

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th September 2014 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

Present: Councillors C. Armitage, R. Houghton, C. Jago, J. Lucas (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mrs J Sheppard, Mrs J Smerdon, Mrs M Thew, and Mrs C Wickens.

In Attendance: Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)
District and County Councillor Mr. Jim Sheppard
Eight members of the public were present

1. **Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given:** – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. C. Allen (prior family engagement) and N. Berryman (prior family engagement). It was resolved to approve the reasons for these absences.
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 Sheppard declared an interest in agenda item 7.1 as a friend of the owner of Mitchelswood Farm.

3. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public –

Mr Smith referred to the application for outline planning permission to erect up to 63 dwellings at Mitchelswood Farm (LW/14/0703) and asked whether, if permission was granted for the development to go ahead, these dwellings would be in addition to the 100 dwellings being planned for in Newick's Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman confirmed that this would be the case. Mr Smith went on to point out that he could not reconcile the huge amount of time and effort that had gone into consulting on and preparing the Neighbourhood Plan with the possibility that a development such as the one proposed for Mitchelswood Farm, which was not one of the sites selected for inclusion within the plan, might be allowed to proceed.

Mr Baker spoke on behalf of the Newick branch of the Royal British Legion. He stated that his branch wished to erect a memorial stone to preserve the memory of all those from Newick who had lost their lives in both World Wars and other conflicts, and that it was believed that the majority of residents in the village supported this proposal. Mr Baker confirmed that, if permission were to be granted, the details of the size, design and location of the stone would be agreed with the Parish Council.

PCSO Sally-Ann Reed's Monthly Report/Neighbourhood Watch Report

PCSO Sally-Ann Reed had sent her apologies that she was unable to attend the meeting. Her written report and a subsequent email were noted. Cllr Mrs Sheppard gave an update on Neighbourhood Watch matters.

4. **Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meetings held 26th August and 9th September 2014** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 26th August and 9th September 2014 could be signed as a true record.
5. **Clerk's Report** – A report from the Clerk regarding the following matters arising from these meetings was noted:-

Agenda item	26 th August 2014
9.1	Request from resident of Vernons Road to purchase piece of PC land – A response had been sent as requested by the Parish Council including a request to remove shrubs growing on PC land. The resident had requested a meeting to discuss the issue of the shrubs and hedging. A meeting with Cllrs. Lucas and Smerdon had been arranged for 6 th October.
9.12	East Sussex Community Resilience Fayre 22/10/14 – Cllr. Allen had confirmed that he would not be available to attend this event. The organisers had been advised that the Parish Council would not be represented on this occasion.
16	Newick Community Centre – It had been confirmed that sufficient volunteers had come forward for a new committee to be formed and that the community centre would remain available for community use. The Day Centre would still close in December.

There was nothing to report following the meeting held on 9th September 2014.

6. **Action taken by the Clerk under Delegated Powers in consultation with the Chairman and/or the Vice – Chairman.** It was noted that the Parish Council insurance policy had been renewed in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and that arrangements had been made for brambles and encroaching vegetation on The Green to be cut back in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr. Mrs Smerdon joined the meeting at 7.14 p.m.

7. **Planning:**

7.1 **Applications:**

<p>Newick LW/14/0683</p>	<p>3 North Lodge High Street Planning Application - Erection of a granny annexe. It was unanimously agreed to object to this application on the grounds that it would be an overdevelopment of an already very large property and that it would be out of rhythm with the rest of the North Lodge development. It was noted that a letter of objection had been received from residents of a neighbouring property.</p>
<p>Newick LW/14/0694</p>	<p>14 Allington Road Planning Application - Demolition of existing flat roof store, garage and kitchen and erection of rear extension, side extension and loft conversion. It was agreed to make no comment on this application.</p>
<p>Newick LW/14/0703</p>	<p>Mitchelswood Farm Allington Road Outline Planning Application - Erection of up to 63 residential dwellings (including affordable housing), open space and landscaping, new vehicular and pedestrian accesses and car parking, following the demolition of existing buildings on site for DLA Delivery. It was agreed to object to this application for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The whole site is outside the planning boundary for Newick 2) The site was not selected to form part of Newick's Proposed Neighbourhood Plan, which was submitted to Lewes District Council on 1st September 2014, because it was ranked low (11th out of 12) by the 41% of residents who completed the Parish Questionnaire and again low (11th equal out of 12) when assessed against the agreed sustainability objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. In particular the proposed development, which would be on the western boundary of the parish some distance from the village centre, would contribute to the erosion of the existing green space between Newick and North Chailey (objective 1(vi)), and, with the exception of the primary school, it is not within easy walking distance of the economic and community facilities of the village (objective 8(ii)) which would lead to additional traffic on Newick's roads (objective 7(i)) and affect the need for additional parking spaces in the centre of the village (objective 7(ii)). 3) If the proposed development were to be allowed to proceed this would greatly increase the number of new dwellings in Newick as they would be in addition to the 100 additional dwellings that are already planned for in the aforementioned proposed Neighbourhood Plan and in Lewes District Council's Core Strategy. This would effectively undermine and invalidate the time spent and cost incurred in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and discourage other councils from embarking on the process. <p>There was doubt over the precise number of dwellings that are proposed as the number quoted in the planning application (63) is inconsistent with the number quoted in paragraph 6.1 of the applicant's Design and Access Statement (68). It was noted that a letter of objection had been received from a resident of a property near to the proposed site.</p> <p>The Parish Council requested that the development should be called in to be considered by the District Council's planning committee.</p> <p><i>NB – having declared an interest in this application, Cllr. Mrs Sheppard did not partake in the debate or vote on this matter.</i></p>

It was agreed that item 11 on the agenda should be brought forward in order to assist two members of the public who had attended for this item.

11. Proposal to reconsider the British Legion's request for a Commemorative Stone to be placed on The Green – This was a Special Motion supported by at least four councillors in accordance with NPC Standing Order 10a. It was resolved to agree in principle to the British Legion's request to place a commemorative stone on The Green, the precise design and location of the stone to be agreed at a later date. It was noted that planning permission would also be required. (Vote - 7 in favour of the proposal and 1 abstention).

Eight members of the public left the meeting

7.2 Tree Works Applications – TW/14/0077/TCA – 10 Church Road It was noted that a response had already been sent to Lewes District Council by the Parish Council's Tree Warden.

7.3 Approvals/Refusals etc. - It was noted that the following applications had been **approved** by Lewes District Council:-

LW/14/0281 – 10 The Green – 'Planning Application for Extension of existing bakery to encompass a new cold and dry storage within the building and enlarged shop area with staff accommodation over and the removal of existing temporary storage buildings.

LW/14/0449 – 4 High Hurst Close – Section 73A retrospective application for amendments to approved application LW/13/0727, to include minor amendments to rear elevation, relocated rooflights and rendering to front elevation at first floor to replace existing tile hanging.

TW/14/0061/TPO – 6 The Pagets - Tree works application

7.4 Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that Cllrs. Jago and Lucas had attended the AGM of Newick Village Society to speak about and answer questions on the Neighbourhood Plan, and that the majority of Village Society members present at that meeting indicated their support of the Plan. It was noted that a letter of thanks had subsequently been received from Mr Cumberlege. It was reported that the contract appointing the Independent Examiner had not yet been finalised and that there was a possibility that residents of North Chailey living east of the old railway line might be given a vote in the referendum. It was agreed that every effort should be made to avoid any unnecessary delay in holding the referendum. It was noted that the government had withdrawn grant support for Neighbourhood Plans with effect from January 2015.

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 Authorisation of Schedule of Payments for September 2014 – It was resolved that the final schedule of payments for September 2014 should be approved subject to the correction of a typing error.

Payee	Item	Invoice Amount	Cheque Number
S.E. Berry	Clerk's Salary	£571.07	200861
S.E. Berry	Clerk's Expenses as per attached schedule	£73.11	200862
Post Office Ltd	Tax and NI from Clerk & PC	£157.78	200863
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Contributions from Clerk & PC	£196.20	200864
Ms S. Orwin	Village Maintenance	£315.00	200865
PFK Littlejohn LLP	External Audit of Annual Return	£360.00	200866
Newick Reading Room	Hire of Reading Room for Newick Festival	£56.00	200867
Lewes District Council	Emptying of litter bins and dog waste bins 1/10/14 to 31/12/14	£306.54	200868
SSALC Limited	Chairs Networking Day 25/9 and Clerks Networking Day 7/10	£216.00	200869
PBI Audio Visual	Replacement CCTV camera (pavilion) and replacement signs	£226.80	200870
RC Allen	Materials for bench renovation project	£41.27	200871
Mrs H Bryan	Food for Mad Hatter's Tea Party (Newick Festival)	£38.53	200872
Mrs J Smerdon	Hire of Community Centre x 2 and art materials (Newick Festival)	£125.39	200873
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Wetpour repair kit	£116.40	200874
Lindsey Baker Fencing	Maintenance work (various)	£410.00	200875

Mr M Smith	Oranges for Rootz walk (Newick Festival) and additional keys for PC shed	£40.50	200876
Total		£3,250.59	

Income in September 2014

Coop Bank interest	£0.75
Barclays Bank interest	£82.63
Recycle4Charity	£27.55
LDC precept and grant	£27,200.00
Cricket Club rent	£230.00
HMRC - VAT reclaim	£758.08
Total	£28,299.01

8.2 Statement of Performance against budget (Outturn) as at end August 2014 – The Outturn for August had been circulated in advance and was noted.

8.3 It was noted that £3,000 had been transferred from the deposit account to the current account

8.4 It was noted that a letter had been received from Lewes District Council stating that the maximum cost to the council for the 2015 Parish Council Election would be £4,500.

8.5 The External Auditor's comments made on the Annual Return certified Annual Return for 2013/14 were noted and the matter of how to incorporate Sports Pavilion assets with the Parish Council's assets on the next year's Annual Return was delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

9. Correspondence: The following items of correspondence had been received:-

9.1 Letter from resident regarding Vodafone Rural Open Sure Programme – this had been forwarded to councillors 21/8/14. It was agreed to accept Cllr. Armitage's recommendation not to proceed with this scheme.

9.2 Lewes DC – Proposed Local Business Rates Discretionary Relief Scheme – this had been forwarded to councillors 29/8/14 and a response supporting the proposed scheme sent within the consultation period.

9.3 Letter from Mr Cumberlege dated 30/8/14. It was agreed that this letter should be officially acknowledged along with other correspondence received from Mr Cumberlege referred to in item 7.4 above.

9.4 Newick RFC – response to letter sent 11th June 2014, risk assessment, insurance certificate and signed hire agreement.

9.5 Lewes District CPRE – Notice of Annual Meeting to be held 8/10/14

9.6 Clerk to Lady Vernon (Newick) Educational Foundation – request for comments on proposal by one of the trustees. This had been forwarded to councillors 4/9/14 and a response sent 19/9/14. A copy of the response from the trustees was read out at the meeting.

9.7 ETE PTS Public Transport – notification of changes to bus services – this had been forwarded to councillors 8/9/14

9.8 Came & Company Insurance – Council Matters insurance update – this had been forwarded to councillors 9/9/14

9.9 Email from resident regarding issues on footpath 21 – this had been passed to the landowner (LDC) and it was noted that action had been taken.

9.10 Action in Rural Sussex – notification of Annual Meeting 9/10/14

9.11 Newick Bonfire Society – copy insurance certificate, risk assessment and notification that advance warning signs will be put up on the procession route

9.12 East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service – Bedtime Check Campaign – this had been forwarded to councillors 11/9/14 and posters placed on the village notice boards.

9.13 Newick Cricket Club – signed hire agreement

9.14 Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance – letter of thanks for grant

9.15 Emails from Mr Thomas regarding skate ramp, play area fencing, and litter bins on KGVPF, the matters raised in these emails were referred to the Playing Fields Committee.

9.16 Lewes District Council – Notification that Joint Core Strategy had been submitted for examination

9.17 The following had been received during September and would be circulated via the Members' Envelope:-
Rural Services Network Email news digest 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th September 2014, Rural Vulnerability Service September 2014, and Rural Opportunities Bulletin September 2014.

3VA – e-newsletters 171, 172, 173, & 174, and Training programme 2014/15

Fields in Trust September ezine

NALC – LCR Magazine Autumn 2014

SLCC – The Clerk magazine September 2014

10 Committees' and Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Playing Fields Committee – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Playing Fields Committee meeting held 2nd September 2014 should be approved as a true record. It was agreed to support the recommendation by the Playing Fields Committee that an outdoor table tennis table should not be located between the sports pavilion and the fenced play area.

It was agreed that Cllr. Jean Sheppard should be co-opted as a member of the Playing Fields Committee. The inspection report dated 24/09/14 from Lewes District Council was noted

It was agreed that the quotation from PBI Audio Visual for the replacement of an external CCTV camera should be accepted.

10.2 Tree Warden – It was reported that works identified as urgent in the tree inspection report had been scheduled to be carried out on 22nd and 30th September.

10.3 Environment Committee – There had been no meeting this month. It was noted that Cllr. Allen had completed the renovation of all the Parish Council's seats and benches, with the exception of one bench which was rotting and had been disposed of. Cllr. Allen had also produced a detailed inventory of benches giving details of location, condition, maintenance, and any inscription or dedication. It was agreed that Cllr. Allen should be thanked for his work on this project.

10.4 Newick Rootz – The notes from the meeting of Newick Rootz held on 10th September 2014 had been circulated in advance and were noted. It was noted that the ESCC Rights of Way Team had produced a standard letter to be sent to landowners who were not fulfilling their responsibilities in terms of keeping footpaths clear and easy to walk, but that members of Rootz considered that this could be further improved. It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs Wickens would produce a draft and try to get it approved by the ESCC Rights of Way Team.

10.5 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – A written report from Cllr. Allen was noted.

10.6 Allotments – Cllr. Mrs Smerdon gave a verbal report of Newick Allotment Society's first AGM. It was agreed that Lewes District Council should be asked for financial or practical assistance to deal with the damaged fruit trees on the Cricketfield allotment site. A letter dated 3rd September 2014 from RH & RW Clutton was noted.

10.7 Website – It was agreed to approve proposed wording for the Parish Council home page on the village website subject to further amendment by Cllr. Lucas.

10.8 Sports Pavilion Management Committee – The minutes of the Sports Pavilion Management Committee meeting held on 5th September 2014 were noted.

10.9 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC)– A written report from Cllr. Allen following the LDALC meeting held on 22/09/14 was noted.

10.10 Newick Festival – A verbal report from Cllr. Mrs Smerdon of a meeting of the organising committee of Newick Festival 2014 held on 29th September 2014 was noted. It was agreed that photographs taken during the Festival could be put on the festival website subject to permission being obtained where the photographs showed individual children or open gardens. It was noted that most expenses had been paid and that the event had remained within budget. It was agreed that research could be carried out and support canvassed for a Christmas Market proposed to be held in December 2015.

10.11 Chairmen's Networking Day – A verbal report on the Chairmen's Networking Day held 25th September and attended by Cllrs. Berryman and Lucas was noted.

11 Proposal to reconsider the British Legion's request for a Commemorative Stone to be placed on The Green – This item had already been brought forward and dealt with earlier in the meeting.

12 Casual Vacancy – It was reported that one application had been received from a person wishing to be co-opted to join the Parish Council, and that details of this and any other application received would be circulated after the deadline had passed.

13 To consider request from John Lawson's Circus to come to Newick 5th to 7th May 2015 – It was agreed that John Lawson's Circus should be allowed to use The Green from 5th to 7th May 2015, subject to the usual conditions.

- 14 **Autumn Newsletter** – Copies of the draft Autumn Newsletter were not available at the meeting, therefore, it was agreed that they would be circulated to councillors by email the following day.
- 15 **Approval of amendment to meeting date for May 2014** – The revised meeting date for May 2015, which had been amended to conform to legislation, was agreed.
- 16 **Resolution to conduct an appraisal of Clerk’s performance** – It was resolved to conduct an appraisal of the Clerk’s performance and agreed that the Chairman should carry out this appraisal.
- 17 **Appeal by Mid Downs Medical Practice against decision of NHS Commissioning Board** – It was agreed to make no further comment on this matter.
- 18 **Items to be referred to the next agenda** – It was agreed that the following items should be on the agenda of the next meeting:-
 - Improvement of the village website, in particular the Clubs and Societies’ page
 - Provision of first aid at public places within the village
 - Review of landscaping at Alexander Mead

The meeting closed at 9.24 p.m.

Signed:Chairman

Date: