

## Newick Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Newick Community Centre, The Green, Newick

**Present:** Councillors, C. Armitage, B. Hodge, M. Hughes, P. Impey, C. Keenan, J. Kerr, D. Marchant, B. Whitlock, C Wickens.

**In Attendance:** Emma Reece (Clerk)  
A recording was made of the meeting for the purposes of minute taking  
Eight members of the public

The meeting started at 7.00pm

Cllr. Hodge opened the meeting and shared the sad news that Jim Sheppherd had passed away.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – There were none.
- 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** – Cllrs. Hodge and Impey declared an interest in the grant application for Chailey and Newick Painting Group.
- 3. Exclusion of the Press and Public** – none.
- 4. To consider co-option of up to two applicants to fill Parish Councillor Vacancy** – There was one applicant present just to observe the meeting. In addition, Mr Oliver Williams was also present at the meeting and has applied for the vacancy of Parish Councillor.

Cllr. Impey stated it was great to see a younger candidate and asked if Mr Williams expected to be spending most of his time in Newick going forward. Mr Williams confirmed that he will.

It was agreed that the vote would be taken by a ballot.

The ballot was completed and the Clerk stated that there were nine votes for, none against Mr Williams becoming a Parish Councillor. He was therefore co-opted and invited to join the Councillors at the meeting table.

He signed a declaration of office in front of the Clerk and was asked to complete a register of interests form by the next PC meeting.

### **5. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public –**

A member of the of the public spoke about the Headway site in his capacity as a neighbour and representing fellow neighbours. He outlined concerns about road safety, environmental impact, sewage and fly infestations. He stated that residents maintain good neighbourly relationship with the Headway charity. He stated that any development should be fair and considered. He outlined concerns about the financial history of Headway House. He stated that 25 Houses would significantly change the character of the area and erode the green gap. He noted that Remus the developer, is not a charity, and have done some developments but nothing of this size, he questioned are they capable of delivering? He shared concerns about the intended use of a shared access road for the development and suggested that the layout of the development could be pushed towards the eastern side to lessen the privacy impact on immediate neighbours.

A second member of the public stated that she agreed wholeheartedly with the previous statement.

Cllr. Armitage stated that a formal planning application has not yet been submitted.

Member of public three introduced himself as a solicitor for neighbouring residents.

Cllr. Armitage stated that the site is in the boundary of Chailey so residents may wish to speak to Chailey Parish Council.

*The following item was brought forward*

**9.3 Headway House Consultation** – Cllr. Wickens stated that until there is a formal application then Newick Parish Council cannot predetermine their view, but she could outline some facts. She stated that the Parish Council was invited to a pre meeting with the developer which they declined as it was policy not to meet in private with developers. Four members of the Parish Council attended the public consultation in their capacity as residents. The green gap policy SGG3 in the draft local plan does specify this land is in the green gap, currently the map is unclear as the appeal for land at the eastern end of the village will determine the final line. Cllr. Wickens went on to say the new NPPF prefers building to take place within the planning boundary, the closest Newick planning boundary to Headway House is Point House.

Cllr. Armitage raised concerns about money which had gone to headway in the past. Cllr. Wickens stated that the charity received £330,000 from sale of land to create the SANG at Reedens Meadows. Cllr. Armitage stated he believed that the charity also received £100,000 in National Lottery funding. Cllr. Wickens stated that she believed that the charity is currently offering very limited services to a small number of people.

*Six members of the public left the meeting*

6. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Charlotte Keenan** – Cllr. Keenan stated she had no formal update.

7. **Report from Member of Parliament Mims Davies** – the Member of Parliament was not present.

8. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026** – These were considered and approved.

9. **Planning:**

**9.1 Approvals/Refusals:**

It was noted that the following had been approved by Lewes District Council:

LW/26/0037 | Erection of single-storey rear extension, replacement of existing conservatory including windows/doors and flat roof, alterations to fenestration to the main house | 24 Western Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4LF

It was noted that the following had been refused by Lewes District Council:

LW/26/0105 | Prior Notification Under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 6 for erection of an agricultural storage barn | 89 Allington Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4ND

**9.2 Tree Works Applications** –

It was noted that the following applications have been approved by Lewes District Council:

TW/26/0011/TCA | T1 -T8 - Beech - Reduction to ground level - To reduce shading at adjacent properties and risk of failure | 9 Allington Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4NA

TW/26/0002/TCA | T1 - Fir - removal of tree to ground level - risk of structural failure due to excessive growth | 15 Western Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4LE

TW/26/0008/TCA | G1 - Hollies and Portuguese Laurels - Reduction of trees to 4 m height to prevent shading to surrounding properties | 10 High Street Newick East Sussex BN8 4LQ

TW/25/0119/TCA | T1 - Holly Tree - Removal of tallest trunk , Crown reduction by 2-3 m , Trimming side branches by 1 m to maintain shape | New Cottage High Street Newick East Sussex BN8 4LG

TW/25/0115/TPO | T4- Quercus Robur( English Oak) - Crown reduction by 2.5-3 m - To reduce the risk of branch failure and maintain health | 1 Hunters View Western Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4LF

It was noted that the following application has been refused by Lewes District Council:  
TW/25/0122/TPO | T2 - Red Oak - removal due to early death by fugus infection - risk of falling limbs | 84 Allington Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4ND

**9.3 Headway House Consultation** – This was covered earlier in the meeting.

**9.4 NPPF update/Planning Committee reform** – Cllr. Wickens stated that it looks like Parish Councils remain a consultee as a tier of local government and that Unitary Planning Committee members must attend training. Cllr. Marchant asked if training would apply to Parish Councillors too? Cllr. Wickens replied that she was unclear at this stage. Cllr. Wickens stated that Neighbourhood Plans would continue.

Cllr. Kerr asked about the Newick Hill caravan concerns previously discussed in the February PC meeting. Cllr. Hodge stated that he believes there has been a change in ownership. Cllr. Keenan stated that the District Council have looked at this site and cannot find anything untoward within their remit.

**10. Clerk’s Report** – To note report from Clerk. A report had been circulated and included the following:

- Annual leave/agenda issue date

The Clerk also stated the first half of the precept has been received.

**11. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman** – The Clerk shared that someone had broken the Gate on the Green by reversing into it, they offered to pay for the repair at a cost of £140. Stephen Comber also repaired the gate post at the same time at an additional cost of £56.

**12. Financial Matters:**

**12.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for April 2026** - It was agreed that Cllrs. Hodge and Impey would authorise the following payments:

**List of Payments made between 01/04/2026 and 30/04/2026**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
30/04/2026	NHS Property Services	804705102	990.00		Rent on Comm Centre Car Park
30/04/2026	Lewes District Council	88926058	18.00		Play area inspection
30/04/2026	Lewes District Council	682764762	187.20		Bin empty
30/04/2026	Kevin Duncton Electrical Contr	495608595	348.42		Pavilion emergency lighting
30/04/2026	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	116568228	1,376.40		Mowing
30/04/2026	East Sussex Pension Fund	977637676	735.22		Pension
30/04/2026	HM Revenue & Customs	180722386	939.21		NI &Tax
30/04/2026	Emma Reece	501600289	2,240.97		Clerk
30/04/2026	Lewes District Council	645666893	168.00		ROSPA
30/04/2026	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	274418946	252.00		RBS
30/04/2026	Two Build Sussex Ltd	114415658	1,348.78		Two Build Sussex Ltd
30/04/2026	Paul Antrobus	1405160	742.50		Handyman
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>9,346.70</b>		

**12.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at end of financial year–**

This was received and noted, the bank reconciliation was noted and signed, and the VAT return was noted.

**12.3 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972)** – An application for a grant from Chailey and Newick Painting Group for £200 was considered. This was agreed in full. Cllr. Williams did not vote. Cllr. Hodge and Impey did not participate due to an interest declared earlier in the meeting.

**12.4 To discuss Councillor Allowances** – Cllr. Armitage stated that he asked for this to be put on the agenda to discuss if it would encourage further new Councillors to come forward.

*It was agreed to bring item 16 forward*

**16. To discuss next Parish Council term (from May 2027) and new Councillor candidate advertising** – Cllr. Hodge stated that it would be helpful if Councillors could state their intentions on whether they intend to stay beyond May 2027 privately if they preferred. 5 Councillors stated that their current intention is to leave in May 2027. 5 Councillors stated that at the moment, they are likely to continue.

Cllr. Marchant asked if co-opted members qualify for allowances? The Clerk replied that they do not but Councillors who stay through an uncontested election would qualify. It was agreed that Cllr. Hodge will ask other LDALC members if their Councils pay allowances at the next meeting. It was agreed to add allowances to the September agenda to discuss before the budget is drafted.

Cllr. Whitlock asked if there was a maximum number of serving Councillors allowed and Cllr. Hodge replied that yes there is 11 and Cllr. Armitage stated it might be helpful to create working parties on Environment, Planning etc. Cllr. Wickens stated she was happy to help future Councillors in an advisory capacity.

**13. Newick Sports Pavilion** – Cllr. Hodge stated that there are some snags outstanding which have been chased up. He also outlined concerns about a gathering of young adults on Easter Monday with unverified reports of underage drinking, anti-social noise and possible carrying of a weapon. The Chair and Clerk have scheduled a meeting with the PCSO to discuss this further.

*Cllr. Whitlock left the meeting at 7.58pm*

**14. To review Annual Parish Meeting 2026** – it was noted that this was poorly attended.

**15. To discuss Local Government reorganisation** – Cllr. Keenan stated that no more information will be known until after the May elections. Cllr. Impey asked what Councillors think the area which Newick would become part of in, terms of the interests and focus? Cllr. Wickens stated that whilst there are some bigger towns it is mainly rural, but a huge area. Cllr. Keenan stated that don't want to split Districts due to cost of splitting services and that Brighton City Council want the additional coastal areas to assist with housing targets.

**16. To discuss next Parish Council term (from May 2027) and new Councillor candidate advertising** – this item was covered earlier in the meeting.

**17. Newick Allotment Society** – Cllr. Hughes attended a site meeting with the Chair and Clerk. She stated that tree works are underway, an annual tree inspection will be required and that there are free plots available. It was noted that by Cllr. Hughes that presently the allotments are only open to Newick residents in accordance with the lease so the Allotment Society may ask for this to be reconsidered by Newick Parish Council.

**18. To note play inspection for skatepark, MUGA, outdoor gym and play equipment** – this was noted. Cllr. Wickens stated that there were still nettles in playground, it was agreed to speak to Barcombe landscapes.

**19. To consider suggestion for a noticeboard at KGVPF** – It was agreed to add this to the June agenda when it would be clearer if there was any NPC CIL money available.

**20. Report from Cllr. B Whitlock on Village Hall Management Committee** – Cllr. Whitlock was not present.

**21. To consider Flag Policy including seasonal flags for summer 2026** – The draft policy was considered, and it was agreed to fly the same as last season.

**22. Items for next agenda**

*The meeting closed at 8.11pm*

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council  
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