

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 7.11 p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs. C. Allen, J Sheppard, and J Smerdon

**In Attendance:** Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)  
One member of the public

1. **Appointment of Chairman for Environment & Recreation Committee** – Cllr. Jenny Smerdon was nominated and appointed as Chairman of this committee.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. N Berryman.
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** – There were no questions or statements from members of the public.
5. **Environment Issues:-**

- 5.1 Issues Identified in annual inspection of The Green and other Parish Council controlled open spaces – The draft report of findings compiled following the annual inspection of Parish Council controlled open spaces had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that a number of issues needed to be addressed and that, owing to a serious illness, the village handyperson was not able to take on any heavier work at present. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach one of the other applicants for the post of handyperson to see whether or not he would be in a position to take on some ad hoc work identified during the inspection. **Action Clerk**

It was agreed that Cllr. Sheppard would try to obtain some quotes for replacing the windows of the bus shelter on The Green with toughened glass. **Action Cllr. Sheppard**

It was noted that Cllrs. Allen, Sheppard and Smerdon had checked on fingerposts within the parish and identified those in need of maintenance work. Cllr. Allen agreed to update the survey document. **Action Cllr. Allen** It was agreed to obtain quotations for the outstanding work. **Action Clerk**

It had been noted that the deep ditch at Font Hill was obscured by undergrowth and nettles. Cllr. Smerdon agreed to report this to ESCC highways with a request for it to be cleared. **Action Cllr. Smerdon**

It was agreed that quotations would be obtained for replacing the oak post which supports the Newick village sign on The Green. **Action Clerk**

Cllr. Smerdon suggested that the layout of the car park in front of the Community Centre could be improved and agreed to check with NHS Property Services and obtain quotations. **Action Cllr. Smerdon**

It was noted that the drains within the Community Centre car park appeared to be silted up. It had been confirmed that this was outside the jurisdiction of ESCC Highways. The Clerk agreed to check whether or not this was the Parish Council's responsibility under the terms of the lease and, if so, to obtain quotations. **Action Clerk**

Cllr. Sheppard agreed to arrange to trim back the hedging beside the electricity sub-station in Powell Road. **Action Cllr. Sheppard**

5.2 Grounds Maintenance Contract – A draft specification for the grounds maintenance and highway verges contracts had been circulated prior to the meeting. A list of potential contractors had been compiled by the Clerk and was circulated at the meeting. It was agreed to recommend that the highway verges contract should be let separately to the grounds maintenance contract as East Sussex Highways had indicated that it would be reviewing its grass cutting contract procedure and there might be changes which would affect the Parish Council. It was agreed to recommend that there should be additional cuts to The Green and that hedging at the recreation ground should be cut twice a year instead of just once. Other minor amendments were agreed.

5.3 Overhanging Vegetation – It was noted that letters had been sent out to two householders following receipt of complaints from members of the public that overhanging vegetation was making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. It was agreed that the Clerk would check properties identified in the previous survey and write to those where there was still a problem. **Action Clerk**

## 6. Playing Field Issues

6.1 Monthly Inspection Reports – Issues to be considered under this agenda item were considered under agenda item 6.2 below.

6.2 Issues identified in annual inspection of Playing Fields – The draft report of findings compiled following the annual inspection of the King George V Playing Field (KGVPF) and Manwaring Robertson field had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to organise a work party to clear up the pond area on Manwaring Robertson field, date to be agreed and an article to be put in the next newsletter to ask for volunteers to help. **Action Cllr. Smerdon**

Issues raised in the Lewes District Council monthly inspection reports had been checked by councillors during the inspection and were in the process of being resolved. It was noted that Barcombe Landscapes had still not cut back brambles and nettles within the play area despite several requests. The Clerk would chase this again. **Action Clerk**

It was agreed to obtain a quotation for a replacement gate leading from the tarmac into KGVPF. **Action Clerk**

It was agreed that other minor clearance work noted during the inspection should be carried out by the stand-in handy person.

It was agreed that Cllr. Smerdon would approach the Cricket Club about the damaged nets. **Action Cllr. Smerdon**

6.3 Hedge on boundary between KGVPF and Allington Place – An email dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 from the residents of 5 Allington Place had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that part of the hedge was dying back and committee members agreed to inspect this after the meeting. It was agreed that residents with gardens backing on to the playing field should be consulted about the height of the hedge. **Action Clerk**

6.4 Skate Park – A paper prepared and updated by Mrs Balloch regarding skate parks had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Mrs Balloch should be thanked for the time that she had put into preparing this document. It was proposed that consideration should be given to revising and relocating the advisory notice which is currently on the post adjacent to the skate park, Cllr. Smerdon to check notices at other skate park facilities for ideas. **Action Cllr. Smerdon**

In connection with the potential replacement of the skate park, it was noted that an audit of suitable alternative sites had yet to be carried out. It was agreed to

progress this and, if no suitable site could be identified, consider removing the existing facility at the end of its life and not replacing it.

- 7. Items for the next agenda** – It was agreed that the following items should be on the next agenda:-  
Budget requirement for 2017/18  
Grounds maintenance contract

The meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.

Signed: .....

Dated:.....