

Newton in the Isle Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th January 2017 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present

Cllr's D Fullbrook (Chairman), D Gibbs (Vice Chairman), J Hoyles, S Clark, D Smith, J Kooreman, C Seaton (FDC) and P Wilkinson (Clerk).

Also present 5 residents see enclosed.

1.Apologies Cllr S King

2 Declarations of Interest. Possible declarations when discussing Donations.

3 Public Forum

Chairman welcomed residents and explained that there was a 10 minutes slot allocated for the Public Forum to discuss queries, if it was not possible to resolve queries they would be held over. Mr Mc Kennon queried the speeding cars in Hogens Lane and his concerns regarding children and bicycles using the road. He requested a speed limit to control the traffic: Cllr Clark would look into the matter.

Mr Hunt representing residents on the High Road stated that the pathway past their houses was still a concern as it was unfit for mobility scooter use. He had monitored the road and found a number of broken curb stone and a drain covered with tarmac. He also had concerns regarding the speed of traffic and the state of the road from Goodens Lane to Rectory Road and felt that precedence should have been considered for these repairs above the upgrading of the footpath further along the High Road. The Chairman explained that further maintenance was being considered. Cllr Clark would discuss the matter with Highways with an invitation to Mr Hunt.

The Chair queried if any of the residents were interested in becoming a Coordinator for Speedwatch.

4. Minutes of Previous meeting

Signed and accepted as a true record

4 Matters Arising from the minutes

Old School site - Cllr Clark contacted owner and was arranging a visit to a Council meeting.

Dangerous Dog Report - circulated, FDC no longer offered a Dog Warden Service, advised this was a police matter requiring proof and a date and time of incident.

Fence competed around Dyke in playing field.

6. Action Review

Speedwatch warning signs action ongoing.

Cat 2 street lighting ongoing.

Play equipment, roundabout bearing needed drilling £100 cost plus supply, repair to completion a further £650. Richard Webb and Kev Welbourne would discuss issue with Chair.

Speedwatch programme, village newsletter asking for volunteers, Closed.

Street Pride projects, agenda item March meeting.

Allotment rent review and allotment sizes discuss March meeting.

Parish Plan locations for siting of dog bins discussion March meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch, flyers to be included with next Village Hall newsletter, Cllr Fullbrook contact.

Cllr Kooreman/ Clark to seek sponsorship of noticeboard ongoing.

Netball net replacement completion May.

Emergency Plan compilation of equipment/ manpower/services for March meeting.

7. Reports

- a) **Highway issues.** Road surface damage outside house in Franks Lane to be investigated and householder to be contacted.
Cllr queried state of fencing and removal of signage on corner of Little Ramper/High Road.
Cllr Hoyles to contact R Shippey regarding hedge in Hogens Lane.
Pathway (LHI Bid) part completion on High Road. Potholes to be monitored and reported .
Mill Lane passing places will not be maintained, not officially part of the highway. White lines completed at junction of Fen Road/Mill Lane. Cllr Clark to liaise with CCC on further improvements on Highways and footway.
Cllr Clark to arrange meeting with Steve Nicholson (CCC Highways) and involve residents re High Road footway.
- b) **Village Hall Report** circulated (see enclosed report). Loss at end of year. Possible closure of Post Office Outreach. Several fundraising events to increase revenue during the year.
- c) **Correspondence** circulated prior to meeting.
Owner to be contacted regarding wandering chickens - Cllr Fullbrook and Cllr Clark.
- d) **Police Report** received and circulated, no crimes reported in the village for Nov/Dec
Rural Forum at Gorefield 17th January from 1400 – 15.30
- h) **Planning Applications**
Phydlers Den, Rectory Road. Erection of a brick wall and gate to front of existing dwelling.
The councillors approved the application
Willowcroft Chapel Lane. Erection of single storey front, rear and side extensions to existing dwelling and erection of double garage. The councillors approved the application.
- i) **Street Lighting Update**
Cllr King looking into delay on completion of remaining lights

8. Items for Decisions

- a) Cllr Fullbrook to arrange replacement of two damaged signs inside play enclosure.
- b) Cllr Clark to complete play equipment inspections until next meeting.
- c) Correspondence regarding Oak tree in field to rear of 2 Goodens Lane. Councillors agreed to the crown being thinned and canopy raised, any cost to be paid by householder.
Cllr Smith to contact Mr Hepworth. Mr Christopher Cooke (arbitrator) would be given confirmation of Councils decision. Cllr Clark stated that a further tree may need removing, she would check on any TPO (Tree Preservation Order).

9. Village Hall

Cllr Fullbrook expressed concerns regarding safeguarding the Village Hall, an essential village resource and how the Council could assist. It was decided after some discussion that payment for council meetings should be made. Any other assistance would be considered if and when approached by the Village Hall Management Committee.

10. Finance

Copies of present budget circulated.

Expenditure

Remaining fence cost for playing field (dyke) £50.22 cheque 100555

Removal of moles in field and churchyard £150 cheque 100556

- *Resolved to approve retrospectively the two cheques numbers 100555 and 100556 Councillors agreed and approved.*

Acre Membership £54 including VAT cheque no 100557

Clerk salary £498.15 cheque no 100559

- *Resolved to approve payment of the two cheques, Acre Membership no 100557 and Clerk salary no 100559 Approve by Councillors.*

Income Concurrent Grant for half year £640.

Community account balance £8457.61 including outstanding cheques.

Savings account £1693.31.

b) Donations

Letter received from Kinderley Community Primary School requesting a donation for additional play equipment., Councillors agreed a donation of £120. Further donations agreed for the ABC Preschool £50, Village Hall £500 and the Village Fete Committee £300, restricted to payments for toilets and insurance. Total donations £970.

- *Resolved to approve payment of 4 donations as above a total of £970 from section S137. Agreed and approved by Councillors (see enclosed cheques numbers).*

c) Chairman Statement, circulated copies of Parish Statistics, for the village to continue fulfilling its commitments there was a need to increase the Precept to £10,500. At present in comparison, with other Parishes of a similar population our Precept was considerably lower.

d) Precept

A draft Precept of £10,500 was circulated prior to the meeting, with a possibility of the Precept being capped in 2018 an increase to £10,500 was assessed advisable. Any Discretionary spending could be placed into Reserves to form part of the Contingency. The Precept of £10,500 would be an increase of £2730, our present (2016/17) Precept included the Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) £730 as part of the Precept of (£7770) plus CTSG .total sum £8,500.

The 2017/18 Precept of £10,500, with the additional grant (CTSG £487) added separately A reduction of £243 CTSG in 2018/19, and no CTSG for 2019/20.

The Concurrent Grant may also be reduced in 2018/19. It would be prudent to accumulate reserves of £6,000 for unforeseen future expenses.

Allocating the budget for 2017/18, should end the year with an expected £4,000 adding both our carry forward and the reserves together. The budget to allow an additional £2,000 in 2018/19 giving leeway for any unforeseen expenses.

There were no queries raised. regarding the Budget or Precept increase.

- *Resolved to approve the increase in the Parish Precept to £10.500 for the forthcoming year 2017/2018 Councillors all agreed and approved this decision.*

e) Approval of Reserves Statement

Previously circulated, discussed and agreed that

To allow for any unforeseen demand for expenditure, the Savings Account balance is to be maintained at a level of not less than 50% of the Precept, with the intention of achieving £6,000 by 31/03/2019. This sum constitutes the Contingency Reserve.

- *Resolved to approve the Reserve Policy Statement, Councillors all agreed and approved this decision.*

11. Any Other Business.

Public Spaces – Churchyard, owners would face a fine on dogs found off lead in the churchyard. This may cause problems with the hedging now removed and dogs being exercised off lead in the field. To be discussed at next meeting

HGV Voluntary agreement to keep them off minor roads to be discussed at next meeting.

12. Next Meeting also including the Parish Assembly, agreed to be held on **Monday 6th March at 7pm followed by Parish Council meeting**