

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 13th September 2022

Present - Cllr D Nunn (Chairman), Cllr D Freeman, Cllr E Jones, Cllr S King (CCC), D Gibbs (Clerk), K Dix, R Horspool (Parishioners)

029/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Bradley, Cllr S Clark, Cllr R Moore, Cllr G Wilkinson and Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

030/22 Chairman's Announcements

None.

031/22 Public Forum

Mr Horspool reported a number of trees and hedges restricting visibility, particularly at junctions. Members asked the Clerk to write to the owners of the relevant properties to ask them to take remedial action.

032/22 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) Members noted the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9th August.
- c) Members noted the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10th August and the draft minutes of the reconvened meeting held on Thursday 1st September.

033/22 County and District Councillors Reports

County - Cllr King reported that the final report on the review of the Local Highway Improvement scheme will be discussed by the Highways and Transport Committee on 4th October. Applications for 2023/24 open on 31st October. Community Gritting Scheme registrations are required by 31st October. Issues of gravel on Roman Bank outside the Second Hand Centre and flooding at 158 High Road are still being investigated by the Local Highways Officer and the Flood Risk Officer respectively.

District - Cllr Clark reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission had published its final recommendations for the new ward boundaries to be implemented at next year's elections. The final scheme differs significantly from the District Council's proposals.

034/22 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that he met with the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team on 22nd July and 2nd September. Nitrous oxide use remains a concern and also results in littering. There has been a sharp increase in shoplifting offences in Wisbech. A new data gathering protocol will enable more targeted prioritisation of local policing. Neighbourhood Watch has launched a Community Safety Charter with a goal of eliminating harassment, antisocial behaviour, and intimidation. Local councils are invited to sign up to the Charter.

035/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a webinar with Anglian Water regarding their plans for a new reservoir. Correspondence included a traffic order for surface dressing of Chapel Lane, consultation on the draft Fenland Local Plan, energy support and funding for home improvements, the Boundary Commission's new political map for Fenland, confirmation of exemption from external audit for 2021/22 and invitation to opt out of the next central audit appointment from 2022/23. Members resolved not to opt out.

036/22 Members' and Residents' Issues

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colville Road - Cllr Clark and the Clerk met with a representative from Clarion Housing to discuss this and other issues. This dialogue will continue.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colville Road - see above.
- c) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - minor remedial works will be undertaken immediately until the path can be repaired.
- d) Request to install a pipe across Parish land, Catlings Cottages - the Clerk reported that the licence has been issued.
- e) Fire in Colville Road - the Clerk reported that a car fire in Colville Road had spread to neighbouring gardens. No properties were damaged and the Fire Service extinguished the blaze. The Clerk had reported the matter to Longhurst Housing Association, whose properties were affected.
- f) Fallen tree in Brewers Lane - the Clerk reported that a large tree had fallen, blocking Brewers Lane. The Police were called and arranged for the Highways on-call team to remove the tree before nightfall.
- g) Overgrown hedges in Colville Road - the hedges have been reported to Clarion Housing and Longhurst Housing Association, to whom they belong.
- h) Fly-tipping in Franks Lane and High Road - the Clerk reported that fly-tippers have again been active in the village. Franks Lane was cleared by Fenland District Council, however the rubbish in the copse on the High Road is on private property and therefore the landowners responsibility.
- i) Offer of oak tree to be planted in suitable location - a parishioner has offered a pot-grown oak tree to be planted in the village. Concern was expressed over the recent spate of vandalism of the trees in the Playing Field. Further consideration is required.

037/22 Amenities Committee

- a) Spraying and reseeded of the wildflower meadow - the quote has not been received.
- b) Remedial work to the children's play equipment - a quote of £2,449.40 from Online Playgrounds was approved.
- c) Replacement trees - members approved the purchase of three new birch trees for the arboretum and two apple trees for the orchard to replace the damaged trees. New stakes will be provided for all trees.
- d) Replacement bench and relaying of path opposite Fen Road - no quote has been received.
- e) Additional notice board - Members agreed to purchase a new notice board at a cost of up to £400 to be placed adjacent to the bench opposite Fen Road.

038/22 Highways Committee

- a) LHI/PFHI highway schemes - members reviewed the final plans for the works in Fen Road, Mill Lane, Rectory Road and Chapel Lane. It was noted that there is no slow marking painted on the High Road at the western end of the village. The Clerk agreed to investigate whether this can be added to the scheme. Members approved the plans subject to this minor amendment being added, if feasible.
- b) Village Handyman - members reviewed the enhanced role description. They approved the extension of the role and asked the Clerk to discuss this with the Handyman.

039/22 Strategic Planning and Administration

- a) Parish plan - deferred until the next meeting.
- b) Support for vulnerable residents - Members discussed the concept of providing a support system for residents experiencing hardship. A telephone helpline similar to the scheme operated during the Covid lockdown was suggested. Cllr King outlined the help available from Wisbech Foodbank and the possibility of working in partnership with them. The Clerk was asked to convene a task and finish group of interested individuals to develop this project.

040/22 Planning

Members considered the following planning application:-

F/YR22/0957/F and F/YR22/0958/LB - Convert existing barn, and erect a link extension (to existing dwelling), erect a 2-storey building involving the demolition of existing piggery, to form 2 x annexes (2-storey 2-bed) ancillary to existing dwelling, and erect a first-floor extension to existing outbuilding and a double garage (part retrospective) - Newton House, 217 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle

Whilst they had no objection to the overall scheme, they expressed concern regarding the impact of the proliferation of windows and roof lights proposed on barns 2 and 3 and the design quality of the replacement of the piggery with a cramped unsightly two-storey dwelling on the same footprint.

041/22 Finance

a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of August, showing income of £7,218.91 and expenditure of £3,586.90, resulting in a surplus of £3,632.01 and total funds held of £41,941.74.

b) Members noted the following sums received:

<i>Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant)</i>	<i>£ 1,968.00</i>
<i>J McGregor (drainage licence)</i>	<i>£ 250.00</i>
	<i>£ 2,218.00</i>

c) Members approved the following payments:

<i>100732</i>	<i>D A Gibbs (salary August and September)</i>	<i>£ 843.60</i>
<i>100733</i>	<i>Fenland District Council (street lights)</i>	<i>£ 2,994.96</i>
<i>100734</i>	<i>Newton Village Hall (hall hire)</i>	<i>£ 64.00</i>
<i>100735</i>	<i>Newton Village Hall (section 137 grant)</i>	<i>£ 200.00</i>
		<i>£ 4,102.56</i>

042/22 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 November.