

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th April 2023 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom.

Present: Chair: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors: Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, Gaynor Ellis, John Kitchen, Janette McCormick, Philip Morgan.

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

Arising from the parish elections held on Thursday 2nd May 2019, and subsequent co-option of one member at the meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023, the chairman welcomed the newly co-opted member who prior to the meeting completed and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Members Interest (Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests), as previously provided and to be countersigned by the clerk as complete and submitted to Fylde borough council in due course.

### a) **FORUM.**

i) 23/0153 to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 21/0667 to alter dwelling layout and house types at "Pathways" Blackpool Road Newton-with Scales, Lancashire PR4 3RJ. A parishioner expressed the view that approval of the planning application and associated development will improve the location, considered to have long been a blight on parish amenity. The chairman explained that the matter is to be considered under the planning and development agenda item.

ii) Policing and enforcement. In the absence of a Pcs0 no policing matters were reported. However reference was made to recent "cold calling" incidents. It was agreed to request the police to provide a quantity of No cold caller notices". A van being parked continuously on School Lane, Newton-with-Scales had been referred to the proper authorities and had been assessed as complying with regulations.

iii) Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.30 to accommodate the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting. On conclusion of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting, chairman subsequently reconvened the meeting at 7.35 pm.

### 1. **PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

a) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stewart Jones.

b) Chairman's communications. The chairman referred to outstanding action log items and how these may be best addressed within the meeting.

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 Jennifer C Benson formally Declared an Interest relating to the Hornbies Foundation-Hornbies Newton Charity agenda item and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor P. Collins formally Declared an Interest, as a borough councillor planning committee named substitute member relating to 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.

d) Signing of Minutes.

i) Council meeting, Thursday 2nd March 2023. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

e) Matters arising from minutes.

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

Matters arising contd...

ii) Avenham Place, Newton-with-Scales property, unauthorised use of amenity area. Newton ward members referred to this issue and as a clerk **ACTION** (02/03/23) it was agreed to communicate with the owner(s)/occupier(s). No update reported.

iii) Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales, property development and temporary fencing. Newton ward members referred to this issue and as a clerk **ACTION** (02/03/23) it had been agreed to communicate with the owner(s)/occupier(s). The chairman referred to a communication from the owner/occupier and as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to ascertain whether assistance was being sought to progress matters with the proper authorities.

iv) Land off Parrox Lane. As a clerk **ACTION** (02/03/23) it had been agreed to request Fylde borough council (FBC) planning enforcement team arrange an inspection and ensure compliance with planning. FBC is investigating this issue.

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

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman. The chairman reported that circulated public information items will be posted on the website. Subsequent to a member request the chairman agreed to publish information relating to the coronation of King Charles III.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). No update reported.

## **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, Bluecoat/Hill Crescent, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. No update provided.

ii) Public footpath NOS.6/7. The chairman reported some maintenance work had been executed and a Newton ward member advised the stile at footpath NO7, providing access/egress to/from School Lane, Newton-with-Scales is still damaged. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed LCC will again be requested to provide an update.

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. 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). No update provided.

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). It was reported maintenance had now been executed by LCC.

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 a Newton ward member reported that corrective maintenance work had recently been executed.

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. Newton ward members reported some work had been executed. Issue previously reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (31/10/22) and LCC requested to provide updates on 18th February 2023 and 28th February 2023.
  - xi) Parish highway matters - pothole and overgrown tree, Mulberry Close, Clifton. As a previous **ACTION** (05/01/23) Former 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. Chairman had previously reported the bollards had now been removed/vandalised and the matter reported to the police.
  - 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) Dislodged manhole covers on the A583/Blackpool Road between Newton and Kirkham - in vicinity of Vicarage Lane bus shelter. As a clerk **ACTION** previously reported to LCC (13/02/23) and maintenance executed.
  - xv) A583 Blackpool Road footway encroachment, overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, verges westbound carriageway (junction with School Lane, Newton-with-Scales). As a clerk **ACTION** previously reported to LCC (13/02/23) and maintenance still to be executed either by highways authority or landowner.
  - xvi) Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, highway surface reinstatement required, following recent sewer installation/maintenance work associated with Westchurch "Woodlands" residential development causing potholes/subsidence. As a clerk **ACTION** previously reported to LCC (13/02/23) and highways authority reported (16/02/23) that following inspection no defects meeting its maintenance criteria were identified.
  - xvii) Damaged footway - Beech Drive, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3TA. As a clerk **ACTION** previously reported to LCC (20/02/23) damage apparently caused by contractors, engaged by the owner(s)/occupier(s), when constructing a driveway. LCC will execute a repair as culpability is inconclusive.
  - xviii) Oak Lane, tree work, Newton-with-Scales. Newton ward member agreed to provide location details relating to tree maintenance. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed that in due course enquiries would be made with LCC
  - xix) Drainage, Clifton Lane. Clifton ward member previously reported (02/03/23) a site meeting together with another Clifton ward councillor, clerk, LCC engineer and Clifton resident. LCC had identified an issue with tree root ingress affecting a drain that was a contributory factor causing flooding to occur in certain weather conditions. To alleviate the flooding issue LCC intended to remove the tree, which is located on the boundary of a highway verge and William Pickles park, at its own cost. Council agreed with the LCC proposal.
- b) New LCC matters.
- i) Unauthorised encampment and fly tipping - "The Country House", Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RJ. A Newton ward member reported the above issue and it was agreed to refer the matter to the proper authorities.
  - ii) Potholes - Thames Street, Newton-with-Scales. The chairman reported that LCC had been notified of this issue.
- 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. Subsequent to detail being circulated it was agreed that as an **ACTION** the clerk place an order; i.e. double door single sided outdoor noticeboard in green RAL 6005, 750mm height x 1200mm width x 30mm depth, display 2 x 4A4 per window, key lock-

Highways contd...

operation, with header panel with arc and text with logo, Twin Post Set 60 x 40 x 2600mm. Price £ 973.00 plus vat, includes delivery. When council has taken delivery of the noticeboard a Westchurch contractor will arrange for it to be fixed at an agreed location and for the existing board to be removed. A Newton ward member reported, notwithstanding knotweed issues, maintenance work had been executed.

ii) Littering in parish. It was reported that informal litter-picking volunteers were still deployed and some fly tipping identified.

iii) Dog fouling. A Newton ward member reported that signage relating to 'We're watching you' campaign is available from the Keep Britain Tidy.

iv) SpID deployment. A Newton ward member referred to the comprehensive information received from Lancashire county council (LCC). It was explained that funding is unavailable from the police commissioner. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed that as a next step members considered that LCC and a small group of nominated parish councillors/parishioners should arrange a parish survey to assess areas where it is suggested SpID equipment might be located. Previously the following areas had been identified; Clifton Lane, Clifton, Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales.

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

##### a) Planning applications.

23/0153 to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 21/0667 to alter dwelling layout and house types at "Pathways" Blackpool Road Newton-with Scales, Lancashire PR4 3RJ. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the local planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission.

23/0163 Erection of detached outbuilding to front/side to provide garage and garden room a replacement for existing garage at No 27 Clifton Green, Clifton, Preston PR4 0DA. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the local planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission.

23/0198 Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling, and detached double garage to rear of garden following demolition of existing garage and carport "Rydal Dene" 13 School Lane Newton-with-Scales Lancashire PR4 3RT. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the local planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission.

23/0199 Advertisement consent for one V stack static sign at Kirkham bypass, Dowbridge PR4 3YD. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the local planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is refused planning permission - proposed development is considered detrimental to highway safety as it is perceived as a distraction to drivers of vehicles on the A583/Blackpool Road which has a prevailing 50MPH speed limit. The proposed advertising signage is perceived as unfavourable to the visual amenity in the immediate locality.

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 council - planning advisory service (PAS) review. As an **ACTION** it was agreed members consider representations to be circulated by Borough/parish Councillor Peter Collins with a view to the council formally endorsing these and any additional observations.

d) Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL), a joint venture between Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios, S.A. and Flotation Energy Ltd and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL), a joint venture between bp and Energie Baden-Wurttemberg AG (EnBW), developing the Morgan Offshore Wind Project. Two joint venture companies are collaborating to connect the wind farms to the electricity transmission network. The chairman referred to communications and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council accept the land agent terms of engagement.

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

None 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.

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

ii) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales and William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton, brambles encroachment. Subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (11/03/23) arrangements for execution of this work to be scheduled had been made with the council's contractor.

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.

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. The representative member advised FoNCP required the parish council to be responsible for maintenance of the proposed path and trim trail. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council agree to be responsible for operational maintenance of these items.

ii) Vehicle parking bays. FoNCP representative reported the bays required to be re-marked. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to obtain quotes for the work.

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

i) Issues arising from dieback disease affecting Ash trees - update. Councillor Gaynor Ellis reported that the Newton-with-Clifton village hall committee (NWCVHC) treasurer had informally requested council approval for maintenance to be executed on trees within the curtilage of NWCVHC land. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council agree in principle to NWCVHC arranging for tree maintenance.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council, local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust and parish surveys. No update was provided.

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

f) CCTV – Newton Hall park. The chairman referred to recent correspondence and it was agreed that as an **ACTION** the clerk be authorised to deal with the matter liaising as necessary with the council's CCTV/data protection lead.

g) "Range of view" (ROV) railings at Vicarage Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RX.

A Newton ward member referred to the unsatisfactory condition of ROV railings at the above location and New Hey Lane. As a clerk **ACTION** (02/03/23) it had been agreed to correspond with Blackpool Community Payback Team(BCPT) requesting observations relating to a project being executed in the parish. Following BCPT comments relating to parking in the locality communications are ongoing. The clerk advised a posting on a tradespeople website, designed to recruit a suitable contractors, had not received a response.

## 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 01/02/23-28/02/23.	£10.88 Vat £0.54	£11.42
Beverley Duckworth	Reimbursement, fluorescent spray to highlight dog fouling.	£11.05 Vat £2.21	£13.26
SJ Electrical Services	Installation, removal and storage of 2NO Christmas trees lights 2022/23	£490.00 c/fwd...	£514.68

Finance contd.... b/fwd... £514.68

HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st January 2023 to 27th February 2023	£8.00
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Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays contact maintenance March 2023.	£1080.50
	Progress Housing Group flower/shrub bed Stanagate/Preston Old Road, Clifton.	£50.00
	Remove redundant goal posts William Pickles park, Clifton	£100.00 Vat £246.10 £1476.60

T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance March 2023.	£1905.33 Vat £381.07 £2286.40 £4285.68
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b) Management of contracts.

i) Contract and specifications. Chairman referred to the contract period and enquired about the method of review. As a clerk **ACTION** (02/03/23) the matter had been discussed with the contractor to assess expectations. The contractor anticipated liaising with a subset of members on an annual basis to review operations, raise any points of increased costs, given the prevailing levels of inflation associated with grassed open spaces and horticultural features specifications. The contractor considered the tender specifications and related information were sufficient for operational purposes and did not indicate a formal contract was required. Notwithstanding the contractor position, as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed that a draft contract should be prepared.

ii) NOS. 32-46 Hawthorne Avenue, Newton-with-Scales. The chairman referred to a formal request from parishioners for the council to execute verge maintenance in the above locality. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council add this location to the maintenance specifications at the previously indicated contractor price of £125 plus vat. Council accepted the offer of Councillor Janette McCormick to liaise as the authorised officer/liason member in respect of both contracts.

c) Consider council financial regulations. The chairman referred to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) model regulations, and the regulations of Fylde borough council currently adopted by the parish council (Newton-with-Clifton being a constituent part of Fylde) details of which had previously been circulated to members. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the NALC model financial regulations be adopted in the conduct of council financial business and as a clerk **ACTION** any adjustments in reporting procedures that may be necessary be implemented. The chairman again referred to the opportunity to reduce analysis and simplify financial reporting and agreed to forward examples for consideration to the clerk/responsible financial officer.

d) Fylde Coast YMCA. Councillor Jennifer Benson referred to this matter and the clerk explained council has agreed a donation of £1100 for 2022/23, last paid in 2021/22 financial year. This grant is usually generated following a letter from YMCA and a request has still to be received for 2022/23 financial year. Following enquiries Fylde Coast YMCA had now advised “unfortunately there is still no update on when Kirkham YMCA baths will be opening”. Accordingly no grant will be payable in 2022/23 or subsequent years until the baths are open to the public.

7). ANY OTHER MATTERS.

a) Newton-with-Clifton Uncontested parish election Thursday 4th May 2023. The chairman referred to recent communications and it was agreed that the formal appreciation and thanks of the council be expressed to those members who had decided to resign or retire as members. Also the chairman suggested and it was agreed council award a certificate to retiring councillors who have been in office for several years.

b) Action log. The chairman referred to outstanding items and as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer highway authority items to County Councillor Stewart Jones.

Any other matters contd...

c) Date of Annual meeting. The clerk advised that as this is an election year, the Annual Meeting should be held within 14 days of the elected councillors taking office (i.e. on the fourth day after the election or within 14 days after that day. Given that Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee may have a prior booking, for dates other than the council's usual meeting date of the first Thursday of the month i.e. Thursday 4th May 2023, it may also be necessary to convene the Annual Meeting at another venue. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries relating to Thursday 11th May 2023 together with other possible dates being available and advise members further in due course.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:15 hrs.

Chairman

11th May 2023