

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee of Newick Parish Council held at Newick Community Centre, The Green, Newick on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: C Armitage, B. Horsfall, J. Jones, I. Nesbitt, J. Smerdon (Chair), C. Wickens and K. Wrench.
Non- Councillors committee members: Mr J Lucas & Mrs M. Thew (taking notes)

In attendance: Three members of the public (Two for part of the meeting)

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** No apologies had been received.
2. **Clarification of status of non-councillor members of this committee.** The Clerk had confirmed by e-mail to the committee that the non-councillor members of the committee had been appointed in an advisory capacity for their expert knowledge and were not permitted to vote on any decisions.
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.** There were no disclosures.
4. **Questions or Statements by Member of the Public.** None (there were 2 members of the public present at this time).
5. **Allocation of previously agreed priorities to individual committee members.** Item 8 of the minutes from the meeting on 5th April was used to review the priorities to be considered. As the roles of each Councillor are being reviewed at the full Council meeting at the end of May, it was agreed not to complete the full list at this time.

Cllr Nesbitt asked whether the allocation of CIL monies should be controlled by the Planning Committee. It was discussed that many of the items relating to the Neighbourhood Plan could have an overlap with all the other committees, but it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee should have initial control and overview.

The Clerk had informed the committee that £3,723.00 had been received from Lewes District Council as a CIL payment for Newick Hill. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to contact LDC and clarify this payment. Cllr Smerdon also asked for clarification from LDC on how CIL monies could be allocated. **Action: Cllr. Armitage**

Cllr Wrench also expressed concerns regarding expenditure of CIL monies and it was agreed that the Council needs to have guidance on the next steps. As Newick is the first Neighbourhood Plan to be 'made' in East Sussex, there are no precedents to follow.

Cllr. Wickens mentioned that it may be a good idea to invite Lindsay Frost to come to talk to the committee to talk about CIL and other Neighbourhood Plan matters. It was agreed that this was a good idea. **Action: Clerk**

Re 8.7 (monitoring the progress of Community Actions) it was suggested that Thondra Thom at LDC may be the appropriate person to assist. Cllr Wickens agreed to contact her and give an update at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Wickens**

6. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill Flow Chart .** Cllr Wickens had circulated the Flow Chart to the committee. It had become apparent that few Parish Councils were aware of the consultation process. Cllr Wickens had contacted the chair of the Local Government Association, and Mr John Kay, CPRE / Ringmer Parish Council, and informed them of the consultation to encourage

more participation. Baroness Cumberlege had also been involved and had submitted a response. The deadline was 2nd May 2017. It was pointed out that there had not been enough time for a full response to be formulated and submitted by the Parish Council.

7. **Housing White Paper Consultation** – It was reported that Cllr Wickens and Mr J Lucas had completed and submitted responses to the 40 questions. It was felt that there are several weaknesses in the Paper, Mr Lucas pointed out the sustainable development clause, which can allow extra housing to be added and also the weakness in defining the size of a village / town. Cllr Smerdon thanked Cllr Wickens and Mr Lucas for all their work on the consultation.
8. **Update on Legal proceedings** - Cllr Armitage reported that there was no news and that the hearing date was still awaited.

8.1 Wealden DC Case CO/3943/2016

The main issue is the Nitrogen emission levels. Wealden had recently extended their exclusion zone from 7K to 15k which means that any new planning applications will be turned down. This needs to be carefully monitored. Cllr Wickens had circulated the April edition of the Air Quality Bulletin. This is having a national impact and environmental handbooks are being reviewed. Cllr Armitage suggested that we need to identify someone at LDC to clarify the legal decision and the potential impact for Newick. Cllr Smerdon asked whether the South Downs National Park could be an issue and it was confirmed that this is not a problem at the present time. It was agreed to ask our District Councillor to investigate this further and clarify the decision and identify LDC's current position. **Action: Cllr Armitage**

A member of the public arrived at 7.45pm (Mr Warren). He apologized for being late due to another meeting. He had several questions he wished to ask. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr Warren to speak.

Mr Warren expressed great concern at the rumours and misinformation circulating within the village, both on social media and verbally, regarding the works on the SANG and the development in the village, and he asked for clarification. Cllr Wickens explained the background to the SANG and asked Mr Warren how he thought these rumours could be stopped and how the Council could ensure all correct information is accessible to parishioners. He suggested a Facebook page. Cllr Wickens offered to draft a short history giving the full background and then circulate it to the committee for their input, before deciding how to communicate it to the Village. **Action Cllr Wickens**

Mr. Warren left the meeting at 8.10pm and Standing Orders were resumed.

9. **Monitoring of Sites under development** . It was agreed that there was still much misinformation regarding Newick Hill and Reedens Meadow as clearly demonstrated this evening. It was noted that Thakeham Homes sends local updates to the residents of Cricketfield, next to the development site. It was agreed that it would be good to have a regular update from them which could go on the website, if they agree. Thakeham had been approached to provide an article for the newsletter, but not the website. Cllr Wickens offered to contact Thakeham to obtain their permission. This is an ongoing issue and could be looked at under the Planning Committee every fortnight. Cllr Smerdon said that it would be beneficial to have regular updates from the developer. **Action: Cllr Wickens**
The group discussed the affordable housing at Mantell Close. Cllr Armitage mentioned that LDC had stated last year that Newick's needs in respect of affordable housing were low. The details of the Housing Association rules have not yet been negotiated with Thakeham.

- 10 **Parish Council owned land between Vernons Road and The Rough.** Cllrs Armitage and Wickens had collected the covenants, deeds and documentation from the Clerk recently and will work through these and report back to the committee in due course. This item needs to be repeated on the next agenda. It was agreed that it would be necessary to obtain legal advice - perhaps SALC would assist in the first instance, and to keep parishioners updated.

11 Update on Communication Strategy - Cllr Horsfall suggested that the F &G P Committee could be asked to define a policy to guide the Council on Social Communication and enable delivery of accurate, relevant and up to date information. **Action: Cllr Horsfall**

12 Annual subscription to Planning Resource. Mrs Thew confirmed that she had sent an e-mail to Haymarket, the publishers for Planning Resource, to find out details of subscriptions. No response had been received to date. **Action: Mrs Thew**

13 Proposed Dates for future committee meetings. Cllr Smerdon confirmed that the annual timetable would be drawn up for future meeting at the end of May, and that the committees and responsibilities would be reviewed. It was agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting needed to be held monthly, and it was agreed that the first Tuesday of every month could be suitable. It was felt that it would be simpler to cancel a meeting if it is not necessary. Mrs Thew agreed to take notes of the meeting if the Clerk was not able to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed: **Dated:**
Chairman