

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 commencing at 7.15 p.m. via Zoom.

Chair: Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman)

Councillors: Mrs. J. C. Benson, Mrs. G. Bevan, S. Baugh, P. Collins, Mrs. J. McCormick.

Borough/County Councillor: None.

Police: None.

Members of the public: One.

The chairman explained that the convened meeting was the statutory annual 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) Election of chairman 2021-22 municipal year.

The retiring chairman invited nominations for the Office of Chairman from members. No formal nominations were received and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth be re-elected as chairman for 2021/22. The chairman thanked members for the appointment which was formally accepted by completing and signing the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman. The Chairman then proceeded with the next item of Business.

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Vacancies in Office of Councillor.

The chairman reported details of a potential future parishioner who has expressed an interest in becoming a councillor once relocation is effected.

ii) Lancashire county election Thursday 6th May 2021.

Members were advised that Councillor Mrs. E. A. Oades was not seeking election for a further term of office as a county councillor. It was agreed that in due course council should formally express the appreciation and thanks of the council in recognition of past endeavours as a county councillor over the period from 2005.

c) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. L. Bannister and Borough/County Councillor Mrs. E. A. Oades.

d) Elect Vice-Chairman for 2021-22 Municipal Year.

The chairman invited nominations for the Office of Vice-Chairman. No formal nominations were received. Subsequently, it was agreed that the matter be deferred. Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk advised in the event that the person expected to preside at a meeting is unable to do so then those members present should decide who should preside by inviting nominations and putting them to the vote. Where a chair has to be selected, the meeting starts when the selection decision is made and if no decision is made the meeting will not formally convene.

e) 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.

f) Signing of Minutes (Meeting 01/04/21).

The chairman put it to council that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st April 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 1st April 2021 be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

g) Matters arising from minutes.

i) Local government boundary commission (LGBC) - review of Fylde, Minute 7 04/03/2021 refers.

The chairman referred to the above matter explaining for the record that the detailed apolitical statistical information, made available to the council to support its consultation response, was not a Newton Residents Association (NRA) document but that of an individual, who is a member and chairman of NRA.

2.APPOINTMENTS AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The chairman referred to the above item and invited members observations. Following discussion it was agreed that appointments, where these are required, be made by formal resolution as follows;

a) Hornbies Newton Charity.

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk, 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.

b) Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau at Kirkham (CAB).

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk, explaining that council did not currently have a representative. Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk explained that CAB had not contacted the council recently relating to the vacancy and it was unclear how frequently it held meetings.

Deliberation ensued and subsequently council determined to defer electing a representative.

c) Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC).

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk, explaining that 3NO nominations may be made in respect of the council representatives. It was explained that any member may attend LALC meetings but could not participate in a voting capacity if not formally appointed as a council representative.

Subsequently it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs. J. C. Benson and Councillor Mrs. J. McCormick be appointed as the council's voting representatives for the 2021-22 Municipal year and to defer appointing a third representative to fill the remaining vacancy.

Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk advised that the District/Parish Liaison is a forum for exchanging information, excludes voting on any policy decisions and any member may attend.

Appointments contd...

d) Chairman's Ex Officio Representation.

i) Lancaster Canal Trust (Non-executive).

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk explaining that following an organisational change effecting an area management structure the Lancaster Canal Trust was not seeking non-executive nominations. Accordingly, it was agreed council is not required to appoint a representative and also that the matter be deleted as a future appointments of council representatives item.

ii) Springfields Stakeholder Group (previously Local Liaison Committee).

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk and invited nominations. Following discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman) be reappointed as the council's representative for the 2021-22 Municipal year.

iii) Village Hall Committee of Management Trustees.

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the clerk should communicate with the current appointee to discuss the matter and accordingly consideration be deferred until the next meeting.

e) Parish Tree Warden.

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk. Following an enquiry be the chairman the clerk advised that notwithstanding absence from meetings, primarily due to Coronavirus (Covid-19) issues it was understood that the present appointee is prepared to continue the role. It was also understood that the member held a number of local positions and was likely to be planning an exit strategy having due regard to the residual terms of office. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the clerk should communicate with the current appointee to discuss the matter and accordingly consideration be deferred until the next meeting.

f) Contract liaison members.

The chairman referred to these roles and following discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED**

i) Councillor S. Baugh be appointed parks, open spaces, rural area grass verges, grass-cutting contract, authorised officer/liaison member.

ii) Councillor Mrs. J. McCormick be appointed authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the flower/shrub beds maintenance contract.

iii) Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan be appointed liaison member in respect of the Ash dieback project management.

g) Contract working group.

The chairman referred to the current composition of the working group i.e. Councillor Mrs. B. Duckworth (chairman), Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan, Councillor Mrs J. McCormick and Councillor S. Baugh. Following an enquiry by the chairman Councillor P. Collins agreed to participate in the group.

h) Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP).

The chairman referred to the FoNCP group and it was agreed Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan remain as council representative member.

3). CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE 2021/22 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk, previous council deliberations relating to the above matter, implications of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and council's formally adopted position i.e. protocol for both the existing chairman's allowance and an allowance in respect of the hospitality expenses incurred in respect of the annual Civic Sunday that is held during the Field-Day Week-End.

Chairman's allowance contd...

The clerk referred to the previously advised legislation relating to the chairman's allowance and the need to adhere to legislation requirements, notwithstanding any underlying intended allowance allocation being commendable and equitable. The chairman affirmed a previously stated position that it was more appropriate to share the allowance to meet general costs incurred on day to day council business e.g. printing documents for a member &c. Subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that arrangements, where the chairman submits a claim for any expenses incurred on general day to day council business costs, be retained.

4. GRANTS, ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS 2021/22 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

i) The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk, and following discussion it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following organisations each receive a grant of £225.

1st Clifton (St. John's) Rainbow Guides.

1st Clifton (St. John's) Brownie Guides.

1st Clifton (St. John's) Guides.

1st Clifton Scout Group, £675 (comprising 1st Clifton (Lund) Beavers, 1st Clifton (Lund) Cub Scouts, 1st Clifton (Lund) Scouts i.e. £225 each).

ii) Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee of Management Trustees (NWCVHC).

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk, and advised that the financial situation of NWCVHC had much improved following receipt of Coronavirus (Covid-19) business support grants due to enforced closure and the consequential decline in regular bookings of the hall. Following discussion and due consideration being given to the financial requirements of the committee it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that no specific grant need be made at the present time and that, following due consideration being given to the financial requirements of the committee, ad-hoc requests for financial assistance should be duly considered by council as and when submitted by the committee.

iii) Newton Clifton and Salwick Field-Day Committee.

The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk. It was explained that 2021 Field-Day has been cancelled because of Coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions. Following discussion and due consideration being given to the financial requirements of the above committee, it was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that no specific grant need be made at the present time.

iv) NorthWest Air Ambulance.

The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the organisation receive a grant of £225.

v) Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau at Kirkham.

The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the organisation receive a grant of £225.

vi) Fylde Coast YMCA, donation towards "Rural Splash" Kirkham baths annual running costs.

The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk. Also, the clerk reported that the organisation had circulated a request for parish and town councils to continue providing financial assistance. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the organisation receive a grant of £1100.

5. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman.

i) Public information.

Parish communications contd...

The chairman advised that recent consumer alerts and notices e.g. road closures, will be published on the website. The chairman also explained that a notice relating to the 3NO vacancies in the office of parish councillor had been published on the website. The chairman referred to social media comments relating to the recently installed parking signage at Newton Hall Park and it was agreed that an explanatory news item should be posted on the website. Similarly it was agreed that issues relating to litter, including broken glass, on the park together with repeat acts of vandalism, at the bus shelter A583/Blackpool Road (Bryning Lane/ westbound) - broken window, should be displayed in an attempt to increase awareness and reduce the problems.

ii) Parish noticeboard displays.

The chairman and a member referred to the present arrangements for displaying public notices and the aim to revamp the noticeboard to 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. The chairman requested those members who had still to confirm their preferred options to provide the information.

6. 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. A members explained that the matter had been discussed with the Newton Bluecoat School Headteacher and it had been suggested that highway markings needed to be refurbished and “Parking Here Could Endanger a Child's Life Sign Stand/ banner signage could be provided outside the school. The clerk explained that the Lancashire county council highways authority (LCC) could assess the road markings but the school should arrange to purchase signage. Also, the clerk advised the police had been notified of the recent incidents. The chairman suggested that matters could be discussed further with the school authorities if the situation does not improve. It was agreed that the LCC online “Report a parking problem” link could be shown on the website and the “In the Know and Lancashire Talking” police community contact initiative.

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 will not be implemented following an initial costs/benefit analysis. A member explained that the anticipated imminent reopening of a village shop/post office should mitigate some of the traffic issues that had been previously reported and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

iii) Public footpath NO6.

The chairman referred to this matter explaining that it was preferable that members walk the paths to better assess the situation.

c) Street scene matters.

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 still not responded to the council's enquiry suggesting a meeting to discuss the development generally and “Sandy Gap” specifically. It was agreed that the chairman and a member should meet with the site manager Westchurch Homes Ltd to progress matters.

Highways contd...

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 monitor the issue and should the situation revert then previously discussed initiatives could be considered for implementation.

A member reported the inappropriate informal signage had been removed from Ash Lane, Clifton.

iii) Littering in parish.

The chairman referred to this item and a member provided an update relating to the volunteer litter collection arrangements. The member had been provided with 2 litter pickers and hoops plastic bags and stickers for volunteers to use by Fylde council (FBC) which also collects the accumulated bags of litter. The trial volunteer clean-up/litter collection had resulted in several bin bags full of litter and dog waste due to indiscriminate disposal of the sealed bags. In view of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions it was not currently practical to organise a more comprehensive volunteer parish litter collection. The problem tends to be concentrated in specific location e.g. A583/Blackpool Road. It was explained that now volunteer clean-up/litter collections have been trialled it would assist if a FBC schedule of street cleansing was available, so as to avoid a volunteer clean-up/litter collection on the same day, or the day after, a FBC operation. It was agreed to request FBC to provide this information. A member reported issues affecting Ash Lane and Clifton Lane, the latter possibly linked with vehicles associated with Westinghouse Electric Company. Springfields site. The chairman agreed this could be reported at the next Springfields Stakeholder Group (previously Local Liaison Committee) meeting and included in a site newsletter. It was also agreed to try to obtain more litter collection equipment and to approach local shop owners to see if it might be distributed to volunteers from central shopping locations in both village areas. Information about the availability of equipment for individuals to use could then be placed on the website.

iv) Vehicle parking, Stanagate, Clifton.

A member referred to an earlier communication circulated to members advising a campervan was parked in a cul-de-sac near an open space area. This is still a current issue and it was explained 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. It was agreed that the matter should be formally reported by the member using the LCC online facility for vehicle parking issues.

v) Trees – Stanagate, Clifton.

The chairman referred to this issue details of which had previously been reported by a member and circulated by the clerk. The clerk explained that;

a) 2NO trees are on highway grass verge areas and the responsibility of Lancashire County Council highways authority.

b) Other trees are on William Pickles Park.

c) The matter had been discussed with the parish tree warden member who considers there are no maintenance issues to be addressed.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that LCC should be advised of the matter relating to 2NO trees on highway land and a member agreed to inspect the trees on William Pickles Park that allegedly are encroaching on privately owned land and buildings.

vi) 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 these works will commence from 10th May 2021 for a period of three months. It was agreed that details should be displayed on the website.

Highways contd...

vii) Bus shelter damage, A583/Blackpool Road (Bryning Lane/ westbound vandalism to window).

A member reported more vandalism damage at the above shelter - broken window, and it was explained the matter had been formally reported to Fylde council.

7. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications.

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

21/0312 Listed building consent for installation of like-for-like replacement steel railings atop parapet walls on north and south sides of canal bridge at Bridge 29 (Kellet's bridge), near "Moss Farm", Salwick Road, Salwick, Clifton, Preston, PR4 3SN. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that it be recommended the application is granted planning permission for listed building consent and that the local planning authority be advised accordingly.

21/0316 Installation of a 20 metre high electronic communications mast including three antennas to provide faster Wi-Fi internet access for the local rural community at land adjacent "Yew tree farm", Treales Road, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0SA.

The chairman referred to this application and members considered more time was necessary for an informed opinion to be submitted. Accordingly it was agreed that members would advise the clerk by Wednesday 12th May 2021 to facilitate a consultation response to the local planning authority and that the majority view be formally ratified at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 3rd June 2021.

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

i) 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 previously reported issues relating to drivers of construction vehicles using a temporary and unauthorised site access/egress facility. The local planning authority had advised the developer had now provided a revised construction environment management plan that indicates the current access used for construction purposes was likely to be in place until August 2021. The chairman advised that drivers of construction vehicles now use the approved access and not this temporary construction access.

ii) Application 20/0357 Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 3NO gypsy families each with 2NO caravans, together with the erection of an amenity block, erection of a boundary fence, installation of a package sewage treatment plant, the formation of a landscaped area and alterations to the vehicular access with alternative scheme of contamination remediation to that previously approved under condition 14 of 12/0118.

The chairman referred to the meeting of the Fylde council, local planning authority (LPA) planning committee held on Wednesday 28th April 2021 when the LPA deferred the application to enable LPA officers to liaise with the applicant's professional advisers and secure further detail as to; a) methods of ensuring that the material to be retained on site is securely and permanently protected from future access, b) provide additional details regarding the nature of the material that is to be removed from site and techniques used in its removal, c) provision of any necessary revisions to the site plan and other details of the development, including the foul drainage arrangements, methods of securing the site boundaries, because of late presentation of information to LPA members, and subsequently allow local residents and other interested parties an opportunity to comment on the submitted information. Following an enquiry by a member the clerk advised that, subsequent to the council response in 2020, the LPA had not requested any further formal consultation response from the council.

Planning contd...

Subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that council express its disappointment that the LPA had not continued to consult with the council relating to the proposed development, particularly the remediation of any contamination on the site, prior to the application being considered by the LPA committee meeting. With regard to the concerns submitted to the LPA planning committee by Newton Residents Association (NRA), council supports the NRA representation as members expressed similar disquiet relating to the application's remediation scheme proposals. Accordingly council formally request that the LPA note the observations of the council. Moreover, council request the LPA to confirm that when future consideration is given to the application and the proposed remedial measures, i.e. methods of ensuring that the material that is to be retained on site is securely and permanently protected from future access, additional details regarding the nature of the material that is to be removed from site, the techniques to be used in its removal, provision of any necessary revisions to the site plan together with other details of the development, including the foul drainage arrangements and methods of securing the site boundaries, it will resume formal consultation with the council. 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 information took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

iii) No other decisions were reported.

8. 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 the authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract during April 2021 reported maintenance is ongoing subject to prevailing weather conditions,

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 during April 2021 reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with the contract conditions and specifications. Recent work included general pruning, tidying &c however one bed is being left until the bird breeding season has concluded.

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

The clerk referred to the previously circulated report by the council representative member on FoNCP which was taken as read. In accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011 Councillor Mrs. G. Bevan formally Declared an Interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. 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 reported that the contractor had still to provide a start date for the work. A member agreed to liaise with the contractor.

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

The chairman referred to this item and a member explained; 65NO trees will be identified on a map and a copy provided to Fylde council's arboriculture officer and the parish council. Some identified trees have overhanging branches impacting on the children play area at Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales and an adjoining property.

Parks contd...

It was agreed that these could be assessed by the parish tree warden member. The Woodlands Trust had confirmed that a requisite number of a mixed selection of saplings will be available on application from the end of May until late June 2021. A member referred to the number of trees on private land that are affected by Ash dieback and suggested raising public awareness of a replacement tree planting programme on the website. Council recognised that volunteer assistance, e.g. deploying uniformed organisations, Newton Bluecoat School, &c will be needed in executing a parish wide replacement tree planting programme.

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

The chairman referred to this item and the quote that had been received based on a revised specification following discussions between the chairman, one other member and a parishioner with CCTV expertise. The chairman explained that it was considered further clarification was still required from the contractor relating to some points. Moreover, another quote had subsequently been received that had still to receive similar assessment. Following a member enquiry the clerk explained that the purchase can be funded but should the estimated final project expenditure exceed £10,000 then an analysis of the cost and benefits would be warranted. The chairman advised that Fylde council environment, health and housing committee had agreed to support the council's revenue bid application in the sum of £3000 for the scheme subject to certain conditions. Subsequently members agreed to assess the quotes received based on the revised specification and advise the chairman of their respective positions by Wednesday 12th May 2021 whereupon a further meeting between the chairman, one other member and the parishioner with CCTV expertise could, if the scheme is to progress, be arranged together with the successful contractor to clarify any outstanding matters.

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

The chairman referred to this matter and recent communications from Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) advising that funding is available for the project in the current financial year. It was subsequently Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that LWT be advised;

- i) Council confirm Newton Hall Park is the preferred location for developing the proposed great crested newts and other wildlife pond.
- ii) Subject to seasonal wildlife habitat issues being accommodated, the project should be commenced as soon as is practicable.

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 a member advised of the dimensions of a set of goal posts at William Pickles Park (3.8m x 2.8m) and similarly at Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) goals were not being included in this exercise due to the comprehensive community park improvements that are planned. Discussion ensued regarding maintenance and repair of the existing goals by volunteers or purchase of replacements. The volunteer maintenance would only incur material costs. A member advised an understanding that there were both goals and nets stored within the Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall grounds and it was agreed that members will also assess these for suitability. It was agreed that a member will obtain all related price information, circulate detail by email and members commit to advising their respective positions by Wednesday 12th May 2021 to facilitate the matter being progressed and that the majority view be formally ratified at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 3rd June 2021.

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 NWCVH committee report, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, explaining all issues of concern have been addressed and matters are progressing.

Parks contd...

The chairman reported the NWCVH committee’s annual general meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27th May 2021 via Zoom.

j) Hedge – opposite Squirrels Chase, Clifton.

A member advised that following information being circulated to members the council’s flower/shrub bed contractor had been authorised to execute the necessary maintenance.

k) Allotments

The chairman referred to recent communications relating to allotment provision. Discussion involved a small number of allotments provided by the Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee of Management Trustees (NWCVHC) and the St. John the Evangelist (Lund) Parochial Church Council (PCC). Although the council does not currently provide any allotments in the parish, it is the Custodian Trustee of the Newton-with-Clifton village hall and works in partnership with the NWCVHC to try and ensure a proper provision is made for parishioners. Members referred to potential sharing arrangements with other parish and town council within Fylde district. The clerk advised that gaps in the provision of allotments, and open space generally, in the borough rural areas have been identified as an issue by Fylde borough council (FBC) as the local planning authority. Accordingly FBC should work with providers to deliver a co-ordinated approach to the provision of allotments across the borough including the management of waiting lists. While local authorities have a mandatory obligation to provide allotments where there is a demonstrable demand, there is no time scale attached to this process. Consequently, allotment provision requires a degree of co-operation with owners of land in the parish suitable for use as allotments. The parish council, other parish and town councils and where appropriate FBC and Lancashire county council may become further involved when allotments cannot be obtained at a reasonable rent and on reasonable conditions by voluntary arrangement between a landowner and potential allotment tenant parishioner resident in the parish. A member reported FBC is negotiating with an occupier of land with regard to increasing the allotment provision in Kirkham. Members recognised that the level of demand in the parish is unclear and it was agreed that a request should be made to Kirkham town council regarding possible allotment sharing arrangements.

9. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

i) List 1.

The chairman referred to this item. Following a member enquiry the clerk advised that the cost of the memorial bench installation had been reimbursed, in the current financial year, by the bereaved family. Similarly the supplier cost had been reimbursed in the previous financial year. A majority of members explained having insufficient time to assess the invoices and list previously provided by the clerk. The chairman suggested that agreement is required relating to the latest date that members can receive finance documents for consideration at a meeting. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that;

a) Members will consider the previously circulated invoice information.

b) Advise by email of their respective positions to authorise, or defer, payment of invoices, that in the opinion of the clerk and responsible financial officer (RFO) are now due for payment as listed, by Friday 7th May 2021.

c) The RFO will commit to circulating future invoices by 29th of the month.

T. A. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services	Litter bin disposals, March 2021.	£185.00	
		Vat <u>£37.00</u>	£222.00

T. A. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services	Litter bin disposals, March 2021.	£74.95	
		Vat <u>£14.99</u>	£89.94
		c/fwd...	£311.94

Finance contd...		b/fwd... £311.94
Npower Ltd.	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/04/20-31/03/21.	£87.21 Vat <u>£12.17</u> £99.38
SJ Electrical Services	Installation, removal and storage of 2NO. 2020 Christmas trees lights.	£400.00
Divine Signs Ltd.	Supply and fix 1NO sign No Parking Newton Hall Park.	£268.00 Vat <u>£53.60</u> £321.60
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays April 2021.	£1055.92 Vat <u>£211.18</u> £1267.10
Margaret Taylor	Internal audit fee for 2020-21	£125.00
E. Robinson	Install memorial bench , William Pickles Park, Clifton.	£152.00
+T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance April 2021.	£1773.83 Vat <u>£354.77</u> <u>£2128.60</u> <u>£4805.62</u>

+Following a member enquiry the RFO advised that an anticipated final invoice for PDQ's March amenity cleansing waste disposal operations had still to be received. All other amenity cleansing invoices have previously been received and paid.

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 no longer 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.**

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 is 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. 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 advised that there was no information to report.

e) Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee - consider previously circulated report.

The chairman referred to this item and the previously circulated report was taken as read.

10. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) SpID operations.

A member referred to this matter and the clerk advised;

i) The council's SpiD operative had confirmed the device is uneconomic to repair.

ii) An enquiry relating to device sharing arrangements with Weeton-with-Preese parish council had been pursued but is likely to be operationally impractical, given the Newton-with-Clifton parish comprises two villages and Weeton-with-Preese was enquiring about the potential of using any working parts from the malfunctioning device should the council purchase a new device.

iii) Cost of a replacement portable device c. £3500-£4000.

It was agreed that the matter be an agenda item for the meeting scheduled for Thursday 3rd June 2021 and that the situation be monitored over the next few weeks to assess the benefit/cost of SpID operations.

b) Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for Thursday 3rd June 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 22:30hrs.

Chairman

3rd June 2021