

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 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, and C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)
Lewes District and East Sussex County Councillor Jim Sheppard
NPT Inspector, Rob Lovell, (for part of the meeting)
PCSO Sally-Ann Reed (for part of the meeting)
One member of the public

An audio recording was made of the meeting

- 1. Presentation from NPT Inspector Rob Lovell** – Inspector Rob Lovell gave details of the new local policing model for Sussex which had been developed in response to the requirement to achieve efficiency savings of £57million between 2015 and 2020. He confirmed that the model would affect all areas of policing including neighbourhood policing, response, investigations, custody and court work. Neighbourhood policing would be based on officers working in teams and focussing on problem solving rather than reassurance. The role of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had been redefined and this would mean that PCSOs would no longer be aligned to specific geographical areas, but would be deployed where there was perceived to be the greatest risk. Inspector Lovell advised that the District Commander for Lewes would also be taking on responsibility for Eastbourne and Wealden and that the teams of officers under his command could be deployed anywhere within this extended area based on the demand on any particular day. Councillors expressed concern that with no regular police presence in Newick incidents of crime would be likely to increase and that the new policing model was not workable. They were also fearful that local knowledge built up by police officers over a period of time would be lost and that there would be problems with the sharing of information. Inspector Lovell advised that he would feed-back councillors' concerns and that there would be a post implementation review to highlight any shortcomings of the new model.

Inspector Lovell left the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr. Melanie 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:** - Cllr. Halsey disclosed a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.2 (Advertisement consent application LW/16/0058).
- 4. Exclusion of the press and public** – There was no reason to exclude the press and public for any part of the meeting.
- 5. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public**

Mr Thomas referred to the Extraordinary meeting of Newick Parish Council held on 2nd February 2016 and stated that he still believed that he had been improperly excluded from that meeting. He stated that Lewes District Council had not taken up his complaint and that he had been referred back to the Parish Clerk who had provided him with details of the reason for the decision to exclude members of the public from that meeting. Mr Thomas said that he had checked with Lewes District Council who had advised him that the rebuttal statement was not commercially sensitive, he therefore believed that the Parish Council had been too hasty in making the decision to exclude members of the public from the meeting.

In response to Mr Thomas, the Clerk clarified that it was not the rebuttal statement itself that was commercially sensitive, but some of the information contained in it which, at the time of the Extraordinary meeting, was still considered to be commercially sensitive and was not in the public domain. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had not been free to put this information into the public domain and Cllr. Wickens confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had been asked to keep the information confidential.

The Chairman agreed that agenda item 7, PCSO Reed's report, would be heard before planning items were discussed in order to allow her to leave the meeting and continue with her work.

7 PCSO Sally-Ann Reed's Monthly Report/Neighbourhood Watch Report

PCSO Reed's written report of crimes reported during January 2016 been circulated and was noted. She referred to the fact that three vehicles had been stolen overnight on 28th January and highlighted that Neighbourhood Watch coordinators had played a useful part in providing information to assist the investigation.

There was no report on Neighbourhood Watch matters.

PCSO Reed left the meeting at 7.37 p.m.

6. Planning:

6.1 Approval of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 9th February 2016 – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 9th February 2016 could be signed as a true record.

6.2 Applications

Having disclosed an interest in advertisement consent application LW/16/0058, Cllr Halsey left the meeting at 7.38 p.m. and returned once this item had been dealt with.

Newick

LW/16/0058

Case Officer:

Miss Michelle Gardiner

Oakside Goldbridge Road

Advertisement Consent Application - Retention of a double sided panel sign and a proposed single sided panel sign with matching design/lettering for The Crown Inn. It was noted that a letter of objection to this application had been received from a Chailey resident. It was agreed to make **no comment** (6 in favour of 'no comment', 2 against and 1 abstention).

Newick

LW/16/0062

Case Officer:

Mr Christopher Wright

Sheffield Park Business Estate East Grinstead Road

Planning Application - Erection of new industrial unit and re-cladding of units 13-15 for Epic Real Estates Ltd. It was unanimously agreed to **support** this application in accordance with policies LE1 and LE2 of Newick's Neighbourhood Plan.

Newick

LW/16/0043

Case Officer:

Mrs Alyson Smith

Barn End 34 Allington Road

Planning Application - Porch extension for Mr & Mrs M Harding. It was unanimously agreed to make **no comment** on this planning application.

6.3 Approvals/Refusals etc. – There were no approvals or refusals to be reported. It was noted that the following letters of objection had been received regarding applications already considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 9th February:- LW/15/0993 Hazel Wood, Jackies Lane x 1 letter, LW/15/0963 38A Western Road x 2 letters, LW/15/1014 26 Western Road x 2 letters. All of these letters had also been sent to Lewes District Council Planning Department.

6.4 Tree works applications – There were no tree works applications.

6.5 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group on Mitchelswood Public Inquiry – Cllr. Armitage and Cllr. Wickens gave a verbal report on the four day Public Inquiry which had been attended throughout by members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. There was some uncertainty as to whether or not the appeal could still be called in by the Secretary of State and the Clerk was asked to check the position on this matter. It was noted that a S.106 agreement had been signed by LDC and the developers in case the Planning Inspector gave approval for the development to proceed, a copy had been provided for the Parish Council's records. A copy of the land registry documents concerning the transfer of the SANGS site to Thakeham Homes had also been supplied. A copy of the appellant's closing statement had been promised but had not yet been received, Cllr Armitage agreed to chase this up. It was highlighted that District Councillor Jim Sheppard had not made any statement in support of Newick's Neighbourhood Plan during the Public Inquiry and he was asked to explain the reasons for this. Cllr. Sheppard responded later in the meeting (agenda item 8).

7. PCSO Sally-Ann Reed's Monthly Report/Neighbourhood Watch Report

This agenda item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting, see above.

8. Lewes District/East Sussex County Councillor Jim Sheppard's Report - Cllr. Jim Sheppard had nothing to report, however, he responded to the comment made in in agenda item 6.5 above by stating that he had

been precluded from taking part in the Mitchelswood Farm Public Inquiry and making any comment on the application because he was a member of the Lewes District Council Planning Committee and that, as he had been a friend of the landowner at Mitchelswood Farm, he had been obliged to declare an interest at the time the planning application had been considered by Lewes District Council.

9. Approval of the minutes of Parish Council meeting held 26th January 2016 and Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held 2nd February 2016 – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th January 2016 could be signed as a true record. It was furthermore agreed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd February 2016 could be signed as a true record.

10. Clerk’s Report – A report from the Clerk along with a list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was agreed that Mrs Farmer would be engaged to act as Locum Clerk to cover the period of the Clerk’s annual leave later in the year.

11. Action taken by the Clerk under Delegated Powers in consultation with the Chairman and/or the Vice – Chairman. It was reported that arrangements had been made for Sussex Police to view and copy CCTV footage in connection with their investigation into the theft of three vehicles on 28th January 2016.

12. Financial Matters:

12.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for February 2016 – It was resolved to approve the schedule of payments for February 2016

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	£229.89	201080
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Contributions from Clerk & PC	£248.93	201081
D. Sankey Ltd.	Routine Mole Treatment - KGVPF	£100.80	201082
Lewes District Council	PC Election Expenses - £3084.56 Play Area Inspection £18.00	£3,102.56	201083
South East Water	Water supply to Sports Pavilion	£481.05	201084
Barcombe Landscapes	Grounds maintenance £935.30 Mowing of highway verges £499.82	£1,435.12	201085
Mr C Armitage	Mileage and parking expenses	£49.57	201086
S.E. Berry	Reimbursement for items purchased by Clerk on behalf of Parish Council	£308.07	201087
Mr N Berryman	Mileage expenses	£34.65	201088
Newick Pre-School	Grant agreed 26/01/16	£250.00	201089
Newick CE Primary School	Grant agreed 26/01/16	£500.00	201090
S. Orwin	Village Maintenance	£225.00	201091
Total		£7,659.48	

Income in February 2016

Barclays Bank	Interest	£39.22
Various local businesses	Donations towards Newick Directory	£180.00
Total		£219.22

12.2 To note Statement of Performance against budget (Outturn) as at end January 2016 – The outturn for January 2016 had been circulated in advance and was noted.

12.3 Recommendation from F&GP Committee not to opt out of new audit procurement arrangements – Details of the new arrangements for external audit for smaller authorities had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was resolved to accept the recommendation of the F&GP committee that Newick

Parish Council should not opt out of the Smaller Authorities' Audit Arrangements Limited (SAAA) scheme. The new arrangements would begin with effect from the 2017/18 financial year.

12.4 Procedure for dealing with consultation requests, subject areas taken on by councillors – The appendix to the procedure for dealing with consultation requests (approved 26/01/16) had been completed with the names of councillors and the subject areas for which they had agreed to take responsibility. It was agreed to approve this document.

12.5 To consider whether to join the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) – A letter from GACC asking the Parish Council to become a member of its campaign had been circulated in advance of the meeting. A document containing advice from SSALC to Parish Councils considering joining campaigning organisations was circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not join GACC.

12.6 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – It was agreed to defer this item for consideration at the next meeting as some councillors had not seen the amended documents that had been sent to them by email.

13. Committees' and Councillors' Reports:

13.1 Environment and Recreation Committee – It was agreed by those who had been present that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on 9th February 2016 could be signed as a true record.

13.2 Tree Warden – There was nothing to report.

13.3 Newick Rootz – Copies of the notes from the meeting of Newick Rootz held on 9th February 2016 had been distributed in advance of the meeting and were noted. It was reported that Rootz had been working on a survey of the new SANGS and would be submitting a report containing proposals for access points, car parking and a circular walking route to EAD Ecology in due course.

13.4 Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC) – Cllr. Allen reported that the NVHMC AGM would be held on 23rd March 2016 and requested that further details should be circulated to councillors. It was noted that trustees would be appointed at the AGM and that the Parish Council was able to nominate a member to act as trustee.

13.5 Newick Sports Pavilion Management Committee – Copies of the minutes of the meeting of Newick Sports Pavilion Management Committee held 2nd February 2016 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. Cllr. Armitage reported that there did not seem to be much enthusiasm for a new Sports Pavilion but that the committee was trying to progress this. It was noted that there would be a charge to the Parish Council for using the audio visual equipment at its meetings. It was also noted that Newick Rootz would be charged for use of the pavilion and the audio equipment for its meetings. Cllr. Wickens advised that, as Rootz did not have any income, they would be applying to the Parish Council for a grant to cover the cost of this.

It was agreed in principle that the Sports Pavilion Management Committee should be allowed to proceed with the proposed drainage work as detailed in the letter dated 8th February 2016 from Marion Campbell.

13.6 Allotments – Cllr. Smerdon reported that the new SANGS site did not appear to be suitable for allotments and recommended that, although the Allotment Society had yet to view the possible new site at Cornwell's Bank, this option should be pursued without delay. A formal proposal would be submitted to the Council in due course.

13.7 Website Working Group – Notes of the meetings of the Website Working Group held 3rd and 15th February 2016 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Having looked at the available options, the Working Group recommended that the Parish Council should remain with the current provider, Upper Bridge Enterprise, who would build a new website using the Umbraco platform for an initial fee of £300 + VAT. Ongoing costs would be very similar to those incurred with the present website. This was agreed.

14 Update on Newick Post Office – Cllr. Jean Sheppard gave a verbal update on the Post Office. She advised that a letter had been sent to the Post Office to ask for a 'Community' contract for Newick as opposed to the Post Office 'Local' contract that was being advertised. It was noted that Maria Caulfield MP had supported this request. Cllr. Sheppard reported that she had made enquiries about the Post Office outreach service organised

