

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.15 p.m.

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. R. Houghton was unable to attend this meeting.
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.
4. **Environment Issues:-**

- 4.1 Progress on issues identified in village survey – It was noted that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Highways had advised that they would only repair damaged verges for safety rather than aesthetic reasons. Cllr Smerdon agreed to contact Ian Johnson at ESCC to ask for a list of the procedures that would need to be followed if the Parish Council were to get volunteers to repair the damaged verges around the village. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes from contractors for levelling, grading and re-seeding the damaged verges in the worst areas identified on the survey (Newick Drive and West Point).

No action had been taken in respect of overhanging vegetation identified in the survey. It was agreed that letters should be sent to householders to ask them to cut back their hedges after the end of the bird nesting season.

The Clerk reported that she had yet to find out from Lewes District Council as to the cost of sweeping the pavements in Western Road, Allington Road, and Church Road to remove the debris. It was agreed that this should be chased.

Cllr. Smerdon agreed to contact ESCC Highways about clearing the edge of the pavement in Western Road where it meets the residential boundaries.

- 4.2 Grounds Maintenance Contract – It was noted that the grounds maintenance contract with Barcombe Landscapes would be due for renewal at the end of the season. Cllr. Smerdon reported that there had been some problems with the strimming of highway verges and the removal of loose grass from the pavements. It was agreed that quotations would need to be obtained from several contractors and that a draft specification would be prepared for consideration at the next committee meeting. The Clerk agreed to research which companies should be asked to supply quotations. It was agreed to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to consider including an 'exclusivity' clause in the contract.
- 4.3 Environment Projects for 2016/17 – It was agreed that a maintenance programme for fingerposts in the Parish, based on the survey carried out in 2015 by Cllr. Allen would be one of the projects for 2016/17. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for this work.

It was agreed that a quotation should be obtained from ESCC for replacing the Newick village signs at Fletching Common and Newick Park Road. The design to be the same as existing signs and the locations to be on the Parish boundary as at present.

4.4 Annual Inspection of The Green – It was agreed that Councillors Jean Sheppard and Jenny Smerdon would carry out an inspection of The Green and other Council owned pieces of land towards the end of June, date to be confirmed with the Clerk.

**5. Playing Field Issues**

5.1 Monthly Inspection Reports – It was noted that no further issues had been raised in the monthly inspection reports supplied by Lewes District Council since the last meeting. The Clerk reported that contractors had been contacted and would be carrying out the outstanding work (replacement of rivets at the Skate Park and repair of raised wet pour surface around the spinning cone) within the next week or so. A quotation of £220 plus the cost of materials (estimated at £40) had been received for the repainting of the junior swings as this had been missed off the specification for the upgrade project. It was agreed to accept this quotation. Cllr. Smerdon asked for a section of chestnut paling fencing to be erected in the gap beside the Church Road pedestrian gate to prevent small children and dogs from escaping into the road.

5.2 Playing Fields Projects for 2016/17 – It was agreed that the Playing Fields projects should be 1) to identify a suitable site for a new skate park and 2) to explore the possibility of upgrading the cricket nets in their current location so that they could be used by the Cricket Club and other groups or individuals.

5.3 Annual Inspection of King George V Playing Field and Manwaring Robertson Field – It was agreed that Councillors Cris Allen and Ben Horsfall would carry out the inspection of the playing fields on a date to be confirmed with the Clerk.

**6. Christmas Tree on The Green** – It was agreed that the cost of supplying and erecting a Christmas Tree on The Green should be researched and that an item should be included in the next newsletter to try to find a local business or organisation to sponsor the tree.

**7. Items for the next agenda** – There were no suggested items for the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

Signed: .....

Dated:.....