

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 10th January 2023

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

059/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Nunn and Cllr S King (CCC)

060/22 Chairman's Announcements

None.

061/22 Public Forum

None.

062/22 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Tuesday 29th November and Tuesday 20th December 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- c) Members noted the draft minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on Thursday 5th January.
- d) Members noted the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13th December.

063/22 County and District Councillors Reports

County - Cllr King submitted a report including the new 20mph speed limit process, which opens for applications in February. The residents of Elloe Bank have approached Cllr King regarding the condition of the road and concerns over the speed of farm vehicles outside their properties and Cllr King asked the Parish Council to consider an application to the new scheme. Members considered this request, with reference to the report on the implementation of the scheme as discussed by the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee. They felt that Elloe Bank did not meet the core criteria for the scheme and any new speed limit there would not be enforced, so is unlikely to modify driver behaviour.

The meeting between the County Asset Planning Manager and the Local Highways Officer regarding flooding at 158 High Road will take place shortly.

District - Cllr Seaton reported that the District Council will freeze its share of the Council Tax again this year, although many other components will increase, leading to higher bills overall. The Combined Authority intends to introduce a mayoral precept for the first time, although the District Council may vote against this at the forthcoming budget meeting. Cllrs Seaton and Clark have been selected as Conservative candidates for the new Leverington and Wisbech Rural ward at May's election, alongside Mrs Barber. The election is due to be called on 20th March.

Cllr Clark reported that a resident had contacted her regarding safety concerns relating to dead trees along the A1101 in the parish. This has been reported to Highways for investigation. The District Council will be holding another Cost of Living Support event at the Queen Mary Centre in Wisbech on 6th February from 10.00 to 12.00.

064/22 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that no meetings had taken place recently.

065/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a planning training session on housing, an FDC Cost of Living Support event, a Golden Age Fair, community gritting scheme registration, a traffic order for Fitton End Road from 16-18 January, new County Council watercourse guidance, support for renters with mould issues and a new transport planning guide. PKF Littlejohn LLP has retained the contract for external audit of Cambridgeshire local councils.

066/22 Members' and Residents' Issues

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colville Road - enforcement action is likely.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colville Road - enforcement action is likely.
- c) Overgrown hedge in Colville Road - the Clerk will remind Longhurst Housing Association hedge to attend to this matter.
- d) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - further work will be undertaken in the new financial year.
- e) Planter around village sign - the planter requires replacement. Cllr Wilkinson will provide quotes for the timber.
- f) Mossy pavement in Westfield Road - the Clerk will arrange for this to be swept shortly.
- g) Fly-tipping in Roman Bank and elsewhere - the Clerk reported that fly-tippers have again been active in the village. A quantity of bedding and other household rubbish has been left in the roadside dyke in Roman Bank and the number of nitrous oxide cylinders is increasing at many locations.

067/22 Amenities Committee

- a) Spraying and reseeding of the wildflower meadow - the quote has not been received. Members suggested that the Amenities Committee might consider the appointment of a different contractor to undertake the work.

- b) Replacement bench and relaying of path opposite Fen Road - no quote has been received.
- c) Vacant allotment on the High Road - members discussed the works required. They resolved to undertake the necessary works to reinstate the original hedge and fence along the north-eastern side of the site, to reinstall the pedestrian access gate on the High Road, to allow the incoming tenant one year's rent-free tenancy in view of the current condition of the site and to offer to spray the site with weedkiller subject to the tenant's agreement.
- d) Tree works in Westfield Road, Goodens Lane and Playing Field - members discussed the following items:
 - i) Removal of a broken limb on the cherry tree over the bench at the High Road/Fen Road junction for safety reasons
 - ii) Canopy reduction on the cherry tree outside 3 Westfield Road touching telephone wires
 - iii) Canopy reduction on the cherry tree outside 13 Goodens Lane touching telephone wires
 - iv) Felling of prunus tree opposite 7 Westfield Road touching telephone wires and growing into adjacent copper beech tree
 - v) Felling of sycamore tree behind 3 Goodens Lane requested by resident

They resolved to obtain a quote for the first two items, to attend to the third and fourth items in the new financial year with other tree works and not to fell the sycamore tree in the Playing Field.

- e) Budgetary provision for Playing Field enhancements for 2023/24 - members considered a range of enhancements to the Playing Field and resolved to make the following provision in the budget for 2023/24:
 - i) Outdoor gym equipment and benches £6,000
 - ii) Tree works and new planting £3,000

They also resolved to include an allocation of £500 for the vacant allotment.

068/22 Highways Committee

- a) LHI application for 2023/24 - members approved a contribution of up to £2,000 for the application.
- b) Mill Lane passing places and village gateways - members discussed options for improving the passing places. It was suggested that scraping and levelling the surface might suffice for several of the passing places, although one appears to have a tarmac surface. Further investigations will be required, but a sum of £1,500 was approved as a budgetary provision.

The Clerk advised members that the County Council's indicative cost of a village gateway installation is £6,000. Members resolved to consider this for an LHI application in the next available bidding round.

069/22 Strategic Planning and Administration

- a) Parish plan - members agreed to give this further consideration in the coming months.
- b) Support for vulnerable residents - the leaflet outlining available support will be distributed to residents shortly.

070/22 Policies and Procedures

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

- a) Data Protection Policy
- b) Publication Scheme
- c) Code of Conduct

071/22 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of December, showing income of £12,513.58 and expenditure of £9,338.21, resulting in a surplus of £3,175.37 and total funds held of £41,485.10.
- b) Members noted the following sums received:

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|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| <i>S Sands (rent)</i> | £ | 21.60 |
| <i>A Yates (rent)</i> | £ | 51.84 |
| <i>B Brown (rent)</i> | £ | 21.60 |
| <i>R Kublik (rent)</i> | £ | 189.20 |
| <i>Barclays Bank (interest)</i> | £ | <u>6.72</u> |
| | £ | 290.96 |

- c) Members ratified the following payment:

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|---|---|--------|
| 100739 <i>D A Gibbs (salary December)</i> | £ | 447.80 |
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- d) Members approved the following payments:

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|---|---|--------------|
| 100740 <i>D A Gibbs (salary January)</i> | £ | 447.80 |
| 100741 <i>Newton Village Hall (hall hire)</i> | £ | <u>64.00</u> |
| | £ | 511.80 |

- e) Members considered the draft budget prepared by the Clerk. With the addition of the items mentioned above and a contribution of £500 for the Emergency Plan, they resolved to adopt the budget. Members resolved to maintain the precept at the previous level of £10,000 for 2023/24.

072/22 Speed Monitoring

The Clerk reported that no data was available.

073/22 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th March.