

# **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](mailto:parishclerk@newtonintheisle.org.uk)

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Present** - Cllr R Bradley (Chairman), Cllr A Clark, Cllr S Clark, Cllr I Giles, Cllr K Humphris (from 036/26(g)), Cllr K Simpson, D Gibbs (Clerk), 7 members of the public

#### **025/26 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr C Tirrell (CCC), Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

#### **026/26 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman noted the resignation of Cllr Blair Simpson and thanked her for everything she contributed to the work of the Council during her term of office.

#### **027/26 Public Forum**

A resident asked why planning applications are being considered by the Council and not by the Planning Committee. The Chairman explained that Planning Committee meetings are scheduled only when the Council has no meeting within the consultation period.

A resident enquired about the possibility of installing a dog waste bin in Fen Road. Members asked the Clerk to add a review of dog waste bin locations to the agenda for September's meeting.

#### **028/26 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

#### **029/26 District Councillor's Report**

In Cllr Tirrell's absence, there was no report.

#### **030/26 District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Clark reported that the Government's final decision on local government reorganisation for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is due this week. She also confirmed that the new food waste bins will be delivered to all households in the parish by 17<sup>th</sup> August, with collections due to commence on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **031/26 Police Matters**

The Clerk reported an incidence of vandalism at St James' Church and several cases of anti-

social driving around the village. The driving offences were reported to the Police and are currently under investigation and the vandalism was addressed through a restorative justice process.

### **032/26 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on meetings attended including the Open Day at St James' Church. Correspondence received included a traffic order for a closure of Fen Road on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August, the food waste recycling scheme briefing, and notification of a 10-year criminal behaviour order for hare coursing,

### **033/26 Village Hall Report**

Cllr Simpson reported that the Village Hall charity is still trying to arrange a food hygiene inspection.

### **034/26 Clarion Housing Group and Amplius (formerly Longhurst)**

The Clerk reported that good progress has been made with both housing associations on issues relating to properties in the village. The eviction anticipated for a property in Poppy Close has not happened, but the process continues.

### **035/26 Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field**

The Clerk reported that the new mound was installed with help from Cllr Bradley, but has not been sown due to the weather. This will be addressed later in the year. The Pride in Place funding for play equipment repairs and renewals is now held by the District Council and it is hoped that they will be able to transfer funds to the Parish Council to enable the work to proceed. The aerial cableway seat was vandalised, so a replacement was ordered and has been installed.

### **036/26 Outstanding Matters**

- a) Allocation of vacant allotments - No update.
- b) Village bus service - The Clerk confirmed that the forthcoming review of bus services announced by the Combined Authority does not affect the village bus service.
- c) Former Colvile School site - The Clerk advised Members that work is still progressing on the planning application.
- d) Bird deflectors on overhead power lines - No update.
- e) High Road overhanging vegetation - The Clerk reported that work is ongoing with a number of residents.
- f) Dog enclosure in the Playing Field - This was added to the agenda following a discussion at the Annual Meeting. An appeal has been submitted against the refusal of planning permission for a dog walking area in Fen Road, so Members agreed to defer consideration of this item until the outcome of that appeal is known.
- g) Review of fees and charges - Cllr S Clark declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the building.

The Clerk presented a schedule of land and charges, which have remained largely unchanged for a number of years. Cllr Bradley suggested that the current rents for agricultural land are well below market rates and applied inconsistently, but a significant increase might result in land becoming vacant. Cllr Giles proposed that whatever decisions are made regarding next year's rents, there should be a commitment to an inflationary increase every year. Cllr Humphris joined the meeting. The Clerk indicated that the Sutton Road land might be vacated this year, creating a potential cost to the Council for basic husbandry. Cllr Bradley estimated this cost to be in the region of £300 per year. Cllr Bradley proposed a rate of a minimum of £80 per acre be applied. Members resolved to continue at the current rent for Roman Bank and to increase the rent for the Fen Road and Sutton Road parcels to £80 per acre. For the garden allotments, Members resolved to increase the charge per acre for the Bank Gardens allotments to £169.19 to match the charge for the High Road plots. Cllr S Clark returned to the meeting.

### **037/26 Members' and Residents' Issues**

Members noted that a number of trees had died, including one in the Playing Field, two in Church Lane and one on the High Road leading out of the village.

Cllr Simpson mentioned that he had spoken to the Handyman about the installation of a trellis behind the bench opposite Fen Road and they have drawn up a list of the materials required.

Cllr S Clark suggested that the Council might create a new logo to be used on agendas, notices and official correspondence. Members asked the Clerk to add this to the agenda for September's meeting.

### **038/26 Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee**

Cllr Humphris nominated Cllr Giles as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Simpson. Members voted in favour of the nomination.

Cllr Giles nominated Cllr Humphris as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Simpson. Members voted in favour of the nomination.

### **039/26 Planning**

a) Members considered the following application:-

*F/YR26/0481/RM - Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission  
F/YR23/0998/O to erect 1 x dwelling - Land west of 225 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle.*  
They resolved to offer no objection.

b) Members noted the following application:-

*F/YR26/0487/CERTP - Certificate of Lawful Use (Proposed): Conversion of existing loft to create additional living accommodation - The Willows, Elloe Bank, Harolds Bridge, Gorefield.*

- c) Members noted the following appeal under Section 78 to be determined on the basis of written representations:-

*F/YR25/0907/F - Change of use of agricultural land to dog exercise paddock, erection of a shelter and 1.8m high boundary fencing, and formation of a car parking area and access - Land north of Sorrento, Fen Road, Newton-in-the-Isle.*

#### **040/26 Highways**

- a) The traffic order for Fen Road was included in the Clerk's report at 032/26. Pavement surfacing works are scheduled for August.
- b) No further progress regarding the 2025/26 Local Highway Improvement project.
- c) Cllr Giles reported that two Speedwatch sessions have taken place and one vehicle has been reported for speeding. Further sessions will take place to enable more volunteers to be trained. Members also discussed concerns regarding speed limits in and around the village.

#### **041/26 Finance**

- a) The Clerk presented an updated financial statement as at the end of June, showing income of £22,730.57 and expenditure of £3,089.87, resulting in a surplus of £19,640.70 and total funds held of £52,899.32.
- b) Members noted the quarterly financial reconciliation.
- c) Members noted the following sums received:

|                                                                    |   |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <i>Fenland District Council (recycling credits)</i> .....          | £ | 43.13           |
| <i>Barclays Bank (interest)</i> .....                              | £ | 119.44          |
| <i>Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant)</i> ..... | £ | <u>1,968.00</u> |
|                                                                    | £ | 2,130.57        |

- d) Members noted the following direct debit payment since the last meeting:

|                                                          |   |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|-------|
| <i>Information Commissioner (registration fee)</i> ..... | £ | 47.00 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|-------|

- e) Members approved the following payments:

|                                                                  |   |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <i>100869 D A Gibbs (salary June and July)</i> .....             | £ | 907.04        |
| <i>100870 D Freeman (handyman)</i> .....                         | £ | 406.25        |
| <i>100871 Newton Village Hall (room hire)</i> .....              | £ | 90.00         |
| <i>100872 Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (cableway seat)</i> ..... | £ | <u>299.08</u> |
|                                                                  | £ | 1,702.37      |

#### **042/26 Policies**

Members considered the draft Reserves Policy prepared by the Clerk. They resolved to approve and adopt the policy.

#### **043/26 Annual Parish Meeting**

Members reviewed the recent Annual Parish Meeting. They noted that the meeting had not been well attended. Securing speakers remains a challenge and the poor attendance limits the Council's ability to attract senior figures from partner organisations. Members agreed to

schedule next year's meeting on the same night as the Annual Parish Council Meeting and to include this item on the agenda for January's meeting to allow sufficient time for planning and preparation.

**044/26 Residents' Survey**

The Survey Working Group has not met. Cllr S Clark has agreed to take Cllr B Simpson's place on the working group.

**045/26 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.