

# NEWTON IN THE ISLE

## PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020

All members are reminded that they will need to declare any personal or prejudicial interest and reason before an item discussed at this meeting under the Model Code of Conduct Order 2001 No 3576.

### **Present**

Cllr's D Gibbs, G Wilkinson, S Clark, D Nunn, R Moore, E Jones and P Wilkinson (clerk)

### **1/20 Apologies**

Cllr's King (CCC) and C Seaton. (FDC)

### **2/20 Public Forum**

No residents attended.

### **3/20 Chairman's Announcements**

Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated he had attended a number of meetings.

### **4/20 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th November 2019 were approved as a true record and signed.

b) Matters arising – Playing field gate key had been given to contact for emergency entry

c) Planning minutes from the meeting held on 4th December were also accepted as a true record.

No matters arising.

### **5/20 Police Matter**

Police report received for October

### **6/20 County and District Reports**

No reports.

### **7/20 Reports**

#### **a) Highways**

Major potholes repaired in Church Lane, but the condition of the highway in Church Lane was still causing concerns..

Meeting had taken place with Jacob Hobbs to discuss a gateway and possible chicane on the High Road as part of the 2021 LHI Bid.

A number of cars speeding had left the High Road bend towards Tydd, Cllr Clark would discuss this problem with Steve Nicholson (Highways).

Concerns raised on a car parked at the junction of Goodens Lane and Church Lane causing a hazard at night, this would be investigated further. Highways would also be

contacted regarding the gullies blocked along the High Road causing a build up of surface water on the road.

*Street lighting* A number of faulty street lights had also been reported

**b) Village Hall**

Kitchen refurbishment virtually completed. The heating boiler was no longer useable and a new boiler was required urgently to enable continued use of the hall. The Village Hall Management Committee would approach the Parish Council regarding possible assistance with funding. This would be discussed in agenda item 9e. A number of successful events had taken place over the Christmas period. The Village Hall committee were arranging an event for National Village Hall week.

**c) Playing Field**

Play equipment continued to be monitored. Signage continues to be damaged and replaced. Bird and Bat boxes had been purchased with Grant funding along with 15 heritage fruit trees and 1,100 bulbs for the copse areas. Volunteer work day planned for January 11th to plant fruit trees. Possible installation of pedestrian access to field adjacent to field vehicle gate. Cllr Gibbs was to arrange cutting of the meadow area in need of urgent attention. Bike ramp design and construction ongoing, a visit to the BMX track to March planned for February. Cllr Gibbs to investigate the dyke problem and report back. Cllr Clark to investigate bark chippings for vehicle and pedestrian entrance to field, both Mr Kublik and Cllr Jones have a quantity. Mr Kublik to be approached to collect the bark for the playing field when weather improved and field accessible.

**d) Streetscape.**

Property Management had dealt with the overgrown hedge on the corner of Goodens Lane/Colville Road which now enabled access to the footpath. The new litter bin had also been installed at the bus shelter.

**d) Handyman Report**

Little to report due to the recent bad weather. Cllrs asked to contact Cllr Moore if they had anything that required attention. A project suggested to be undertaken during the winter months was the raising of the bench seat on the High Road/ Fen Road junction. A query was raised as to whether Street Pride were responsible for maintaining the planters on the High Road near the seat, Cllr Moore to investigate.

**e) Allotments and Public Rights of Way.** – Nothing to report

**f) Emergency Plan** - Cllr Jones presented the final draft of the Emergency Plan previously circulated to Cllrs. The Coordinators for the various roles needed to be clarified and approved. It was suggested that a Coordinator was required for the Ferry Lane area. Chainsaw training would also be investigated further. The Chairman thanked Cllr Jones for all his work completing the plan, and suggested it should be monitored on a regular basis.

**g) Correspondence**

Letter on Climate Change

Short Survey to complete from Voluntary and Community Services

Planning Appeal decision on Woodland Mill Lane

Planning Application for extension Tamassa Fitton End Road

Arrange meeting date for Cllrs with Highways on High Road to explain chicane on High Road as possible part of LHI Bid'

Pride of Fenland Nomination deadline was February 2020  
Letter regarding the possible changes in Streetlighting contract.  
Letter from Village Hall Management Committee regarding the replacement boiler.

Street Light new lantern installed. at PC9a O/S 293 High Road, repair completed £257.63.

### **8/20 Finance Report**

Approval of outstanding invoices

A number of invoices previously approved from the Wildflower Grant includes

NHBS 167.32 including 27.88 vat cheque no 100649

RSPB nest boxes £460.90 including 72.82 vat, cheque no 10065

Heritage Fruit Trees £224.25 cheque no 100651

Boston Bulbs £197.00 including 32.83 vat cheque no 100654

FDC Litter bin £370.49 including £61.75 vat cheque no 100653

Clerks salary £561.72 from September to December 2019 plus admin expenses £95.65

total £657.32 cheque no100655

Hall Hire meeting £20 +£10 planning meeting total £30. Cheque no 100656

G Wilkinson , tree stakes £47.50/ ties £12.52 and little owl bird box £92.50 plus vat £12.00

Total £164.50 cheque no 100657

Cambs ACRE . £57.00 including vat £9.50 cheque no 100658

*i) Resolved to approve payment of outstanding invoices . The Cllrs all approved payment of the above invoices,*

**Community a/c £16961.14** not including above payments.

Income received allotment rent £189.20

Draft budgets for the present year and 20121 were circulated

Fenland District Council, Annual Lighting maintenance cost for 2019/20 estimated to be £3000 we had already paid £956.99 for maintenance recharge 1/8/18 – 31/3/19 in July 2019, with a further £3000 recharge and two repairs to street lighting amounting to £637.26.

£4800 was set aside for lighting upgrades, still awaiting report to commence project. The set aside budget will not now be spent before the end of March 2020.

£800 set aside for election charges again amount required unknown

Still awaiting installation of monitoring cameras part of the LHI bid for 2019,, with the £500 council contribution, .this has been set aside in the budget. Although funding has been allocated for these expenses Both Cambridgeshire County Council and Fenland District have not submitted their invoices. This does not include a possible payment for a new heating boiler for the village hall , to be discussed in Agenda 9e .

Including the estimated costs we expect an estimated carryforward of £9264. Some funding could be moved to the Reserve account to cover either lighting project or alternatively to look at funding a drainage project of the playing field

Estimated income for next year of £14,765 plus carry forward without any increase to the Precept which is at present £13000. Estimated expenses for 2020/2021 £14,790.

**b) Reserve Account stands at £12,039.30** this has accumulated over the last two years awaiting the Street lighting report to commence upgrades Last year a further £4,303 was transferred to Reserves to both comply with the Reserve Statement, £3500 of that was earmarked for the street lighting leaving the total of Reserves 12,039.30.

### **c) Approval of Precept**

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Clark that the Precept should be left at the same level of £13,000 seconded by Cllr Wilkinson and agreed by all Cllrs.

*ii) Resolved to approve the Precept at £13,000 for the forthcoming year. Cllrs all agreed and approved the Precept remaining at £13,000 for 2020/2021*

TA Blackamore quote of £1200. received for 2020 for 16 cuts @ £75 per cut a rise of £2 per cut ,A further project may be considered, yet to be discussed with an additional charge.this was approved.

*iii) Resolved to approve TA Blackamore quote of 16 cuts @ £75 per cut for 2020 with a possible addition for any further project. All Cllrs approved the quote*

### **9/20 Items for Decision**

- a) Cllr Wilkinson was happy to continue monitoring play equipment
- b) Street Light survey, FDC are instigating some possible changes, the Parish Council would be informed of the outcome.
- c) Update on LHI Bid 2021 possible chicane added to bid along with the Gateway signs. Cllr Gibbs to query the delay in receiving the Traffic monitoring cameras,
- d) Adopt Emergency Plan

The councillors all agreed to adopt the Final draft Emergency Plan.

*iv) Resolved to approve and adopt the Final Draft Plan, Cllrs all approved and agreed.*

- e) The heating boiler was no longer repairable and a new boiler was required urgently to enable continue use of the hall.as this is the only community amenity in the village. The Village Hall Management Committee had recently refurbished the kitchen the boiler was an unexpected cost amounting to £1,580.73 including and asked if the Council would assist with purchase.

As a number of Councillors were also VHMC members they were reminded that they would need to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in this item. Cllr Clark proposed that the boiler purchase and installation cost should be paid by the Parish Council on this occasion as it was a vital community resource. This was seconded by Cllr Nunn and Cllr Jones. Agreed, by all Cllrs.

City Plumbing (Barclays Bank) - Boiler for village hall £960.73 including £160.13 vat cheque no 100660

John Dalton Boiler engineer £620 cheque no 100661

*iv) Resolved to approve payment of the installation and purchase of a new boiler for the Village hall at a total cost of £1,580.73. Councillors approved and agreed purchase of boiler and installation costs.*

- f) Pub Survey - Cllr Gibbs stated there had been some interest shown in the Woadmans Public House, he had passed on details of the owners. The pub survey would be circulated with the next newsletter.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm