

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st July 2021 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman).

Councillors: C. L. Bannister (withdrew from meeting c.2045hrs.), S. Baugh (withdrew from meeting c.2110hrs.), Mrs. J. C. Benson, Mrs. G. Bevan, P. Collins, A Metcalf.

Borough/County Councillor: None.

Police: None.

Members of the public: Two.

The chairman explained that the convened meeting was an ordinary face-to-face/in person meeting of the council and also 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. The venue had been set up to by a member of the Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Management Committees complying with COVID-19 secure requirements.

a) **FORUM.**

i) Parishioner matters.

a) A583 - overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, various sections westbound carriageway (Dobbies Garden Centre, Clifton to "Bell and Bottle" Public House Newton-with-Scales).

A parishioner reported the unsatisfactory condition of hedgerows, vegetation, verges on various sections of the highway. The chairman explained that the matter will be formally considered under the highways and transportation agenda item.

ii) Police report.

None received.

1). **PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

a) Apologies for Absence.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs J. McCormick.

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Appointment of Fylde mayor 2021/22.

The chairman referred to an invitation to attend the above event and it was agreed that the chairman accompanied by Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan will represent the council at the event.

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.

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 C. L. Bannister formally Declared an Interest relating to Lancashire Wildlife Trust(LWT)/Natural England(NE) - and other wildlife ponds within the Fylde borough agenda item. 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. C. Benson formally Declared an Interest relating to Lancashire Wildlife Trust(LWT)/Natural England(NE) - and other wildlife ponds within the Fylde borough agenda item.

Declarations 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. G. Bevan formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items. 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 relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items.

d) Signing of Minutes (meeting 03/06/21).

The chairman put it to council that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2021, as previously circulated, be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record. The clerk advised "annual" should be deleted from the first sentence and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that, subject to this deletion, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2021 be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

e) Matters arising from minutes.

i) Lancashire county election Thursday 6th May 2021.

The chairman referred to the above matter and the clerk advised that the formal invitation to attend the meeting had been acknowledged by the newly elected county councillor. It was agreed that before formally referring a number of matters that council want to progress with the county council highways authority another invitation to attend a future meeting of the council should be sent to the member.

ii) Damaged basket swing, William Pickles Park, Clifton.

It was reported that this work had been completed.

2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman.

i) Public information.

The chairman invited members views relating to items for publication. A members referred to the Lancashire county council mobile library that visits the parish c. every three weeks located at the village hall (1300-1330hrs) Newton-with-Scales. Prior to this the library visits Bryning Lane and then School Lane (between one and a half/two hours earlier). The next scheduled visit is Tuesday 10th August 2021. A member suggested details could also be included on the Newton Facebook community page and agreed to liaise with its administrator. Also two members agreed to liaise regarding publication in the parish magazine. Members also suggested the Ash dieback work currently being executed by councillors and the continued unauthorised parking on Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales for publication consideration.

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 referred to this matter. Reference was made to a recent LCC communication advising;

a) LCC investigate concerns raised by arranging site visits on different days and times to gain a better understanding of the issues – parking issues and NO ENTRY road markings/signage being ignored. Should LCC agree that the area would benefit from additional restrictions or extension to the existing ones, it would need to introduce or amend a traffic regulation order to enable the changes to be made.

b) There is a prescribed legal process to follow that takes in excess of 26 weeks to complete and would be subject to public consultation with the risk that there could be objections to the new proposals.

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

Highways contd...

The chairman referred to this matter and the observations of LCC highways authority explaining that the suggested measures will not be implemented following an initial costs/benefit analysis. A member had previously suggested that a barrier could be installed on the pedestrian refuge island. Also, it had previously been agreed this matter could be raised with the newly elected county councillor at a future meeting.

iii) Public footpath NOS.6/7.

The chairman referred to this matter and the clerk advised that LCC public rights of way team (PROW) had acknowledged the defects/obstructions on the public right of way NO 6. PROW also advised it manages over 5500km of public rights of way in Lancashire, it will make a site visit when resources to fix the problem are available, according to their priorities relating to the actual effect on members of the public wanting to use the paths, how many people are affected, and whether they can bypass the problem, etc. Members also advised that footpath signage is missing at its entrance from both Thames Street, Newton-with-Scales and Clifton.

b) New LCC matters.

i) A583 - overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, various sections westbound carriageway (Dobbies Garden Centre, Clifton to "Bell and Bottle" Public House Newton-with-Scales).

The chairman referred to this matter raised by a parishioner in open forum. Reported issues related to the unsatisfactory condition of hedgerows, vegetation, verges on various sections of the highway. It was considered that the unsatisfactory condition of the hedges, trees &c , particularly on the approach to Dobbies Garden Centre is clearly detrimental to highway safety as it causes pedestrians to move off the footway & onto the carriageway. It was agreed that LCC should be requested to arrange an inspection and corrective work, and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

ii) Lodge Lane/A583 Blackpool Road, Clifton - overgrown vegetation.

A member reported the unsatisfactory condition of the highway grass verge area at this junction which is considered detrimental to highway safety as it impairs the sight line of drivers of vehicles. It was agreed that LCC highways should be requested to arrange an inspection and corrective work, and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

c) Street scene matters.

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

The chairman referred to this matter and reported Westchurch Homes Ltd. (WHL) had advised;

a) As "Sandy Gap" is not owned by WHL, Community Gateway Association (CGA) or the council a formal planning application is not to be progressed. As there is no legal entitlement to the land planning permission is unlikely to be granted and additional costs relating to a formal submission would be incurred.

b) WHL has not yet been produced a landscape plan and this will be more of a sketch than a plan. If WHL appointed a landscape designer this would again attract additional costs that CGA would be required to instruct. WHL is to provide a sketch indicating layout and also show the revised positions of the parish council notice board & plaque. WHL will issue the plan to the council so the final positions of the notice board & plaque can be agreed prior to any work commencing. Members agreed to consider noticeboard refurbishment or replacement in due course.

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

The chairman referred to this issue and generally it was recognised the problem had improved in recent weeks. Accordingly, it was agreed to continue to assess the situation, which will remain an agenda item and should it revert then previously discussed initiatives could be considered for implementation.

iii) Littering in parish.

The chairman referred to this item explaining that matter are ongoing.

Highways contd...

iv) Bus shelter A583/Blackpool Road (Bryning Lane/ westbound)

A members advised that the bus shelter does not appear to be swept by Fylde council.

v) Highway works necessary to promote sustainable travel and alleviate queueing, requested by Lancashire county council highways authority including the upgrading of the east and west bound bus stops on the A583, upgrading the traffic signals at the junction of the A583 with Bryning Lane to include a new signal controller, and pedestrian facilities. secured via the Unilateral Undertaking outline planning application for up to 50 NO dwellings (all matters reserved other than access)" at Land off Woodlands Close, Newton with Scales in accordance with the terms of the application 16/0554.

The chairman reported LCC had still to provide material information relating to the commencement date of these works so an update was not available for display on the website.

vi) SpID operations.

A member referred to this matter and advised that equipment displaying different messages e.g. NO ENTRY would have to be custom manufactured as SpID's only include a number of standard messages.

vii) A583/Blackpool Road, Giant hogweed.

A member reported a proliferation of giant hogweed on highway verge areas.

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.

21/0536 Change of use of detached residential annex to provide holiday accommodation - retrospective application at "Three nooks, Three Nooks Lane, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0XE. Following discussion it Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the local planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission conditional upon the approved development only being used as part of the accommodation of the existing dwelling, not be divided by way of sale or sub-letting to form separate residential accommodation, therefore avoiding the creation of separate dwellings which consequently may be substandard in terms of parking provision and to prevent the over-development of the site in accordance with policy GD7 of the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 and paragraphs 102,105,106 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

21/0546 Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single storey residential annex at 3 Nook Cottages, Silver street, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0ZA. Following discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the local planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission conditional upon the approved development only being used as part of the accommodation of the existing dwelling, not be divided by way of sale or sub-letting to form separate residential accommodation, therefore avoiding the creation of separate dwellings which consequently may be substandard in terms of parking provision on a private road potentially adversely impacting the adjacent public highway and to prevent the over-development of the site ensuring compliance with requirements of policy GD7 of the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 and paragraphs 102,105,106 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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

i) No decisions were reported.

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.

Parks contd...

The chairman referred to this item and the authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract reported maintenance is ongoing subject to prevailing weather conditions. Grass verge areas on School Lane, Newton-with-Scales had now been maintained. It was explained that the contractor cuts back approximately half of the verge width therefore supporting biodiversity, similarly scheduled maintenance on Scale Hall Lane Newton-with-Scales has previously been delayed. The liaison member agreed to discuss these matters with the contractor so a formally agreed approach might be adopted. It was also suggested that information that explains council's policy relating to highway verge grass cutting could be published on the website. The chairman suggested and the liaison member agreed to discuss prioritising grass cutting on park areas having regard to increased usage during school holidays.

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, pro tem, in respect of the contract during June 2021 reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with the contract conditions and specifications. Subsequent to a parishioner complaint relating to maintenance of a bed on Hill Crescent, Newton-with-Scales, which is not included in the contract, it was agreed no additional maintenance was currently required and that an assessment will be made in due course, together with flower and shrub bed maintenance generally, by the contract working group.

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. The member advised the National Lottery Community Fund had awarded FoNCP £990 towards the sensory garden. The Harold and Alice Bridges charity had awarded FoNCP £500. It was explained that planters are now in situ, curved benches are to be installed and weeds &c in proximity will be cleared and natural features included in the garden. The representative member referred to maintenance of 5NO recently installed planters. Following discussion it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** the representative member liaise with council's flower and shrub bed contractor, obtain quote, circulate by email for members consideration, a decision taken and a formal determination agreed at the next council meeting scheduled for Thursday 2nd September 2021. 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, other than presenting the report, 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 a member explained work is now ongoing.

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

The chairman referred to this item and a member reported details relating to dead/dying trees. A member explained that a full survey assessment by two councillors and the Fylde council (FBC) arboriculturist is now scheduled for August 2021. A member referred to a Woodlands Trust initiative and advised that given the known number of affected trees it may be necessary to place a further order with the organisation for a pack(s) saplings, for planting in various areas, both affected/unaffected by dieback disease.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Ash dieback and tree replacement programme will likely be scheduled over a period of years and it was anticipated that central government grants will be available to address what is a national problem. Costs will vary depending on the tree condition and the maintenance equipment required. Locally priority areas were assessed as Clifton Triangle and Dixon's Farm Mews, Preston Old Road, Clifton, Newton Hall Park, Newton-with-Scales and William Pickles Park, Clifton.

Parks contd...

It was suggested that when members next meet with FBC's arboriculturist previously reported issues relating to Poplar trees at Stanagate, Clifton might also be assessed for an expert opinion.

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

The chairman referred to this item, the initial quotes that had been received and subsequent quotes based on a revised specification. Following further discussions between the chairman, another member and a parishioner with CCTV expertise further clarification had now been provided. At the on-site meeting it was noted that, due to the growth of the purple beech trees alongside the boundary hedge, the existing pole no longer has line of sight to the park. Consequently the contractor quote includes cost of a new pole with electrical supply to be installed within the boundary of the park. Alternatively the beech trees could be significantly reduced in height or removed. A height reduction would need to become part of a regular maintenance routine. The chairman referred to the quote, details of which had previously been circulated to members, and invited members observations. Generally it was considered that given the known anti-social behaviour issues, the ongoing FoNCP's/Fylde council's scheduled community park improvement programme and the recreational equipment that is to be provided additional security provided by CCTV was justified. The chairman referred to funding the scheme. The clerk advised that Fylde council's environment, health and housing committee, at a meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2021, agreed support in the sum of £3000 for the council's CCTV scheme revenue bid, subject to the council demonstrating a pressing need for each camera and providing an associated data impact assessment. The chairman also advised there is the potential additional British Telecom cost for ancillary equipment, phone line, router &c. Following discussion the chairman referred to the 2NO revised quotes received and explained that council had been advised that only one was from an accredited company. Members therefore considered the following quote from Contractor A) i.e. £7225 CCTV equipment together with an additional £2620 to be added to the cost for the new pole and £200 maintenance/remote assistance/monitoring totalling £10045 plus vat. Discussion ensued and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Contractor A quote in the sum of £10045 be accepted (3:2) Councillor C. L. Bannister and Councillor A. Metcalf requested their votes against be recorded. 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 other than presenting the report 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. G. Bevan formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

g) Lancashire Wildlife Trust(LWT)/Natural England(NE) – Great Crested Newts and other wildlife ponds within the Fylde borough, application to develop sites creating ponds.

Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk advised that all matters were now to be progressed by LWT. 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 C. L. Bannister 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. C. Benson formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

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

The chairman referred to this item and, following discussion, it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that a member liaise with a village hall committee member and a representative from Kirkham Juniors Football Club in obtaining information on fixings/size/price relating to the acquisition of 2NO sets of new 7-a-side goals, as opposed to maintenance of any existing goals, to be located at the above location and Newton Hall Park, Newton-with-Scales, circulate information by email for members consideration, a decision taken and formally determined as agreed at the next council meeting scheduled for Thursday 2nd September 2021.

Parks contd...

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 a recent NWCVH committee report, copies of which had previously been circulated to members. It was explained issues of concern are being addressed and matters are progressing. The chairman reported the NWCVH committee's annual general meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8th July 2021 and the council's representative member advised being unable to attend. Members agreed that clarification was required on matters relating to the playing field maintenance, instructions to contractors, invoicing arrangements &c.

The chairman suggested that existing arrangements between the NWCVHC and the council merited a review, particularly in view of the ongoing discussion with KJFC. Points for consideration would include the terms for hire of the hall and field by KJFC that should take account of the increased maintenance, grass cutting/removal, pitch marking &c. This increased grass cutting maintenance should be funded (either directly or indirectly) by KJFC as it is required by the club rather than any other user. With regard to dredging the watercourse the council had already agreed to fund this work to improve drainage and mitigate flooding on the A583/Blackpool Road and therefore KJFC should not be required fund work the council had already committed to undertake.

For the record the clerk advised that the point being made in previous council communications is that KJFC had indicated in its communications receiving a grant from Fylde council (FBC) to reinstate the playing field, part of which related to the maintenance of the watercourse. Therefore it seemed reasonable to enquire of KJFC; Is that part of the grant relating to maintenance of the watercourse being returned to FBC or retained by KJFC? Should it be asked how the funds will be used? Should it be asked to consider contributing towards the cost of the completed work funded by the council? The chairman then referred to the arrangements where the NWCVHC is operationally responsible for the village hall building, which is a council asset, and yet the council fund some operational costs. The income from the hire of the hall and field goes to NWCVHC and the council pay for its maintenance, grass cutting, hedge cutting &c, flower beds maintenance and NWCVHC insurance. The clerk explained that these arrangements were effected primarily to assist the NWCVHC finances when it had previously been indicated expenditure was regularly in excess of income and consequently its reserves were reducing each year. Moreover, at that time council was receiving a grant from FBC for its parks and open spaces expenditure, including the playing field adjacent the village hall. Accordingly, for the above reasons together with value added tax complications, it was considered overall beneficial to disregard any income associated with the field (because it was being received and retained by NWCVHC) and claim the gross (rather than net) parks and open spaces expenditure. This parks and open spaces grant arrangements ceased c. 2010 when FBC introduced differential taxation explaining to parish and town councils at that time it will achieve a more equitable taxation in respect of council tax i.e. parish and town councils would cease to receive a parks and open spaces grant, would therefore have to increase their precepts (and the parish share of local council tax) to cover this reduced income, but would not be contributing towards, Lytham, St. Annes and Kirkham parks and open spaces expenditure (and therefore FBC's share of local council tax).

In conclusion the chairman explained points raised will be put to KJFC and NWCVHC for their observations and the authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the grass cutting contract agreed to liaise with the council contractor regarding maintenance instructions.

j) Newton Hall Park, unauthorised vehicle parking.

The chairman referred to this matter and drivers of vehicles continuing to disregard signage prohibiting overnight parking. Council had previously considered managing access/egress by locking/unlocking gates at agreed times, however it had not been possible to recruit volunteers.

The clerk advised that issues could be addressed by engaging a car park management company to enforce park regulations.

Parks contd...

Members reported that the community park improvement programme may exacerbate these issues when work commences. The clerk advised that previously council has provided a letter to the local PcsO who arranged to post a hard copy to the households of registered keepers. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the matter should first be reported to the local PcsO to determine whether police are prepared participate in a similar approach being adopted in this instance.

k) Trees, William Pickles Park, Clifton.

The authorised officer/liaison member (grass cutting contract) referred to this issue details of which had previously been reported concurrently with trees on Stanagate, Clifton that are the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. Following an enquiry the clerk advised a contractor quote for the work had still to be received. The authorised officer/liaison member agreed to liaise for a local tree maintenance contractor to provide a quote for maintenance of the trees on William Pickles Park that allegedly are encroaching on privately owned land and buildings.

l) William Pickles Park, Clifton.

A member reported an inaugural meeting of parishioners convened to establish a Friends of William Pickles Park group.

6. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

i) List 1.

The chairman referred to this item and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoices &c be paid.

E. Robinson.	Fix highway wayside seat.	£35.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts.	Ex Contract work - Special maintenance of New Fylde Housing (Progress Housing Group) flower/shrub bed area Stanagate/Preston Old Road, Clifton.	£200.00
	Ex Contract work - Special maintenance of New Fylde Housing (Progress Housing Group) flower/shrub bed area Meadow Close, Clifton.	£125.00
		Vat <u>£65.00</u> <u>£390.00</u>
		<u>£425.00</u>

ii) Invoices discussed/submitted at meeting.

The clerk referred to additional invoices from council contractors. One invoice from the council flower and shrub bed contractor, due to be paid for June 2021 operations, had previously been circulated separately. An anticipated invoice from the council grass cutting contractor, due to be paid for June 2021 operations, had still to be received and will be circulated separately in due course. The chairman referred to the invoice list and copy invoices circulated on the 29th June 2021 and these subsequent contract invoices. The clerk explained that it was always likely that some contractor invoices will be received after the agreed 29th May date and in the opinion of the clerk, as responsible financial officer (RFO), it was reasonable to concurrently consider these for payment. Subsequently, it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoices &c be paid.

Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays June 2021.	£991.25
		Vat <u>£198.25</u> <u>£1189.50</u>
+T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance June 2021.	£1748.00
		Vat <u>£349.60</u> <u>£2097.60</u>
		<u>£3287.10</u>

Finance contd...

+ The clerk reported that the anticipated invoice for PDQ's June grass cutting operations had not yet been received and it was agreed that payment, hereby authorised, will only be processed once the invoice is 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 the clerk had indicated no confidential issues were to be raised and therefore 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. Exempt Item**. **RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.**

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

The chairman referred to this item and it was explained that there was no information to 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) Management of contracts.

i) Consider chairman's report.

The chairman advised that another Clifton Ward member had now joined the contracts working group. the chairman referred to the ongoing flower and shrub bed contract review and the points to be addressed i.e. variation of tender specifications, variation of some existing displays from current tender specifications &c. The clerk advised that the original contract tender (as included with the email circulated by the chairman) was from 1st April 2005. This was superseded in 2010. The 2010 document was subsequently revised (as included with the email circulated by the chairman) in 2013 as a consequence of New Fylde Housing (NFH/Progress Housing Group) policy relating to its assets. NFH had confirmed the sites it is to maintain from April 2013 in Newton-with-Scales and Clifton Village i.e. flowerbeds on Preston Old Road, Clifton (east of Stanagate) and Meadow Close, Clifton were removed from the contract and consequently, with effect from 1st April 2013 the monetary value of the contract reflected this revision. The clerk also reported that in subsequent years there have also been a number of minor amendments relating to some displays e.g. barrels (some perished and not replaced), hayracks (relocated), viking boat, village hall beacon, windmill &c that had not caused a variation in the contract value. The chairman indicated that another approach could be adopted regarding contract specifications i.e. as an alternative to detailed specifications council could determine a budget ceiling figure and invite contractors to submit schemes for flower and shrub bed displays within the predetermined budget perhaps based on fewer bedding plants and more shrubs. The chairman advised that the contracts working group will meet again in the next few weeks.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Summer 2021 Lancashire County Council (LCC) parish champion Newsletter.

A member referred to the above communication from the LCC parish champion member advising that the newsletter contained a link to register for parish champion grant funding.

b) Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that meetings of the council's finance and planning committees be scheduled for Thursday 5th August 2021 and the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 2nd September 2021 commencing at c.7:15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom. There being no further business the chairman declared the Meeting closed at 21:25hrs.

Chairman