

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road on Tuesday, 9th December, 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)
Twelve members of the public.
The meeting was recorded by one member of the public using audio equipment.

- 1. Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. C. Armitage (conflicting engagement), Cllr. C. Jago (objection to the meeting being recorded), Cllr. N. Berryman (objection to the meeting being recorded), It was resolved to approve the reason 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. Ross Houghton declared an interest in Planning Application LW/14/0873.
- 3. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public**

Mr Turk commented on the recently published report from Mr McGurk, the Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner. He noted that the Examiner had recommended the deletion of several of the policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan and expressed concern that this would result in an open-ended number of new dwellings, without the phasing that had been intended and with no protection of the green gap between Chailey and Newick. He commented that the Neighbourhood Plan as amended by the Examiner was not what the Parish Council or parishioners had intended and urged the Parish Council to consider further consultation with the community on the changes that had been recommended.

Mr Loveman made reference to comments made by individual councillors at the Parish Council meeting held on 25th November 2014 in connection with the recording of the meeting by members of the public. He highlighted that the law permitted members of the public to record and report on council meetings and stated that he intended to exercise this right in the future. He stated that he wished to ensure that minutes of council meetings were accurate, alleging that in the past the council had approved minutes that had been 'fabricated'.

Cllr. Houghton referred to his planning application LW/14/0873 and stated that he was seeking permission to put an additional bedroom on the flat roof above the kitchen of his property as the permission previously granted had lapsed.

4. The Recording of Parish Council Meetings

A summary of responses received from other Parish Councils as to whether or not they recorded their meetings and the type of recording equipment they used was circulated at the meeting. It was noted that the majority of those responding made audio recordings of their meetings. It was agreed to purchase an MP3 audio voice recorder at a cost of approximately £60 to £65 for use at future meetings.

5. Planning Applications

Cllr. Houghton left the meeting room at 6.45 p.m.

The following application was considered.

Newick

LW/14/0873

Case Officer:

Mrs Alyson Smith

30 The Green

Planning Application - Erection of first floor rear extension for Mr & Mrs R Houghton. It was agreed to make **no comment** on this application.

Cllr. Houghton rejoined the meeting at 6.49 p.m.

5.1 Approvals/Refusals etc.

It was noted that the following applications had been approved by Lewes District Council:-

LW/14/0815 Pincroft, 2 Allington Road – Planning application for erection of a first floor extension to front.

LW/14/0818 4 Powell Road – Planning application for construction of a ramp leading up to the front door.

5.2 Tree works applications – There were no tree works applications to be considered.

6. Neighbourhood Plan – Report from Steering Group

There was discussion on how to interpret the recently published report by the Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner, focussing on the recommendations made by the Examiner which included the removal of any reference to the phasing of development sites, and his comments regarding there being no maximum limit on the number of dwellings to be built. It was noted that the Steering Group had been in consultation with planning officers from Lewes District Council (LDC), who were still studying the Examiner's report, and with Ms Mullins from Newhaven Town Council. It was also noted that as LDC officers would be heavily involved with the examination of the Joint Core Strategy due to take place in January 2015, there was a risk that this, and/or any significant revision of the Neighbourhood Plan, could result in a delay in the Neighbourhood Plan process of up to four months.

It was reported that members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had studied the programme of hearing sessions for the Lewes Joint Core Strategy Examination and put forward requests for the Parish Council to be represented. It was noted that the Steering Group still needed to agree who would attend the various hearing sessions and what questions would be asked.

It was noted that confirmation had still not been received from Lewes District Council as to whether or not a representative of Newick Parish Council would be permitted to attend the 'preferred options' site allocation meeting involving sites in Chailey Parish. The Clerk was asked to pursue this.

The Meeting Closed at 7.12 p.m.

Signed: **Dated:**.....

The Clerk: Mrs SE Berry, 18 Newlands Park Way, Newick, BN8 4PG
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