

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Newick Parish held  
at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014  
at Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick.**

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman of Newick Parish Council, Cllr. John Lucas, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Chris Armitage, Mrs R. Gordon-Wilson, Mrs. S. James, and members of Newick Badminton Club.

Approximately 68 parishioners attended the meeting including Lewes District and East Sussex County Councillor, Mr. Jim Sheppard, and Newick Parish Councillors:

Mr. C. Allen, Mr. N. Berryman, Mr. R. Houghton, Mr. C. Jago, Mr. J. Lucas, Mrs. J. Sheppard, Mrs J.Smerdon, Mrs. DJ Sprackling, Mrs. M. Thew, and Mrs C. Wickens.

The Clerk, Mrs. Sue Berry, was in attendance to take the minutes.

**2. Presentation by Sussex Police on Operation Crackdown**

Mr Jim Stobart was welcomed to the meeting. He gave a presentation on Operation Crackdown, which is an internet based system for reporting abandoned vehicles and anti-social driving. Mr Stobart gave the background to the creation of Operation Crackdown and demonstrated how to make a report on the Operation Crackdown website.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 should be approved as a true record of that meeting. Copies were available at the meeting and on the Newick website, with a copy on file at the Post Office.

**4. Reports from PCSO, Newick Village Hall Management Committee, Clubs and Societies**

Report from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) – PCSO. Sally-Ann Reed, outlined the policing priorities for Newick which were 1) thefts from outbuildings, 2) road safety, and 3) anti-social behaviour. She highlighted the fact that Newick's community Speed Watch team and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme were working well. She also stated that she had been in contact with several 'scam' victims in the village and asked residents to remain vigilant to this problem. Finally, PCSO Reed reported that she had obtained a donation from the Police Property Act Fund towards the cost of purchasing defibrillators for the village.

Report from Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – Mr Mike Berry, Treasurer of NVHMC thanked the Parish Council and patrons of the village hall for their continued support. He reported that a surplus had been made in the previous financial year which would be put into reserves and that hire charges would not be increasing for 2014. He also reported that a full electrical test had recently been carried out and that the management committee had plans to put in cavity wall insulation, to improve wheelchair access and to generally improve the look of the hall. Mr Berry gave thanks to Sheila and Alf Thomas, who had recently stood down as trustees of the village hall, for all their hard work and support.

Report from Newick Allotment Society – Mr Neil Williams reported that Newick Allotment Society had taken over the management of the small allotment site at Cricketfield and was actively looking for new members.

Report from Newick Decorative and Fine Arts Society (NADFAS) – Mr Keith Jordan, Chairman of NADFAS gave details of the history and activities of the society, which included lectures and study days on a wide range of art related subjects. He also outlined the society's support for and collaboration with local schools and with Lewes Prison.

Report from Mrs Patsy Bailey – Mrs Bailey spoke about the importance of exercise for people of all ages and listed many of the local groups that offered activities to help people to get the exercise that they needed. She said that there was something for everyone and encouraged all those present to take part.

Report from Friends of Newick Health Centre – Mr Peter Todd, Chairman and Secretary of the Friends of Newick Health Centre, gave details of the wide area covered by Newick Health Centre and the perceived change in attitude of the doctors at the Health Centre towards the 'Friends'. He outlined the courtesy car service provided by volunteers, and spoke about the scheme to provide defibrillators to be placed in public places in Newick.

Report from Newick Rootz – Mr Tony Bailey gave a report on behalf of Newick Rootz, a copy of which can be found on the Newick website. He outlined the practical work undertaken by members of Rootz which helped to maintain and improve access to public rights of way within the Parish of Newick. He also gave details of other projects in which Rootz was involved, including the ESCC Path Warden scheme, the updating of the parish footpath leaflet, tree planting, and organising a walk for local school children as part of Newick Festival.

Report from Newick Village Society – Mr Patrick Cumberlege gave a report on behalf of Newick Village Society, a copy of which can be found on the Newick website. He reported on the Society's activities which included organising the Afternoon Club, a Bridge Club, a Book Club, the Leveller Gooseberry competition, and assisting the Parish Council to organise Newick Festival. He also spoke about the Society's concerns regarding planning issues and about the proposed modification of the Conservation Area.

#### **5. Newick Parish Council - The Chairman's Report**

Copies of the Chairman's report were circulated at the meeting and can be found on the Newick Website. The Chairman, Cllr. John Lucas, highlighted various points in the report including planning issues, the appearance of the village, policing and neighbourhood watch, the production of the Parish Council's draft Neighbourhood Plan and how this linked in with the District Council's draft Core Strategy. He reported that the Parish Council was working to try to secure suitable land for allotments, to improve play facilities for the under-fives, and to organise Newick Festival.

**6. Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chairman advised that Newick's Draft Neighbourhood Plan had been published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and that the consultation period would last for just over six weeks. He gave details of the planned consultation events and encouraged parishioners to read the draft plan and give their feedback. He stated that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had gone to great lengths to consult the local community and that he believed that the resulting draft plan accurately reflected the views that had been put forward.

**7. Report by District and County Councillor** – Cllr. Jim Sheppard gave his report as Newick's representative on both Lewes District and East Sussex County Councils. In connection with Lewes District Council he mentioned the introduction of the food waste collection, the success of flood defences in Lewes, the new Technical College in Newhaven, the proposed development of the North Street area in Lewes, and the centralisation of LDC offices at Southover House. In connection with East Sussex County Council Cllr Sheppard spoke about the cuts in finance that had been made and warned that there were more cuts to come. Other county council issues mentioned included the roll out of high speed broadband, the repair of potholes, attempts to deter doorstep callers, the South Downs National Park Authority and the Fire Authority.

#### **Question and Answer Session:**

Questions were asked and statements made on the following issues arising from reports given during the meeting:-

- Problems of anti-social behaviour around the skateboard area
- Plans to commemorate the anniversary of the First World War
- Concerns about the protection of the Conservation Area, particularly the village green.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them to take some refreshments.

***The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08 p.m.***