

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 14th February 2017 at 6.55 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G. Clothier, M. Halsey, J. Sheppard and J. White

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)
Three members of the public

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. **Appointment of Chairman for this meeting** – In the absence of the Chairman of this committee it was agreed that Cllr. Jean Sheppard would chair the meeting (proposed Cllr. Halsey and seconded Cllr. White)
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. J. Smerdon.
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** – No disclosures were made.
4. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – Mr Turk spoke in connection with agenda item 5.7 (replacement of damaged paving slabs on The Green). He stated that he feared that The Green, which he considered to be the highlight of the conservation area, was in danger of becoming more like a town park. He referred to his letter dated 5th November 2016 in which he asked the Parish Council to consider replacing the paving slabs with red bricks rather than concrete slabs.

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

5. Environment Issues:-

- 5.1 Updated inspection report – An updated version of the inspection report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were noted:-

Barcombe Landscapes had still not filled in the depression in the ground under the gate on The Green. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up. **Action Clerk**

Cllr. Sheppard had obtained revised quotations for toughened glass to be fitted to the bus shelter on The Green. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for this work to be carried out. **Action Clerk**

No action had been taken to obtain quotations for repairing the bus shelter roof. The Councillor who had agreed to progress this had subsequently resigned from the Parish Council.

It was thought that the pharmacy window frames had been repaired and painted during recent upgrade work but this was yet to be checked.

The Clerk had contacted East Sussex Highways to apply for match funding for the repair of two fingerposts, but an out of date email address had been used and no response received. The application had since been re-sent to the correct department and a response was awaited.

The quotation for the replacement of the oak post supporting the Newick sign on The Green had been accepted and work was expected to be carried out some time in March.

NHS Property Services had yet to be approached to arrange for drains in the Community Centre car park to be cleared. **Action Clerk**

Barcombe Landscapes had not yet filled the dips in the grass near to the footpath in front of 2 and 4 Leveller Road. To be followed up by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

- 5.2 Additional repair/maintenance issues identified since last meeting – It was reported that the wall at the front of the Community Centre had been badly damaged again. Cllr Smerdon and the Clerk had been in communication with a local bricklayer to repair this damage but the work had not yet been done. To be followed up by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**
- 5.3 Bulb Planting (East Sussex Highways project) – The Clerk advised that East Sussex Highways would be carrying out a bulb planting project in the late summer/early autumn. Cllr. Smerdon had suggested two suitable locations (the green area in front of the Community Centre wall and around the oak tree at the junction of Powell Road and Oldaker Road). Further information was expected from East Sussex Highways and would be circulated once received.
- 5.4 Proposal for Village Tidy-Up – A proposal for a village tidy up had been submitted by Cllr. Smerdon and was circulated at the meeting. The proposal was to concentrate on clearing twittens, work to include cutting back the grass which had overgrown the paths, cutting back overhanging growth and clearing leaf debris and litter. It was agreed in principle to go ahead with this, further details such as which twittens to be covered, how to advertise and health & safety considerations would be available at the Parish Council meeting on 28th February. A further proposal to join in with the Fields in Trust clear up day over the first weekend of March was not agreed as it did not give sufficient time to organise volunteers.
- 5.5 Complaint from resident about parking on the pavement and request for article to be placed in newsletter – The Clerk reported that, following publication of the winter edition of the Parish Council newsletter, a resident had contacted to complain about vehicles being parked on pavements and verges around the village and to ask for this to be highlighted in the next edition of the newsletter. It was agreed that an article would be drafted by Cllr. Sheppard for inclusion in the newsletter. **Action Cllr. Sheppard**
- 5.6 High Street Parking – The Clerk reported that a resident of High Street had contacted to highlight safety concerns about poor visibility when reversing out of his drive on to the A272. The problem was caused by vehicles parked on the verge and the resident had asked for consideration to be given to putting a post on the verge to prevent parking and improve visibility. The resident had promised to follow this up by email but had not yet done so. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with ESCC Highways at the next SLR meeting.
- 5.7 Proposal by resident that damaged paving slabs near Memorial Stone should be replaced by brick paving. A copy of a letter from Mr Turk dated 5th November 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. He had requested that consideration should be given to replacing the damaged paving slabs near to the Memorial Stone on The Green with red brick paving similar to that used in front of the shops on the opposite side of the road. It was agreed that, when requesting quotations from East Sussex Highways, the Clerk should ask for quotes for both red brick paving and concrete slabs. Cllr. Halsey agreed to obtain details of the materials used for brick paving elsewhere on The Green. **Action Cllr. Halsey**

One member of the public left the meeting at 7.35 p.m.

6. Playing Field Issues

- 6.1 Annual Play Area Inspection Reports – Copies of the Annual Play Area and Skate Park inspection reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Clerk was in the process of obtaining quotations for the renewal of the safety surface around the roundabout in the fenced play area. It was reported that Cllr. Sheppard had carried out a site visit with a Lewes District Council officer to inspect the issues raised in connection with the skate park equipment and that she had been advised that the main focus should be on making sure that missing fixings were replaced and regular monitoring. The Clerk reported that she had arranged for a site visit with a potential repair contractor the following week. It was agreed that the contractor should be asked

to look at other issues raised in the inspection reports at the same time. The Clerk was asked to investigate how the board above the basketball hoop on the multigoal equipment could be cleaned. **Action Clerk**

6.2 Updated inspection report – An updated version of the inspection report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following issues were noted:-

There had been no response from HAGS SMP who had agreed to inspect the play area surface for issues arising following installation. The Clerk agreed to chase this. **Action Clerk**

As reported in 6.1 above, the Clerk was in the process of obtaining quotations for the renewal of the safety surface around the roundabout.

The Clerk had written to the resident of Amberley about the gap in the boundary hedge between his garden and King George V Playing Field, but no response had been received. It was agreed that Cllr. Sheppard would approach the resident informally to discuss this. **Action Cllr. Sheppard**

No action had been taken in respect of the damaged picnic bench following agreement by the Council that it should be removed. It was agreed that Lindsey Baker should be approached to quote for this work and that an item should be placed in the newsletter to explain why the bench was being removed. **Action Clerk**

Chestnut paling fencing in the copse near to the multigoal equipment had not been removed. The Clerk was asked to progress this. **Action Clerk**

The Cricket Club had contacted to advise that they were seeking funding to replace the cricket nets but that they would need an agreement or lease from the Parish Council to confirm that the equipment could stay in place for at least five years. The Clerk advised that Fields in Trust would need to be involved if any such agreement or lease were to be issued and that she had asked the Cricket Club for more details of their proposal before progressing the matter.

It was reported that a local dog walker had sent an email thanking the Parish Council for installing signs about dogs on leads in the recreation areas and reporting that this had led to a marked improvement.

6.3 Proposal for additional dog waste bin at Church Road entrance to Playing Field – Cllr Smerdon had proposed that an additional dog waste bin should be installed near to the Church Road entrance to King George V Playing Field as bags of dog waste were frequently left in the bushes at this location. The Clerk advised that she was seeking a price from Lewes District Council for the supply and installation of a bin and that she would report this and the ongoing cost of emptying the bin once the details had been received.

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

The meeting closed at 8.02 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:.....

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