

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 13th May 2024 at the Community Centre, The Green, Newick

Present: Councillors, C. Armitage (Chair in previous year), B. Hodge, J Kerr, D. Marchant, M. Thew, J Wheeler, A Sippetts, B. Whitlock, T. Whitlock, C. Wickens.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
One member of the public

- 1. Election of Chairman and declaration of acceptance of office** – Councillor Armitage proposed Cllr. Hodge as Chair of the Council. Cllr. Marchant seconded this motion. The Councillors voted and Cllr. Hodge was unanimously voted as Chair. He signed a declaration of acceptance of the office of Chair.

Cllr. Hodge thanked Cllr Armitage for his work over the past five years

- 2. Election of Vice Chairman** - Councillor Hodge proposed Cllr. Armitage as Vice Chair of the Council. Cllr. Wickens seconded this motion. The Councillors voted and Cllr. Armitage was unanimously voted as Vice Chair. He signed a declaration of acceptance of the office of Vice Chair.
- 3. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. Deacon had given his apologies, and these were accepted. It was noted that Cllrs. B and T Whitlock would be late for the meeting and that both Cllrs. Armitage and B. Whitlock would need to leave during the meeting and were intending on returning shortly afterwards.
- 4. 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.** - Members were reminded to review their register of interests and update the Clerk accordingly. There were no interests declared.
- 5. Exclusion of the Press & Public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the press and public have been excluded (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 S1 (2))** – there were none.

Cllr. B & T Whitlock arrived at 7.03pm

- 6. To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update** – it was agreed that Cllr. Armitage would write this.
- 7. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were none.
- 8. Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8th April 2024** – these minutes were considered and approved as a true record of the meeting with one minor amendment.
- 9. Clerk's Report** – To note report from Clerk received in April/May 2024. A report was circulated and the contents noted. This included;

Clerk annual leave and residence
County Council and Member of Parliament report

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

11. Appointment of Committees (inc appointment of Chair for F&GP), Working Groups, Representatives to External Organisations and responsibility for dealing with consultations

The following was agreed for committees;

Chair of the Parish Council	Cllr. Hodge
Vice Chair of the Parish Council	Cllr. Armitage

Planning committee	
Chair of the Planning Committee	Cllr. Wickens
Vice Chair of the Planning Committee	Cllr. Sippetts
Cllr. Armitage Cllr. Thew Cllr. Hodge Cllr. T Whitlock Cllr. Kerr	

Environment & Recreation Committee	
Chair of E&R	Cllr. Thew
Vice Chair of E&R	Cllr. Wheeler
Cllr. Marchant Cllr. Armitage Cllr. Sippetts Cllr. Wickens	
Non-Councillors – to be discussed in the first committee meeting	

Finance & General Purposes Committee	No separate committee meeting
Chair of F&GP	Cllr. Marchant (Cllr. Armitage in his absence)

The following was agreed for Sport Pavilion - Councillors Thew and Wickens

The following was agreed for consultations;

Organisation	Subject Area	Delegated responsibility
Lewes District Council	Planning Applications	Planning Committee
	Strategic Planning matters (including Core Strategy)	Chair of Planning Committee
	Trees	PC Tree Officer (Cathy Wickens)
	Housing policy	Chair of Planning Committee
	Refuse & Recycling	David Marchant
	Parks & Gardens	David Marchant
	LDC Plan	Cathy Wickens
	Temporary Street Closures	Chris Armitage
	Polling Districts & Polling Places	Chris Armitage

	Antisocial behaviour policy	Chris Armitage
	Other Councils' Neighbourhood Plans	Chair of Planning Committee
	Public Spaces Protection Orders	Chair of Environment & Recreation Committee
East Sussex County Council	Adult Social Care	Brian Hodge
	Education	Cathy Wickens
	Public Transport	Chris Armitage
	Library Service	Brian Hodge
	Waste and minerals plan	Jane Wheeler
	Highways	Strengthening Local Relations (E&R committee)
	Public Rights of Way/ Countryside Access	Cathy Wickens
	East Sussex Pension Fund	Alan Sippetts
Sussex Police	Neighbourhood Policing	Brian Hodge
East Sussex Fire & Rescue	Fire & Rescue Plans	Mel Thew
Government Agencies	Local Government Boundary Commission	Tom Whitlock
	Environment Agency Flood Risk Management	Mel Thew
	Community Transport	Chris Armitage
National Association of Local Councils	Various issues concerning local councils	Chairman
ESALC	Various issues concerning local councils including voting rights	Brian Hodge
Village Hall Management Committee	Including voting rights	Bronja Whitlock

Cllr. Armitage left the meeting at 7.15pm

12. To note Trustees of The Lady Vernon Trust – it was noted that the trustee list had not been received by the trustee clerk yet, but this is not a requirement of the Parish Council.

13. Approval of dates, times and venue of meetings of the full Council, the Annual Parish Meeting and Committees – a draft document was circulated to the Councillors listing the dates for the Parish Council meetings for 2024/25. These were agreed.

14. Review and adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – these were considered and agreed.

15. Review of press and media policy – this was considered and agreed.

16. Financial Matters:

16.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for May 2024

It was agreed that Cllrs. Marchant and Sippetts would authorise the following payments;

Time: 11:56

Unity Trust Bank

List of Payments made between 01/05/2024 and 31/05/2024

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/05/2024	Newick Primary School	314417064	150.00		Grant
31/05/2024	HM Revenue & Customs	348617098	664.69		Tax & NI
31/05/2024	Mrs E Reece	214709091	2,046.76		Clerk Salary
31/05/2024	East Sussex Pension Fund	227913458	698.09		Pension
31/05/2024	Qik Group Ltd	40154016	408.00		Portaloos bonfire night
31/05/2024	Lewes District Council	6255648	18.00		Play inspection
31/05/2024	East Sussex ALC Ltd	2592943372	731.81		Subs ESALC & NALC
31/05/2024	Mulberry & Co	592021318	136.50		Internal audit
31/05/2024	Paul Antrobus	508491159	488.00		Flags & Handyman
31/05/2024	Barclays Debit Card	Top up	338.13		Top up
31/05/2024	Pottinger Design Engineering	965519766	520.00		Stage 3a
31/05/2024	Telefonica UK Ltd	DD	45.05		Mobile
Total Payments			6,245.03		

It was noted that the following payments had already been made;

Time: 13:43

Barclays Debit Card

List of Payments made between 01/05/2024 and 31/05/2024

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/05/2024	WEL Medical Ltd	DC	143.88		Pads for VH and KGVPF
Total Payments			143.88		

- 16.2** To receive statement of performance against budget as at end April 2023 – this was noted.
- 16.3** To receive end of year accounts for 2023/24 – this was noted.
- 16.4** To receive report from internal auditor – the report was noted.
- 16.5** Contingent Liability – members to advise Clerk of any contingent liability of which they are aware – there were none.
- 16.6** To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (Section 1 Annual Return) – this was considered and approved.
- 16.7** To consider and approve Accounting Statements 2022/23 (Section 2 of Annual Return) – this was considered and approved.
- 16.8** To confirm dates on Notice of Electors rights – the dates were circulated prior to the meeting and noted.
- 16.9** To ensure that the Governance and Accounting Statements, once approved, have been signed and dated by the Chairman – the Chairman signed and dated both of the statements.
- 16.10** To review effectiveness of internal audit – this was reviewed and it was agreed that the internal audit was effective.
- 16.11** To appoint internal auditor for 2024/25 – It was agreed that Mulberry & Co would be continuing as internal auditors.

Councillor Armitage returned to the meeting at 7.22pm

- 16.12** To review Scheme of Delegation under section 101 of Local Government Act 1972 – this was reviewed and agreed.
- 16.13** To consider quotations received (if received) –There were none

16.14 To consider the renewal of planning resource subscription – Cllr. Marchant asked Cllr. Wickens to talk about the current cost of subscription as it has now increased to £500 per annum. It was agreed that the subscription would cease, everyone would be vigilant in the press and that Cllr. T Whitlock will create an RSS feed. It was agreed that the Council would ask George Pottinger for recommendations. It was agreed to review in 2 months' time.

Cllr. Marchant thanked the Clerk for her work on the finances.

17. Planning

17.1 Applications

<p>LW/24/0278 & 0279</p>	<p>Tudor Barn Church Road Replacement garage doors and 2no. rooflights to front elevation of detached garage within the curtilage of a Grade II Listed Building –</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make no comment</p>
<p>LW/24/0311</p>	<p>105 Allington Road Replace hanging clay tiles with feather edge horizontal timber cladding</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make no comment</p>
<p>LW/24/0217</p>	<p>Land to south of Allington Road Erection of up to 27 dwellings with access, roads, parking, open space, SuDs and associated infrastructure for Rydon Homes Ltd</p> <p>Cllr. Wickens thanked local residents for their comments on this application and District Councillor Keenan for her assistance.</p> <p>Cllr. Wickens gave an overview of the history of this site including the most recent Land Availability Assessment which included this site and graded it undeliverable and undevelopable.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to object to this application for the following reasons;</p> <p>.</p> <p>It contravenes the emerging Lewes District Council Local Plan. This Site is 16NW in the Land Availability Assessment (LAA) described as not developable or deliverable (red) for the following reasons; 'Site currently provides a gap between Newick and development along Station Road. The loss of the woodland area would be harmful to the character of the landscape and area. Complex application history but recently appeal dismissed by the Secretary of State (Ref: LW/14/0703). In his decision the Inspector concluded that the development of the site for housing would lead to serious and substantial harm to the local landscape. The area to the south of Allington Road is of high visual sensitivity as it is an open slope facing the countryside to the south. These open fields form a buffer between the village edge and the countryside to the south. Development would extend into the countryside and would have a significant and harmful effect on the character and appearance on the surrounding area and the village of Newick.'</p> <p>Keeping Newick as a village - NPC has always embraced the idea that a village needs some growth and change in order to remain a vibrant and good place to live, but this should always be plan led. Our neighbourhood plan (NNP) was the first to be made in East Sussex and has been described by many in the Planning world as an excellent well researched and consulted document. This Site is not in our plan and is outside of the planning boundary and for this reason alone should be dismissed. We support the direction of the emerging new</p>

	<p>local plan which recognises the need to preserve our open green spaces and there is plenty in the plan for Newick to do that and remain a village. It would result in coalescence of the villages of Newick and North Chailey.</p> <p>Effect on the natural environment - NatureSpace has concluded that the applicant has not adequately demonstrated that there will be no impact to great crested newts or to their habitat as a result of the development being approved. The applicant has only done a 'shadow' or initial screening Habitats Regulation Assessment which was a desk based activity.</p> <p>Inadequate drainage and SUDS in the plan and potential for flood risk - The area is known locally to be boggy and in addition Southern Water has had numerous 'sewerage spills' in Newick. The sewerage farm at Goldbridge is on full capacity and mains water pressure is frequently poor. It is clear from the responses by Southern Water and Planning and Environmental Services that insufficient detail and unacceptable methods have been submitted.</p> <p>Disrespect of NNP and the emerging local plan - In the design and access statement the applicant has selected some of the NNP policies but not all. For example HO1.2 which is 'to help new housing to blend with the existing, clay products should preferably be of Sussex manufacture. To assist ageing (weathering), bricks should preferably be handmade rather than factory made. We have already observed how effective this policy has been on Mantell Close our first NNP development. The applicant has also chosen not to follow the emerging local plan which should be planning for mainly 2 bedroom dwellings and of those that are affordable at least 65% should be on a social rent.</p> <p>Strength of local feeling - This site was put forward along with 11 others in the NNP site selection process and residents were invited to rank their choices – 41% of the electorate responded and it came 12th (bottom). Subsequently during the appeals and court cases spanning 6 years the residents showed their feelings by objecting in writing and supporting financially the local couple who took this to court. This application makes no reference to this difficult planning history and even hides behind a new name, land to the south of Allington Road. However over 100 residents have written in to object already – this is an unprecedented number for Newick. Their reasons mention in their own words the issues already covered but also those briefly expressed below.</p> <p>Local infrastructure -This is one of the greatest concerns for residents. The GP practice is totally full and has partnered a practice in Heathfield over 15 miles away with no form of public transport available. The primary school is full and is over subscribed; there are simply no more places for extra children. Allington Road (where the school is) is constantly busy, no places to park and whilst there have already been several accidents, with additional housing would only exacerbate the situation. The junction of Allington Road with the A272 is poor at the best of times but an additional 27 dwellings would make this even worse.</p>
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17.2 To discuss response to Wealden District Local Plan consultation – A draft was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Wickens thanked Cllr. Sippetts for his work and it was agreed that the Clerk would send the document to Wealden District Council.

18. Environment & Recreation

- 18.1 To approve the draft minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee meeting held 22nd April 2024 – These were approved and agreed with one minor typo.
- 18.2 To consider final plans for Sports Pavilion for submission to LDC for planning permission – These were considered and approved.

Cllr.T Whitlock left the meeting 7.57pm.

It was agreed that the Council could spend up to £2,000 on planning application fees to submit the application to Lewes District Council. Cllr. Thew also reported that she attended the Pavilion Trustee meeting and that there was no current Chair of the Pavilion.

- 18.3 D Day 80 – Cllr. Thew discussed the matter with a member of NEASSA who would be reporting back to her regarding their plans.

19. Permissions;

- 19.1 To consider request from Newick Cricket Club to clear and use the area between the storage shed and the QE11 memorial tree to store roll on nets – This was agreed but it was noted that the Cricket Club need to be aware that this area may be used for storage by the pavilion in the future.
- 19.2 To consider request from Newick Youth Club to use KGVPF on the following dates; 15th May - Colour Party, 19th June - Combat Archery, 26th June - Capture the flag, 17th July - BBQ in the park with Parents, 12th June - Water rounders, Skate Park 26th June – these were agreed.
- 19.3 To consider request from VHMC to reset no parking sign on access road – this was agreed. It was agreed that the Clerk could instruct a local contractor up to the value of £200 and that the Council would request a refund from the water board.

Cllr. T Whitlock returned to the meeting

20. Items for next agenda

- Special measures LDC
- Playground resurface
- Skate park surface
- ESALC meeting
- Ditch digging

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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