

## Newick Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 27th April 2021. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom software.

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

**In Attendance:** Emma Reece (Clerk)  
One member of public  
Members of Councillor's families were in the same room as those participating in the meeting for brief periods

The internet connection was poor throughout the meeting for the Clerk, Councillors and the member of public

The meeting commenced at 7.11pm

1. **Apologies for Absence**
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** –There were none
3. **Exclusion of the Press and Public** – There was no reason to exclude the Press or members of the public from any part of the meeting.
4. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were none at this point and it was agreed to return to this agenda item when the member of public joined the meeting.
5. **Co-option of up to one new councillor (if candidates have put themselves forward)** – There were none
6. **To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update** – It was agreed that Cllr. Wickens would write the update for this month.
7. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Roy Burman** – District Councillor Roy Burman was not present.
8. **Report from Member of Parliament Maria Caulfield** – Maria Caulfield was not present.

Alex Harrison joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

### Item 4 **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public**

Alex Harrison discussed the potential memorial orchard and confirmed that no location was found to be suitable at Reedens Meadows. Alex also discussed the proposed plan to combine the Food Fair with Wheels on the field on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with 100 cars raising money for charity alongside food vendors.

Item 14.3 was brought forward.

**14.3 Newick Food Fair 2021** – to consider use of KGVPF on Bank Holiday Monday 30th August 2021

Cllr. Hodge asked about weather conditions. Cllr. Armitage asked about whether the event would still go ahead if the ground was wet due to concerns about damage by cars. It was

agreed to grant permission providing the ground was in a suitable condition and subject to any covid restrictions.

Alex Harrison left at 7.23pm

9. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – It was agreed that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 could be signed as a true record with one minor amendment.

Item 18 was brought forward

**18. Newick Village Hall Management Committee** – Report from Cllr. B Whitlock. Cllr. B Whitlock reported that after going out to tender three quotes had been received for renovations of the village hall. The work will take approximately 4-6 weeks from late June with an aim to reopen in September 2021.

**10. Planning:**

**10.1** Consideration of Planning Applications: (if any)

<p><b>LW/21/0074</b></p>	<p><b>69 Church Road</b> Proposed single storey extension from existing kitchen to rear of the property.</p> <p><i>It was unanimously agreed to <b>object</b> on the basis that it does not appear that the application has taken into account the conservation considerations and there are inaccuracies in the application such as the date the house was built and reference to North Lodge which is a different part of the village.</i></p>
<p><b>LW/21/0168</b></p>	<p><b>6 Church Road</b> Refurbish existing garage to be used as workshop and replace existing car port</p> <p><i>It was noted that a previous application has been refused recently and that there was little difference between the refused application and this one.</i></p> <p><i>It was unanimously agreed to <b>object</b> for the same reasons as the previous application (the garage door being out of keeping in a conservation area) and for the reasons cited in the refusal from Lewes District Council.</i></p>

**10.2** Approvals/Refusals etc. – There were none

**10.3** Tree Works Applications –There were none

**10.4** Update on Woods Fruit Farm application – It was reported that there was a change of PINS reference. The beta numbers are no longer being used and have been reallocated. It was noted there are two active appeals on this site. One from 2018 and one from 2020. The 2020 appeal has been accepted by PINS but not been put on the system. Cllr. Armitage reported it is likely to be virtual hearing.

**10.5** Review of statements made in March PC meeting following reports from Leigh Palmer and Maria Caulfield

Cllr. Wickens discussed some of the comments made in the last meeting. Firstly that she did not agree that reviewing a neighbourhood plan was as simple as checking it was up to date. Cllr. Wickens felt the comments made about using Lewes Local Plan Part 2 with mitigating circumstance was unclear. Leigh Palmer requested the address of the property that was discussed with regards to dog grooming and Cllr. Wickens asked if Mr Palmer had replied. The Clerk confirmed he had. Cllr. Wickens noted that Member of Public Maria Caulfield stated that LDC had turned down help. Cllr. Wickens noted Mr Palmer stated South Downs National Park (SDNP) is only delivering 70 units of housing per year and if under delivers then the rest of the District have to make up shortfall. Cllr. Armitage asked if the Pheonix site in Lewes is in SDNP? Cllr. V Marchant said she had been informed that the Pheonix site has been sold to another developer and the original planning permission has expired. New plans will need to be considered and would be part of the SDNP and the new applications may have additional housing numbers requested. Cllr. Wickens said that as a Council we need to look at the conservation area as it may offer extra protection. Cllr. Wickens agreed with the comments Cllr. Thew made last meeting regarding developers having deep pockets.

**10.6** To agree comments to Lewes District Council on the current Settlement Hierarchy document – Cllr. Wickens stated that this was a work in progress and this matter will be considered at the Parish Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**10.7** To consider response to letter received from the Chair of Hamsey Parish Council received 22nd April 2021. Cllr. Wickens noted the email and Cllr. Thew felt that no further comments should be made. Cllr. Hodge agreed.

Cllr. Sippetts asked what the history of this issue was. Cllr. Wickens replied and gave a summary of the comments made in the interim policy statement.

**10.8** To consider whether to seek legal advice from Flo Churchill re planning permission adjacent to boundaries – Cllr. Armitage stated that members of LDALC had discussed seeking professional advice from Flo Churchill but there was a cost involved, there are 23 councils in the association but there are 6 larger councils that would need to split the cost. Cllr. Armitage stated that he felt the Parish Council should choose their battles carefully and not throw their money away. Cllr. Wickens agreed.

**10.9** Lewes District Association of Local Councils – Cllr. Armitage reported that he attended a planning super user group on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The meeting included the report that there is a back log of 5 weeks on validation of applications. There was a local plan update – LDC are currently working on an issues and options paper and on around 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 this will come out for comments. The Garden Street development (aka ‘Phoenix’ as noted above) was also discussed and there was discussion in the super user group that the planning inspector may not have followed procedure so may be some type of appeal.

**11. Clerk’s Report –**

To note report from Clerk including correspondence received in March/April 2021 – The correspondence report was circulated and noted.

The Clerks report included;

- John Lawson Circus not coming to Newick in 2021
- Speeding and reporting of speedwatch on social media
- Community Centre Wall
- Playground surface repairs
- Playing Field noise
- Newsletter misprint and feedback
- Approach to purchase strip of land

**12. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman. – There were none**

**13. Financial Matters:**

**13.1** To authorise Schedule of Payments for April 2021 and arrangements for approving payments

The following payments were reported to the Council;

Time: 11:21

**Unity Trust Bank**

**List of Payments made between 01/04/2021 and 30/04/2021**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
30/04/2021	HM Revenue & Customs	901920292	385.04		TAX AND NI
30/04/2021	NHS Property Services	114293898	990.00		LEASE FOR C.CENTE CARPARK
30/04/2021	East Sussex ALC Ltd	727368985	879.56		SUBSCRIPTIONS 21/22
30/04/2021	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	16.86		MOBILE BILL MONTHLY
30/04/2021	Mrs E Reece	901920292	1,442.16		CLERK SALARY
30/04/2021	Lewes District Council	645762984	18.00		Play Inspection
30/04/2021	Peter Howes	878116519	396.00		Handyman
30/04/2021	Newick Window Cleaning	283498718	200.00		Cleaning MUGA and area
30/04/2021	Surrey Hills Solicitors	684883028	390.00		Pavilion lease legal cost
30/04/2021	East Sussex Pension Fund	489212779	489.35		Pension Contributions
30/04/2021	Peter Frost	279287787	195.00		Internal Audit
30/04/2021	Mulberry & Co	566349130	60.00		New Councillor Training
30/04/2021	Barclays Debit Card	Top up	431.71		Top up
30/04/2021	Unity Trust Bank	SERV CHGE	22.95		Service Charges
<b>Total Payments</b>			<u>5,916.63</u>		

It was agreed that Cllr. Armitage and Cllr. Thew would authorise these payments.

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

Time: 11:23

**Barclays Debit Card**

**List of Payments made between 01/04/2021 and 30/04/2021**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
30/04/2021	Printerland	DC	67.32		Blank Toner
30/04/2021	Zoom Video Communications	DC	14.39		Virtual meeting subscription
30/04/2021	Haymarket Subscriptions	DC	350.00		Planning resource
<b>Total Payments</b>			<u>431.71</u>		

**13.2** To note quarterly reconciliation of finances for financial year end including bank statements – this was noted

**13.3** To receive end of year accounts for 2020/21 – these were received

Cllr. Wickens left due to poor internet connection

**13.4** To receive report from Internal Auditor – this was received and noted

**13.5** To review the effectiveness of the system of internal audit – this was reviewed and there were no issues

**13.6** To review Contingent Liability – it was noted that there were no known liabilities at this point in time

**13.7** To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 (Section 1 Annual Return) – this was considered and approved

Cllr. Wickens re-joined the meeting

**13.8** To consider and approve Accounting Statements 2020/21 (Section 2 of Annual Return) – this was considered and approved

**13.9** To ensure that the Governance and Accounting Statements, once approved, have been signed and dated by the Chairman – These are to be signed and dated by Cllr. Armitage

**13.10** To note receipt of first half of precept payment from Lewes District Council – this was noted

**13.11** To note receipt of CIL fund of £2407.54 relating to application LW/19/0507 – this was noted

**13.12** To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – there were none

**13.13** To consider quotes (if received) – there were none. Litter picking equipment is to be discussed in E&R section.

**13.14** To discuss outstanding rent payment from Newick Scouts – Cllr. V Marchant offered to chase again.

Cllr. B & T Whitlock left the meeting at 8.05pm

#### **14. Environment & Recreation;**

**14.1** Skate Ramp – report from Cllr. Thew. Cllr. Thew stated that the village consultation remains the first and most important thing to do. The two grants that LDC recommended included the Biffa Award. Cllr. V Marchant offered to assist with applications. Cllr. Thew stated that a Saturday morning might be appropriate. Cllr. Armitage asked about the types of questions that should be covered in the village consultation. The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had a Survey Monkey account.

**14.2** Memorial Orchard Reedens Meadow – Cllr. Thew reported that she had met a soil specialist at Reedens Meadows and it was established as being unsuitable.

**14.3** Newick Food Fair 2021 – to consider use of KGVPF on Bank Holiday Monday 30th August 2021 – this was covered earlier

**14.4** Newick Sports Pavilion Charitable Trust – report from Cllr. Thew and update on progress on lease for existing building – Cllr. Thew reported that the Pavilion AGM is on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and she plans to attend.

**14.5** Update on the movement of the abandoned car in the Community Centre Car Park – Cllr. Thew reported that it had been moved to the other side of the road. Cllr. Armitage reported that there was an increase in untaxed cars on Church Road and bottom of Oldaker Road.

**14.6** To consider the purchase of litter picking equipment and use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds – Cllr. Thew suggested purchasing Screwfix Litter Pickers and High Vis Jackets from Screwfix. Cllr. Wickens suggested badges with purpose potentially having printing on the jackets. It was unanimously agreed to allocate £500 from CIL money towards the equipment.

**14.7** To agree action on anti-social behaviour in various locations in the village. The problem was discussed at length and a clear way forward was reached. It is hoped that matters will now progress and that things will improve. Much of the information discussed was sensitive and accordingly reporting must be restricted.

**14.8** To consider additional flags to be flown on The Green following request by Cllr. D Marchant – suggested that 2 other flags be flown in addition to the Merchant Navy Ensign on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September each year. The Royal Airforce standard on 15<sup>th</sup> September and the White Ensign on 21<sup>st</sup> October. It was agreed to contact the family who provided the flagpole and speak to Paul Antrobus.

- 15. To consider whether to resume separate Finance & General Purposes Committee and Environment & Recreation Committee meetings in the 2021/22 Council year.** Cllr. D Marchant said he was happy to continue not having separate meetings. Cllr. Wickens suggested that Vice Chairs might take a more active role in the next two years of the council. Cllr. Thew felt producing reports before meeting assisting in focusing the discussion. It was agreed not to have separate Environment & Recreation and Finance & General Purposes committee meetings unless necessary.
- 16. To consider request from Batchelor Monkhouse for the use of KGVPF on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021** – This was agreed subject to Covid restrictions.
- 17. Newick Neighbourhood Watch – Report from Cllr. D Marchant** – Cllr. D Marchant reported that he has asked for ideas from the village but only had one contact. He reported that not all contacts are up to date from the previous network. Cllr. Sippetts commented that if there isn't a joined up line into the Police then Neighbourhood Watch may be redundant. Cllr. D Marchant reported that he shares information on Facebook. Cllr. Sippetts suggested engaging with PCSO Stainer. Cllr Armitage suggested that they have a face to face meeting.
- 18. Newick Village Hall Management Committee** – Report from Cllr. B Whitlock – this was covered earlier in the meeting.
- 19. To note the resignation of County Councillor Jim Sheppard** – This was noted and Cllr. Armitage stated his thanks over the years as a District and County Councillor and wished him the best for the future. Cllr. Thew agreed and conveyed her thanks.
- 20. To discuss continued approach to COVID-19 outbreak including consideration of Risk Assessment for face to face meetings if virtual meetings are unlawful from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – It was agreed to add this to the agenda for 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- 21. Items for next agenda**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council  
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