

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 9th January 2024

Present - Cllr R Bradley (Chairman), Cllr D Freeman, Cllr S Clark, Cllr E Jones, Cllr B Simpson, Cllr K Simpson, D Gibbs (Clerk), 10 parishioners

062/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Moore, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

063/23 Chairman's Announcements

None.

064/23 Public Forum

Questions were raised regarding the locations and use of the Council's notice boards and issues relating to access to parts of the website from a mobile phone. The Clerk explained that there are notice boards opposite the junction of High Road and Fen Road, on the wall outside Newton House and a new board will be installed at the junction of Goodens Lane and Church Lane. The new board will replace the board at Newton House which will be made available to village organisations. The Clerk agreed to investigate the website issue.

A resident asked for clarification of the sequence of events for a planning application, which was explained by the Clerk.

The recent planning application in Rectory Road was discussed. The Chairman explained that the Council had supported the application as it was agreed that modest growth was good for the village, as reflected in the Council's response to the planning consultation.

065/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th November be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5th December be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

066/23 County and District Councillors Reports

County - In Cllr King's absence, the Clerk reported that the deadline for the submission of applications for 2024/25 under the Local Highway Improvements scheme is 12th January and the next round of bidding for 20mph schemes opens on 15th January.

District - Cllr Clark reported on behalf of Cllr Seaton that Clarion Housing had agreed to meet with the representatives of Newton-in-the-Isle, Tydd St Giles and Leverington Parish Councils to discuss ongoing matters of concern. The Combined Authority bus team would like to

attend the forthcoming meeting with neighbouring parishes regarding the village bus service.

067/23 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that no scheduled meetings had taken place with the Police. Cllr B Simpson reported that someone had entered her garden, cut the cables to her CCTV camera and stolen oil from her tank. No clues have been found to help identify the culprit. She has been unable to contact the person who reported people in gardens at night in a recent social media post.

068/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the County Council's budget briefing and consultation, the District Council's budget and business plan consultation, a Library Presents consultation and the launch of the Pride in Fenland Awards.

069/23 Outstanding Matters

- a) Abandoned vehicle in Colvile Road - no update received.
- b) Accumulation of scrap in Colvile Road - no update received.
- c) Dangerous path surface at St James Close - no update received.
- d) Vacant properties - no update received.
- e) High Road bench - installation to be arranged.
- f) Mossy pavement in Westfield Road - the Clerk will inspect the site.
- g) Allocation of vacant allotment - the Clerk will seek quotes for the clearance of the site. Members delegated authority to the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.
- h) Wildflower meadow - awaiting spraying and reseeding by the contractor.
- i) Arboretum - the Clerk has the replacement trees to be planted when the weather improves.
- j) Byway winter closures - the paperwork needs to be completed soon to enable the closures to be implemented in time for next winter.
- k) Village bus service - the meeting with neighbouring parishes will take place soon.
- l) Former Colvile School site - the Clerk will discuss the clearance of the site with local contractors and the owner.
- m) Village Handyman - Members agreed to advertise the new contract in the forthcoming newsletter.
- n) Playing Field dyke - the Clerk will discuss this with the North Level Drainage Board.
- o) Welcome packs - Cllr Clark reported that she had investigated some of the suggested contents and proposed that the new packs should comprise a tote bag, biscuits and information about village life, activities and local services. Members agreed a budget of £5 per pack and an initial spend of up to £150 for bags etc.

070/23 Members' and Residents' Issues

- a) Pride in Fenland Awards - Cllr Clark reported that the nominations have opened for the annual awards. Members discussed suitable nominees and agreed to nominate Shyla Brown for her inspirational fundraising activities. The Clerk will prepare and submit the nomination.
- b) Annual Parish Meeting planning - the meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd May. Members discussed potential speakers and asked the Clerk to contact the Air Ambulance charity and Cambridgeshire Police and to seek further suggestions through an article in the newsletter.

071/23 Highways

- a) The Clerk reported that he has experienced considerable delays in addressing faults, with some reports being deleted from the system when no repair has been carried out. Cllr Clark suggested that the white lines at a number of junctions need repainting. These will be reported.
- b) The County Council is inviting applications for 20mph speed limits to be introduced at no cost to the Parish Council. Members discussed the potential for an application and resolved to apply for a 20mph zone comprising the current 30mph zone around Goodens Lane and Church Lane.
- c) The Clerk presented data recorded by the MVAS device on Goodens Lane with a speed limit of 30mph.

Number of vehicles - 7,310
 Minimum speed - 5mph
 Maximum speed - 46mph
 Average speed - 20.03mph
 85th percentile speed - 26mph
 Number over speed limit - 2.93% - 214 vehicles
 Number over prosecutable limit (10%+2 above limit) - 0.56% - 41 vehicles
 Number over disqualification limit (30mph above limit) - 0.0% - 0 vehicles

072/23 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of December, showing income of £12,453.30 and expenditure of £11,882.83, resulting in a surplus of £570.47 and total funds held of £35,255.47.

b) Members noted the following sums received:

<i>R Kublik (rent)</i>	£ 189.40
<i>Newton Village Hall (rent)</i>	£ 1.00
<i>Barclays Bank (interest)</i>	£ 42.25
	£ 232.65

c) Members approved the following payments:

<i>100771 D A Gibbs (salary December and January)</i>	£ 947.60
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100772	CPRE (subscription)(replacement cheque)	£	36.00
100773	Newton Village Hall (hall hire)	£	40.00
100774	Cambridgeshire ACRE (subscription)	<u>£</u>	<u>65.00</u>
			£ 1,088.60

d) Members considered the draft budget for 2024/25 prepared by the Clerk. They resolved to add provision for the following items of expenditure:-

<i>Byway closures</i>	£ 7,500.00
<i>Playing Field</i>	£ 3,000.00
<i>Trees</i>	£ 1,000.00
<i>Allotments</i>	£ 1,000.00

Members resolved to increase the level of precept from £10,000 to £13,000.

073/23 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

074/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm.