approach to the Village from the Haywards Heath direction.

14. **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: .....