

# 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](mailto:parishclerk@newtonintheisle.org.uk)

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Present** - Cllr D Nunn (Chairman), Cllr S Clark, Cllr D Freeman, Cllr E Jones, Cllr R Moore, Cllr G Wilkinson, Cllr S King (CCC) and Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

#### **102/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Bradley.

#### **103/21 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

#### **104/21 Public Forum**

No members of the public were present.

#### **105/21 Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

#### **106/21 County and District Councillors Reports**

Cllr King explained that Cambridgeshire still receives a lower financial settlement than other authorities, with a large part of the money committed to adult social care. Roads are still underfunded, but the next round of Local Highway Improvement funding has a 15 September deadline. The added value criteria have been modified this year in line with the County Council's strategic priorities.

Cllr Seaton reported that the District Council had a good response to the cycling and walking strategy consultation. A paper will be presented to cabinet in September. The County Council is also consulting on cycling and walking, with Government funding available for small local schemes. The focus of the District Council's work will be the market towns initially, but they hope to expand into the villages too. Cllr Jones mentioned the national Slow Ways project which seeks to connect communities and locations by minor roads, byways and paths. There may be opportunities to include some of these routes in the wider plans.

Cllr Clark reported that the formal public consultation on the MVV incinerator scheme has commenced and will run for several weeks, with events taking place in community buildings across the area.

### **107/21 Police Matters**

The Clerk reported that he had attended the monthly meeting with the Neighbourhood Sergeant. The Police are increasing the amount of speed enforcement work they do in the villages. There have been a large number of cycle thefts since May. A week long anti-social behaviour exercise will coincide with the start of the school holidays, including targeted work with known offenders. Neighbourhood Watch is running a national programme against scammers, entitled Sling Your Hook.

### **108/21 Review of Fees and Charges**

Cllr Clark declared a pecuniary interest as an allotment holder and left the meeting. Members discussed the charges levied for the allotments and agricultural land and resolved that the small financial benefit offered by a rent increase was offset by the cost of implementing the change. There will be no change at present. Cllr Clark returned to the meeting.

### **109/21 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received.

### **110/21 Members' and Residents' Issues**

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colvile Road - members asked the Clerk to report this to Fenland District Council.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colvile Road - this has already been reported to Clarion. Cllr Clark mentioned that there are rats at the same location too.
- c) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - damaged by tree roots. Members asked the Clerk to notify Clarion.

### **111/21 Allotments and Public Rights of Way**

Cllr Nunn reported on recent developments. One of the High Road allotments has remained largely unused this year. To be considered at renewal time in September.

### **112/21 Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field**

- a) Cllr Wilkinson reported issues with the wildflower meadow and a dead tree in the copse. Members resolved to instruct a contractor to remove the top growth on the meadow as a matter of urgency and to appoint a tree surgeon to remove the tree. Cllr King offered to make contact with the Head Gardener at Peckover House to obtain advice regarding the management of the site. One concrete post has been pushed over and will need to be removed from site. Members agreed to remove all five concrete posts. Cllr Bradley agreed to undertake this.
- b) Members reviewed the RoSPA Playsafety inspection report. Cllr Wilkinson offered to undertake the minor repairs highlighted in the report.
- c) A new fence has been erected around the west side of St James' Close and the contractor will return to install the new pedestrian gate.

- d) Members noted that there had been no clear response to the consultation regarding football goals. They resolved to take no action at present.
- e) Cllr Bradley and the Clerk will start the construction of the BMX track.

**113/21 Highways**

- a) Cllr Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Local Highways Officer regarding the repainting of white lines at junctions. Partially visible lines will normally not be repainted on minor roads, until the majority of the marking is invisible. Several potholes had been reported and fly tipping in Chapel Lane and Brewers Lane. The Clerk reported forthcoming road works in Sutton Road on 17 July and Roman Bank from 4 to 6 August.
- b) The Clerk provided members with a breakdown of Local Highway Improvement funding decisions from the last six years. Members resolved to join with neighbouring councils to express their concerns about the way in which funding decisions are made. Members will finalise their plans for next year’s submission at the next meeting.
- c) The Privately Funded Highways Improvement application has been submitted for speed reductions in small parts of Mill Lane, Fen Road and Rectory Road.
- d) The National Cycle Route signs in the village will be inspected and cleaned and any missing or damaged signs can be replaced.
- e) Members considered the evidence submitted by the 20’s Plenty campaign. Whilst they supported lowering the speed limit, they resolved not to adopt the 20’s Plenty pledge, due to a lack of enforcement.
- f) The County Council rights of way team do not consider PRow 166/10 to be a priority for improvement at the present time.
- g) The alder tree overhanging the road adjacent to the former Woadman’s Arms public house will be cut down when the tree surgeon comes to undertake other works.
- h) The new dog bin at the Fitton End Road junction with Brewer’s Lane has yet to appear. The Clerk will enquire about progress.

**114/21 Finance**

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of June, showing income of £6,500.30, expenditure of £1,614.62, leaving a surplus of £4,885.68 and total funds held of £45,484.25.

- b) Members noted the following sum received:

<i>Barclays Bank (interest)</i>	£	0.30
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- c) Members approved the following payments;

<i>100701</i>	<i>Fenland District Council (street lights)</i>	£	<i>6,403.87</i>
<i>100702</i>	<i>T A Blackamore Ltd (grass cutting)</i>	£	<i>240.00</i>
<i>100703</i>	<i>D A Gibbs (expenses)</i>	£	<i>358.51</i>
<i>100704</i>	<i>Mrs P Wilkinson (expenses)</i>	£	<u><i>79.89</i></u>
		£	<i>7,082.27</i>

**115/21 Planning**

- a) Members approved the revised terms of reference for the Planning Committee.
- b) The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the owner of the former school site and it is likely that a new planning application will be submitted shortly.
- c) It is not known whether or not the Tree Officer has visited the village to examine any of the trees nominated previously for protection.

**116/21 Annual Report to Residents**

Cllr Wilkinson asked members to send him content for the annual report.

**117/21 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 September.