

# NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 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. D.J. Sprackling, Mrs. M. Thew, Mrs. C. Wickens and Mrs. L. M. Farmer (Clerk).  
District Councillor J. Sheppard.  
One member of the public attended to speak about a planning matter.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. J. Smerdon, 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:** Cllrs. Mrs. DJ. Sprackling – 5 Planning LW/12/0792, Mrs. J. Sheppard – Councillors Vacancy 6-4 and 5 Planning – letter from Mr. Cork and C. Allen 10 Committee & Councillors Reports - Village Hall.
3. **QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mr. Cork spoke about his letter concerning removal of his hedging and replacing it with panelled fencing and about forming a new access to his property. The Clerk 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 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 be signed as a true record.
5. **PLANNING:**  
Approval of Planning Committee Meeting Minutes dated 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. The Council agreed that these could be signed as a true record.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

**Newick**

LW/12/0792

**9 Leveller Road**

Planning Application - Erection of two storey extension to front – The Parish Council supported this application.

## **APPROVAL:**

LW/12/0669

29 Leveller Road

## **TREE WORK:**

LW/12/0099/TCA

Garden Cottage, 25 High Street

The Council noted a letter from the owners of Lanacre objecting to the Planning Application LW/12/0761 Crouches Farm, Blind Lane which had been dealt with at the Planning Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Letter from resident of 6 Oldaker Road** – The Council noted Mr. Cork's comments about his letter requesting the Council's support to remove Leylandii hedging enclosing his back garden and replacing it with a close boarded fence. This request was supported by Council 8 voting for and one abstention due to Declaration of Interest. The Council asked if the fencing could be set back by about 12 inches so that a grass strip could be laid between the pathway and fencing.

Whilst Mr. Cork was present he highlighted the difficulties he had accessing his property due to the number of cars parked in the cul-de-sac stating that he wished to apply to the Planning Department to form an access directly onto Oldaker Road opposite no: 7. He was informed by the Council that it had sympathy with the suggestion but that he would have to consult with the LDC Planning Department and ESCC Highways Section.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** – The notes of the meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated to members of the Council to keep them informed. Members were informed that work was in hand preparing a questionnaire.

The Council approved the draft letter to be sent to the following subject to the letterhead being improved slightly:-

Residents of Newick  
Clubs and Societies in Newick  
Businesses in Newick

Landowners in Newick  
Local Developers

The Council approved a slightly different format to be sent for distribution by the Estate Agents in Newick.

**CPRE – Sussex Annual General Meeting – Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at Barcombe Village Hall** – Details of this event had been circulated to members for information.

**6 MATTERS ARISING:**

**6-1 Allotments:** Cllr. Jago reported to Council that the Council had received a very positive response from the owners of land for possible use as allotments. He would now arrange a meeting with Cllr. Mrs. Smerdon and representatives of the Allotment Association to identify the area of land the Council would like. Once this had been done then a formal letter would be sent to the land owners' agents. It was noted that initially the Council may be able to rent the land but that it was possible that the land could be purchased as the agents were considering how to dispose of the land. It was hoped that funding could be found for this project.

**6-2 Youth Forum:** Nothing to report at present.

**6-3 Clerk's Vacancy:** It was reported that the Clerk's position had been offered to Mrs. Sue Berry a resident of Newick who had accepted the position and would start on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. It was also noted that Mrs. Berry had agreed to take the Cilca qualification. It was agreed to defer to the Finance and General Purposes Committee arrangements for the new Contract for the Clerk, Pension and equipment requirements. The Committee would also look at the arrangements for the present Clerk after December who was assisting with the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Parish Council to note that if the new Clerk had not gained the Cilca Exam within 12 months then the Quality Parish Council Status will not be valid.

The Clerk had informed the Council that she had been notified by SALC of changes to the Quality Parish Council Status for future applications but these had not been confirmed yet.

The Parish Council agreed a resolution to admit the Post of Clerk for Newick Parish Council to join the Local Government Superannation Scheme operated by East Sussex County Council.

**6-4 Councillor's Vacancy:** Two applications for this vacancy had been received which had been circulated to members for their consideration. The Council undertook a vote whereby Mr. Nick Berryman was elected to fill this vacancy. The Clerk was asked to let Mr. Berryman know and to inform the other applicant that they had not been successful on this occasion. The Clerk reminded Council that a new Code of Conduct for Councillors would have to be approved within the next month in the meantime she would just get Mr. Berryman to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**6-5 Village Fun Day 2013:** Nothing to report at present.

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

Wall at the end of Newick Drive – It was reported to the Highways Section ESCC on 29<sup>th</sup> August that that the wall was in need of repair. Work to repair this had now been carried out by ESCC Highways Section.

The Clerk had been authorised to inform LDC to replace the Dog Waste Bin at Vernon's Road / The Rough at a cost of £413.83 including VAT. This bin had now been replaced.

The Green – Carriage and horses Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> August – The Clerk had been asked to contact the person who had arranged for a stage coach and horses to leave from Newick Green to Newick Park for a Wedding as some damage had been done to the Green. Unfortunately the email addresses given had not been correct but fortunately the area had now recovered.

A new picnic table for the KGVPF has been purchased and is now in position.

Email from ESCC Highways about hedges etc – this was put on the Newick Community Website for general information. Basically it was asking residents to keep their hedges cut.

Reply to resident about request for Cul-de-sac sign – authorised by Chairman for Environment. Hedge adjoining roadway by Village Hall – The Clerk had sent a letter to the owner of Paynters Farmhouse requesting that the hedge alongside the roadway to the Village Hall be cut - authorised by Chairman for Environment.

Car parked on Newick Green – PCSO Sally-Ann Reed had dealt with this.

## **8. FINANCE MATTERS**

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

### **PAYMENTS:**

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

Lindsey Baker Fencing – Various work around the village £165.00 200527

#### ***Signed at meeting.***

Lewes District Association of Local Councils – Renewal of Subscriptions	£30.00 200528
Evolution Skatepark Ramps – Advice on making the equipment quieter	£312.00 200529
Newick Village Hall Management Committee – Storage space	£200.00 200530
Barcombe Landscapes Ltd – Mowing and Maintenance Work	£4414.38 200531
Broker Network Ltd – Renewal of Insurance – Came & Company	£1567.67 200532
D. Sankey Pest Control – Control of Moles in KGVPF & MRF	£50.40 200533
Lewes District Council – Replacement Dog Litter Bin and Emptying Service	£591.62 200534
Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd – Inspection of Oak tree at Powell Road	£168.00 200535
L. M. Farmer - Salary for August, 2012	£709.10 200536
Newick Sports Pavilion Management Cttee – Grant	£380.00 200537
St. Mary's PCC – Grant	£590.00 200538
Newick Community Care Association – Grant	£200.00 200539
Post Office Counter – NI Tax from Clerk and PC	£182.44 200540
D. K. Moemken – Village Maintenance – August	£361.34 200541
L. M. Farmer – Re-imbusement of Parish Council expenses	£683.61 200542
S. & C. English & Sons – Painting the Children's Play Area	£560.00 200543
SALC – Recruitment Assistance for Clerk	£180.00 200544
Lewes District Council – Printed Maps for Newick Parish Council (NDP)	£43.20 200545
Wicksteed Leisure – Additional paint for Play equipment	£35.40 200546
SALC – Training for new clerk	£87.50 200547
Viking – Copy paper	£46.62 200548

**Outturn** – The Outturn for the end of August had been forwarded to Councillors for information. Cllr. Jago stated that balances were about where they should be for the end of August however he did say that the salary for the new Clerk and payment for the outgoing Clerk relating to work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan would have to be calculated and the figures adjusted. Also the Council would have to allow for the provision of a pension and equipment for the new Clerk.

The Council supported the renewal of the Parish Council's Insurance through Came & Company the cost of which had increased by £20.00.

The Council accepted the Quotation from Barcombe Landscapes for the mowing contract for 2013/2014 which had remained at the 2012/13 cost.

It was noted that the Audit Commission had appointed Littlejohn LLP as the External Auditor for Newick Parish Council with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**9-1 Big Lottery Fund's Village SOS** – Information passed to the Clerk from Norman Baker's Office but Parish Councils could not apply.

**9-2 SALC – Legal and Finance Day** – The Chairman highlighted topics on the Legal and Finance Day that he had attended. These included Police & Crime Commissioners, Power of Wellbeing, Pre-Determination, Assets of Community Value, Code of Conduct, Standards Committee and Register of Interest. A copy of the Chairman notes would be put on file.

**9-3 Risk Assessment from Newick Bonfire Society Ltd** – It was noted that this has been received.  
**The Clerk has received a full copy of the Newick Bonfire Society Ltd Insurance Policy** – The Clerk and Chairman reported that they had looked at this policy which appeared to meet the requirements of the Council.

**9-4 ESCC – Waste and Minerals Plan** – An email reminding Parishes that the plan had now been submitted for pre-examination had been circulated to members.

**9-5 ESCC – Highways** – An email relating to replacing fingerposts on A roads – The Chairman read an email from Mr. Gary Potter an officer at the Highways Department for ESCC which had stated that ESCC had no plans to replace fingerposts on A roads however should one be

damaged the Council would have to consider the location before coming to a decision as to whether it should be replaced. The Council noted this and stated that they would have to keep an eye on the situation as it would not wish to lose the two along the A272 especially the one on Newick Green which had been provided by the Newick Parish Council.

**9-6 SALC** – Email notifying Parish Councils of the Annual Town and Parish Councils Conference to be held at Peacehaven Town Council Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 which the Chairman and Clerks would attend.

**9-7 Police and Crime Commissioner** – An email about the election for this position 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 informing Councils about venues for prospective candidates to introduce themselves had been circulated to Councillors for information. The Chairman felt that it was important that Councillors were aware of these meetings as the result of the election could affect policing in the District in the future especially the provision of PCSOs.

**9-8 ESCC – Bus Service Changes** – Members were informed by Cllr. Armitage that there were some changes to the 31 service mainly time changes through the week with the Saturday service being reduced. Cllr. Jago reminded the Clerk that new timetables for the 31 service needed to be put in the notice board on the Green.

**9-9 Email relating to the Fair on Newick Green** – Members discussed the email received from a resident living on the Green concerning the Fair. The following was resolved:-

- That the Clerk ensures that a letter is sent out to residents living on the Green, about events to be held on the Green during the year, if possible. This had been done but unfortunately the Fair had to be cancelled due to the condition of the Green earlier in the year and a follow up letter had not been sent.
- That the Finance and General Purposes Committee review the rent for fairs / Circuses visiting the Green.
- That a clause be put in the letter to fairs and circuses about reducing the volume of the music on the rides etc.

The Council felt that this was only once or twice a year and was part of village life. The Council also felt that the organisers did need the time to erect the rides and make sure they were safe.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident on the Green who had raised the concerns.

**9-10 Letter from Chairman of ESCC** – Chairman's Afternoon tea for Local Volunteers – Several names were given to the Clerk to forward to the secretary for the Chair of East Sussex County Council.

**9-11 Letter from LDC – Regenerations Strategy** – A copy of this letter had been circulated for information. The Clerk was asked to ensure that this was circulated to the Steering Group for the NDP.

**9-12 Letter from Norman Baker relating to the Coalition Government's Rural Statement** – This had been circulated to Councillors for information.

**9-13 Various Newsletters:** The following had been received.

Dam Vera Lynn Trust  
Campaign to Protect Rural England – Field Work  
Ordnance Survey  
Rural Services Network  
ETE In Your Area – ESCC – Highways  
Lewes Town and Rural Neighbourhood Watch  
LCR  
The Clerk  
Clerks & Councils Direct  
Action in Rural Sussex  
LDC – Building a Brighter Future  
Email relating to Indigenous Domestic Violence

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

**Playing Fields Committee:** Minutes of the Playing Fields Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 were approved as a true record. These had been circulated to Councillors.

**Skateboarders User Group** – Cllr. Armitage reported that he had been in contact with Ed Hele Environmental Officer for LDC who had sent an email seeking information about the action the Council were taking to reduce the noise from the skateboarding equipment. Cllr. Armitage reported that he had updated him but, in response to the question of imposing time restrictions for users, said that it was not possible to impose time limits on the area as it was

an open site, not fenced and impossible to police. Cllr. Armitage stated that Mr. Hele had informed him that he had carried out more noise soundings and would be completing his report and forwarding it to the Clerk in the near future. Cllr. Armitage had asked the Clerk to seek information from ROSPA about how far skateboarding equipment should be positioned from housing.

**Monthly Reports:** These had been received and it was noted that no equipment required attention however having said that it was reported that there had been an accident whereby a young child had caught his leg under the Round-about. The Clerk had after consulting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Playing Fields Committee arranged for this to be inspected by Wicksteed Leisure which would be undertaken sometime this week.

**Sports Pavilion Meeting:** Cllr. Armitage reported that there had been no meeting for the Sport Pavilion Management Cttee although he had received two letters one confirming the amount of insurance cover and that electrical testing, Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Policy etc had all been carried out and the other noting the Parish Council's comments on additional storage.

**Environment Committee:** There had been no meeting this month.

**Verge along High Street** – Members noted a letter from the Police concerning the proposed parking plan together with a response that District Councillor Jim Sheppard had received from Teresa Ford ESCC Senior Transport Development Control Officer. After a discussion it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged as soon as possible with Ms Ford's boss to discuss this situation and to ask why the "Double Yellow Lines" at Newick Hill/High Street still had not been put down. The Council also asked how ESCC proposed the Section 106 money that had been allocated from the Alexander Mead development for transport could be used.

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

**Tree Warden:** Cllr. Mrs. Wickens reported that she had given permission for some branches on a tree on land at Vernons Road/The Rough to be removed as they were overhanging neighbouring properties. She had also given the Clerk permission to have the Oak tree by the Skateboarding Area checked as there appeared to be a crack in the base of the trunk. Cllr. Mrs. Wickens informed the Council that she was a little concerned about the Jubilee Oak tree but was monitoring this.

**Newick Rootz:** Notes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated to all concerned for information.

It was confirmed Mr. S. Diserens had informed Cllr. Mrs. Wickens that tenders for the work to footpath 4a and bridleway 16 had been sent out and subject to the costs it was hoped that work would commence on these in the near future.

**Neighbourhood Watch – Neighbourhood Panel Report** – Cllr. Mrs. Sheppard stated that there was nothing to report as she was not getting any information through which she was concerned about and was monitoring.

**Newick Neighbourhood Panel:** The Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to Norman Baker MP about this matter and a reply was awaited.

**Village Hall** – Cllr. Allen reported that two additional members had been appointed to the Committee being representatives for the Tennis Club and Badminton Club. Cllr. Jago was still concerned that there was quite a bit of the Parish Council Grant which still had not been spent. It was agreed to write a letter to the Village Hall Management Committee enquiring if this was going to be spent or could this part of the loan be repaid.

**Lewes District Association** – Cllr. Allen reported that this meeting had been quite interesting in parts highlighting the Localism Act and Tax Benefits and the effect it would have on local and parish councils.

**ESCC Annual Town and Parish Councils Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Eastbourne** – The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended this meeting and highlighted the following points:-

The County Council's expected Budget Cuts, Highway Stewards who are responsible for specific areas of the County, Youth Services, Senior Citizens, Facebook & Twitter. The Chairman also reported that he had been able to talk to the Chairman and new Clerk for Fletching Parish Council regarding the Newick Neighbourhood Development Plan stating that it would keep Fletching Parish Council informed along with other neighbouring parishes. A copy of the Chairman's notes would be put on file. ESCC were going to put the slides for this event on its website.

11. **Newsletter** – Subject to some alterations and corrections the Council approved this for printing and circulation.

- 12. **Document relating to flights to and from Gatwick Airport** – Council had looked at this but could not see anything that would impact on Newick however the Clerk was asked to request Cllr. Nick Berryman to look at the document and ensure that there was nothing that the Council should comment on.
- 13. **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: .....