

NEWTON IN THE ISLE

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th January commencing at 7pm attending via a Video Conferencing link

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

62/21 .Present

Cllr's D Gibbs, G Wilkinson, S Clark, R Moore, D Nunn, E Jones and C Seaton (FDC) and Cllr S King (CCC) and P Wilkinson (Clerk), R Bradley and M Hawkins

63/21 Apologies None

64/21 . Public Forum- Nothing to report

65/21 Chairman's Announcements – Chairman stated due to the present situation nothing to report , further Covid guidelines were in place due to a new strain of Covid.

66/21 Councillor Vacancy

He welcomed both applicants. Their statements had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. As the councillors had no questions to put to the candidates a vote was taken. Mr Bradley was elected as the new Co ordinated Councillor with four votes to one and one abstention. The Chairman .thanked Mrs Hawkins for applying and she was invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting It was not possible to sign the Declaration of Acceptance due to it being a video link meeting..The paperwork would be completed within the next seven days and forwarded onto the Electotral Department.

67/21 Minutes of Previous meeting

- a) Minutes of November 10th meeting were approved and accepted as a true record.to be signed when possible.
- b) No matters Arising
- c) Minutes of the Planning meeting held on December 16th 2020 were approved and accepted as a true record

68/21 County and District Councillors Reports

Cllr King reported that Mr Hobbs was dealing with queries that had arisen from the Local Highways Initiative meeting. Further meetings were planned throughout January, Cllr King explained that work was due to commence on the new Guyhirn roundabout.which may cause disruption for villages south of Newton. He also congratulated Cllr Bradley on his appointment

Cllr Seaton stated that FDC was still functioning during the pandemic. A Consultation Strategy Plan was due out within the next seven days. No comments had been received from our village. He asked for any input for the Cultural Strategy and FDC Business Plan . New Hub in the Horsefair may soon be available for vaccinations. Cllr Seaton congratulated Cllr Bradley on his appointment.

7.35pm At this point both Cllr King and Cllr Seaton left the meeting.

69/21 Police Matters

Chairman had attended the police video conferencing meeting. Further details and data would be available at the February meeting.

70/21 Reports

a) Highways

Potholes reported. The owner of school site to be contacted regarding the brambles overgrown onto footpath. Tractor loads of manure carted through the village were causing problems, this work should be completed by the weekend. The Byway at bend in Fen Road was in a very poor state. This and other byways would be discussed further at the next meeting.

b) Village Hall – No report. The hall had been booked for use as a Training venue for Key Care Workers which had taken place following the Covid guidelines.

c) Playing Field report circulated prior to meeting. Tree pruning in the field had commenced. An oak tree in the field was discussed, a tree specialist would be contacted to determine the best way forward. Cllrs Gibbs and Bradley to visit playing field to discuss the wildflower meadow. Cllr Gibbs to arrange erection of bird boxes before nesting begins

d) Streetscape/Handyman Nothing to report. Cllr Moore to discuss a regular grass cutting rota with the Handyman for the year.

e) Allotments/Rights of Way – Nothing to report

f) Emergency Plan – To complete the plan there was still a need to identify essential items and volunteers. However more challenges had been raised due to Covid guidelines, and further thought was required on the amount of space required to accommodate residents.

g) Correspondence

A number of emails forwarded to Cllrs prior to the meeting. A number of residents concerns also dealt with. The footpath near village hall had been gritted by a resident during the icy spell.

A query was raised on the dangers of the Fen Road/Mill Lane and High Road junction with traffic speeding off the High Road. Steve Nicholson (Highways) would be approached to look at what measures could be taken to reduce speed when he was next in the area.

71/21 Finance Report Circulated prior to the meeting along with budget figures for the present year and a draft of next year's budget

a) Invoices received for approval of payment

Acre annual membership subscription £57.00, cheque number 100685

Clerk salary for Oct/Nov/Dec £502.10, cheque number 100687

Salary Tax £38.20, cheque number 100686

FDC Dog bins now installed and invoice paid £499.20 plus £99.84 Vat cheque no 100682 previously approved at November meeting.

Funding in this year's budget set aside for completion of five street lighting.

Three columns completed, two bracket lights awaiting completion, total cost £3,892.42

Total costs included in budget at an estimated cost of £8,442.42.

Refund received for ordered pear tree for playing field £13.95

Donation request from Citizens Advice, it was agreed to send a £50 donation cheque no 100688

Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson seconded by Cllr Clark all approved.

i) Resolved to approve payment of three cheques amounting to £597.30 and a donation of £50 to Citizens Advice. All Cllrs agreed.

b) Community a/c £32,715.03

c) Business Saver a/c £12,048.72 including 30p interest

£6,000 set aside to comply with Reserve Statement for any unforeseen expenses

Street lighting allocation for further upgrades, £4,800 to remain in Business Saver a/c until required

Unallocated £1,248.72 including interest gives a total in Business Saver a/c of £12,048.72.

d) Budget 2020/2021

Budget update circulated prior to meeting included a number of allocated costs

amounting to £8,442. Expected carryforward £19,000 with payment of all allocated costs.

e) Set Precept 2021/22

Copies of draft budget for 2021/22 were circulated prior to the meeting, as there were no questions

it was recommended and agreed that there was no requirement to change the Precept for the forthcoming year presently standing at £13,000.

ii) Resolved to approve the Precept remain at £13,000 for year 2021/22. All Cllrs agreed and approved.

72/21 Items for Discussion

a) Village Hall Representative . Cllr Moore agreed to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

b) Councillor Vacancy - discussed earlier as agenda item 66/21

c) Street Lighting Update. Five street lights in the process of being upgraded with three completed and two to complete.

d) Supporting Vulnerable People – This item was held over to be discussed at a separate meeting to be arranged .

e) Newsletter Funding. A Village Hall newsletter would now also include a brief summary of any Parish Council news along with other village organisation information. The Cllrs agreed it was important as a lifeline and approved a donate of £150 for the forthcoming year, with the proviso that the newsletter was distributed. At present there was a lack of volunteers to assist with delivery. Cllr Clark proposed that a donation of £150 be made providing the newsletter was published and distributed, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by Cllr Bradley and Cllr Nunn. The other Cllrs declared a prejudicial interest as members of the Management Committee.

iii) Resolved to approve payment of £150 to Village Hall Management Committee providing the newsletter was distributed. All Cllrs agreed and approved.

73/21 Date and Time of Next meeting – Tuesday 9th March 2021.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm