

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 12th February 2024 at the Newick Community Centre, The Green, Newick

Present: Councillors, B. Deacon, B. Hodge (who chaired this meeting), D. Marchant, A. Sippetts, M. Thew, B Whitlock, T Whitlock and C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
District Councillor Charlotte Keenan
Two members of the public including Jacqueline Kerr who was being considered for Co-option as a Parish Councillor

A recording was made of the meeting for the purposes of minute taking

The meeting started at 7.00pm

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Armitage and Wheeler. Apologies had also been received from Member of Parliament Maria Caulfield. It was noted that Cllr. B Whitlock would need to leave and return part way through the meeting.
- 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. Thew declared an interest in the grant application by Newick Table Tennis club under 14.4. Cllr Hodge declared an interest in the appeal for Land behind Newick Hill House.
- 3. Exclusion of the Press and Public** – It was agreed that there were no items which the press or public needed to be excluded from.
- 4. Co-option of up to one applicant to fill Parish Council Vacancy** – Cllr. Hodge stated that Jacqueline Kerr had put herself forward for the vacancy.

Cllr. Thew asked which area she would like to be involved in? Jacqueline stated that she had covered lots of areas with work so would like to know where she was needed.

The existing Councillors voted on whether they wanted to co-opt by ballot or by a raise of hands – it was unanimously agreed that voting would be by a show of hands. A vote was made and it was unanimously agreed that Jacqueline would be co-opted onto Newick Parish Council.

Jaqueline Kerr then signed the acceptance of office declaration and joined the Councillors. The Clerk also gave Cllr. Kerr a register of interests form and an agreement to receive an email summons to attend meetings. She asked for both to be completed and returned to her.

The Clerk stated that Cllr. Kerr could abstain from any voting as she felt appropriate as she has not seen the background paperwork for the agenda items.

Councillors introduced themselves to Cllr. Kerr.

District Councillor Keenan arrived at 7.08pm

- 5. To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update** – It was agreed that Cllr. Marchant would write this.
- 6. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** –

A member of the public spoke about item 11.6 Lewes Local Plan. He stated he would be listening in regard to the discussions about whether NPC support the idea of a new separate settlement (like Eton town but not specifically that site). This is Option 6 in the draft plan. He stated that Newick Parish Council in the interim statement 2021 said, 'Are we going to have to wait for umpteen more years before the idea of a new settlement is formally seen as a potential solution....urge you to give serious consideration to developing a new settlement....our fear is that you will continue with your plan of sticking sites onto existing planning boundaries rather than being forward looking and creative'.

7. **Report from Lewes District Councillor (DC.) Charlotte Keenan** – DC. Keenan had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. She stressed importance of responding to the Local Plan and said that only 1000 responses had been received across the district at last count. She stated the deadline for wheelie bin preferences is 26th February 2024 and that Council Tax will now be increased 100% on empty homes and second homes.

Cllr. Wickens stated that she had concerns about the local plan and the planning service user group.

It was agreed to share on Newick Talk again the options and the Clerk would check the timings of the deadline.

8. **Report from County Councillor (CC.) Matthew Milligan** – CC. Milligan was not present at the meeting.
9. **Report from Member of Parliament Maria Caulfield** - Maria Caulfield was not present, however her written report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
10. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8th January 2024** – These were considered and approved.
11. **Planning:**
 - 11.1 **Approval of draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 22nd January 2024** – These were considered and approved.
 - 11.2 **Planning Applications** -

LW/24/0033	33 Leveller Road Demolition of conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension, and alterations to rear fenestration It was unanimously agreed to make <i>no comment</i> to this application
LW/24/0035	Sharpsbridge Farm Sharpsbridge Lane Variation of condition Number 1 (Plans) LW/20/0774 - Change in location of replacement dwelling It was unanimously agreed to make <i>no comment</i> to this application
LW/24/0038	The Glass Houses Fletching Lane Fletching Common Demolition of empty commercial glasshouse in poor repair, on north side of site It was unanimously agreed to support this application
LW/24/0055	48 Church Road Erection of free-standing greenhouse It was unanimously agreed to make <i>no comment</i> to this application
LW/24/0064	Lilac Cottage, Tilehouse Lane Change of use from unused land to dog exercise field for public use It was unanimously agreed to support to this application

11.3 Approvals/Refusals etc. – It was noted that the following case has been approved by Lewes District Council;

LW/23/0708 | Section 73A Retrospective application for alterations to fenestration on side elevation, and alterations to drainage and flue position | 10 Powell Road

It was noted that the application for a detached dwelling at 61a Allington Road was refused on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate.

11.4 Tree Works Applications - Cllr. Wickens stated there was one application for the Manor House, Church Road which she has objected to as it was in keeping with the existing garden.

11.5 Appeal for LW/23/0204 under APP/P1425/W/23/333188 – Cllr. Wickens stated that Newick Parish Council supported this application for Tanglewood Farm it was agreed to make no further comments.

11.6 Appeal for LW/23/0404 under APP/P1425/W/23/333092 – Land behind Newick Hill House, it was agreed to make comment around woodland location and that asbestos is not a reason to need to rebuild, (it can be treated or removed).

11.7 To consider response to Lewes Local Plan consultation (final sign off for submission) – Cllr. Wickens stated there were some additional points raised having read the PSUG minutes from January. Firstly, around housing numbers and second, the status of the plan and perceived protection it will give. It was noted that there was inconsistency between what LDC officers were saying and what Micheal Gove has previously stated. It was agreed to include comments outlining these concerns in the final submission.

Cllr. Wickens responded to the comments that the member of the public made earlier. She stated that NPC supported new settlements next to existing good public transport.

11.8 Goldbridge site – to agree choice of venue for meetings discussing large scale development applications. This item was reconsidered in accordance with NPC standing orders (7 a & b) – There was a lengthy discussion around the different approaches that the Parish Council could take for applications that are large in numbers or controversial. It was agreed that for now, the choice of venue for any meetings would be delegated to the Chair of Planning and that next month a policy would be considered in more detail as to the specifics of how these type of applications would be approached.

Cllr. B Whitlock left the meeting at 8.02pm

Tony Turk left at 8.08pm

12 Clerk's Report – To note report from Clerks including correspondence received in January/February 2024. A report had been circulated and included the following;

- Annual leave
- Internal Auditor recommendations completed

The correspondence report was discussed and it was agreed that this would cease.

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

14 Financial Matters:

14.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for February 2024 - It was agreed that Cllrs. Marchant and Sippetts would authorise the following payments;

List of Payments made between 01/02/2024 and 29/02/2024

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
29/02/2024	HM Revenue & Customs	628912397	696.42		Tax & NI
29/02/2024	Lewes District Council	72947101	211.97		Uncontested election expenses
29/02/2024	Protect Our Place	792299096	78.00		CCTV annual service
29/02/2024	Lewes District Council	844436189	18.00		Play inspections
29/02/2024	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	543918141	2,644.80		GM contract
29/02/2024	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	927270896	792.00		GM contract
29/02/2024	Mrs P Fuller	859658665	500.00		Cornwells Bank rental
29/02/2024	NACCA	324694118	300.00		Rent Q4
29/02/2024	Mrs E Reece	273445420	2,015.03		Clerk Salary
29/02/2024	BWP Creative Limited	137535804	1,042.86		344762585
29/02/2024	BWP Creative Limited	539297773	18.00		Domain until Aug 2025
29/02/2024	J G Wilkins	55405222	150.00		Skate Park hedgework
29/02/2024	Pottinger Design Engineering	961954461	624.00		RIBA stage 1 Sports Pav
29/02/2024	Paul Antrobus	38411747	364.00		Handyman
29/02/2024	Barclays Debit Card	Top up	230.41		Top up
Total Payments			9,685.49		

14.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at end of January 2024 –
this was received and noted.

14.3 To consider request for contribution towards condensation damage in Newick Community Centre – It was agreed to pay the full cost of the repairs.

14.4 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972)

The following applications were discussed;
Newick Table Tennis Club £200 – This was agreed unanimously (Cllr. Thew did not vote).
Air Ambulance £350 – This was considered and agreed.

Cllr. B Whitlock returned to the meeting at 8.20pm

14.5 To consider quotations received

A quote from Sussex Sign Centre for £168 for two signs at the playground was considered and this was agreed.

14.6 To consider the following policy;

- Risk Management – a draft was circulated and this was agreed.

15.Environment & Recreation:

15.1 Approval of draft minutes of the E&R Committee meeting held 22nd January 2024 –
These were approved as a true record.

15.2 Skatepark - Councillor Thew stated the work on the hedging has been started.

15.3 Newick Sports Pavilion – Cllr. Thew stated that she had met with the project manager and he is now working with plans for the new layout. A food safety inspection has been completed and the person agreed to suspend the inspection at present and gave advice on what a new facility should include. This information has been fed into the project manager. Cllr. Thew advised that the 5th March is the next meeting for the Sports Pavilion. The matter will be included in the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr. Thew confirmed that the application has been completed for a CIL bid to LDC for £200,000.

15.4 Scout hut lease – The Clerk confirmed that this was still with Scout Headquarters.

15.5 Cornwells Bank allotment site lease – Cllr. Thew shared the news that Mrs Fuller has now agreed to a 5 year lease with her sons included as landlords. The Clerk has sent a draft lease to Mrs Fuller today.

15.6 Bollards on The Green including quotations – A quote for from Stephen Comber had been received to install bollards on The Green to discourage parking – this was agreed.

15.7 Ditches on highways – Cllr. T Whitlock stated the ditches had not been looked at for a number of years. It was agreed to contact Matthew Milligan to discuss his concerns.

15.8 Hedgehog Highways – to consider letter received 18th January 2024 - Cllr. Thew agreed to contact the Primary school and discuss the proposition further.

16. Update on Parish Council website and email provider – Cllr. Hodge thanked the Clerk for her work on this project.

17. To agree article for the next edition of the Parish News (submission deadline 7th March) – It was agreed to use reduced version of the social media statement.

18. Requests and permissions;

18.1 Request from Newick Bonfire to use the Playing Fields on Sunday 21st July 2024 – this was agreed.

18.2 Request from Newick Food Fair to use The Green on Sunday 30th June 2024 – this was agreed.

19. To confirm arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting 20th March 2024 – This was noted.

20. To consider installing Emergency Bleed Control Packs in defibrillator cases – This was discussed and it was agreed to purchase and install three packs to be located in the defibrillator cabinets at the Village Hall, the Mid Downs medical centre and at the Pavilion. Once installed it was agreed that NPC should contact the pubs in Newick to see if they wanted to purchase packs to have in their premises.

21. Update from Councillor Hodge on Gold Bridge weight restrictions – Cllr. Hodge gave an update on the situation and stated there will be further checks on the bridge with better liaison between Sussex Police and ESCC.

22. Report from Councillor Hodge on LDALC meeting – Cllr. Hodge gave an overview of the meeting he attended earlier in the day.

23. Report from Councillor B. Whitlock on Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr. B Whitlock thanked everyone for their attendance at twaddling night. She shared that a card reader now in place, there was a Big Band night planned in April, the pantomime company had booked to come again, and the drains issue has been resolved.

24. Items for next agenda

Lone working policy
Significant/large applications policy

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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