

NEWTON IN THE ISLE

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Dave Gibbs, 358 High Road, Newton in the Isle, PE13 5HS
Tel: 01945 870083 Email: parishclerk@newtonintheisle.org.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th November 2021

Present - Cllr D Nunn (Chairman), Cllr S Clark, Cllr D Freeman, Cllr E Jones, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk)

133/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Bradley, Cllr R Moore and Cllr G Wilkinson.

134/21 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

135/21 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

136/21 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

137/21 County and District Councillors Reports

District - Cllr Seaton reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission is reviewing the district ward boundaries in Fenland to ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors. This will result in a small increase in the number of councillors overall, but a reduction from 3 to 2 in Roman Bank ward. Members and residents are encouraged to express their views on the proposals.

The second phase consultation on the cycling, walking and mobility strategy will commence shortly.

County - Cllr King outlined the timetable for the introduction of civil parking enforcement in Fenland, which is scheduled to come into effect in October 2023. Enforcement will focus on the towns, but will also extend to the villages and outlying areas, especially at locations such as schools.

The Dragon Patcher has repaired potholes in Brewers Lane. Fen Road will be monitored for possible resurfacing.

The recent focus on sustainable transport has resulted in a number of bridleways being resurfaced as cycle routes, making them less suitable for equestrian use. Cllr King has asked the Highways and Transport Committee to review this practice.

138/21 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that he had attended the monthly meeting with the Neighbourhood Sergeant. Police were called to a violent domestic incident in Colville Road in October. The matter is still under investigation and will result in a prosecution. There has also been a domestic burglary in the village.

Anti-social behaviour in Wisbech remains a priority, but there has been a significant decrease in the use of e-scooters. The hare coursing season has started and Cambridgeshire Police will be working with neighbouring forces to disrupt coursers' activities by seizing their cars and dogs. The Special Constabulary will be tackling parking problems around schools. Next year marks the 40th anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch and the County Coordinator hopes to visit Parish Councils to discuss their work. Dogwatch will be launched to encourage dog owners to report suspicious behaviour whilst walking their pets.

139/21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received.

140/21 Members' and Residents' Issues

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colville Road - the District Council cannot intervene, as the vehicle is parked on Clarion property, but the Clerk has reported it to the DVLA as an untaxed vehicle.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colville Road - the Clerk has contacted Clarion to express the Council's concerns.
- c) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - the Clerk has notified Clarion and the situation will be monitored.
- d) Cllr Clark mentioned that the University Academy Long Sutton school bus is using Chapel Lane as a short cut to the Sutton Road, causing damage to trees and verges. The Clerk will contact the bus operator to ask them not to use this road.
- e) A complaint was received from a resident about a car belonging to a member of the Council being parked on the grass verge in Goodens Lane. The Chairman will discuss the matter with the car owner and the Clerk will respond to the resident.
- f) An email was received from a resident regarding the new gate to the Playing Field being left open, allowing children and dogs to walk out into the road. Members asked the Clerk to investigate the possibility of installing springs on all of the gates to ensure that they remain closed when not in use. The Clerk will respond to the resident when a decision is made.

141/21 Clerk to the Parish Council

Members discussed the situation regarding the future provision of clerking services and resolved to delegate authority to Cllrs Nunn and Moore to consider and make a recommendation to the January meeting.

142/21 Policies and Procedures

Members considered the following draft policy and procedure documents prepared by the Clerk:-

- a) Grievance policy.
- b) Disciplinary policy.
- c) Complaints procedure.

They resolved to adopt the three documents.

143/21 Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field

- a) The Clerk reported that Jenny Windsor, Head Gardener from Peckover House, will visit on 13 November to discuss options for the future management of the site.
- b) The dead tree in the copse has been removed.
- c) Cllrs Bradley and Wilkinson are attending to the issues raised in the RoSPA inspection of the play equipment.
- d) The new pedestrian gate adjacent to the School House has been installed.
- e) Work on the construction of the BMX track is ongoing.
- f) The first group of trees has been planted in the memorial arboretum and several members of the public have expressed an interest in further planting. It was suggested that more trees could be planted in the spring.

144/21 Highways

- a) The Privately Funded Highway Improvement application to extend the 40mph speed limits at both ends of the village is being processed. The Clerk has contacted the Police regarding their support for a reduction in the speed limit along the whole length of Chapel Lane, but this is not considered feasible.
- b) The joint letter with other parishes expressing concerns regarding the assessment process for Local Highway Improvement applications was signed by the Chairman and will be sent once all of the signatures have been added.
- c) The Local Highways Improvement application for 2022/23 to identify measures to enhance safety on the bends in Chapel Lane has been submitted. A financial contribution of £1,000 has been offered, with the possibility of increasing this sum, if necessary.
- d) Cllr Jones circulated photographs of National Cycle Route warning signs from a Lincolnshire village. The Clerk will discuss these with the highways officers.
- e) The alder tree overhanging the road adjacent to the former Woadman's Arms public house has been cut down.
- f) Seven members of the Community Gritting Team have been registered for this winter and the equipment is being checked. A new supply of grit will be delivered to the bins shortly.

- g) The County Highways rights of way officers will be checking signage on some of the rights of way in the parish. Members were invited to walk all of the rights of way to identify any locations where further signage would be beneficial.
- h) The Clerk will contact the Community Payback team to ascertain whether they can assist with the removal of overhanging shrubs and accumulated leaf debris in St James' Close.

145/21 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of October, showing income of £15,283.60, expenditure of £13,345.30, leaving a surplus of £1,938.30 and total funds held of £42,536.87.

- b) Members approved the following payments;

100711	<i>D Large (Tree removal)</i>	£ 360.00
100712	<i>P Wyles (Wasp nests)</i>	£ 80.00
100713	<i>Mrs P M Wilkinson (Arboretum)</i>	£ 293.44
100714	<i>East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust</i>	<u>£ 1,954.80</u>
		<u>£ 2,688.24</u>

- c) Members considered and approved the report of the External Auditor.
- d) Members resolved to register with the Information Commissioner's Office in accordance with the Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018.
- e) Members considered a request from the Wisbech St Mary Community First Responders for funding for essential equipment. They resolved to make a donation of £500 under Section 137 provisions.

146/21 Street Lights

Members considered the invitation from Fenland District Council to extend the street light repairs and maintenance service level agreement for a further two years to July 2023. They agreed to the extension.

147/21 Annual Report to Residents

Members considered the timing of the Annual Report and resolved to issue it at the end of the current financial year.

148/21 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 January 2022.