

## Newick Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road, Newick.

**Present:** Councillors C. Allen, C. Armitage, N. Berryman (Chairman of the Parish Council), M. Halsey, B. Horsfall, R. Houghton, C. Jago, J Sheppard, J. Smerdon, M. Thew and C. Wickens.

**In Attendance:** Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)  
Lewes District and East Sussex County Councillor Jim Sheppard  
PCSO Sally-Ann Reed (for part of the meeting)  
Three members of the public

An audio recording was made of the meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence:** No apologies had been received
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. Halsey disclosed a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10.2 (planning application LW/15/0844 & 0845). Cllrs. Thew and Wickens disclosed a personal interest in agenda item 10.2 (planning application LW/15/0799).
3. **Exclusion of the press and public** – There were no items on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public.
4. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public**  
Mr Arbuthnot circulated some notes and spoke about his neighbour's planning application (LW/15/0836) and the impact that the proposed extension would have on him and his family. The issues that he raised were the height differential between his property and 6 Allington Place, the proximity of the proposed extension to the boundary line, the possibility of noise and vibration from large speakers in the proposed new cinema room, and the fact that the proposed extension would be built very close to the boundary with the Parish Council's land.
5. **PCSO Sally-Ann Reed's Monthly Report/Neighbourhood Watch Report**  
PCSO Reed was not present at the meeting at this point. Her written report had been circulated and was noted.
6. **Lewes District/East Sussex County Councillor Jim Sheppard's Report**  
Cllr. Jim Sheppard reported on the following:- 1) He had attended the AGM of Newick Village Society. He considered that some of the things said at that meeting regarding the pavement on The Green had been untrue and that the speaker had been challenged about this. 2) The level crossing gates at Plumpton Green were out of action and would not be repaired until the New Year. 3) Lewes District Council was in negotiations with Wealden District Council regarding the SANGS issue but there was no known timescale for a resolution. Members of the Parish Council repeated their offer to assist in any way they could with this. 4) The boundary review that was currently taking place would not affect Newick.
7. **Approval of the minutes of Parish Council meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 could be signed as a true record.
8. **Clerk's Report** – A report from the Clerk along with a list of correspondence received during the month had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that permission should be given to John Lawson Circus to come to The Green between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The report of litter picking carried out over a period of three months by a local young person was noted and the Clerk was authorised to sign the Assessor's Report.
9. **Action taken by the Clerk under Delegated Powers in consultation with the Chairman and/or the Vice – Chairman.** There was nothing to report.

PCSO Sally-Ann Reed joined the meeting at 7.20 p.m. and it was agreed that she should be allowed to go through her report. She updated the Parish Council on the expected changes to the role of PCSOs in Sussex and when these changes would take place. PCSO Reed left the meeting at 7.24 p.m.

## 10. Planning:

**10.1 Approval of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10th November 2015 could be signed as a true record, subject to one minor correction on page 56.

### 10.2 Applications

#### **Newick**

LW/15/0799

#### **Case Officer:**

Mrs Alyson Smith

#### **Cuttings Cricketfield**

Listed Building Consent Application - Refurbishment of existing tile hung wall, and installation of new gutters for Mr M Smith.

It was agreed to make **no comment** on this application.

#### **Newick**

LW/15/0836

#### **Case Officer:**

Miss Michelle Gardiner

#### **6 Allington Place**

Planning Application - Ground floor side extension for Mr & Mrs A Shorter. It was unanimously agreed to **object** to this application for the following reasons:-

The proposed extension would be contrary to policy HO1.1 in Newick's Neighbourhood Plan in that it would not respect the established sense of place and local character of the existing buildings in the area of the development. The proposed extension would be very close to the boundary with 5 Allington Place and would cause the residents of that property to suffer considerable overshadowing and some loss of privacy. The close proximity of the proposed extension to living and bedrooms at 5 Allington Place and its intended use as a home entertainment room would be likely to create noise and disturbance to the residents of that property.

*Having declared a pecuniary interest in the following planning application (see item 2 above), Cllr. Halsey left the meeting room at 7.32 p.m.*

*One member of the public left the meeting at 7.32 p.m.*

#### **Newick**

LW/15/0844 &

LW/15/0845

#### **Case Officer:**

Miss Michelle Gardiner

#### **The Crown Inn 22 Church Road**

Planning Application and Listed Building Consent Application - Single storey ground floor extension and internal alterations to public house for Mrs C Halsey. It was unanimously agreed to **support** this application in accordance with policy LE1 in Newick's Neighbourhood Plan – 'If planning permission is required, small scale expansion of existing retail and other business premises in the Parish will be supported, subject to it respecting the established sense of place and local character of the existing buildings in the area of the development and the surrounding countryside'.

*Cllr. Halsey rejoined the meeting at 7.38 p.m.*

**10.3 Approvals/Refusals etc.** – It was noted that planning permission had been **granted** by Lewes District Council in respect of the following applications:-

**LW/15/0712 Lloyds Pharmacy 9 The Green** – Advertisement Consent Application for Installation of non-illuminated replacement fascia sign comprising hand painted lettering on white painted background.

**LW/15/0775 9 The Green** – Listed Building Consent Application for Installation of non-illuminated replacement fascia sign comprising hand painted lettering on white painted background

**LW/15/0778 4 Newlands Park Way** – Planning Application for enclosed front porch

It was noted that planning application had been **refused** by Lewes District Council in respect of application **LW/15/0299 Land west of Oxbottom Lane, Newick** (Chailey Parish) – Outline Planning Application for residential development of up to 30 family and affordable homes including access on Oxbottom Lane and associated landscaping, open spaces, pedestrian cycle links and ancillary development.

**10.4 Tree works applications** – There had been no tree works applications.

**10.5 Lewes Joint Core Strategy Resumed Examination Hearings** – It was reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had met to consider the Parish Council's representations to be made at the LDC Joint Core Strategy resumed examination hearings on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

## 11. Financial Matters:

### 11.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for November 2015 – It was resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments for November 2015:-

Payee	Item	Invoice Amount	Cheque Number
S.E. Berry	Clerk's Salary	£693.84	Standing Order
Post Office Ltd	Tax and NI from Clerk & PC	£230.09	201045
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Contributions from Clerk & PC	£248.93	201046
D. Sankey Ltd.	Routine Mole Treatment - KGVPF	£100.80	201047
Barcombe Landscapes	Highway mowing - £1249.56 Grounds maintenance - £1251.16 Clearance work 2014/15 - £300	£2,800.72	201048
SSALC Limited	Clerk's Networking Day	£72.00	201049
Lewes District Council	Play Area Upgrade contribution	£5,223.12	201050
Harrison External Display Systems	Replacement parts for flag pole	£110.34	201051
Peter Frost	Internal Audit - interim review	£104.60	201052
Qik Group Ltd	Portable toilets for Bonfire Celebrations	£408.00	201053
CircusSeen	Deposit for Newick Festival	£100.00	201054
S. Orwin	Village Maintenance	£225.00	201055
The Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership subscription	£149.00	201056
S.E. Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk on behalf of Parish Council	£378.96	201057
<b>Total</b>		<b>£10,845.40</b>	

#### Income in November 2015

Barclays Bank	Interest (02/11/15)	£77.95
Newick Post Office	Sale of village history books	£50.00
Fields in Trust	Grant - Play Area Upgrade	£1,200.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£1,327.95</b>

**11.2 Arrangements for approval of payments and signing of cheques during December** – It was agreed that, as there would be no Parish Council meeting in December, arrangements for the approval of payments and signing of cheques in that month would be delegated to any two out of the following three members of the council: - Cllr. Nick Berryman (Chairman), Cllr. Chris Armitage (Vice Chairman) and Cllr. Chris Jago (Chairman of F&GP Committee).

**11.3 To note Statement of Performance against budget (Outturn) as at end October 2015** – The outturn for October 2015 had been circulated in advance and was noted. The Chairman of the Environment and Recreation Committee was asked to give an indication by the end of January 2016 as to how much of the £1600 set aside for Environment projects would be likely to be spent in the current financial year.

**11.4 Consideration of draft budget for 2016/17** – An updated version of the draft budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that this would be the last Council meeting before the precept request would be submitted to Lewes District Council in mid-January 2016. It was agreed to approve the precept requirement of £52,849 and to delegate authority to Cllrs. Berryman and Jago to make any necessary adjustments to the budget headings that would not increase the precept requirement.

**11.5 To note final costs of play area upgrade** – A summary of the costs and funding sources for the Play Area Upgrade project had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. The total cost of the project had been £46,566.96 which had been funded by S.106 Developer's Contribution (£41,343.83), Newick Parish Council reserves (£1523.15) and various small grants (totalling £3,700).

**11.6 Internal Auditor's Report** – A report from the Council's Internal Auditor following his interim review carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was agreed to delegate consideration of the items raised in the report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

**11.7 Costs of materials associated with preparing The Green for the Memorial Stone** – A quotation supplied by Newick Royal British Legion for the replacement of ten cracked paving slabs near to the site of the new Memorial Stone had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was approved. It was noted that contact had been made with ESCC Highways to check any additional requirements that might apply as the slabs were located on ESCC adopted highway.

## **12 Committees' and Councillors' Reports:**

**12.1 Environment and Recreation Committee** – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 could be signed as a true record.

A design for a dog fouling sign used by Wealden District Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting and it was agreed that this design should be used for signs on the Recreation Grounds.

Cllr. Wickens presented the committee's proposals for a survey of the streets within the village to record the location of problems including parking, condition of pavements, overhanging hedges, dog fouling, litter etc. It was agreed that each councillor would take on an area to inspect during the first two weeks of December and report back using the electronic report form provided.

It was noted that one of the four seats to the picnic table on the King George V Playing Field was missing. It was agreed that this would not be repaired in the short term and that the Environment and Recreation Committee would give further consideration as to the future of the picnic table.

**12.2 Tree Warden** – There was nothing to report.

**12.3 Newick Rootz** – Cllr. Wickens reported that a Google Drive folder had been set up to hold Newick Rootz documents and that several Rootz members were taking it in turns to chair the meetings. It was also reported that links had been established with Fletching Parish Council for joint work on Footpath 10 which leads from Newick into Fletching Parish.

**12.4 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC)** – Cllr. Allen reported that there had been a delay in completing the disabled exit at the front of the hall and some problems with the contractor who had been working on this project. It was anticipated that a letter would follow from the NVHMC Chairman to explain the situation.

**13 Update on Newick Post Office** – A letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from Laura Tarling, Post Office Public Affairs Manager, had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was considered that this response did not give any new information or move the matter forward. A local resident had investigated the possibility of setting up a new business alongside the Post Office in the existing premises but that this had not proved to be viable. It was agreed that Cllr. Sheppard would draft an article to be included in the next edition of the Parish Council newsletter and a letter of response to Laura Tarling.

**14 Single point of contact** – Cllr. Armitage proposed that a system should be set up for individual councillors to take on responsibility for researching and commenting on specific matters or subject areas that the Parish Council might be consulted on. It was agreed that Cllr. Armitage would bring some more detailed proposals to the next Parish Council meeting in January 2016.

**15 Housing and Planning Bill 2015** – An email dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from the Chief Executive of Hastoe Housing Association requesting the Council's views on the Housing and Planning Bill had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Armitage would look into this matter and respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

**16 ESCC Local Transport Plan** – A report from Cllr. Jago on the ESCC Local Transport Plan (Implementation Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21) had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make no comment as there was nothing proposed in the plan that would have any bearing on Newick.

**17 Draft ESCC, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites plan** – It was noted that Cllr. Allen had looked at the documents produced for consultation on the draft Waste and Minerals Sites Plan and had concluded that the only site that would be likely to affect Newick would be the ‘area of opportunity’ at Maresfield. Cllr. Allen confirmed that he would attend the drop in session at Uckfield on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to try to find out more about this site. It was agreed that Cllr. Allen would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council if he considered that any comment should be made.

**18 Winter Newsletter** – It was agreed that the following articles would be included in the Winter edition of the Parish Council newsletter:-

- The position regarding the paving on The Green (Cllr. Berryman)
- Update on The Post Office (Cllr. Sheppard)
- Neighbourhood Watch (Cllr. Sheppard)
- Environment Survey (Cllr. Wickens)
- Newick Festival 2016 (Cllr. Smerdon)
- Core Strategy Hearings (Working Group)
- Information regarding date/time/venue of the Mitchelswood Public Inquiry (Cllr. Armitage)

It was agreed that arrangements for the delivery of the newsletter, including postage to some outlying properties, should be made by the Clerk.

**19 Newick Directory** – It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed with the production of an updated Newick Directory for delivery in Spring 2016.

**20 Items to be referred to the next Agenda** – It was agreed that the issue of when to fly the Union Flag at half- mast should be considered and that this would be delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further investigation.

Cllr. Smerdon asked for the Provision of new Allotments to be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Jago stated that, in the past, members of the public who wished to speak in connection with a planning application were allowed to do so after the details of the application had been presented and immediately prior to the consideration of that planning application by the Council or Committee. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether or not this was permitted and report back to the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

Signed: .....Chairman

Date: .....