

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 27th March, 2012 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

PRESENT: Councillors J. Lucas (Chairman), C. Armitage, (Vice-Chairman), C. Allen, 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.
District Councillor J. Sheppard.
Chief Inspector Jason Tingley - Sussex Police.

Chief Inspector Tingley introduced himself to members giving a brief resume of how he saw his position during the next few years, highlighting that one of his main aims would be to deal with crime committed by those travelling to the district and then leaving the area. He hoped the public would continue to be vigilant in reporting anything suspicious.

He hoped that there would be no reduction in PCSO's over the next few years and that their responsibilities and remit would be increased to include dealing with parking, speeding, dog fouling etc. It was noted that there had been cut backs in back office staffing and that redundancies of officers serving 30 years had been made.

Regarding the use of Speed Guns, it was reiterated that there was a cost involved in obtaining one of these and that the Clerk should speak to Ringmer and Buxted Parish Councils as it was thought they had "Speed Guns" and could advise the Council on this matter.

The Council were also informed that the Traffic Police had been out in Newick during the early mornings and tickets had been issued to offending motorists.

Regarding the Neighbourhood Panels in Newick. This matter had been deferred until Inspector Steve Tullett was in his new post but Chief Inspector Tingley stated that he felt the one operating in Newick may not be necessary as the relationships between the Parish Council, Parishioners, Local Authorities and Police were working well and there was communication on a regular basis.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from 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. J. Lucas declared an interest under item 10 Village Hall as the Parish Council representative on its committee and Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe declared an interest under 10 Playing Fields Committee – David Manwaring Robertson Playing Field.
3. **QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** No members of the public were present.
4. **MINUTES:** It was agreed by those who had been present that the Minutes for the 28th February be signed as a true record after the following amendment to item 10 Neighbourhood Watch which should have read "Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard reported that PCSO Sally-Ann Reed had apologised for not being able to attend the last Parish Council Meeting. She reiterated that PCSO Reed had to attend Neighbourhood Panel Meetings as police attendance at such meetings is a Government requirement."

5 MATTERS ARISING:

5-1 Allotments: Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she had met Mr. & Mrs. Fuller again to discuss in more detail the offer of some land for use as Allotments and that a meeting with some members of the Allotment Association had been held to discuss this offer further. She advised the Council that to fence the area as Mr. & Mrs. Fuller had requested to protect their property would cost in the region of £2000.00 and there would also be the cost of installing a water supply. After a short discussion on this offer it was agreed to investigate costings further, together with the possibility of dividing the plot into small units of 56 sq yards providing about 12 units.

It was resolved that having written to a number of other land owners and not received any real response the Parish Council should seek legal advice on the possibilities of securing some land for use as Allotments through Compulsory Purchase.

It was also agreed that the Allotment Association should be consulted as to which plots of land it would prefer.

Regarding the Allotments at the rear of Cricketfield, Lewes District Council had now forwarded an agreement handing over the management of the plot to the Parish Council together with a

copy of an agreement that each tenant should receive when the Council eventually lets the plots.

It was resolved that the Clerk be given authority to sign the Agreement on the Parish Council's behalf to manage the Allotment Plot at the rear of Cricketfield as agents for Lewes District Council and that a Notice to Quit together with a covering letter be issued to the existing tenant before the end of the month. The Clerk was advised to include in the letter to the tenant that should he wish to be considered for an allotment on this plot he should register with the Allotment Association.

It was noted that the Agreement included the new tenancy agreement for the Council to give to new allotment holders and this had some minor errors which could be dealt with at a later date.

5-2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Newick: It was reported that the formal programme was in the process of being printed and hopefully would be ready to be delivered at the end of the week.

Concern was expressed about the fact that there would be no Road Closures requested for several of the events but that these would be policed by marshalls. However after a brief discussion a vote was taken which did not support applying for Road Closures but it was agreed that the areas where these events were to take place would be leafleted advising them of events and when they were due to take place. Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon however was going to speak to Mrs. S. Thomas head of Newick Primary School about the need for a Road Closure Order.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the insurance to cover the events being held as the Council was not directly involved but felt that there should be insurance cover in place. It was noted that the organisers should advise organisations such as the Bonfire Society that they would need to inform their insurers.

The Council noted an email from a parishioner of Allington Crescent asking if there was any funding available to support Street Parties. The Clerk was advised to inform the parishioner that there was no funding available as the Council was already assisting in funding some of the activities being arranged for the celebrations. The Council was pleased to hear that the Village Hall Management Committee had let Allington Crescent have use of the tables and chairs from the Village Hall for its Street Party at no cost.

5-3 Youth Council: Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon reported that she had been in touch with a lady called Jay Penfold who was involved with the Youth Forum at Seaford and would be arranging to go with a few young people to see how it operated. She clarified that it would probably be easier to set up a Youth Forum rather than a Youth Council which was more strictly operated.

The Council were advised that the Youth Forum at Seaford had raised funds to install outdoor exercise equipment.

5-4 Annual Parish Meeting: It had been confirmed that Tal Kleiman Planning Officer for Lewes District Council and Tom Jones Lead Councillor for Planning at LDC would attend the Annual Parish Meeting to discuss the next steps in developing the Emerging Core Strategy Development Plan. The Council finalized the arrangements for this event and agreed that members would meet at the Village Hall to set up from 6.45 p.m and the Clerk would arrange refreshments.

5-5 Resignation of Councillor: It was noted that no parishioners had called for an election to fill this vacancy and therefore notices had been put on the noticeboards and website advising parishioners of this situation and inviting anyone interested to submit a letter of application giving brief details of why they were interested. It was agreed that the Council would meet at 6.30 p.m. on 24th April prior to the Council Meeting to evaluate the applications received and then take a vote.

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

Grit Bin provided by LDC at Allington Crescent

List of work for the Village Maintenance Team sent to ESCC

Refuse Bins – The Clerk had received an email concerning bins and recycling boxes being left out in the South Rough area. This had been forwarded to LDC Cleaning section to deal with. The Clerk had informed the author of the email.

No Parking Signs for Reading Room – These signs had been ordered after seeking permission and approval of wording and were now erected.

Fencing adjoining 77 Allington Road – The Clerk was given permission to write to the Rights of Way Section informing them that the fencing adjoining this property had broken and was causing a hazard when walking along Public Footpath 6a by the side of Newick Primary School.

- That the Clerk enquire about a template for Neighbourhood Planning and make enquiries with Ringmer Parish Council
- That the Clerk explore the possibilities of LDC making further bids for funding these schemes.
- The Council needs to know what is involved with undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Who would lead such a plan if this was undertaken by the Parish Council
- That parishioners would have to be involved.
- That more questions about preparing a Neighbourhood Plan be raised with the officer from LDC at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Members noted that Lewes District Council Planning Department had stated that planning applications for the district would be displayed separately in future and that planning applications within the South Downs National Park Area would shown only on the National Park website.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

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

PAYMENTS:

S. Young – Tree Work in respect of Tree Report	£260.00 200427
David Wickens – new lock and keys for gate to KGVPF	£37.76 200428
D. Sankey – Pest Control of moles in KGVPF & DMRPF	£50.40 200429
NVHMCtee – U.K. Power – new cabling for Village Hall	£1182.00 200430
Duncton Electrical – Electrical Work at the Village Hall	£1632.00 200431
A. Watson – Village Maintenance	£430.00 200432
Viking – Copy paper	£110.14 200433
SALC – Training Housing – Cllr. Armitage	£24.00 200434
Lewes District Council – Dog Bin Emptying	£177.84 200435
L. M. Farmer – Re-imbusement of Petty Cash	£571.89 200436
L. M. Farmer - Salary for March, 2012	£704.50 200437
Post Office Counters – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£191.87 200438
Wicksteed Leisure – Repairs and replacement to Multi-play (Play Area)	£1972.32 200439
Newick Village Hall Management Cttee – Hire of Cttee Room VH for SRL	£9.45 200440
Barcombe Landscapes – Seeding on Green and Leveller Road	£144.00 200441
Steve Carter - Delivery of newsletter, Newick Directory and other information	£120.00 200443
The Round Timber Supply Co Ltd – Wood for Fingerposts	£240.00 200445
Lindsey Baker Fencing – General Maintenance	£250.00 200446

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

Printing - It was agreed by Council that printing the Scarecrow leaflet had been put out to the printers as the cost was not significantly different from being produced through the Clerk. It was further agreed that the Parish Council newsletter would be printed by the printers if time permitted in future.

Timetable for Audit - Unfortunately the Clerk had not received notification from either the Internal Auditor or External Auditor as to the dates for Audit. The Clerk did remind Councillors to think about any matter they wished to be raised with the Internal Auditor.

9 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 9-1 Email relating to Broadband** – Cllr. Armitage reported that East Sussex County Council Cabinet had approved the recommendations to begin the procurement exercise for high speed broadband from BDUK (Broadband Delivery in UK) Cllr. Armitage also stated that Mr. Stockwell and Mr. Berry were continuing to support him.
- 9-2 Sussex Heritage Trust – Awards** – It was agreed to pass this to Mr. Turk for information.
- 9-3 ESCC & Brighton & Hove City Council – South Downs National Park Authority – Waste and Mineral Plan** – Notice of proposed submission of Plan – Information about this had been forwarded to Councillors for information. No further action.
- 9-4 SALC – Legal Topic Notes from NALC** – details emailed to Councillors.
- 9-5 LDC – Local Development Framework** – Copy of this email had been circulated to Councillors for information. It was hoped that further information regarding this would be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

- 9-6 Email from ESCC Public Transport – Changes to Bus Services in East Sussex – Website updated and now waiting for new timetables to update Bus Timetable noticeboards. No further action.**
- 9-7 Email relating to proposals to Empower Town and Parish Councils –** A copy of this email had been circulated to Councillors for information. It was agreed to write to Norman Baker MP supporting the recommendations suggested in the email from Steve Shaw of 20th March, 2012.
- 9-8 Various Newsletters:** The following had been received.
 Sussex Countryside Trust
 The Voice of Local Councils LCR
 Rural Services Network
 Action for Market Towns
 Your County East Sussex County Council
 The Clerk
 The Journal of Local Planning
 The Ordnance Survey
 Minutes of Lewes District Association of Local Councils

10. COMMITTEES & Councillors Reports:

Playing Fields Committee: Minutes of the Playing Fields Committee held on Tuesday, 13th March, 2012 were circulated to Councillors. Those present at that meeting agreed that they should be signed as a true record.

The following recommendations were supported by Council.

CCTV – no action at present

Conditions of Use for Hire of Pitches – only one addition relating to hoarding requests by sports clubs.

Trees in DMRPF – In principle Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe, who had declared an interest in this, had no objections to the planting of four smallish trees on the site proposed but asked that a letter be sent to the neighbouring property in the future if the proposals went ahead.

Hedging – It was agreed to accept Barcombe Landscapes offer to plant up gaps in the hedging of KGVPF when they appeared at an annual cost of £50.00.

Monthly Reports: These had been received and noted. It was noted that some of the links to the toddlers swing unit were beginning to show signs of wear. This would be monitored.

Environment Committee: No meeting

Meeting with ESCC Strengthening Local Relationships with Parish Councils – This had been arranged for Friday, 27th April.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – No meeting this month

Tree Warden: It was noted that the tree being planted for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee would be planted in April.

Newick Rootz – The Chairman informed the Council that the fingerposts put up by the Newick Rootz Group would each have a logo on to identify it as one installed by the group at Parish Council expense.

Village Hall – Cllr. Lucas Parish Council representative on the VHMC reported that work on the refurbishment of the kitchen had almost been completed except for some snagging problems and that the work to the bar area was well under way. Cllr. Lucas stated that the balance of any funding which the Parish Council held from the Public Building Works Loan would be used on other projects during the next financial year.

Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Panel Report – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard had nothing further to report. Minutes of the Neighbourhood Panel Meeting held on 12th March had been circulated to Councillors.

Lewes District Association – Cllr. Allen had circulated his report on this meeting and the minutes for this association had also been circulated. Members thanked Cllr. Allen for a very full report. No further comments.

- 11. Twinning 20th Anniversary Celebrations** – Cllr. Mrs. Thew reported that the Twinning Association would not be naming the green at Leveller Road as Itteville Green as there had been some concerns raised by residents.

12. **Newsletter** – This was approved subject to corrections as highlighted and a sentence about standing as a co-opted councillor and about shared ownership housing at Alexander Mead.
13. **David Manwaring Robertson Playing Field** – Copies of the agreement showing the covenants on this field were distributed to Councillors for information.
14. **Health and Safety Inspection for Clerk – Display Screen Equipment** – Approval was given for the Clerk to find out about costs for an inspection to be carried out on the Clerk’s work station.
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:**

Affordable Housing – Concern had been expressed about one of the part-buy units being advertised by an Estate Agent but assurance had been given that only those with local connections would be considered. However it was agreed to add a small piece in the Newsletter.

Meeting Closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed:Chairman

Date: