

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Newick Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick on Tuesday 11th August 2015 at 6.55 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. C. Allen, B. Horsfall, J Sheppard, J Smerdon and C. Wickens

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)
Two members of the public

1. **Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman** – It was agreed that Cllr. Jenny Smerdon should be appointed as Chairman of this committee (proposed by Cllr. Allen and seconded by Cllr. Wickens) and that Cllr. Cathy Wickens should be Vice Chairman (proposed by Cllr. Sheppard and seconded by Cllr. Horsfall).
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies had been received from Cllrs. R. Houghton and M. Thew.
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** – There were no questions or statements by members of the public.
5. **To agree Terms of Reference for Environment Committee (incorporating Playing Fields)** – It was agreed that the newly merged Environment and Playing Fields Committees should be renamed the Environment and Recreation Committee. Draft Terms of Reference for this committee were circulated at the meeting and it was agreed to recommend that, subject to some minor amendments, these should be adopted by the Parish Council.
6. **To agree frequency and dates of future meetings for this committee** – It was agreed that this committee should meet every other month. However, as this would not be possible in the current year because of clashes with other committee dates that had already been set, it was agreed that the committee should meet on 8th September and 10th November 2015, 9th February, 8th March and 10th May 2016.
7. **To agree any future projects for this committee** - It was agreed to propose that, in addition to the future plans detailed in the committee's Terms of Reference, the Parish Council should carry out a comprehensive survey noting problems such as inconsiderate car parking, litter, dog fouling, overhanging vegetation, damaged verges etc., which would form the basis for the future programme of works. It was agreed that the survey of finger posts carried out by Cllr. Allen in 2014 should also be included as part of the programme.
8. **Environment Issues:-**
 - 8.1 It was agreed that Councillors Jenny Smerdon, Jean Sheppard and Cris Allen would carry out a risk assessment inspection of Parish Council owned open spaces. The date for this would be agreed outside the meeting.
 - 8.2 It had been reported that there was a significant amount of overhanging vegetation from a small piece of Parish Council owned land in Growers End. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Barcombe Landscapes to quote for cutting this back. The problem of overhanging vegetation elsewhere in the village would be addressed once the survey mentioned in item 7 above had been carried out.
 - 8.3 An article regarding 'dog etiquette' had been received from a local dog walker who had suggested it should be submitted for inclusion in the Parish Magazine. It was agreed that the article would be amended for inclusion in the autumn edition of the Parish Council newsletter. It was agreed to take no action in respect of the anonymous letter about dog fouling on The Green that had been referred to the committee by the Parish Council.

- 8.4 Issues raised at Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting – Draft minutes of the SLR meeting held on 5th August 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Smerdon would carry out some research on possible designs for signs to replace damaged and missing Newick village signs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be asked to decide whether or not to pursue the proposal to install a ‘gateway’ feature on the A272 at either end of the village. It was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council should work with the Governors of Newick Primary School to try to set up a school crossing patrol scheme.
- 8.5 Letter from Mr Turk regarding pedestrian footway on The Green – This matter had been referred to the Environment Committee by the Parish Council in May 2015. It was agreed that the comments made in Mr Turk’s letter would be taken into consideration during the forthcoming inspection of The Green and surrounding areas.

9. Playing Fields Issues:-

- 9.1 It was confirmed that the risk assessment inspection of the King George V Playing Field and Manwaring Robertson Field would take place on Friday 14th August as previously arranged.

*One member of the public left the meeting at 7.47 p.m.
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- 9.2 Play Area upgrade – It was reported that Chris Bibb from Lewes District Council would be meeting with the HAGS representative on Friday 14th August and would be raising snagging issues including the height of the fence mounted panels and problems with the wetpour surface. It was noted that he would be arranging for the swing frame to be repainted and that he had asked what kind of litter bin would be required. It was agreed to ask for a large floor mounted litter bin to be located beside the fence in between the two gates.
- 9.3 Lewes District Council had confirmed that the litter bins were emptied twice a week, on a Monday and a Friday. It was agreed to monitor the situation before making a decision as to whether or not to install any additional bins on the recreation ground.
- 9.4 It was agreed that committee members would check the signage around the play area and put forward proposals for improving it.
- 9.5 The monthly play equipment inspection report from Lewes District Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was reported that the Clerk had accepted a quotation for some remedial work to the skate park equipment and concrete surface.
- 9.6 Annotated copies of the Fields in Trust ‘Recommended Rules and Regulations for Playing Fields’ had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council should adopt these rules and regulations subject to some minor amendments being made.

- 10. Items for the next agenda** – Cllr. Allen raised various issues that he had noted in and around the twitten beside Newick Health Centre. It was agreed that he would forward a list of these issues to the Clerk for noting at the time of the forthcoming inspection and to be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

Signed: Dated:.....

Clerk - Mrs S.E. Berry
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