

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY, 14th AUGUST, 2012 AT THE SPORTS PAVILION, KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD ALLINGTON ROAD NEWICK COMMENCING AT 7.10 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr. Mrs. Jenny Smerdon (Chairman for this Committee)
Cllr. Ross Houghton (Vice-Chairman for this Committee)
Cllr. Mrs. Jean Sheppard
Cllr. Mrs. DJ Sprackling
The Clerk Mrs. Linda Farmer

1. **APOLOGIES:** There was one apology Cllr. Cris Allen
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were no Declarations of Interest.
3. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no questions. No members of the public were present.
4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMAN:** It was resolved that Cllr. Mrs. Jenny Smerdon be Chairman for this Committee and Cllr. Ross Houghton Vice-Chairman.
5. **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CLERK AND THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE:**

Update on the Appointment of Village Maintenance Contract – The Chairman informed Members that Mr. David Moemken had now been appointed to undertake Village Maintenance Duties.

Village Flag – A replacement flag had now been supplied by the Goodwin Family and erected.

Fingerpost at Fonthill bottom of Narrow Road – had now been replaced

Shrubbery - Barcombe Landscapes had been asked to cut back the shrubs at the end of twitten from Powell Road to High Hurst Close on the Green area at this location. They had also been asked to cut back the shrubs at Growers End and Vernons Road / The Rough. The Clerk suggested that Councillors be aware of letting parishioners plant shrubbery on its land as when there was a change of occupation to adjoining properties the bushes seemed to then become the problem for the Parish Council who had to maintain them.

Hedging / trees along the twitten from Powell Road to High Hurst Close – clarify ownership.

Verge opposite the shops adjoining No: Newick Drive: Clerk had been informed that this property belonged to Lewes District Council and those renting the property had been advised to apply for planning permission regarding the moving of the back garden fencing.

Church Road Resurfacing – An email had been received informing the Council that unfortunately this had been missed off the programme of work for this year but had now been put on the programme for 2013/2014. The Officers involved apologized for this error.
6. **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HIGH STREET GRASS VERGE:** The Chairman confirmed that Planning Permission would be required for this project but before this could be undertaken she would have to speak to Mr. Ramm to discuss the ESCC audit carried out to the existing plan to see what was involved and how much this would cost. Should this be feasible then the Chairman stated that she would have to contact Teresa Ford's boss to gain support for the project. Once this was approved then the Council could then look for funding for the project maybe from Award for All as this could be considered as an enhancement to the village particularly as it was in a Conservation Area.
It was noted that Section 106 money from the Alexander Mead development could not be used for this project.
7. **NEWICK GREEN:**

Grass – The Chairman reported that she was not happy with the mowing of the Green this year, mainly due to the weather causing the grass to grow more quickly than usual, and had asked the Clerk to seek a quotation from Barcombe Landscapes for additional cuts so that it was kept more like the King George V Playing Field. After a discussion about this the Committee wished to recommend to the Council that the quotation from Barcombe Landscapes to carry out 12 additional cuts with a further 6 cuts to the whole Green at a cost of £690.00. It was hoped that this could be commenced from the beginning of September.

Grass mowing for season 2013 – 2014: It was noted that Barcombe Landscapes had held its prices at the same prices for the next mowing season. The Committee wished to recommend to the Council that it accepts this quotation.

Kerbs along the stretch of Green by the bus stop to Lewes: This had been discussed at the last SLR Meeting at which Mr. Stevens was going to provide measurements and specification for the Clerk to obtain quotations for the work but had been forgotten. Mr. Stevens however would follow this up and let the Clerk have details as soon as possible. It was noted that the Section 106 money could not be used for part of this project. If this project was feasible then the Parish Council would have to look at funding, possibly Awards for All may help as it was in a Conservation Area.

Kerbs – Weeds: Concern had been expressed about the weeds growing up at the edges of the road and through the kerb stones. It was noted that due to the cut backs by ESCC last year this was probably not undertaken, as Newick was not the only area to be suffering. Mr. Stevens was asked to see what money would be available for this work and if it could be passed to the Parish Council so that it could carry out the Weed-Spraying to the area that it covers now. A quotation of £550.00 +VAT per application had been received from Barcombe Landscapes. The Committee wished to recommend that should ESCC support this work with some funding that the Parish Council accept this quote commencing with two applications per year until the weeds were under control and then re-evaluate the situation.

8. **EAST SUSSEX STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS MEETINGS:** Minutes of this meeting to be circulated once approved by ESCC.
9. **SPEEDING DRIVERS:** The Clerk had pursued this with the PCSO the training requirements for volunteers to use the Speed Gun having gained approval from Buxted to use its machine. The Clerk had been informed that a minimum of six volunteers would be required and unfortunately because Newick was in the Lewes District Council area it could not use the Speed Gun from Buxted. The following actions were agreed:-
 - That another effort be made to acquire more volunteers
 - That the Clerk see if some of the Section 106 money could be used to purchase a Speed Gun although it must be noted that this would not belong to the Parish Council but the police.
 - That the Clerk write back to the Police asking why the Parish Council could not use the Buxted Speed Gun.
 - Mr. Johnson ESCC still had to carry out the Data Survey of Allington Road and the A272 in the Green area.
10. **GATED EFFECT TO ENTRANCE OF VILLAGE SIMILAR TO LINDFIELD AND MARESFIELD:** This idea had been discussed at the last ESCC SLR Meeting when it was noted that if the Parish Council supported this proposal it would have to pay for the materials, installation and insurance. Unfortunately this had been overlooked by Mr. Johnson who promised he would get some information to the Clerk. It was agreed to recommend to the Council that the Committee request support for this proposal. Some photos of the format would be taken so that quotes could be obtained. It was pointed out that the Marefield and Laughton Scheme had been an initiative paid for by Wealden District Council but not taken up by Lewes District Council.
11. **VERGE ALONG WESTERN ROAD BY THE END OF NEWICK DRIVE ADJOINING NO: 1:** The Committee noted an email from Mr. Guyton Enforcement Officer from ESCC and wished to recommend to the Council that it did not take up the offer of the gentleman at No: 1 of planting shrubs and daffodils on this area at present. The Committee however agreed to tidy the area up looking at removing the old tree stumps and repairing the brick wall.
12. **PLANTING FRUIT & NUT TREES ON LAND AT VERNON'S ROAD / THE ROUGH:** The Chairman had requested Cllr. Mrs. Wickens Tree Warden for Newick Parish Council to consider planting some fruit trees on this area and/or possibly a nut tree.
13. **ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO THE NEXT AGENDA:**
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting was to be held in November.

Overhanging Hedges – The Chairman and Cllr. Houghton to provide the Clerk with a list.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Signed: Dated:.....