

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee of Newick Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick on Tuesday 13th August 2013 at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. C. Allen, N. Berryman, Mrs. J Sheppard, Mrs. J Smerdon, and Mrs DJ Sprackling

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)

1. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for Environment Committee** – It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Cllr. Mrs Smerdon would be the Chairman and Cllr. Houghton would be the Vice Chairman for this committee.
2. **Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given** - Apologies had been received from Cllr. Houghton (conflicting engagement). It was resolved to approve the reason given for absence.
3. **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** – No disclosures were made.
4. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – No members of the public were present.
5. **Matters Arising from the Strengthening of Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with ESCC Highways held on 9th August 2013** – copies of the draft minutes from the SLR meeting had been circulated to members of the committee for information. The following matters arising from that meeting were discussed:-
 - Item 2 (8)** – Skip and builders bags on verge in South Rough – it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the householder once it was known whether or not a licence had been granted for the skip and other items which had been placed on the verge.
 - Item 2 (10)** – Road Safety improvement at Chailey Crossroads – it was noted that a warning sign had been put up.
 - Item 6** – Contact had been made with David Bradley at ESCC (Senior School Crossing Patrol Supervisor) who had advised that the School Crossing Service was under review. Previously the site at Newick School did not meet the criteria for a patrol supported by the County Council, however, it might be possible to have either a voluntary arrangement or one supported by a commercial sponsor, the school or the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllrs. Mrs Smerdon and Sprackling would make contact with the Head Teacher at Newick Primary School in order to discuss this.
 - Item 12(e)** – Marbles Road/Oldaker Road garages – the Clerk was asked to get a quotation for the cost of reinstating the missing downpipes to the rear of the garages and for repairing the damaged drains, this information to be provided to the owners of the garages. It was also agreed that Southern Water should be contacted to confirm who is responsible for the drains which take the run off water from the garages.
6. **Nettles and weeds in Twittens and the Children's Play Area** – It was noted that the contract with Barcombe Landscapes included cutting back the nettles and weeds in twittens and Play Area. The twittens had been cut back but it was agreed that Barcombe Landscapes should be contacted to ask for the nettles in the Children's Play Area to be cut back.
7. **The Green** – It was noted that the grass on The Green was cut very short at the start of the recent dry spell which may have put the grass under stress. No further action was recommended.
8. **Grass Verges – skips and parking** – The issue of skips on grass verges had been discussed at the SLR meeting with ESCC (see agenda item 5 above). It was noted that there were several areas in the village where residents parked their vehicles on the verge. The committee did not consider that any action to deter this would result in an improvement to this situation.

9. **Village Handy Person** – The committee was made aware that the village handy person's two month probationary period was coming to an end and was asked for feedback as to the standard of work that had been carried out. There were no adverse comments.
10. **Items for the next agenda** – Quotations for grass mowing for 2014 season. The Clerk was asked to obtain 3 quotations for consideration.
Japanese Knotweed update
Flower beds beneath village signs on A272

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:.....