

NEWTON IN THE ISLE

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Dave Gibbs, 358 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle, PE13 5HS
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Minutes of a Meeting of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th November 2023

Present - Cllr D Freeman (in the Chair), Cllr S Clark, Cllr E Jones, Cllr R Moore, Cllr K Simpson, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk)

050/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Bradley, Cllr B Simpson, Cllr B Barber (FDC)

051/23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Remembrance Sunday service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Council. He thanked the members who had attended.

052/23 Public Forum

None.

053/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

054/23 County and District Councillors Reports

County - Cllr King reported that a motion at the October County Council meeting to recommence the cyclical spraying of weeds on the public highway was defeated, however a report will be submitted to the January meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee with a range of options for future weed treatment.

Cllr King reminded members that community groups may submit bids for Local Highway Improvement funding alongside the Council's bids and the deadline for applications for 2024/25 is 12th January. A further round of 20mph applications will open thereafter.

District - Cllr Seaton reported that Clarion Housing Group had agreed to attend a meeting with representatives of the three parishes to discuss current issues of concern. The Combined Authority's Transport Committee will discuss bus services at its forthcoming meeting and it is hoped that consultation with the parishes will be arranged shortly.

055/23 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that no scheduled meetings had taken place with the Police, although he attended the public meeting on Operation Lambretta dealing with anti-social behaviour, especially relating to motorbikes and mopeds in and around Leverington.

He informed members that nitrous oxide has been reclassified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, placing restrictions on the sale and possession, which should lead to a reduction in the number of empty canisters being dumped around the parish.

056/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a meeting with the new Local Highways Officer and Fenland District Council's Golden Age 20th Anniversary celebration. Correspondence included the County Council's Steady on Your Feet falls prevention programme, the District Council's polling places review, remuneration panel review, hate crime resources pack, and the local government pay award for 2023/24.

057/23 Outstanding Matters

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colvile Road - no update received.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colvile Road - the skip was collected but more items are accumulating.
- c) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - no update received.
- d) Vacant properties - no progress.
- e) High Road bench - installation required.
- f) Planter around village sign - Cllr K Simpson has replaced the planter. Members thanked him for a job well done.
- g) Mossy pavement in Westfield Road - Cllr B Simpson has swept it, but further work may be required.
- h) Allocation of vacant allotment - Cllr Clark will seek quotes from other contractors.
- i) Wildflower meadow - now awaiting spraying and reseeding by the contractor.
- j) Arboretum - the Clerk has ordered more trees to replace those that are not thriving.
- k) Byway winter closures - no progress.
- l) Village bus service - the Clerk will arrange a meeting for the seven parishes on the route to discuss the service and the needs of their communities.
- m) Local Highway Improvements application 2024/25 - a resubmission of the last application was suggested, however members agreed to prepare a list of potential projects for future years in consultation with the community and not to submit an application this year.
- n) Hedgehog highways - Cllr Jones reported that he had received a positive response at the recent Coffee Morning. Cllr Simpson offered to distribute some to neighbours in Westfield Road.
- o) Former Colvile School site - no progress.
- p) Village Handyman - The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Handyman and explained the Council's decision not to continue with the arrangement. Members will consider alternative solutions.

- q) Highway weeds - see 054/23 above.
- r) Playing Field dyke - no progress.

058/23 Members’ and Residents’ Issues

- a) Welcome packs - Cllr Clark reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had decided to discontinue the provision of a welcome pack to new residents. Members felt that this was something of value that should be continued as a Council initiative. Cllr Clark agreed to take responsibility for the content and delivery of the packs and was asked to bring ideas to the next meeting for approval.
- b) Member surgeries - it was noted that the public had not taken advantage of the availability of member surgeries on Saturdays at the Village Hall. It was agreed that future surgeries would be offered at the regular Village Hall Coffee Mornings, with district and county councillors also invited to attend.

059/23 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of October, showing income of £12,220.65 and expenditure of £9,973.03, resulting in a surplus of £2,247.62 and total funds held of £36,932.62.
- b) Members noted the National Agreement on Local Government Salaries for 2023/24.
- c) Members approved the following payments:

<i>100769</i>	<i>D A Gibbs (salary Oct/Nov, backpay and expenses)</i>	<i>£ 1,874.80</i>
<i>100770</i>	<i>CPRE (subscription).....</i>	<i><u>£ 35.00</u></i>
		<i>£ 1,909.80</i>

- d) Members were invited to nominate potential projects for inclusion in the budget for 2024/25, which will be finalised at the next meeting.

060/23 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

061/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm.