

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, 13th January, 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: C. Armitage, R. Houghton, C. Jago, 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)
Four members of the public.

An audio recording was made of the meeting

- 1. Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. C. Allen (work commitments) and Cllr. N. Berryman (work commitments). 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.** There were no disclosures.
- 3. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public**

Mr Reekie spoke in respect of planning application LW/14/0924 (Crickfield Smallholding). He stated that he considered this application to be an improvement on the developer's previous proposals for this site, but expressed concern about the visual impact of the block of flats that was planned for the Newick Hill end of the site. He considered that the developer's attempts to screen the flats with trees would not be successful and that the flats in this location would ruin the approach to the village from the north.

Mr Turk also spoke in respect of planning application LW/14/0924 (Cricketfield Smallholding). He agreed with Mr Reekie's comments and stated that the flats in the proposed location would create a dominating, urban feature that was not suited to a rural village. He also referred to the public right of way on the northern boundary of the site which is narrow in places, bounded by a hedge and requires regular clearance by local volunteers (Newick Rootz). He stated that the opportunity to improve this path by widening it and removing some of the hedging had been missed.

Following Mr Turk's mention of Newick Rootz, Cllr. Mrs Wickens declared an interest as a member of Newick Rootz.

4. Planning Applications

The following applications were considered:-

Newick LW/14/0930 Case Officer: Mrs Alyson Smith	54 Cricketfield Planning Application - Single storey rear extension for Mr & Mrs Alderman. It was agreed to make no comment on this application. (8 in favour and 1 abstention)
Newick LW/14/0924 Case Officer: Mr Andrew Hill	Cricketfield Smallholding Cricketfield Planning Application - Demolition of existing residential dwelling and on-site structures and redevelopment to provide 31 dwellings together with associated parking, access and landscaping for Thakeham Homes Ltd. It was agreed to oppose this application (8 in favour and 1 abstention) on the grounds that the site was outside the current development boundary for Newick. It was noted that the site had been selected for inclusion in Newick's Neighbourhood Plan and that the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan would be held on 26 th February 2015. The council indicated that it would be prepared to reconsider the

application after the referendum. It was noted that copies of representations made had been received from four members of the public and that these had been circulated either in advance of or at the meeting.*(see note below)

4.1 Approvals/Refusals etc.

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

LW/14/0808 1 Allington Place – Planning application for demolition of existing garage and erection of side and front two storey extension.

LW/14/0811 1 Vernons Road – Planning application for erection of single storey side and rear extensions.

LW/14/0836 20 Newick Drive - Planning application for erection of a conservatory to replace the existing conservatory.

LW/14/0845/0846 New Greenfields, 34 Church Road – Planning application and Listed Building Consent for erection of kitchen extension.

4.2 Tree works applications – It was noted that the Parish Council's Tree Warden had no comment to make on tree works application **TW/14/0115/TPO 41 High Hurst Close** - 2 x Lime (T3 and T4 of the Order) - reduce top growth to previous pruning points and shorten lateral branches by upto 2m.

5. Neighbourhood Plan – Report from Steering Group

It was noted that the letter from the Parish Council to parishioners had been distributed to all households immediately prior to the Christmas break and that Lewes District Council had published the documents that were necessary to enable the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to referendum. It was reported that the first of the Neighbourhood Plan Question and Answer sessions had taken place and that some positive feedback had been received. It was noted that an article had been submitted for inclusion in the next edition of the Parish Magazine. It was agreed that a Steering Group meeting would be arranged to discuss the design and distribution of promotional material prior to the referendum.

One member of the public left the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

6. Lewes District Council Site Allocations and Joint Core Strategy

It was noted that Cllr. Mrs Thew and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Lewes District Council Planning Officers on 23rd December 2014 to discuss the development site options for Newick as shown in the LDC Local Plan Part 2. It was reported that further information regarding the Newick sites and the site allocations for Chailey had been promised, but that this had not been received. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

A schedule of dates for the Core Strategy Examination Hearings had been drawn up and circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillors were asked to notify the Chairman of the dates that they would be able to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Three members of the public left the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

7. Budget and precept for 2015/16 – a proposal had been received for the council to consider amending the agreed budget for 2015/16 in order to ensure that the precept request did not result in an increase in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax. This had been requested in writing by at least four councillors (Standing Order 7a).

It was reported that, owing to a reduction in the Council Tax support grant and a change in the Taxbase figures for Newick, the budget agreed by the Parish Council in November 2014 would result in a 1.1% increase in the precept even though the total amount being requested had remained the same. The Council was asked to consider the option of reducing the budget by £570 in order to achieve a 0% increase in the precept. It was

resolved not to amend the budget previously approved and to submit a request to Lewes District Council for a precept of £52,340 (equivalent to £49.12 for a Band D property).

8. **Play Area Upgrade Project** – This agenda item was deferred to be considered at the Parish Council meeting on 27th January 2015 because there had been no feedback from Lewes District Council regarding their discussions with the equipment supplier.

The Meeting Closed at 7.21 p.m.

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

***Planning Application LW/14/0924** – Following the meeting on 13th January 2015, notice of a special motion in accordance with Standing Order 7a was received by the Proper Officer. In accordance with this, the planning application was put on the agenda for further consideration by the Parish Council at its meeting on 27th January 2015.

The Clerk: Mrs SE Berry, 18 Newlands Park Way, Newick, BN8 4PG
Tel. 01825 722135 Email newickpc@newick.net