

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 9th February 2016 at 6.47 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. C. Allen, B. Horsfall, R. Houghton, J Sheppard, J Smerdon (Chairman for this committee), M. Thew and C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies
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** – No disclosures were made.
3. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were no members of the public present.

It was agreed to consider agenda item 5 (Playing Field Issues) before agenda item 4

5. Playing Field Issues:-

Copies of the monthly play area inspection carried out by Lewes District Council in January 2016 and the annual play area inspections carried out by the Play Inspection Company in December 2015 had been circulated by email in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that the following work would need to be carried out:-

Repairs to the wetpour surface of the play area near to the cone climber and the roundabout. The Clerk had already obtained a quotation for part of this work and would ask the contractor to repair both areas at the same time. It was also noted that there was a minor issue with the wetpour surface beneath the toddler multi-play equipment. The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Bibb at Lewes District Council as it was likely that this might be covered by the warranty for the new installation.

Repainting of junior swings (this work not identified on inspection report) - the Clerk was asked to get the same contractor to repaint the swings as this had been missed off the specification for the play area upgrade. It was reported that there had been a problem with getting hold of the colour code for the paint used by the installation company and Cllr. Smerdon agreed to contact Chris Bibb to ask him whether he could help with this.

Skate Ramp – It was noted that the annual report stated there was no advisory signage in place at the skate ramp, however, it was believed that this statement was incorrect. Cllr. Smerdon and the Clerk agreed to check this. There were a number of items to be monitored, and some rivet fixings needed to be replaced. The Clerk was asked to arrange a site visit with the contractor to agree which fixings needed to be replaced.

4 Environment Issues:-

4.1 Village Survey

The report following the environmental survey, carried out by councillors in December 2015, had been presented to the Parish Council on 26th January and was considered in further detail.

It was agreed that the main findings should be summarized to form the basis of an article for the spring edition of the Parish Council newsletter. It was hoped that this would encourage a community spirit and get people to take more pride in looking after the public areas immediately adjacent to their boundaries. The

possibility of organising a special community clean-up day, possibly to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday or Newick Festival. Cllrs. Wickens, Allen and Sheppard agreed to draft the article before the next E&R meeting on 8th March.

The following actions were agreed:-

Weeds and other debris on pavements – contact East Sussex County Council Highways to ask for a quotation for an additional weed spray throughout the village. Contact Lewes District Council to get a quotation for a street clean in the worst areas (Allington Road, Western Road and Church Road).

Parking – It was recognised that there is a growing problem with parked cars around the village, but as most of these were legally parked there was very little that could be done. It was, however, agreed to try to encourage residents to use their drives and garages rather than park on the road.

4.2 Damaged Verges (including the High Street verge) – Issues raised previously by ESCC and Sussex police regarding the High Street parking scheme that had been proposed in 2012 were discussed. Cllr. Smerdon suggested that enquiries should be made as to whether or not there was a possibility of providing parking space for High Street residents in the grounds of the former vet's practice and it was agreed to follow this up and to advise Mr Mayes that the matter was being investigated further.

Cllr. Wickens suggested that the Parish Council should consider providing soil and grass seed to residents in order to assist residents who would be willing to maintain the verges outside their properties.

It was agreed to discuss this problem with East Sussex Highways at the next SLR meeting.

4.3 Anticipated expenditure on Environment Projects – It was noted that none of the budget set aside for Environment Projects in 2015/16 had been spent, however, it was anticipated that the work to clear shrubs and cut back the tree at the Community Centre car park would be completed before the end of the financial year and, based on the quotation received, would cost £462. An additional £200 would be spent on hedging to replace the shrubs that were being removed. This would leave a likely underspend of approximately £938.

5 Items for the next agenda – consideration of draft article for Parish Council newsletter.

The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:.....