

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1st April 2021 commencing at 7.15 p.m. (via Zoom)

Chair: Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman)

Councillors: Mrs. J. C. Benson, Mrs. G. Bevan, P. Collins, A. Metcalf, Mrs. J. McCormick.

Borough/County Councillor: None.

Police: None.

Members of the public: None.

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.**

None received.

ii) **Police report.**

None received.

**1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

a) **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. L. Bannister, Councillor S. Baugh and Borough Councillor Mrs. E. A. Oades..

b) **Chairman's communications.**

i) None reported.

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. 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 March 2021.**

The chairman put it to council that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th March 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 March 2021 be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

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

No matters arising were raised, however, referring to the Local Government Boundary Commission review of Fylde, the chairman reported a member request for additional information to be considered on conclusion of other agenda items.

## **2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.**

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman.

i) Public information.

The chairman advised that recent consumer alerts and notices e.g. Ok Lane/Parrox Lane road closures, will be published on the website. A member agreed to display the consumer alert information in the village shop. A member advised that Fylde council public spaces protection order/penalty notices, relating to dog fouling, will be displayed. The chairman also explained that a notice relating to the 3NO vacancies in the office of parish councillor had been published on the website.

b) Parish noticeboard displays.

The chairman referred to the present arrangements for displaying public notices. A member explained an intention to revamp the noticeboard and improve presentation of public notices. It was agreed that publication of councillor details on the noticeboard and website should be consistent and members agreed to confirm their preferences relating to the display of personal information. Following a request by the clerk members agreed to confirm their email preferences, informing the clerk by using their preferred email address.

## **3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.**

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

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

The chairman again referred to this matter and photographs provided by parishioners relating to vehicle parking issues. The clerk explained that the matter had previously been referred to Parking Enforcement, Lancashire county council highways (LCC) and that no information was available relating to action that the authority may have taken. The clerk reported an understanding that LCC will not deploy operatives in areas where, for example; there is no parking restriction, a disabled motorist has parked on a yellow line (single or double) for a limited period, vehicle parked on a yellow line loading/unloading and/or picking up/dropping off passengers. If a vehicle is causing an obstruction where no parking restrictions exist, the matter should be reported to the police. The clerk advised that, if issues continue to prevail, and to assist the better understanding of the scale of the problem by LCC and other authorities, it is recommend individuals raise matters with the authority in addition to any formal parish council submission.

ii) 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 the observations of LCC highways authority explaining that the suggested measures i.e. various traffic controls, filter lanes, pedestrian crossings, red light cameras, footway widenings etc. would involve a major highway restructuring scheme costing well in excess of £1m. LCC/police deal with highway safety issues as part of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership targeting locations where casualties and speeds are higher. If there is an evidence-based speeding issue appropriate mitigation measures would be introduced. As a result of an investigation of the casualty and speed data for Preston Old Road and Blackpool Road, the instalment of temporary signage is being prioritised between April to June 2021, and these will be re-erected between October to December 2021 to maximise the effect of the message. When residents witness regular incidents of nuisance or dangerous driving, they can contact the police directly either by the non-emergency telephone number: 101, or on the Lancashire Constabulary 'Do It Online' webpage, ideally with a record of the registration numbers of the vehicles. LCC does not accept the highway cannot accommodate two abreast HGV vehicles given its average width of 13metres. Also, given the nature and character of the route, a strategic A class road, very few directly fronting properties and with the 85 percentile speeds from the traffic data of 45mph the 50mph speed limit currently in place is in accordance with Department for Transport guidelines and a reduction of the speed limit at this time is not considered justified.

Highways contd...

iii) Public footpath NO6.

The chairman referred this matter and the clerk confirmed the LCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) team has been requested to arrange an inspection, schedule and execute necessary maintenance. Discussion ensued relating to the stile access of a connecting footpath NO7 and the possible realignment of the footpath NO6. The clerk explained that there is a lengthy legal public footpath order application process to facilitate a footpath being realigned/rerouted which would incur costs additional to those associated with constructing a new route. Members agreed to collate more information relating to the unsatisfactory access and condition of the footpaths and that the issue be an agenda item for council consideration at the next council meeting.

b) New LCC matters

i) Vehicle parking, Stanagate, Clifton.

Members referred to an earlier councillor communication circulated to members advising a campervan was parked in a cul-de-sac near an open space area. The clerk advised that it was unclear if this is still a current issue, however if so and if the vehicle is causing an obstruction, where no parking restrictions exist, the matter should be reported to the police. Moreover, if the open space area is used for informal recreation by children then the police might consider it is parked in a manner detrimental to highway safety.

ii) “Cherry Tree Farm, Blackpool Road, Newton-with Scales, Preston, PR4 3RE highway ponding caused by water leak.

Members referred to this matter and considered it necessary that United Utilities be advised of the problem by the council.

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

i) Relocate noticeboard from Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales and related improvements to enhance amenity in central village area.

Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk advised that the developer Westchurch Homes Ltd (planning application 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) had not yet responded to the council’s enquiry suggesting a meeting to discuss the development generally and “Sandy Gap” specifically. It was agreed that the clerk should again attempt to secure a response from Westchurch Homes Ltd.

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

The chairman referred to this issue and a member reported several initiatives implemented in other local authority areas, albeit based in the south of the country, 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. These measures included additional dog waste bins and dog waste bags, display more penalty warning signage, spraying of dog fouling incidents, engage community in volunteer clean up concentrated over a several weeks, utilise dog warden service more frequently, liaise with school in creating display posters, publicise issue on websites &c. Generally it was agreed the problem had improved in recent weeks, consequently it was agreed to monitor the issue and should the situation relapse then these initiatives could be considered for implementation.

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

A member reported that subsequent to work executed by Fylde council (FBC) the shelter condition is much improved. Also, in view of the persistent littering FBC had now provided a litter bin in the shelter. Members agreed council should formally express its appreciation and thanks for the recent action taken by FBC relating to the above matter. The chairman referred to the anticipated highway improvements that, inter alia, include upgrading the west bound bus stop on the A583.

Highways contd...

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. FBC had advised of a 28th March 2021 start date for this work. It was explained that notwithstanding assurances from the local planning authority (LPA) work had not yet been scheduled to commence. It was agreed to pursue the matter further with the LPA.

iv) Littering in parish.

A members referred to the general level of village littering and similarly on surrounding roads. Fylde Litter Action Group (FLAG) at Fylde council (FBC) had responded to the member enquiry providing equipment, plastic bags and stickers for volunteers to use. FBC will collect the accumulated bags of litter when notified. The member explained a willingness to trial a volunteer clean-up/litter collection and update members of the outcome in due course. Following a member enquiry the clerk reported that FBC will only provide additional litter bins on highway land. Consequently, any additional bin or relocation of an existing bin, in proximity to the proposed sensory garden near the circular seating at Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, will need to be arranged and funded by the parish council. The chairman also reported parishioner advice that FBC had been in contact offering equipment for litter collection.

v) Church Lane, missing street nameplate (junction of Vicarage Lane, Newton-with-Clifton).

Members reported the above issue and it was agreed that Fylde council should be requested to arrange an inspection, corrective work and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

vi) Amenity street cleansing.

Following a member enquiry the clerk confirmed that the service reverted to Fylde council (FBC) on 1st April 2021. Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk confirmed that FBC had all the necessary information to ensure a seamless transition and the council's existing contractors had been formally advised and thanked for their services over the previous twelve months.

#### **4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.**

a) Planning applications.

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

21/0072 Amended, 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.

21/0016 Erection of portal framed agricultural storage building at "Pear Tree Farm", Deepdale Lane, Clifton, Lea Town, PR4 0RQ. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that it be recommended the application is granted planning permission and that the local planning authority be advised accordingly.

20/0965 Erection of detached bungalow, within rear garden including formation of new vehicle access onto the A583 (Blackpool Road), 70 Hornby Drive, Newton-with-Scales, Preston, PR4 3SU. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that it be recommended the application is refused planning permission and that the local planning authority be advised accordingly; Members consider the new proposed access to /egress from the busy A583 Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales, is detrimental to highway safety. Required sight lines are unsatisfactory given the highways authority assessed 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 54mph and 52mph. This concern being enhanced with the plan not indicating a turning facility on the development site.

Planning contd...

Consequently the proposed development fails to demonstrate satisfactory access/egress with no adverse impact on the safe and efficient operation of the highway network as required to comply with Fylde Local Plan (FLP) Policy GD7 and revised 2018 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) policies. The proposed development requires the removal of several trees and the removal of a hedge, consequently there is a potential adverse impact on wildlife habit, e.g. bats and their roosts are strictly protected under wildlife and countryside legislation and natural habitats and conservation of habitats and species regulations. Where bats are suspected to be present, it is necessary to seek advice from a licensed bat specialist before carrying out any major tree work or hedge cutting and the application does not evidence this advice has been obtained. Therefore the proposed development may have a detrimental impact on the biodiversity, ecology and wildlife in the area and conflicting with FLP policy ENV2 and revised 2018 NPPF policies. It is considered that the proposed development footprint is excessive in scale and constitutes over development of the available plot conflicting with FLP policy GD7 which is intended to ensure siting, layout, massing, scale, building to plot ratio &c of a proposed development proportionately relate to the surrounding location. Members consider in this instance that if planning permission is granted it may create a precedent which could subsequently lead to other similar applications that will be difficult to resist and would consequently diminish existing safeguards designed to prevent development encroachment.

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

i) None reported.

ii) 20/0315 Residential development of 37 dwellings comprising 100% affordable housing with associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Nos 8 & 12 Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, PR4 3RR - vehicle parking.

The chairman referred to the issues relating to the construction environmental management of the development. Issues related to drivers of construction vehicles using a temporary and unauthorised site access/egress facility and construction vehicles parked on Bryning Lane and Oak Lane waiting for site access and causing a convoy type obstruction. The clerk reported that the matter had been referred to the local planning authority (LPA) subsequent to a parishioner complaint. The LPA had advised the developer had now provided a revised construction environment management plan (CEMP) that indicates the relationship between the current access that is being used for construction purposes, and the approved access for the development when operational. The operational access is wider including the standard radii, footways, etc. The construction access is now likely to be in place until August 2021 at which point the roads and sewers will be in place to allow for its use for the majority of the construction phase of the development. The chairman suggested that the LPA should again be advised of the footway damage likely to arise when drivers of construction vehicles use this temporary access. The clerk referred member to the CEMP and recommended that, if issues continue to prevail and to assist the better understanding of the scale of the problem by the LPA and other authorities, members individually raise matters with the authority in addition to any formal parish council submission. Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan stated that as this was not an agenda item and if any significant discussion of the application is likely to arise then, 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, a formal Declaration an Interest, and non-participation in the discussion or voting thereon should be recorded.

## **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.

The chairman referred to this item and that, following Councillor C. L. Bannister relinquishing the role, Councillor Mrs. J. McCormick had volunteered to perform the role of authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract. The authorised officer/liaison member reported meeting with the contractor, together with council's Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) liaison member.

Parks contd...

All parties considered the meeting informative and productive discussing issues relating to the FoNCP projects. Maintenance is ongoing subject to prevailing weather conditions, i.e. playing field adjacent Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall, St. John the Evangelist (Lund) community hall areas, William Pickles Park (part) areas had been maintained in recent days, in accordance with the contract conditions and specifications, and Newton Hall Park will be maintained in due course.

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. Recent work included general tidying, pre-planting flower/shrub bed operations, weedkilling &c.

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. Also, it was explained that FoNCP had obtained another grant details of which will be included in the April report. 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.

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

The chairman referred to this item and the clerk advised that the contractor is to schedule the work for execution, once the contractor has informed the clerk of a scheduled start date details will be provided to the council's grass cutting contractor to avoid possible disruption being caused regarding grass cutting.

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. A mutually agreed schedule of survey operations will be implemented, possibly towards the end of April 2021 when, with trees fully in leaf, any diseased trees will be more readily identified. A member explained that small metal numbered disks, to be pinned to trees for identification had been purchased.

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

The chairman referred to this item explaining a meeting had been held including another member and a parishioner with CCTV expertise. The parishioner had provided detailed specifications of the type of CCTV equipment required. Issues raised relating to the quotes previously obtained by the council involved radio transmission between the park area and the village hall. Alternatives included microwave transmission, locating a secure cabinet with a recording device near the park, provision of telephone line and broadband to the cabinet. It was anticipated that the work will cost c.£1000. The chairman agreed to forward details for consideration at a future meeting. A member referred to the Lancashire police "In The Know" initiative. The police use this facility as its main contact with the community and the member reported that Newton Hall Park has been submitted as an area for regular police patrols to deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour.

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

The chairman referred to this matter and recent communications from Managing Agents Hornbys Newton Charity (HNC), Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) and United Utilities (UU) (copies of which had previously been circulated to members).

Parks contd...

A site meeting had been held on Thursday 18th March 2021, at 3:00 pm on Newton Hall Park involving FB council park ranger, Hornbies Newton Charity representatives, tenant farmer, LWT and 2NO parish councillors. Health and safety issues had been discussed and it was affirmed that the pond would be fenced. A concern of the HNC is the possibility of great crested newts migrating onto adjoining farmland which would increase development cost and complexity should HNC change the land use to residential housing as outlined in the Fylde Local Plan. Following a HNC enquiry it was explained that the proposal is a LWT/NE/FB initiative and the council had been approached with regard to locations suitable for the creation of a pond. The tenant farmer suggested other possible pond locations e.g. within school grounds and in a field adjoining school grounds. The school grounds was considered unsuitable as usually only school children and staff would have access. The field adjoining the school was assessed on site, it adjoins the public footpath that leads from Thames Street. across towards Cuckoo Wood and is owned by HNC. The land was less accessible, and therefore offered less scope as an amenity feature, than Newton Hall Park LWT did not consider it feasible to use NE funding available in the current financial year in this location, however it was considered a possible location for a future year should funding be available within FB. HNC is willing to consider parish council suggestions to make this a suitable location. Another concern relates to drainage in the village, particularly combined and foul water sewers. UU had been requested to provide assurances together with supporting information that will address these concerns. 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 had advised of the drainage system in the locality identifying, combined, foul and surface water sewers, land drains and an emergency pump station overflow. UU had advised the topography of the area will determine if the overflow pipe spilling could impact the pond. It was agreed that the UU response should be provided to FBC/LWT for a topography assessment and confirmation that the proposed location for the pond is still considered appropriate. The chairman invited members to confirm their respective positions regarding the preferred location for a pond. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that any deviation from the Newton Hall Park pond area, that had been subject to public consultation, would require the project to be reopened for public consultation. If the preferred land was as suggested by HNC it was debateable whether the matter should then solely involve LWT/NE/HNC/FB officers i.e. council would not be involved. In conclusion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that LWT be advised council's preferred option remains Newton Hall Park and that, subject to available funding and seasonal wildlife habitat issues being accommodated, the project should be commenced as soon as is practicable.

h) Provision of football goals and nets at William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton.

The chairman referred to this item and funding information provided by a member, although without any costings. It was understood that a grant from Fylde council mayoral fund is only available to voluntary groups and a grant for a limited sum might be available from the Lancashire county council Parish Champions fund. Therefore council options were; refurbish any existing goal posts (a member indicated an old set may be stored at the village hall), or purchase new equipment including goal nets. Given the absence of the member who had taken a lead role in initial enquiries it was agreed that the matter remain an agenda item for a future meeting.

i) Use of playing field, and ancillary facilities, adjacent Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall (NWCVH) by Kirkham Juniors Football Club (KJFC), including maintenance/development of an adjacent watercourse(s).

The chairman referred to recent communications, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, between representatives of NWCVH and KJFC. Issues being addressed related to controlling vehicular access from Vicarage Lane and maintenance/development of an adjacent watercourse(s). NWCVH Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29th April 2021 and details will be published in due course.

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

The chairman referred to 2NO quotes for signage prohibiting no overnight parking (copies of which had previously been circulated to members).

Parks contd...

Invitations to quote were sent to 4NO suppliers; Lancashire county council had now declined to quote and 1NO commercial supplier has not responded.

Contractor A) £268.00 plus vat £53.60 Total £321.60.

Contractor B) £639.97 plus vat £127.99 Total £767.96.

Discussion ensued and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Contractor A quote in the sum of £321.60 be accepted.

## **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 disposals, February 2021.	£69.25 Vat <u>£13.85</u>	£83.10
*Pentaprise Ltd T/A Treemarker	Supply of aluminium tree tags.	£33.00	
* Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan reimbursement	Ash dieback operations.	Vat <u>£6.60</u>	£39.60
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays March 2021.	£976.58 Vat <u>£195.32</u>	£1171.90
Pete Marquis	Street sweeping operations, Newton-with-Scales and Clifton 3rd, 24th, March 2021.	£470.00 Vat <u>£94.00</u>	£564.00
+T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance March 2021.	£1722.17 Vat <u>£344.43</u>	£2066.60
+T. A. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	SpID operations, Newton-with-Scales. 22nd March 2021.	£25.00 Vat <u>5.00</u>	<u>£30.00</u> <u>£3955.20</u>

+Anticipated invoices for PDQ's March grass cutting, SpID, and amenity cleansing operations have still to be received. It was agreed authorised payments will only be processed once invoices received.

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 members of the public were not observing the meeting, the clerk had indicated no confidential issues were to be raised and so 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. Exempt Item\*\*. **RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.**



Finance contd...

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

The chairman referred to this item and the information below, first reported at the meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021 and also contained in the FoNCP March 2021 update; 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 reported that, as previously advised, a review of the flower and shrub bed contract and the grass cutting contract by the contract management sub-committee/working group has now been deferred pending other matters being brought to a conclusion.

**7) LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION (LGBC) - REVIEW OF FYLDE.**

The chairman referred to this matter considered as an agenda item at the meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021.

Councillor P. Collins had subsequently requested that the matter be given further consideration in view of additional information now available as a member of the Fylde council independent councillor group (ICG). Councillor P. Collins reported that the Fylde borough council (FBC) submission to the LGBC proposes a reduction in the number of councillors from fifty one to thirty seven, a reduction in wards from twenty one to fifteen and achieving an optimum councillor: elector ratio of 1:1865 with a 10% variance above or below this optimum figure.

To achieve this outcome FBC proposes, inter alia, that Newton and Treales ward combines with Elswick ward. The ICG object to a several aspects of FBC's proposal and recommend that Newton and Treales ward combine with a rural part of Freckleton. Discussion ensued and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that;

- i) Council's original apolitical submission be affirmed.
- ii) LGBC be informed that the parish council regret FBC's adopted procedure in this matter which indicates an unwillingness to consult with its stakeholders.
- iii) Ideally there should not be any changes to existing ward boundaries or FBC councillor representation affecting Newton and Treales polling district boundaries and its internal parish boundaries.
- iv) A statistical analysis be included as part of the council submission to the LGBC to address demographic changes and the stated objective of reducing the number of councillors, at Fylde from fifty one to thirty seven, using an apolitical and equitable method.
- v) Council reject the FBC proposal, however, if the LGBC is minded to endorse the FBC ward reduction the council, as an alternative consideration, suggest that Newton-with-Treales ward boundary is changed to accommodate the essentially rural part of Freckleton north of the A584 to its boundary with the parish of Bryning-with-Warton. Rather than cause some duplication of effort the council representation will reference the submission by Fylde borough Councillor P. Collins.

Local government boundary commission contd...

This suggestion will meet the recommended criteria relating to members and electorate representation i.e. each councillor represents a similar number of electors, based on a forecast electorate and optimum councillor: elector ratio of 1:1865 and more equitably reflects anticipated electorate based on known residential development in Newton-with-Treales ward. Moreover a coterminous boundary exists between Freckleton and Newton-with-Treales that could be realigned. FBC comment that its proposed ward 15 "When faced with issues that affect this area the residents of these rural parishes already work together". Recent issues associated with hydrocarbons exploration and related borehole site proposals and transportation issues arising from these proposals demonstrate to the contrary.

vi) The borough ward name of the parished Newton and Treales should be changed to Newton, Clifton, and Treales so as to avoid any confusion with the unparished Clifton Ward in Lytham. If there is a boundary change the ward name should be changed to Newton, Clifton, Treales and Rural Freckleton Ward.

#### **8. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.**

i) Hornbys Newton Charity, appointments as council representatives to local organisations and voluntary bodies.

A member referred to council appointments explaining that the term of office of the three nominative governors is four years and expires in October 2022. The current Nominative Governors are: - Councillor Mrs. J. C. Benson, Mrs. E. R. Hardman and Professor. W. Winlow.

ii) 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, councils schedule annual meetings in May, authority to convene remote meetings is scheduled to lapse from Friday 7th May 2021 and members referred to the elections being held on Thursday 6th May 2021, the scheduled meeting date.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that;

a) Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting be scheduled for Wednesday 5th May 2021 commencing at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

b) Annual council meeting be scheduled for Wednesday 5th May 2021 commencing at the conclusion of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting, anticipated c.7:30 p.m., via Zoom.

There being no further business the chairman declared the Meeting closed at 22:45hrs.

Chairman

5th May 2021