

NEWTON IN THE ISLE

PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th July 2022

Present - Cllr S Clark, Cllr D Freeman, Cllr E Jones, Cllr R Moore (in the Chair), Cllr G Wilkinson, Cllr S King (CCC), D Gibbs (Clerk)

016/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Bradley, Cllr D Nunn, and Cllrs M Humphrey and C Seaton (FDC)

017/22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked everybody who had helped to make the jubilee celebrations such a success.

018/22 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

019/22 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 16th June 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- c) Members noted the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Thursday 16th June.
- d) Members noted the draft minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6th July.

020/22 County and District Councillors Reports

County - Cllr King reported that the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee has approved plans for a 20mph scheme and current LHI applications for 20mph limits are being transferred to the new scheme. Future applications for 20mph limits will follow a separate process. Evidence is required for the review into the LHI scheme. Funding of £14 million has been allocated to the Just Transition Fund, which will include projects to address climate change.

The County Council is looking at options to tackle flooding issues along the High Road. No solution has been identified for the gravel spilling onto the road in Roman Bank, as the road was always narrow at this point. Further investigation is required.

021/22 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that he met with the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team on 20 May. The operation in the village to stop a car and arrest the driver was intelligence-led and related to the supply of drugs. No other matters were reported in relation to the parish.

022/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including meetings with the Probation Service about Community Payback and with the grounds maintenance contractor. The Combined Authority is consulting on the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. The Local Energy Advice Partnership has reopened for new referrals. Information has been circulated regarding the new Queen's Jubilee Fund for village halls.

023/22 Members' and Residents' Issues

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colvile Road - awaiting further action from Clarion Housing.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colvile Road - awaiting further action from Clarion Housing.
- c) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - awaiting further action from Clarion Housing.
- d) Request to install a pipe across Parish land, Catlings Cottages - the Clerk reported that a request has been received to lay a pipe across land to the rear of Catlings Cottages to connect a domestic treatment plant to an open watercourse. Members agreed to issue a licence at a cost of £200, plus an annual fee of £100. The Clerk will prepare the necessary documentation.

024/22 Amenities Committee

- a) Terms of reference - members agreed the revised terms of reference.
- b) Wildflower meadow - The contractor will cut down the meadow shortly.
- c) Tree works - Further works will take place when a full survey has been completed.
- d) RoSPA Playsafety inspection - Members discussed the outstanding recommendations and resolved to seek a quote from a contractor to complete them.
- e) BMX track - Members resolved to remove the BMX track, the wooden BMX ramps and the soil heap adjacent to the old school site. The Clerk was asked to find a contractor to undertake these works and to bring a quotation to the September meeting.
- f) Memorial arboretum - Cllr Wilkinson reported that the second phase of planting will take place in September or October.
- g) Gate springs - Awaiting further clarification and a quote from the contractor.
- h) Dogs - Cllr Clark reported that several dog owners had expressed disappointment that there was no consultation prior to the change of rules regarding dogs in the playing field. Members resolved to reaffirm their original decision.
- i) Grounds maintenance contract - Members and the Clerk met with the contractor to discuss additional elements to be added to the contract. A formal contract will be drafted.

025/22 Highways Committee

- a) Terms of reference - members agreed the revised terms of reference.
- b) Privately Funded Highway Improvement (PFHI) application - The Clerk has discussed the overlap between the PFHI scheme and the LHI scheme in Chapel Lane with the Highways Project Team. The Chapel Lane elements of the PFHI scheme will now be incorporated into the LHI scheme to reduce the cost. Members enquired about the possible addition of SLOW markings on the western approach to the village, outside 355 High Road. The Clerk will discuss this with the Project Officer.
- c) Local Highway Improvement (LHI) application - The timetable for the delivery of this scheme will be confirmed shortly.
- d) National cycle route signage - no further update.
- e) Overhanging trees, shrubs and accumulated debris in St James' Close - Awaiting a visit from the Community Payback team.
- f) Trees over bench on the High Road - The ivy has been cut to allow the trees to be inspected.
- g) Byway maintenance and winter closures - In Cllr Bradley's absence, this item was deferred and will be discussed by the Highways Committee.
- h) Speed monitoring - The Clerk presented data from Church Lane, showing that the average speed is well below the limit, but even in close proximity to a blind bend, 225 vehicles were recorded above the prosecution limit.

026/22 Strategic Planning and Administration

- a) Annual report to residents - Members decided not to publish a full annual report, but suggested that a single sheet of information could be circulated with the newsletter in future years. Cllr Jones proposed that members of the Council offer surgeries at the Village Hall to allow residents to discuss issues and find out more about the work of the Council. Members agreed to start a monthly surgery on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30 to 11.30, starting on 6 August. Members also agreed to contribute £200 to the Village Hall Management Committee to support the publication costs of the newsletter.
- b) A parish plan - Members discussed the possibility of updating the parish plan. The Clerk will circulate copies of the previous plan and the summary of responses.

027/22 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of June, showing income of £5,000.91 and expenditure of £2,178.46, resulting in a surplus of £2,822.45 and total funds held of £41,132.18.
- b) Members noted the following sum received:

Barclays Bank (interest) £ 0.91

c) Members ratified the following payment issued since the last meeting:

100727	<i>D A Gibbs (salary June)</i>	£ 421.80
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d) Members approved the following payments:

100728	<i>D A Gibbs (salary July)</i>	£ 421.80
100729	<i>D Large (tree works)</i>	£ 920.00
100730	<i>Newton Village Hall (hall hire)</i>	£ 50.00
100731	<i>Auditing Solutions Ltd (audit fee)</i>	<u>£ 30.00</u>
		£ 1,421.80

The Clerk advised members that cheque 100731 was a replacement of cheque 100726 drawn at the previous meeting, which was subsequently cancelled.

- e) Members discussed the forthcoming closure of the Wisbech branch of Barclays Bank. They resolved to open an account at the Wisbech branch of National Westminster Bank plc and to close the Barclays Bank accounts.
- f) Members reviewed the list of authorised signatories and resolved that the signatories for the new account should be Cllrs Clark, Moore and Nunn and the Clerk. They also approved the use of a dual authorisation online payment system.

028/22 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 September.