

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th August 2020. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom software.

Present: Councillors C. Armitage, B. Deacon, B.Hodge, D. Marchant, V. Marchant, M. Thew, B. Whitlock, T. Whitlock, C. Wickens and K.Wrench

In Attendance: Mrs E. Reece (Clerk)
One member of the public was present
7 members of Councillor's families were in the same room as those participating in the meeting during brief periods

An audio and visual recording was made of the meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. V Marchant advised that she may be late in joining.
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** – Cllr. Wickens disclosed an interest in 16 Allington Road.
3. **Exclusion of the Press and Public** – None.
4. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – None.
5. **Co-option of up to one new councillor (if candidates have put themselves forward)** – No candidates had put themselves forward.
6. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman** – Cllr. Burman was not present
7. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 28th July 2020** – These were approved with no amendments.
8. **Planning:**
 - 8.1 Consideration of Planning Applications: (if any)

LW/20/0454	Sharpsbridge Farm, Sharpsbridge Lane Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of office at Sharpsbridge Farm as an independent C3 Dwelling house 19.03 Cllr. V Marchant joined It was noted that the CIL form was not completed. It was agreed to make no comment .
LW/20/0438	Hazel Wood, Jackies Lane Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of land for landscaping business and recreational purposes. It was agreed to make no comment .
LW/20/0470	16 Allington Road Loft conversion with front facing hip to barn end It was agreed to make no comment .

	Cllr. Wickens did not vote.
LW/20/0492	Church View, Blind Lane Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) to show extension of the approved barn hip to form a canopy over the approved external steps. In relation to approval LW/20/0042 It was unanimously agreed to make no comment .

- 8.2** Approvals/Refusals etc. – There were none.
- 8.3** Tree Works Applications – There were none.
- 8.4** W/4001109 Former Woods Fruit Farm appeal – to agree comments to be submitted to Planning Inspectorate by 08/09/2020. A draft response was considered, and a final version was unanimously agreed to be sent by the Clerk.
- 8.5** Update on Mitchelswood Farm Inquiry – Cllr. Wickens advised there is no update to report at present.
- 8.6** Update on 55 Allington Road – Cllr. Wickens advised that there is no update to report and result is overdue.
- 8.7** Consider response to NALC consultation on changes to the current planning system (deadline 17/9/20) – It was noted that both MHCLG and NALC need responses registering. Cllr. Armitage, Cllr. Vix Marchant, Cllr. Hodge, Cllr. Thew all agreed to assist in submitting a response.
- 8.8** To consider the way forward concerning the revision of Newick Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Wickens led a discussion regarding revising or updating the current plan. Cllr. Wickens gave a history on the number of houses that Newick was asked to accept. She stated that three appeals were still outstanding and that if one or all appeals are accepted there could be up to 89 houses in addition to the Neighbourhood Plan allocated. Three potential approaches to take were discussed – First take no action. Second – await the results of at least one if not two of the outstanding appeals. Third option – review the plan as soon as possible and proceed with site selection etc with the support of LDC. Cllr. Armitage stated his support for the second option - await the response of some of the appeals that are currently outstanding. Cllr. Armitage stated he would like to take advice from an independent consultant to get an unbiased view. Cllr. D Marchant gave his support for the second option too. Cllr. Thew asked Cllr. Armitage about the cost and where the money might be found. Cllr. Armitage discussed the cost involved and said he felt it important that the Council find the money. Cllr. Hodge agreed with what Cllr. Armitage and Cllr. Wickens had said. He stated that as there are not many brownfield sites in Newick it may be challenging to find new suitable sites. Cllr. T Whitlock stated it was essential that to wait until the results. He felt that the infrastructure was creaking at the seams and that additional houses would put further pressure on the existing services. Cllr. Armitage stated that office blocks are beginning to be developed for residential use, now that so many people are home working and that more residential opportunities may be in towns rather than villages. Cllr. Wrench agreed with what Cllr. Armitage had said earlier and thought an independent advisor would be good. Cllr. Deacon stated that option 2 would be his preferred one. He questioned the funding of an external consultant. He asked if the parish council need to let more applications go through to ease the burden of challenging so many. Cllr. Wickens replied that it was important to fight everything that is outside of the plan. Cllr. Armitage stated that any building in the Newick side of Chailey will also have an impact on Newick's infrastructure.

It was agreed unanimously to;

- a) Wait for the result of Woods Fruit Farm and Mitchelswood
- b) Source a consultant that is going to be non-biased
- c) Write to Thea and Matt from LDC and thank them for their support and advise them the decision (a & b) that NPC has decided to take

Cllr. Armitage suggested that an alternative Councillor assists with the planning committee workload. Cllr. Wickens said she was happy to continue with the day to day work but asked for support in the applications that needed responses to appeals and bigger cases. Cllr. Hodge offered to help where possible.

- 9. Clerk's Report** – To note report from Clerk including correspondence received in August 2020. The following items were reported;

- Community Centre Office
- Merchant Navy Day
- Play area social distancing
- High Hurst Close grass cutting
- Newsletter
- Speedwatch
- Broken cover to valve chamber KGVPF

- Play area opening

The Clerk also reported;

-That a bench has been vandalised next to the Skate Ramp and that Rootz have been asked to consider if they may be able to repair. Cllr Deacon offered to look at this bench and an additional bench that needs repair next to the youth shelter.

- It has been reported that a tree branch has come down in Leveller Road and the Clerk agreed to look into the removal of the debris.

Play area opening was discussed in more detail and Cllr. Armitage stated Sarnia Armitage and David Christie will agree who is opening up.

10. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman. – there were none to report

11. Financial Matters:

- 11.1** To authorise Schedule of Payments for August 2020 and arrangements for approving payments It was agreed Cllrs. Armitage and Thew would authorise the following payments;

Date: 25/08/2020 **Newick Parish Council Current Year** **Page 1**

Time: 13:37 **Unity Trust Bank**

List of Payments made between 01/08/2020 and 31/08/2020

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
26/08/2020	Mrs E Reece	968843537	1,349.14		Clerk's Salary August 2020
26/08/2020	HM Revenue & Customs	148014177	331.84		Tax & NI August 2020
26/08/2020	East Sussex Pension Fund	966159562	460.35		Pension Contributions Aug 2020
26/08/2020	Lewes District Council	227188281	18.00		Play Area Inspection
26/08/2020	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	689397669	1,543.20		Mowing & grounds maintenance
26/08/2020	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	31082652	1,056.00		Mowing Highway verges
27/08/2020	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	16.63		Mobile phone - August
31/08/2020	Post Office Ltd	82759302	1.99		Envelope and Postage
31/08/2020	Treewise Tree Services	75787437	900.00		Oak tree Powell Road/Oldaker
31/08/2020	Peter Howes	23897364	378.00		Village Handyman
31/08/2020	Mrs SE Berry	723899964	581.62		Locum Cover
31/08/2020	Lewes District Council	645561951	18.00		Play Inspections
Total Payments			<u>6,654.77</u>		

The following payments have already been made and were reported to the Council;

Date: 24/08/2020 **Newick Parish Council Current Year** **Page 1**

Time: 16:38 **Barclays Debit Card**

List of Payments made between 01/08/2020 and 31/08/2020

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/08/2020	Zoom Video Communications	DC	14.39		Monthly Zoom Subscription
Total Payments			<u>14.39</u>		

- 11.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at end July 2020 – the statement was considered and accepted
- 11.3 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – none were submitted
- 11.4 To consider quotes (if received) – Fingerposts, repair of Community Centre Wall
Fingerpost – it was agreed to have post fingerposts fully refurbished with funds matching from ESCC. It was agreed to proceed with TG Tapp on the basis that the labour was a total of £840 plus VAT.
- 11.5 To note interest rate reduction – Cambridge & Counties Bank – the Clerk reported that this was now being reduced to 1% (from 1.25%)
- 11.6 Review of policies: - IT back-up procedure, Policy for website use, Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults, Data Retention. IT back up procedure would need to be circulated to the rest of the Council and be considered at the next meeting. Policy for website use – a number of amendments had been suggested by Cllr. T Whitlock and it was agreed to accept the amendments. Child Protection – Cllr. V Marchant summarised the suggested amendments and appendix. It was agreed that Cllr. V Marchant would add the amendments into a policy for consideration at the next meeting. The existing Data Retention policy was discussed by Cllr. Whitlock and it was agreed to keep it separate to the IT back up procedure.
- 11.7 Review of Insurance scope/cover/cost to be carried out when renewal paperwork received – this would be added to the September agenda as no documents have been received.

12. Environment & Recreation;

- 12.1 To note Sports Pavilion Management Committee (virtual) AGM to be held 25/08/20 –Cllr. Thew stated she has requested the minutes of the AGM
- 12.2 Skate Ramp/Bike Track – Cllr. Deacon reported that he has seen a number of complaints from local residents regarding the skate ramp. Cllr. Deacon discussed alternative quieter options and will look into it further. He also agreed to look into the bike track. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase LDC on the current planning regulations on play equipment.
- 12.3 Newick Common – consider any desired action following designation as Local Wildlife Site – It was suggested that Tony Turk is invited to give input on an article in a future newsletter and Cllr. Thew offered to email Mr. Turk to discuss the matter further.

13. Newick Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr. B Whitlock reported that there has been discussion regarding the return of the market to the Village Hall and the risk assessments and procedures that may be required. The market committee will discuss the matter further and the VHMC will consider the final detail. It is hoped that 18th September may be the first date however this is dependent on everything being in place for this time. Cllr. B Whitlock committed to try and move the matter forward.

14. Community Speed Watch – Cllr. Armitage reported that a new resident has volunteered to take on the role of Speedwatch co-ordinator. Cllr. Armitage asked that an appeal went to Newick Talk for additional volunteers. Cllr. Deacon asked for detail on the procedure and Cllr. Armitage clarified how the system works.

15. Newick Internet Improvement utilising Government Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme – Cllr. T Whitlock reported that every property that registers for the scheme will add towards a grant to improve internet service in the village. Cllr. T Whitlock asked if the Parish Council would like to be involved in promoting the scheme in the village. Cllr. Wickens supported the idea and suggested that a description goes onto social media on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk suggested it was added to the Newsletter and Cllr. Whitlock agreed to send the details to the Clerk.

16. Permission Request – To consider request from Newick Bonfire Society to use The Green and surrounding areas for Newick Bonfire Celebrations 30th October 2021 – it was agreed to grant permission for 2021 and to pay for the portals in the usual way.

17. To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update – it was agreed to add this to the agenda earlier in the meeting. Cllr. T Whitlock agreed to draft the statement for this month.

18. To discuss continued approach to COVID-19 outbreak – It was agreed to make no change to the current approach of the NPC.

19. Items for next agenda –

Skate Ramp
 ESCC meeting with A Bailey
 Child protection policy
 IT back up procedure
 Insurance policy review

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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