

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021 commencing at 7.15 p.m. (via Zoom)

Chair: Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman)

Councillors: S. Baugh, Mrs. J. C. Benson, Mrs. G. Bevan, P. Collins (from 9.00p.m.), Mrs. J. McCormick.

Borough/County Councillor: None.

Police: None.

Members of the public: One.

The chairman explained that the convened meeting was an ordinary meeting of the council and via Zoom, advised that comments or observations from members of the public are invited to be made in the open forum session prior to the meeting and that it would be appropriate to restrict these comments and observations to a three minute time limit. The chairman emphasised that questions or comments from the public area will not be permitted during the meeting.

a) **FORUM.**

i) **Parishioner matters.**

a) **21/0159 Erection of detached chalet bungalow following demolition of existing agricultural building at "Church Farm, Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales, Preston, PR4 3RJ.**

The chairman explained a parishioner/applicant had requested an opportunity to provide information, in the open forum session prior to the meeting, relating to the proposed development. Accordingly, the chairman invited the parishioner to address members. It was explained that it is intended to develop the plot of the existing agricultural building into a single detached chalet bungalow property for his own family and only for domestic residential use. The proposal is to demolish the existing failing timber framed agricultural barn and to rebuild a single detached timber frame family property in its place for the sole use of the applicant who is the owner of the land. Full consideration will be given to measures necessary to improve the energy efficiency of the new property. Access to the property will be via an existing access gate from the A583. In concluding the discussion the chairman advised that the matter will be formally considered under the planning agenda item.

ii) **Police report.**

None received.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. L. Bannister. The clerk advised that Councillor P. Collins will attend at some stage following the conclusion of a Fylde council meeting.

b) **Chairman's communications.**

i) **Casual Vacancy in the Office of Councillor (Clifton Ward).**

The chairman reported receipt of a letter of thanks from former councillor Mrs. Jacqueline Stapleton for the floral gift presented by the council in recognition of past service over a period of seventeen years.

ii) **Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee (NWCVHC).**

The chairman reported NWCVHC had received a £6200 Covid-19 retail hospitality and leisure grant arising from periods of closure during periods of lockdown.

c) **Declarations of interest.**

The chairman reminded members at the commencement of the meeting that any direct or indirect pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest should be declared in accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011.

Declarations contd...

Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items. Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman) formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items. Councillor Mrs. J. McCormick formally Declared an Interest with regard to any finance related Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items.

d) **Signing of the minutes.**

Council meeting 4th February 2021.

The chairman put it to council that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2021, as previously circulated, be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2021 be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

e) **Matters arising from the minutes.**

No matters raised.

2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman.

i) Publish information that the 2019 ordinary election resulted in 4NO vacancies. Subsequent changes leave 3NO vacancies; 2NO for Newton-with-Scales Ward and 1NO for Clifton Ward.

Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk explained an understanding that the information had been circulated to members in February 2021, complemented by the separate statutory notice for the recent Clifton Ward vacancy. It was agreed that the information should again be circulated.

ii) Public information.

The chairman advised that recent consumer alerts and notices, relating to Fylde council's 2021/22 green waste collection service, and the temporary road closure on Oak Lane & Parrox Lane, Newton-with-Scales from Monday 19th April 2021 until Sunday 25th April 2021 (one road only will be closed at any one time to enable sewer installation works to be carried out by Matthews & Leigh), will be displayed.

b) Parish noticeboard displays.

The chairman referred to the present arrangements for displaying public notices. The clerk advised of having a key giving access to both noticeboards for displaying statutory notices. Other notices received were displayed when received concurrently with any statutory publication. Discussion ensued and 2NO councillors agreed to liaise in providing a second key(s) for future display of non-statutory notices on both noticeboards by a Clifton ward councillor.

c) Appointments as council representatives.

The chairman referred to the resignation of former councillor Mrs. J. M. Stapleton and the vacancy arising as a consequence on Fylde Area Committee of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC). Additionally because face to face/in person meetings had been suspended during lockdown, and the councils other LALC representative being unable to attend meetings remotely, council was effectively unrepresented. Similarly this situation prevails when District/Parish meetings are convened. A member explained that any councillor may attend both District/Parish and LALC meetings. The member also explained that former councillor Mrs. J. M. Stapleton was also a LALC executive committee member. Following discussion it was agreed that the LALC representative member position should be considered at the council's annual meeting scheduled for Thursday 7th May 2021 and in the interim Councillor Mrs. J. McCormick will attend District/Parish meetings.

3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

a) Ongoing Lancashire County Council (LCC) matters; including parish highway safety, Newton-with-Clifton.

Highways contd...

i) Vehicle parking and waiting restrictions, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales.

The chairman again referred to this matter and it was recognised that given the prevailing situation regarding school attendance only by children of critical workers, and vulnerable children, the parking problem had to some degree been mitigated. It was agreed that the issue be closely monitored once school is fully reopened to pupils.

b) New LCC matters.

i) A583/Blackpool Road, footway and footpath improvement and pedestrian crossing facilities, particularly at junction with Preston Old Road, Clifton.

The chairman referred to this matter and invited a Clifton ward member, who had raised this issues at a meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2021, to address the meeting. It was explained that a particular highway safety concern related to pedestrians crossing the A583/Blackpool Road at the junction with Preston Old Road, Clifton. In recent months Clifton village post office and shops have closed and an increasing number of pedestrians now visit Dobbies Garden Centre which, in partnership with Sainsburys, has a new foodhall. Also, in the immediate locality the Lantern Fields housing development has further increased both pedestrian activity and the number of west bound vehicles turning right into Clifton at this junction. It was agreed that the observations of LCC highways authority should be requested relating to the provision of a widespread scheme of improvements. Members anticipate that any such scheme could also include measures previously referred to LCC in a comprehensive submission of highway improvements i.e. include controlled right turn facilities, pedestrian crossing facilities and “red light” cameras, also improved pavements along this stretch of road which are narrow, crossing the A583/Blackpool Road is difficult other than at its traffic signal junction with Bryning Lane/New Hey Lane, Newton-with-Scales. There is a potential increase in traffic along this highway once the Preston Western Distributor scheme is implemented. The road is not wide enough to take two abreast container wagons, and this is apparent when cars overtake wide vehicles. It is considered that a continuous single lane carriageway along the full stretch of road with filter lanes for access/egress at junctions will enhance highway safety. Also, it was considered that a reduction in speed limit to 40mph along the full length of A583/Blackpool Road highway will enhance highway safety. Moreover, members consider that Public Footpath NO 6 is a much under used asset because of its unsatisfactory condition. This footpath connects Clifton and Newton but it is claimed the footpath is often impassable in parts due to flooding, attributable according to complainants to a poorly maintained adjacent watercourse and other issues relating to lack of maintenance. Council is of the opinion that this footpath could provide a healthier and much safer alternative facility for pedestrian movement between both villages. It was anticipated that a suitable scheme will then encourage pedestrian usage because of an increased confidence if the suggested improvements, in the interest of highway safety, are implemented.

ii) Watercourse adjacent Public footpath NO6.

The chairman referred this issue raised by a parishioner and the clerk advised that it had been referred to LCC explaining that the public footpath is perceived as impassable in parts due to flooding, attributable according to the complainants to a poorly maintained adjacent watercourse. LCC had been requested to arrange an inspection and corrective work as necessary and advise when it may be programmed for execution

iii) Dow Brook/Middle pool affecting Public footpath Bridleway NO12.

The chairman referred this issue raised by a parishioner and the clerk advised that it had been referred to LCC explaining that it is understood a fallen tree next to the bridleway is affecting waterflow and contributing to malfunctioning drainage issues and subsequent ponding. LCC had been requested to arrange an inspection and corrective work as necessary and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

Highways contd...

c) Street scene matters; including the district/parish street cleansing agreement and grant.

i) Dog fouling – Bryning Lane/School Lane, Newton-with-Scales.

Members referred to regular incidents of dog fouling which are perceived as both an eyesore and a hazard to public health. The above localities are particularly problematic areas. The clerk confirmed that the matter has been referred to Fylde borough council (FBC) dog warden service. A member advised that FBC had recently deployed an officer in the village. The chairman requested members to consider possible initiatives that might encourage dog owners/walkers to clean up after their pet and dispose of dog waste in a sealed bag in the nearest litter or dog bin; members suggestions included additional dog waste bins and dog waste bags, more penalty warning signage and spraying of dog fouling.

ii) Littering in parish.

Members referred to the general level of village littering and similarly on surrounding roads. A member agreed to enquire relating to a Fylde council (FBC) initiative enlisting volunteer assistance. Fylde Litter Action Group (FLAG) provides advice to anyone wanting to organise a clean-up and the FBC Waste Prevention and Enforcement Team will assist anyone who has a concern regarding litter in the community.

iii) Bus shelter, A584, near “Three Nooks”, Clifton.

A member reported maintenance work had recently been executed and surrounding overgrowth has been cut back.

iv) Bus shelter A583/Blackpool Road (Bryning Lane/ westbound), fly tipping &c.

The chairman referred to this ongoing issue and it was agreed;

a) In view of the persistent littering Fylde council (FBC) be requested to provide a litter bin in the shelter.

b) The chairman referred to the anticipated highway improvements that, inter alia, include upgrading the west bound bus stop on the A583. The highway works are secured via a Unilateral Undertaking associated with the terms of planning permission relating to application 16/0554 for the erection of 50 dwellings for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale at land west of Woodlands Close, Newton-with-Scales. It was agreed that FBC be requested to provide an update relating to start date of this work.

v) Vehicle parking Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales.

Members referred to vehicle parking issues at the junction with Avenham Place, Newton-with-Scales and in proximity to the flowerbed/parish noticeboard. The inconsiderate parking causes problems to pedestrians, particularly parents/carers with children and any persons using any type of walking aid. Members agreed to photograph incidents of indiscriminate vehicle parking and that such incidents should then be referred to the local police.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

a) Planning applications.

The chairman referred to the planning applications consultation details of which had previously circulated to members for observations.

i) 21/0072 Minor material amendment to planning permission 18/0862 for introduction of additional vehicle turning head on land between plots 47 and 48 including associated alterations to siting and design of boundary treatments on plots 47 and 48 and to soft landscaping scheme at land west of, Woodlands Close, Newton-with-Scales. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that it be recommended the application is granted planning permission and that the local planning authority be advised accordingly.

ii) 21/0090 Prior approval application for the installation of a 20 metre high electronic communications mast, with three antennas, pursuant to schedule 2, part 16, Class A of the Town and Country Planning

Planning contd...

(General permitted development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) at “Yew Tree Farm” Treales Road, Salwick, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0SA. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that it be recommended the application is granted planning permission and that the local planning authority be advised accordingly.

iii) 21/0159 Erection of detached chalet bungalow following demolition of existing agricultural building at “Church Farm, Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales, Preston, PR4 3RJ. Members raised points relating to the property access/egress, development within the designated Area of Separation, applicants intention relating to the existing farm dwelling house, and the need, or otherwise, for an agricultural tie regarding any potential planning permission. Any such agricultural tie is placed by the local planning authority in respect of a planning permission for a house built in the open countryside where development would not normally be permitted. Occupancy of the dwelling(s) is restricted to those employed in certain jobs. Subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that it be recommended the application is granted planning permission and that the local planning authority be advised accordingly.

b) Fylde Borough Council Planning Committee (FBC) planning decisions/notifications/parish recommendations.

i) None reported.

c) 20/0315 Residential development of 39 dwellings comprising 100% affordable housing with associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Nos 8 & 12 Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, PR4 3RR.

The chairman referred to the above application and invited members observations. Reference was made to the footway work to tie in levels with Bryning Lane together with upgrading of the Bryning Lane bus stop to Lancashire county council highways authority quality standard. Members recognised this will provide access to a busy village area that could be visually enhanced as part of the overall highway improvements. A member advised that in due course the proposed footway will require a relocation of the parish noticeboard and it was agreed this should be an agenda item for the meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday 1st April 2021. It was agreed that council should arrange a meeting, at some mutually convenient date, with representatives of Westchurch Homes Ltd to discuss the development generally and “Sandy Gap” specifically.

5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

a) Parks, open spaces, rural area grass verges, grass-cutting contract, receive report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the parks and open spaces maintenance contract.

In the absence of the authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract the clerk reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with the contract conditions and specifications. It is anticipated that the council’s contractor will recommence grass cutting in the near future subject to the prevailing weather conditions. Arising from the initial resumption of operations grass clippings will be spread evenly over the cut area and it is anticipated any large deposits of clippings will be removed. Members expressed some concern relating to cuttings not being boxed off and the clerk agreed to discuss resumption of grass cutting operations with the contractor.

b) Flower/Shrub beds maintenance contract - receive report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the flower/shrub beds maintenance contract.

The authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with the contract conditions and specifications.

c) Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) receive report, if any, from member.

The clerk referred to the previously circulated report by the council representative member on FoNCP which was taken as read. In accordance with the requirements of council’s Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011 Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Parks contd...

In accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011 Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman) formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

d) Footway resurfacing, including sections of fence replacement, William Pickles Park, Clifton.

The chairman referred to this item and the 3NO quotes received;

Contractor A) £12792.00 plus vat £2558.40, £15350.40

Contractor B) £21200.00 or £22500.00.

Contractor C) £5542.00 plus vat £1108.40, £6650.40 (footway).

An additional £2100 to be added to the cost if concrete edging is required instead of wood.

£4070.00 plus vat £814.00 £4884.00 (fencing).

Discussion ensued and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Contractor C quote in the sum of £6650.40 footway and £4884.00 fencing be accepted, and an additional £2100 is to be added to the cost for concrete edging.

e) Tree replacement arising from dieback disease that is affecting Ash trees.

The chairman referred to this item and a member explained; volunteer assistance has been offered relating to a parish wide assessment of the number and location of trees to ascertain the scale of the problem. This is scheduled towards the end of April 2021 when, with trees fully in leaf any diseased trees will be more readily identified. A member explained that it was preferred that small metal numbered disks are pinned to trees for identification. The cost of a pack of 100 is £29.99. Once the survey is complete Fylde council arboriculture officer will assess the position. Subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the purchase of a pack of 100 disks be arranged.

f) Provision of CCTV, Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales.

The chairman referred to this item and the comprehensive report received from a parishioner with CCTV expertise. A member explained the parishioner had explained issues that made it impractical to compare the contractor quotations as it appeared council had not provided them with a specific CCTV brief. Reference had been made to monitoring, storage, transmission options and it was understood Blackpool council provide a monitoring service to some councils in the area. The clerk explained the reason why the specifications in the contractors submitted quotes were significantly different i.e. separate site meetings had been held and an assessment of the required work. The council's objectives were outlined in general terms and contractors provided quotations regarding the technical requirements related to those general objectives. School Lane is a key traffic route for village access and had been included following the suggestion made by the parishioner who first enquired about a resumption of CCTV operations in the area because of prevailing anti-social behaviour. The chairman and members expressed opinions that some issues still required to be addressed; cloud based recording and data storage options and how other local councils determined their CCTV operational requirements. Subsequently it was agreed that the chairman and one member meet on site with the parishioner with CCTV expertise in an attempt to progress matters.

g) Lancashire Wildlife Trust(LWT)/Natural England(NE) - great crested newts and other wildlife ponds within the Fylde borough.

The chairman referred to this matter and recent communications explaining that subsequent to the consultation a majority of parishioner respondents support the initiative.

However concerns remains that grey water waste from the village could drain to the proposed pond.

Such contamination of the water feeding the pond would make it an inappropriate location.

Because some of the drainage in the village comprises combined sewers United Utilities (UU) had been requested to provided assurances together with supporting information that will address these concerns.

Parks contd...

If the project is to develop then it is necessary that UU's opinion should confirm that grey water waste from the village draining to the proposed pond is an extremely unlikely event. UU has acknowledged the council enquiry and had indicated a detailed reply should be available by Friday 12th March 2021. Moreover, it had also previously been agreed that if the project is to be progressed fencing will be provided. This had been included in the consultation document. Although LWT has advised that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has determined, relating to open water, "There is no legal requirement for ponds and open water to be fenced off" and "fencing may appear to be a solution but could easily create different risks" and that LWT has already created a number of ponds none of which required new fencing to be erected. In view of points raised in the consultation council remained of the opinion fencing is a prerequisite and therefore will require LWT to consider a compromise solution, as previously indicated by LWT. Members also recognised;

- i) LWT is not prepared to restore the site to its current state in the event of some future change in council policy.
- ii) There are no Fylde Local Plan issues relating to land allocated for development that will impact on the proposed pond.

Also, the managing agent for Hornbies Newton Charity (owners of adjacent farmland) together with the tenant of the adjacent farmland, recommend, LWT/NE initiate further consultation with the occupier to address these and any other potential conflicts between conservation, drainage and modern farming methods.

Council agreed that the UU response is required before matters can be progressed. Once this information has been received, circulated and considered by members a determination could then be made via email and the decision formally ratified at the council meeting scheduled for Thursday 1st April 2021.

h) Tree work, Dixon's Farm Mews.

The clerk referred to an email communication from Clifton Ward councillor relating to the above matter. Following enquiries with another Clifton Ward councillor and the parish tree warden, the agreed position was;

- i) There are a number of trees in the immediate locality subject to a Tree Preservation Order(s).
- ii) Accordingly, information from Fylde council's arboriculture officer confirming the position agreed with the owner/occupier should be obtained.
- iii) Details of the contractor deployed to execute the work will be required.
- iv) Prior notification of the work will be required to ensure that suitable weather conditions prevail when work is scheduled and that there is no adverse impact on the work of the council's grass cutting contractor. A Clifton Ward councillor agreed to pursue the matter further with Fylde council's arboriculture officer.

i) Provision of memorial bench for former council chairman, member and Clifton parishioner to be located at William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton.

The clerk referred to this matter and the requirement to agree a specific park location for the bench. A Clifton ward member advised of a discussion with a member of the family of the deceased regarding seat installation. The clerk explained it was necessary to avoid any misapprehension and requested the councillor discuss matters further with the family member who will then finalise arrangements by contacting another family member who, from the outset, had been dealing with all matters.

The clerk advised council has now been invoiced in the sum of £432 (£360.00 plus £72.00 Vat) by its supplier for the seat. Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk explained it is the usual custom and practice for the invoice to be paid by the council and for the family of the deceased to then arrange a council reimbursement.

j) Vehicle parking, Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. PR4 3RT.

A member referred to this matter, together with a more recent incident involving siting a blue container, used for disposal of building material, on the car park.

Parks contd...

The clerk advised that in August 2020 Lancashire county council (LCC) had been requested to provide details of manufacturing and installing NO OVERNIGHT PARKING signage. The matter had again been referred to LCC and further enquiries will now be made.

k) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales.

A member reported issues relating to littering on the park. Discussion ensued and it was suggested and agreed that Fylde council be requested to provide an additional litter bin on the park, at a suitable position and in proximity to the proposed sensory garden near to existing circular seating.

l) Provision of football goals and nets at William Pickles Park, Clifton lane, Clifton.

A member suggested that this equipment was required on the park and was authorised to make enquiries relating to the pricing options. Members suggested that grants might be available from the Lancashire county council Parish Champions fund and Fylde council mayoral fund and agreed to liaise in this regard. It was agreed that the matter be an agenda item for the meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday 1st April 2021.

6. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

i) List 1.

Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoices be paid.

T. A. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services	Litter bin operations, Newton-with-Scales and Clifton 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, January 2021.	£300.90 Vat <u>£60.18</u>	£361.08
Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC).	Subscription 2021/22 Publications Contribution to Area Secretary Honorarium.	£458.51 £17.00 <u>£19.00</u>	£494.51
Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription 2021/22.		£144.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays February 2021.	£976.58 Vat <u>£195.32</u>	£1171.90
Pete Marquis	Street sweeping operations, Newton-with-Scales and Clifton 10th,11th, February 2021.	£420.00 Vat <u>£84.00</u>	£504.00
T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance February 2021.	£1722.17 Vat <u>£344.43</u>	£2066.60
T. A. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	SpID operations, Newton-with-Scales. 22nd February 2021.	£25.00 Vat <u>5.00</u>	£30.00
+T. A. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Litter bin operations, Newton-with-Scales and Clifton 7th,14th,21st,28th, February 2021	£185.00 Vat <u>£37.00</u>	£222.00
+Anticipated invoice for PDQ's February amenity cleansing disposal operations has still to be received.			
B. Duckworth.	Chairmans allowance - reimbursement, expense of floral gift to Mrs J. Stapleton.		<u>£30.00</u> c/fwd...£5024.09

Finance contd...		b/fwd... £5024.09
**F. Wilson	Honoraria to March 2021.	£1657.00
**HM Revenue and Customs	Statutory remuneration deductions, charges.	£277.50
**National Employment Savings Trust Corporation	Pension contributions	£372.05
	Nest charges.	<u>£60.34</u> <u>£432.39</u>
		<u>£7390.98</u>

ii) Invoices submitted at meeting.

None received.

b) **Workplace pensions - automatic enrolment.

Exempt Item**. In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s.1.Council may resolve to exclude the public (which includes the press) on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. The chairman advised that a member of the public was no longer observing the meeting, the clerk had indicated no confidential issues were to be raised and council was not required to resolve to exclude the public (which includes the press) on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. The clerk reported that matters continue to be progressed as agreed with both the National Employment Savings Trust Corporation (NEST) and The Pensions Regulator. The clerk explained that in addition to the scheduled employer and employee contributions (3.75% and 5.0% respectively) an ad-hoc relief at source additional voluntary contribution of £250.00 had been payroll processed resulting in a reduction in net pay for March 2021. The pooled contributions and charges are payable to NEST. Exempt Item**. **RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.**

c) Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) - funding Community Parks Improvement Programme (CPIP).

The chairman referred to this item and a member advised;

Fylde council's Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 had agreed to support to capital bid in the sum of £50,000 in 2021/22 by FoNCP. At a Fylde council meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021 the bid had been affirmed. In accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011 Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. In accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011 Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman) formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. In accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011 Councillor Mrs. J. McCormick formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

d) Management of contracts.

i) Consider chairman's report.

The chairman referred to the contract management sub-committee/working group and the previously circulated updates that included all the documentation relating to its meetings and ultimate recommendation. The contract management sub-committee/working group and the clerk met on Thursday 11th February 2021 to discuss options for the provision of the amenity cleansing service after the end of March 2021. Discussion included matters relating to the tender process, and the following options.

Option 1 – Service reverts to Fylde council (FBC).

Option 2 - Tender the complete service.

Finance contd...

Option 3 - Split the service into components and tender or request pricing from existing contractors. The contract management sub-committee/working group recommends that the service reverts to FBC. To support this recommendation the following information was considered;

- i) Cost saving – to fund the current service cost the parish council annually contributes c.£3,000 to complement the grant from FBC. This would not be required resulting in a significant cost saving to the parish. Other options require a tender exercise incurring further costs.
- ii) FBC has responsibility for management burden relieving the parish council of any management oversight, other than reporting any service failures to FBC.
- iii) FBC has statutory responsibility for the service under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and any potential service risk or problems leading to claims from the public would be its responsibility and not the parish council. Discussion ensued and it was subsequently Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the arrangements be made for the service to revert to FBC from 1st April 2021. The chairman explained that further review of the grass cutting and flower/shrub beds contracts be deferred.

e) Distribution of Covid Support Grant Funding.

A member reported that Fylde council had agreed a borough wide distribution of funding, based on the number of band D equivalent properties, and the council has been allocated £2000.

7) Local Government Boundary Commission - review of Fylde.

The chairman reported that a ten week public consultation on proposals for new council wards and ward boundaries for Fylde Borough Council commenced on Tuesday 26th January 2021 and will close on Monday 5th April 2021. Draft recommendations will be published in June 2021. Fylde district businesses, organisations residents are being consulted on the future of the borough council's political boundaries as the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) has decided the number of councillors at Fylde is to be reduced. Reference was made to the borough demographics, related councillor representation and boundaries of borough/parish polling district/wards. Newton Residents Association (NRA) had provided detailed apolitical information that equitably achieved the proposed reduction in the number of councillors from fifty one to thirty seven. It was agreed that subject to the approval of the NRA the council use this statistical information to support its consultation response. Members recognised that matters being considered included new electoral arrangements reflecting communities and that the consultation with local organisations and residents will inform a better understanding of community ties and identities. Consultation topics include shared facilities e.g. parks, play areas, recreational centres, schools, shopping areas, neighbouring communities having common problems, e.g. highway safety, traffic issues, increased housing and commercial developments, that impact their community, existing boundaries, natural or constructed; watercourses, roads, railways, rivers or other features that form links between neighbourhoods.

8. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

Date of next meeting.

Discussion ensued relating to the annual assembly of the parish meeting and the council's annual meeting. The clerk advised that at the present time the legal requirement to convene annual assembly meetings had been waived and councils schedule annual meetings in May.

It was agreed that the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 1st April 2021 via Zoom.

There being no further business the chairman declared the Meeting closed at 22:05hrs.

Chairman