

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Present** - Cllr D Nunn (Chairman), Cllr R Bradley, Cllr S Clark, Cllr D Freeman, Cllr R Moore, Cllr G Wilkinson, D Gibbs (Clerk), Fifteen members of the public

#### **043/22 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr E Jones, Cllr S King (CCC), and Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

#### **044/22 Chairman's Announcements**

None.

#### **045/22 Public Forum**

Members of the public spoke in opposition to the proposed solar energy development in the vicinity of Elloe Bank. Concerns included the size of the project, the loss of agricultural land for food production, the appearance and impact on the landscape, harm to public rights of way, and the possibility of more appropriate sites e.g. brownfield, roofs etc.

#### **046/22 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- c) Members noted the draft minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.
- d) Members noted the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **047/22 County and District Councillors Reports**

County - Cllr King submitted a report including details of the next round of Cultivate Cambs grants, the new 20mph speed limit process, gravel on Roman Bank and flooding of gardens on the High Road. The Local Highways Officer has concluded that there is nothing that can be done about the gravel on Roman Bank outside the Secondhand Centre. The Highways Committee will discuss this further. A meeting between the Senior Flood Risk Officer and the Local Highways Officer regarding flooding at 158 High Road will take place shortly.

Cllr Clark reported that she had been checking white line markings at junctions and would submit her findings shortly.

District - Cllr Clark reported that the District Council was concerned about Home Office plans to place asylum seekers in the Rose and Crown Hotel. The decision will be challenged in the courts. Increases in energy costs have impacted upon the Council's leisure centres, particularly the swimming pools, and cost-cutting measures will be required, possibly including a reduction in opening hours and staffing levels.

#### **048/22 Police Matters**

The Clerk reported that no meetings had taken place recently.

#### **049/22 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a planning training session on enforcement, community gritting scheme applications, a traffic order for Fitton End Road in January, Fenland District Council cost of living support events, community safety drop-ins, and the national pay award for local government for 2022/23.

#### **050/22 Members' and Residents' Issues**

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colville Road - Clarion Housing will consider enforcement action.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colville Road - Clarion Housing will consider enforcement action.
- c) Overgrown hedges in Colville Road - the Clarion Housing hedge has been cut and it is hoped that the Longhurst Housing Association hedge will be cut shortly.
- d) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - minor remedial work has been undertaken and further repairs will follow.
- e) Planter around village sign - the planter requires replacement. Cllr Wilkinson will provide quotes for the timber.
- f) Homeless man on Fen Drove - the Clerk reported that a man had been living in a vehicle in open countryside. Following contact from local support agencies, he has now moved on.
- g) Mossy pavement in Westfield Road - a section of pavement has become mossy and dangerous. There is no recognised treatment for this. The Local Highways Officer has suggested sweeping it with a stiff broom.
- h) Fly-tipping in Franks Lane, Chapel Lane, Cross Drove and Roman Bank - the Clerk reported that fly-tippers have again been active in the village. Identifying information from Franks Lane resulted in a formal warning being issued by the District Council. Identifying information from Chapel Lane was provided to Norfolk Police in relation to an investigation into cannabis cultivation.
- i) Tydd Solar proposal - the Clerk presented information received from Pathfinder Clean Energy regarding their plans to construct a large solar farm in the parishes of Tydd St

Giles, Sutton St Edmund and Newton-in-the-Isle. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with the project team to discuss their proposals in detail.

- j) Dog fouling in Goodens Lane - Cllr Freeman reported concerns about the level of dog fouling in Goodens Lane. The Clerk asked members to note dates, times and descriptions of dogs and owners in order that enforcement action may be instigated.
- k) Old School site - Cllr Clark reported that she had spoken to the District Council's enforcement team regarding the condition of the site.
- l) Tree in the Playing Field - the Chairman reported that a resident had spoken to him regarding a tree in the Playing Field overhanging her garden. The Amenities Committee will investigate.

#### **051/22 Amenities Committee**

- a) Spraying and reseeding of the wildflower meadow - the quote has not been received.
- b) Replacement bench and relaying of path opposite Fen Road - no quote has been received.
- c) Purchase and installation of dog bag dispensers - Members agreed to purchase three dispensers to be installed on the bus shelter, the fence around the children's play area and in Hogens Lane, at a cost of up to £500 including a supply of bags.
- d) Additional notice board - Members agreed to purchase a new notice board at a cost of up to £400 to be placed on the grass verge outside 13 Goodens Lane.

#### **052/22 Highways Committee**

- a) LHI application for 2023/24 - members considered potential projects for submission and resolved to apply for funding for a kerb build-out to slow traffic from the High Road into Fen Road. The Clerk will relocate the MVAS device to this location to provide speed data to support the application.
- b) Village Handyman - the Clerk reported that he had met with the Handyman to discuss the enhanced job description. The Handyman has accepted the new terms and will continue in the role.

#### **053/22 Strategic Planning and Administration**

- a) Parish plan - members discussed the benefits of a Parish Plan. They agreed to give further consideration in the coming months.
- b) Support for vulnerable residents - The Clerk presented a draft leaflet to be distributed to residents. The Working Group will meet shortly to develop the scheme.

#### **054/22 Policies and Procedures**

Members reviewed the following policies and procedures and resolved to re-adopt them:

- a) Complaints Procedure
- b) Grievance Policy
- c) Disciplinary Policy

**055/22 Planning**

Members considered the following planning application:-

*F/YR22/1153/F - Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed), including formation of a new access - Land West of 241 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle*

Members noted that they had previously supported this application under reference F/YR22/0166/F. They also noted that the every one of the responses from the neighbours has been positive and the statutory consultees have not raised any insurmountable concerns in relation to either application. This part of the High Road is characterised by substantial individual detached dwellings and the proposed dwelling would sit well within this streetscape. The plot is one of a number of sites in this part of the village identified by the Parish Council as suitable for infill development to unite the two halves of the village. The Parish Council has raised a number of concerns regarding the proposals set out in the Draft Local Plan and is awaiting an opportunity to discuss these with a senior planning officer. Paragraph 6.7 of the Draft Plan states: "However, it is also recognised that smaller communities should benefit from an appropriate level of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability." This statement is at odds with settlement proposals limiting growth in Newton-in-the-Isle to six dwellings over a period of eighteen years. The addition of individual dwellings on sites such as this will enhance the physical and social fabric of the village and contribute to its long-term sustainability. Members resolved to offer this application their full support.

**056/22 Finance**

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of October, showing income of £12,222.62 and expenditure of £8,111.26, resulting in a surplus of £4,111.36 and total funds held of £42,421.09.
- b) Members noted the National Agreement on Local Government Salaries for 2022/23 which includes an increase of £1 per hour for all grades.
- c) Members noted the following sums received:

<i>Fenland District Council (precept)</i> .....	£ 5,000.00
<i>Barclays Bank (interest)</i> .....	£ 3.71
	£ 5,003.71

- d) Members ratified the following payment:

100736 <i>D A Gibbs (salary October)</i> .....	£ 421.80
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- e) Members approved the following payments:

100737 <i>D A Gibbs (salary November and backpay)</i> .....	£ 629.80
100738 <i>Beech Trees Garden Services (benches and grass cutting)</i> .....	£ 149.35
	£ 779.15

**057/22 Speed Monitoring**

The Clerk presented data recorded by the MVAS device on the High Road at the eastern end of the village.

Number of vehicles - 43,755

Minimum speed - 5mph

Maximum speed - 85mph

Average speed - 35.44mph

85th percentile speed - 42mph

Number over speed limit - 19.33% - 8,456 vehicles

Number over prosecutable limit (10%+2 above limit) - 5.61% - 2,456 vehicles

Number over disqualification limit (30mph above limit) - 0.03% - 12 vehicles

**058/22 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.