

NEWTON IN THE ISLE

PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th May 2021

Present - Cllr R Moore (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Bradley, Cllr E Jones, Cllr D Nunn, Cllr S King (CCC)(from 7.45)

086/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Clark and G Wilkinson. Apologies were also received from Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

087/21 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that Cllr Simon King had retained his seat on the County Council in the recent election.

088/21 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

089/21 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

- a) Election of Chair - Cllr Nunn was nominated by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Jones and duly elected. Members resolved to allow him to sign his declaration of acceptance at the end of the meeting.
- b) Election of Vice Chair - Cllr Moore was nominated by Cllr Nunn, seconded by Cllr Jones and duly elected. Members resolved to allow him to sign his declaration of acceptance at the end of the meeting.
- c) Planning Committee - Members considered the terms of reference of the Planning Committee and resolved to modify the membership clause to include all members of the Council. The revised document will be approved at the next meeting.
- d) Standing Orders and Financial Regulations - The Clerk confirmed that the Council has adopted the current versions of the NALC model documents.
- e) Insurance - The Clerk confirmed that the Council carries insurance cover for all known risks arranged with Zurich Municipal with renewal due on 1 June.
- f) Subscriptions to other bodies - The Clerk reminded members that they currently have subscriptions to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils and to Cambridgeshire ACRE. Members resolved to continue with both subscriptions.
- g) Register of assets - The register has been updated to include recent purchases and the total value of assets now stands at £122,272

- h) Appointment of Internal Auditor - Members resolved to reappoint Stuart Pollard of Auditing Solutions Ltd as the internal auditor for the 2021/22 financial year.
- i) Meeting dates - Members agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of alternate months, namely 13 July, 14 September, 9 November, 11 January 2022, 8 March and 10 May.

090/21 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Two candidates had offered themselves for co-option and submitted written statements. Members considered the information supplied by the two candidates and resolved to select Duncan Freeman to fill the vacancy. As he was unable to attend the meeting, members resolved to allow Mr Freeman to sign his declaration of acceptance at the earliest opportunity.

091/21 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 6th May 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

092/21 County and District Councillors Reports

Cllr King reported that he was pleased to have been re-elected, but that the Conservatives failed to retain their overall majority. The Council will now be run by a coalition of Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents. Membership of committees has not been confirmed, but the new Council held its first socially-distanced meeting at the Imperial War Museum Duxford.

In the absence of Cllrs Clark and Seaton, the Clerk presented their report. Most District Council meetings had been suspended due to the elections. The election of Nik Johnson as Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority might result in a change of direction for the authority, especially with the change of control at the County Council.

093/21 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that he had attended the monthly meeting with the Neighbourhood Sergeant. No crimes were reported in Newton-in-the-Isle, but there was a theft of solar panels nearby. Neighbourhood Watch is offering training and guidance on avoiding becoming a victim of dog theft and other associated crimes. Wisbech Policing Team will be carrying out education and enforcement work on riding of e-scooters in public places, which is not permitted.

094/21 Reports for Information

- a) Allotments/Rights of Way - Members noted Cllr Nunn's report and the issues raised in relation to byway 166/10 from Fen Road to Cross Drove. The byway is used by several landowners for access. The responsibility for maintenance is shared between the County Council and the landowner. Options to be considered at the next meeting.

- b) Playing Field - Members noted Cllr Wilkinson's report. The oak tree has been felled. Maintenance plan for the wildflower meadow to be agreed.
- c) Correspondence - The Clerk updated members on correspondence received since the last meeting, including internal and external audit communications, and annual inspection of the play equipment.

095/21 Finance

- a) Members approved the internal accounts for the 2020/21 financial year.
- b) Members reviewed and approved the Governance and Management Risk Assessment.
- c) Members approved the internal audit report. It was noted that the Council had not complied with the requirement to publish the Notice of Public Rights for 2019/20 in accordance with the Transparency Code. The corresponding information for 2020/21 will be published in a timely manner. The Council has not reviewed its fees and charges for several years. This issue will be addressed at the July meeting.
- d) Members reviewed and approved the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
- e) Members reviewed and approved the Accounting Statement 2020/21 and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
- f) Members resolved that the period for the exercise of public rights be from Monday 14 June to Friday 23 July.
- g) Members resolved to add Cllr Nunn to the Barclays Bank mandate as a signatory on all accounts.
- h) The discussion of the annual report to residents was deferred to the July meeting.
- i) Members approved the following payments

100694	Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£ 695.23
100695	Cambridgeshire County Council (PFHI application)	£ 500.00
100696	Playsafety Ltd (Play equipment inspection)	£ 103.20
100697	North Level District IDB (Drainage rates)	£ 43.19
100698	LGS Services (Payroll service)	£ 33.00
100699	PM Wilkinson (Notice board repair)	£ 25.00
100700	Auditing Solutions Ltd	<u>£ 216.00</u>
		£ 1,615.62

096/21 Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field

- a) The RoSPA Playsafety Inspection Report highlighted several minor issues to be addressed. Cllr Bradley offered to pressure wash the teen shelter prior to repainting as necessary. Cllr Wilkinson will be asked to consider the other items and recommend solutions.
- b) A quote of £750 has been received from Mark 1 Fencing & Son Ltd to replace the missing section of fence between St James Close and the vehicle entrance to the Playing

Field, including the installation of a new pedestrian gate. In view of the urgent need to complete these works, members resolved to accept this quote without seeking further quotes.

- c) Members discussed the possible replacement of the football goals and the installation of nets. It was noted that the goals require repainting and Cllr Bradley offered to clean them with the pressure washer to remove loose paint.
- d) Cllr Bradley offered to provide the necessary machinery for the creation of the BMX track in the Playing Field. Soil is available in the Playing Field and at another location in the village.

097/21 Highways

- a) Members were disappointed to note that the Local Highway Improvement application for 2021/22 was not being recommended for funding. Cllr King suggested that members arrange a site meeting with the highways officers to discuss the issue.
- b) Members resolved to submit an application under the Privately Funded Highway Improvement scheme for the extension of the 40mph village speed limit in Mill Lane, Fen Road and Rectory Road.
- c) Members discussed the condition of the road markings at the junction of Mill Lane, Fen Road and High Road and resolved to include these and the addition of the word SLOW in each direction on the High Road at this bend to the PFHI application.
- d) Members considered the proposals from the County Council for a new approach to the management of roadside verges. They resolved to monitor the progress of this scheme and to revisit it next year.
- e) The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Local Highway Officer regarding the road surface and accumulated dirt in Brewers Lane, as well as the possibility of installing signage to prevent heavy vehicles using the road. The County Council does not have a road sweeper. Minor defects in the surface can be reported in the usual way, but in view of the nature of the road, major improvements are unlikely. The heavy vehicles using the road require access for agricultural purposes, so signage would make little difference.
- f) The Clerk has enquired about signage relating to children playing outside the cottages in Chapel Lane. There is no appropriate signage available for this purpose.
- g) The Clerk reported that the signage for the National Cycle Route 1 is all in place, but much of it is dirty or hidden by vegetation. It was suggested that the handyman might be asked to clear the vegetation and clean the signs.
- h) Members considered the request for support from the 20's Plenty campaign and asked that it be added to the agenda for the July meeting.
- i) Public Right of Way 166/10 was discussed under agenda item 094/21(a) above.
- j) Members discussed the alder tree overhanging the pavement and road near the former Woadman's Arms public house and resolved to remove it.

- k) The Clerk reported that the dog bin for the junction of Brewers Lane and Fitton End Road has been ordered and should be installed shortly.

098/21 Members' and Residents' Issues

- a) The Clerk has reported an abandoned van in Colvile Road to Clarion Housing, as it is on their property.
- b) The Clerk has reported an accumulation of scrap metal, white goods and other waste in Colvile Road to Clarion Housing, as it belongs to one of their tenants.
- c) The Clerk has reported the uneven path outside St James Close, caused by the roots of the ash tree lifting the tarmac, to Clarion Housing, as the path and tree belong to them.

099/21 Planning

- a) The Clerk reported that the owner of the former Colville School site had cleared the brambles from the pavement around the site. It is hoped that the owner will put forward new proposals for the site shortly.
- b) The Clerk has asked the Tree Officer to provide information about the process of protecting trees of outstanding amenity value in the village, particularly those on public land.

100/21 Street Lighting

The District Council's lighting contractor has issued a revised quotation for the replacement of the bracket light on the front of the Old Chapel. The Clerk has contacted the owners of the Chapel to seek their views on the design of light to be installed. Members considered the revised cost to be prohibitive and resolved to take no further action at the present time.

101/21 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 July.