

Newick Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors, C Armitage, B. Hodge (Chair), J. Kerr, D. Marchant, A. Sippetts, J Wheeler, B Whitlock, T. Whitlock.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
One member of the Public
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 Cllr. Wickens, Cllr. Deacon, Cllr. Thew and District Councillor Keenan.
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** – It was agreed that there were no items which the press or public needed to be excluded from.
4. **To agree author and content of monthly Social Media update** – It was agreed that Cllr. Armitage would write this.
5. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – None
6. **Report from Lewes District Councillor (DC.) Charlotte Keenan** – DC. Keenan was not present.
7. **Report from County Councillor (CC.) Matthew Milligan** – CC. Milligan was not present.
8. **Report from Member of Parliament Mims Davies** – the Member of Parliament was not present, it was agreed that the Clerk would send her an email inviting her to future Parish Council meetings.
9. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8th July 2024** – These were considered and approved.
10. **Planning:**

10.1 Applications – There were none. Cllr. Sippetts reported that following last month's meeting an email was received from Parker Dann replying to comments made in the NPC in the objection. It was noted that there has been an application at 55 Allington Road for three further houses and that the Clerk has asked for a one week extension to allow the PC to comment.

10.2 Approvals/Refusals etc. – It was noted that the following cases have been approved by Lewes District Council;

Non-material amendment of application LW/20/0160 to reduce veranda to suit base size
1 Harmers Hill Newick East Sussex BN8 4LJ

Ref. No: LW/24/0373 | Received: Wed 29 May 2024 | Validated: Fri 31 May 2024 | Status:
Decided - Approved

Renovation of the existing sports pavilion, including recladding, changes to type and location of doors and windows, new patio area and 6no. storage sheds to the side Newick Sports Pavilion
The Recreation Ground Allington Road Newick East Sussex

Ref. No: LW/24/0363 | Received: Tue 21 May 2024 | Validated: Wed 22 May 2024 | Status:
Decided - Approved

10.3 Tree Works Applications – None but it was noted that the NPC tree survey has been delayed by a few weeks

10.4 To discuss creating a sub-committee or working group looking at planning policy – Cllr. Hodge stated that NPC now have the consultation document from the NPPF changes and the recent LAA update was dealt with quickly. Cllr. Hodge said that he felt that if the Council need a working group then one can be created when required rather than have a standing one. Cllr. Sippetts stated he was happy with how it has worked so far. The NPPF document was discussed, Cllr. Hodge stated that was a useful document. Cllr Armitage suggested that when the Planning Committee meet, policy updates are included in the agenda. Cllr. Kerr asked about the progress of the local plan review and Cllr. Hodge stated that ESCC need to input into the plan for it to move to the next stage.

10.5 Review of RSS news feed – Cllr. T Whitlock stated that Cllr. Wickens has been away and he agreed to add Cllr. Sippetts to the feed. It was agreed to review again in three months.

10.6 To consider the renewal of planning resource subscription (agreed to review 2 months after May PC meeting) – It was agreed to await the results of the RSS news feed and review in three months.

10.7 To consider response to LDC Local Plan - New Sites request for Technical Evidence exercise – a draft document was circulated to Councillors. Cllr. Armitage stated his support for the document. Cllr. Hodge stated that some of the technical information included was significant. It was agreed to send the final version of the document to LDC copying in District Councillors Keenan and Nicholson.

10.8 To note response from LDC to proposed changes to NPPF and Local Plans (if available) – this was noted.

The member of the public left the meeting

The following item was brought forward

17. Report from Cllr. B Whitlock on Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr. B Whitlock reported that there will be a September working party and that preparations are being made for a future CIL application for work required around the stage area. She stated that a twaddling fundraising event was being held on 5th October. Cllr. B Whitlock also reported that the hearing loop has been taken to the Chailey repair café and they agreed to repair it. Cllr. B Whitlock gave an update on the Hall Treasurer following his recent accident and Cllr. Hodge asked if the Hall had a lone working policy. Cllr. B Whitlock stated that she didn't think they did and would suggest one at their next meeting.

11. Clerk's Report – To note report from Clerk. A report had been circulated and included the following;

Annual Leave & Parish Office hours
Email from P Cumberlege re A272 roadworks
Email from S Lightfoot re Mitchelswood Farmhouse

In addition to the above, the Clerk reported she had received an email from a resident today asking about double yellow lines in Oldaker and it was agreed that this would be added to the September agenda.

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

13. Financial Matters:

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

List of Payments made between 01/08/2024 and 31/08/2024

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/08/2024	East Sussex Pension Fund	129841221	698.10		Pension
31/08/2024	HM Revenue & Customs	124848686	664.89		Tax & NI
31/08/2024	Treewise Tree Services	614776127	156.00		Basketball hoop trees
31/08/2024	RTC Safety Surfaces	BACS	5,383.20		Wet pour
31/08/2024	Mrs E Reece	316332319	2,046.56		Clerk Salary
31/08/2024	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	896230359	1,459.20		Grounds Maintenance
31/08/2024	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	255931628	528.00		Grounds Maintenance
31/08/2024	Protect Our Place	335598561	120.00		Protect Our Place
31/08/2024	Lewes District Council	593078751	18.00		Lewes District Association
31/08/2024	Mrs SE Berry	984992064	289.46		Locum Clerk
31/08/2024	Paul Antrobus	BACS	468.00		Handyman
31/08/2024	PKF Littlejohn LLP	651576877	378.00		PKF Littlejohn LLP
Total Payments			<u>12,209.41</u>		

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

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

13.4 To consider quotations received – there were none.

13.5 To consider completion of Limited Assurance Review of Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/23 by external examiners – this was noted.

14. Environment & Recreation:

14.1 Newick Sports Pavilion – The Clerk stated she has a meeting with George Pottinger this week about storage and outlined a potential issue raised by the football club regarding their 6 a side goals.

14.2 Scout hut lease – The Clerk advised there was no further update.

14.3 Cricketfield Allotment site lease – It was noted that the Cricketfield site lease is still with LDC legal department.

14.4 To discuss skatepark surface cracks and Gravity visit week commencing 9th September – The Clerk reported that contractors from Gravity would be working on the skate park the week commencing 9th September. She stated that there was graffiti on the top of the ramps which Paul Antrobus is going to remove.

14.5 Wildflower areas and Grounds Maintenance contract renewal – Cllr Marchant stated that he had concerns about the standard of grass cutting in the current grounds maintenance contract. The Clerk stated that the contract ceases at the end of March 2026. Councillor Marchant stated that the number of wildflowers has improved. Cllr. Armitage said that the wildflower areas are still in the early stages and that on the matter of the appearance of the verges, it doesn't help that some residents cut verge and others don't. Cllr. Marchant outlined the benefits of having longer verges. Cllr. Sippetts suggested that a further article about the benefits of this approach would be a good idea. Cllr. Marchant stated that the PC had done one for the most recent edition of the Parish Council newsletter. Cllr. Sippetts suggested it could be shared on Newick Talk. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Barcombe Landscapes, Cllr. Marchant and Cllr. Thew to discuss improvements that could be made to the quality of the grass cutting work.

Councillor T Whitlock left the meeting at 8pm

14.6 Bench Maintenance – Cllr. Armitage reported that Julian Avis is going to start work on the benches and that residents should be encouraged not to sit on a bench if there is tape around it.

14.7 ESCC ditch maintenance - Cllr. Kerr reported they had cleared only one ditch in front of the glass houses. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report drains and ditches that are blocked to ESCC and that the link to report would be included in the social media update.

15. Requests and Permissions;

15.1 To consider request from Newick Horticultural Society to use The Green for the annual show on Saturday 6th September 2025 and to erect advertising banners beforehand – this was agreed.

16. To agree article for the next edition of the Parish News (submission deadline 7th September) – it was agreed to use a reduced version of the social media update.

17. Report from Cllr. B Whitlock on Village Hall Management Committee – this matter was considered earlier in the meeting.

18. Items for next agenda -

- Asset inspection
- 55 Allington Road
- Yellow lines Oldaker Road
- Trees

Councillor T Whitlock rejoined the meeting at 8.09pm

The meeting closed at 8.11pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
newickpc@newick.net – 07521 511643