

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom.

Present: Chair: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors: Samuel Baugh, Peter Collins, Gaynor Ellis, Janette McCormick, Alan Metcalf, Philip Morgan, Mark Richardson.

Borough/County Councillors: None. Police: None, Member of the public: Five

a) **FORUM.**

- i) 22/0939 Erection of 41 affordable dwellings with associated access off Ash Court, car parking, open space, landscaping and pumping station land off Ash Court, Clifton, Lancashire. Member of the public referred to the above planning application and expressed concerns relating to Ash Court/Meadow Close access/egress issues, inadequate existing infrastructure, adverse impact highway safety, scale of development and surface water flooding. The chairman explained that the application will be formally considered under the planning and development agenda item.
- ii) Dislodged manhole covers on the A583/Blackpool Road between Newton and Kirkham - in vicinity of Vicarage Lane bus shelter. A parishioner reported an issue relating to drain covers on the A583/Blackpool Road west bound carriageway between Newton-with-Scales and Kirkham. The chairman explained that the issue will be formally considered under the highways and transportation agenda item.
- iii) Relocate noticeboard from Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales and related improvements. A parishioner reported an issue relating to accessing the noticeboard and the chairman explained that the matter is to be considered under the highways and transportation agenda item.
- iv) A583/Blackpool Road and School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. A parishioner reported drivers continue to access the A583 from School Lane disregarding highway signage.
- v) Vehicle parking and waiting restrictions, Bryning Lane, Hill Crescent, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. A parishioner reported ongoing car parking issues the chairman explained that the matter is to be considered under the highways and transportation agenda item.
- vi) Policing and enforcement. No policing matters reported.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

- a) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jennifer C. Benson, and Councillor Stewart Jones.
- b) Chairman's communications. 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. Accordingly the following direct or indirect, pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest declarations were made; Councillor Peter Collins formally Declared an Interest, as a borough councillor planning committee named substitute member relating to any applications to be considered under the planning and development agenda item and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman) formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Gaynor Ellis formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Janette McCormick formally Declared an Interest with regard to any finance related Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) matters and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Philip Morgan formally reported an updated Declaration of an Interest with regard to membership of the Interim Residents Panel for the Building Safety Regulator. As the Regulator is now fully in place he had been appointed to the Statutory Resident Panel advising the Regulator on resident issues and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon in the event of any council business relating to these matters.
- d) Signing of Minutes.
 - i) Council meeting, Thursday 5th January 2023. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

Procedural matters contd...

e) Matters arising from minutes.

i) Chairman report. Items not on the agenda are included in the action log circulated to members.

f) National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Civility and Respect Pledge - Councillor Stewart Jones encourages adoption by Fylde East division councils. The chairman referred to this item and it was agreed that council support the principles of the civility and respect pledge. However members considered that signing the pledge and associated commitments relating to awards schemes, best practice, dignity at work, training &c were time consuming and a diversion when dealing with local issues.

2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman. The chairman reported circulated public information items will be posted on the website.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). The chairman referred to this item and it was agreed that as an **ACTION** the clerk advise HFHNC the following dates for a meeting; Thursday afternoon, 23rd February 2023, Monday afternoon 27th February 2023 and Wednesday afternoon 1st March 2023.

3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

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

i) Vehicle parking and waiting restrictions, Bryning Lane, Hill Crescent, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. The chairman referred to this ongoing issue and recommended with members agreement that as a clerk **ACTION** County Councillor Stewart Jones and the local police be requested to; i) Request traffic wardens to make ad-hoc, unannounced visits to school at pick up and drop off times. ii) Ensure that as traffic wardens are now in post and trained these unannounced visits will be frequent and regular. iii) Request traffic wardens issue more tickets for unauthorised parking. iv) Obtain the rota for the traffic wardens and share it with the council. A member referred to a temporary extension of Newton Bluecoat School reception class intake from September 2023. Given the prevailing issues relating to vehicle parking, driver disregard of waiting restrictions &c on roads near school, some disquiet was expressed relating to the 'bulge year' proposal and how the extra vehicular traffic will be managed. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed the headteacher be requested to provide more information.

ii) Public footpath NOS.6/7. The chairman referred to the previously circulated LCC update (18/10/22) and it was agreed the item remain on the agenda.

iii) Condition of highway in vicinity of development at former "Brook Farm" Dowbridge, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 3RD - footway, in proximity to westbound carriageway and 30mph sign/traffic island. No update provided. Previously reported as a clerk **ACTION** (08/07/22), LCC had referred the matter to Fylde council (10/11/22) and no further update provided..

iv) Moor Hall Lane - potholes. LCC had previously advised on its "Report It" facility the issue does not meet the required measurement levels for highway work at this time. As a previous **ACTION** council had agreed to continue monitor for further highway deterioration.

v) Bryning Lane, (junction with A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales) 30mph highway signage post is in an unsatisfactory condition. Previously reported as a clerk **ACTION** (20/06/22), LCC had not yet replaced the sign.

vi) A583/Blackpool Road - footway verge encroachment, overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, and surfacing issues various sections. Previously reported as a clerk **ACTION**, LCC had already advised it executes periodic monitoring, usually a monthly survey (13/06/22).

vii) Surface water flooding/ponding, Station Road, Salwick. Previously reported as a clerk **ACTION** to LCC (03/01/23). Issue involves LCC and riparian owner and no further update provided.

viii) Maintenance and cleaning of highway drainage gullies A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales – opposite Scale Hall Lane, bus stop/shelter in proximity to "The Country House", and A583/Blackpool Road junction with Parrox Lane, Newton-with-Scales. Previously reported to LCC as an **ACTION** by Councillor Philip Morgan and the clerk (07/11/22). Councillor Philip Morgan continues to monitor these issues.

ix) Drainage issue in proximity to "Willow Dene" Moor Hall Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR3 3RY. No update reported. The issue had previously been reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (07/09/22).

Highways contd...

x) Drainage system malfunction, inadequate watercourse maintenance, vegetation overgrowth and consequent flooding and ponding at New Hey Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA. No update reported. The issue had previously been reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (31/10/22).

xi) Parish highway matters - pothole and overgrown tree, Mulberry Close, Clifton. As a previous **ACTION** (05/01/23) Councillor Samuel Baugh had still to provide more detail to assist LCC highways inspection and corrective maintenance work.

xii) Planning application 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. Path from Bryning Lane to Parrox lane - previously reported to LCC (09/01/23) as a clerk **ACTION**. Issue involves LCC/developer and no further update provided.

xiii) Parish highway matters - A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales - east bound, highway drainage gullies associated with highway improvements as part of 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 application 16/0554. Surface ponding/flooding in proximity to the new traffic signals as a clerk **ACTION** previously reported to LCC (09/01/23). No update reported.

xiv) Tree maintenance, Stanagate, Clifton. As a clerk **ACTION** previously reported to LCC (09/01/23). No update reported.

b) New LCC matters.

i). Dislodged manhole covers on the A583/Blackpool Road between Newton and Kirkham - in vicinity of Vicarage Lane bus shelter. The chairman referred to an issue relating to displaced drain covers on the A583/Blackpool Road west bound carriageway between Newton-with-Scales and Kirkham reported in open forum. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed LCC should be requested to arrange an inspection and maintenance work and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

ii) Parish highway matters - Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, highway surface reinstatement required, following recent sewer installation/maintenance work associated with Westchurch "Woodlands" residential development causing potholes/subsidence. Members advised that the issue has still to be satisfactorily addressed. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed LCC should be requested to arrange an inspection and maintenance work and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

iii) A583 Blackpool Road footway encroachment, overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, verges westbound carriageway (junction with School Lane, Newton-with-Scales). Members reported the unsatisfactory condition of hedgerows, vegetation and consequently footway encroachment on various sections of the highway. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed LCC should be requested to arrange an inspection and maintenance 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, including bus shelter provision to enhance amenity in central village area. In view of ongoing issues the chairman, as an **ACTION** (05/01/23) had agreed to communicate with the developer regarding the unsatisfactory condition of an area adjacent the path and a response has still to be received. Also, as an **ACTION** (05/01/23) Newton ward members had previously agreed to assess the site to establish the preferred location for a noticeboard.

ii) Littering in parish. It was reported that informal litter-picking volunteers were still deployed and in a recent litter picking operation 11NO bags of litter were collected on Church Lane, 4NO bags on Vicarage Lane and 1NO on Parrox Lane. In view of a perceived increase in littering it was agreed a recruitment notice will again be posted on the council website to encourage litter pickers volunteers.

iii) Dog fouling. As a clerk **ACTION** (06/12/22) this matter had previously been referred to Fylde council dog warden service. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to request Fylde council for information relating to what patrolling had been deployed in Newton-with-Scales, together with the outcome of such patrols, in the last few months.

iv) SpID deployment. Councillor Janette McCormick explained enquiries are ongoing relating to a possible grant from Lancashire police and crime commissioner's community fund &c.

Highways contd...

Similarly enquiries are ongoing with regard to type of SpID (battery or solar, fixed or portable &c.) price c.£2500-£3000, contractor or volunteer deployment &c. Council acknowledged that in principle contractor deployment was preferable. Council agreed that should a scheme be progressed a contractor be deployed to manage SpID deployment. As a next step it was agreed that as a clerk **ACTION** Lancashire county council highways and police (Lancashire road safety partnership) should be requested to arrange a parish survey to assess areas where it is proposed to locate the equipment.

v) Planning application 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. The chairman reported the footway used as a sustainable development shared surface highway link by cyclists and pedestrians between the site, Bryning Lane and Parrox Lane remained incomplete. As an **ACTION** the chairman agreed to contact Westchurch Homes.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications.22/0939 Erection of 41 affordable dwellings with associated access off Ash Court, car parking, open space, landscaping and pumping station land off Ash Court, Clifton, Lancashire. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the proposed development is refused planning permission citing material planning consideration relating to; highway safety issues in respect of type and volume of vehicles using proposed access/egress, safe recreational use of existing open space in vicinity of site, health and safety issues relating to electricity pylon on the development site, sight lines, assessment of material impact on the rural character of the area, whether there is a conflict with ENV3, potential adverse impact on biodiversity, ecology and wildlife in the area, whether the effectiveness of the existing gap between development in Fylde east and Preston city or the function of the countryside might be compromised to justify development and consequently an assessment of the need for a Fylde local plan designated Areas of Separation at its eastern boundary. There are existing flooding issues arising from inadequate drainage infrastructure, it may encourage other similar application that will be difficult to refuse if the proposed development is granted permission. The proposed development is not needed to meet Fylde council housing/affordable housing targets, parish already has a development of 100% affordable dwellings new developments should be a mix of dwellings and there is a perceived imbalance between Lytham St Annes and rural Fylde in the development sites granted planning permission for affordable dwellings. Notwithstanding the above issues should the LPA be minded to grant planning permission council strongly recommends; i) that it is conditional on securing a developer contribution towards mitigating the impact of what is considered an unacceptable development to make it acceptable in planning terms e.g. improved recreational facilities at William Pickles park, pedestrian crossing facilities Clifton Lane, A583 Blackpool Road, improved foul and surface water sewerage infrastructure &c requiring an agreement between the applicant and the local highway authority, lead local flood authority relating to both on and off site highway issues.

b) Proposed solar farm, Newton-with-Scales, Bluefield renewable developments Ltd, anticipated planning application subsequent to application 22/0204 request for screening opinion pursuant to the town and country planning (environmental impact assessment) regulations 2017 in respect of a 25mw solar farm, battery energy storage scheme and associated development, at land at Newton Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Preston Lancashire PR4 3RS. No update reported.

c) Fylde Borough Council (FBC) Planning Committee planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications/ recommendations.

i) District/parish liaison meeting (DPLM)/Fylde borough council customer satisfaction survey (CSS)/planning advisory service (PAS) review.

a) Fylde council planning enforcement - members referred to a planning enforcement charter (copies of which had previously been circulated to members) currently being reviewed by Fylde as part of the PAS.

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.

i) Contract. Councillor Samuel Baugh (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract) reported maintenance remains ongoing subject to prevailing weather conditions.

Parks contd...

ii) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, brambles encroachment. William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton, brambles encroachment. Subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (10/01/23) the contractor had still not provided an update.

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

i) Contract. Councillor Janette McCormick (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.

ii) Hedge maintenance. The authorised officer/member referred to a recently circulated email and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the contractor be authorised to execute work relating to the condition of palm trees in 4NO horticulture features beds in Clifton. 2NO beds are in contract and 2NO are outside contract. The cost for the two outside of contract would be £50.

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

i) Report. The report previously circulated by Councillor Gaynor Ellis (FoNCP representative) was taken as read and it was acknowledged the annual general meeting of FoNCP is Thursday 16th February 2023.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement &c - various locations. Ash dieback disease.

i) Issues arising from dieback disease affecting Ash trees - update. Members acknowledged the updated report and table of affected trees prepared by Councillor Gaynor Ellis.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council (LCC), local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust and parish surveys. The clerk referred to advice from LCC regarding trees located at "Clifton triangle" and its proposed action.

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, equipment maintenance and repairs. No update was provided.

f) Christmas seasonal decorations 2022 - consider arrangements. Members reported the lights had still to be removed by the contractor.

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 be paid:

Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/12/22-31/12/22.	£12.05 Vat <u>£0.60</u>	£12.65
Friends of Newton Community Park/ Matthew Bradley	Drainage work at Newton Hall Park	£2568.50 Vat <u>£513.70</u>	£3082.20
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 30th November 2022 to 31st December 2022		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays contact maintenance January 2023.	£1080.50 Vat <u>£216.10</u>	£1296.60
T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance January 2023.	£1905.33 Vat <u>£381.07</u>	£2286.40
Beverley Duckworth	Reimbursement, gift to member paid from chairman's allowance.	£26.94 Vat <u>£1.78</u>	£28.72 <u>£6714.57</u>

Finance contd...

ii) Invoices submitted at meeting.

Friends of Newton Community Park/. Drainage work at Newton Hall Park £520.00
Matthew Bradley Vat £104.00 £624.00

Friends of Newton Community Park/. Drainage work at Newton Hall Park £1600.00.
Matthew Bradley Vat £320.00 £1920.00
£2544.00

b) Management of contracts.

Chairman referred to this matter and explained that the following tenders were considered by the contracts working group at a meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 2023.

Grass cutting open spaces

Contractor (A) £11868

Contractor (B) £17112 plus vat

Contractor (C) £11981.28

Contractor (D) £10000 plus vat

Following due consideration the contracts working group had explained the protocol and reasoning with regard to its recommendation and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that quotation from Contractor D in the sum of £10000 plus vat £2000 totalling £12000 be accepted by council.

Horticultural features

Contractor (A) £13620

Contractor (C) £13757.74

Contractor (D) £10000 plus vat

Following due consideration the contracts working group had explained the protocol and reasoning with regard to its recommendation and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that quotation from Contractor D in the sum of £10000 plus vat £2000 totalling £12000 be accepted by council.

c) Consider for approval 2023/24 budget report and precept.

The chairman referred to the revised budget report and related explanations provided by the clerk. The chairman advised still being unable to understand some explanations and referred to the opportunity presented by the new contracts to reduce analysis and simplify financial reporting. To assist the clerk's understanding of the issues causing some difficulty to members, and ahead of discussions at a meeting previously requested by the chairman and to be convened, the clerk requested members to provide examples of rationalised financial reporting that they would accept as understandable. Further discussion ensued and subsequently, it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED**

i) Council accept the budget report.

ii) Council precept in the sum of £77640 for 2023/24 financial year which, based on currently available information, will achieve a local council tax Band D level freeze.

7). ANY OTHER MATTERS.

a) Village hall grounds and boundary. Members referred to recent tree work and Councillor Philip Morgan agreed to obtain further information from village hall management trustees.

b) Bus services. Members referred to some parishioners misapprehensions relating to public transport and the 61, 61C, 613 and 695 bus routes serving the parish.

c) Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the council is to be Thursday 2nd March 2023 commencing at 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 20:45 hrs.

Chairman

2nd March 2023