



## Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm in Newton Village Hall

1. Appointment of Chair for the meeting. Frank Preston proposed and Rick Crane seconded that Ian Davies be appointed Chairman for the meeting.
2. Present. I. Davies (Acting Chair), A. Davies, F. Preston, R. Crane, Borough Councillor L. Hunt.

6 members of the public were present.

3. Apologies were received from D. Carter and PCSO Sharon Bailie-Crabtree.
4. There were no declarations of interest.
5. The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved and signed by the Acting Chairman.
6. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
7. Chairman's report.

I. Davies read out the Chairman's report. The period of uncertainty during 2016/17 had seen a return of stability in 2017/18 largely due to Heather returning as clerk. He was sorry to have lost Jim as a Parish Councillor and Vice-Chairman but welcomed Rick Crane. The finances were now in good order with a multi-year Capital Programme which included:

- A) Proposals to extend the Village Hall.
- B) Establishment and future maintenance of the Five Arches Wildlife Site.
- C) Replacement of street lights at The Leys.
- D) Planting of bulbs on approach roads.

The Parish Council had been in engagement on the Major Planning sites: Lioncourt/Coton East.

The bus service had changed recently, subsidised by a developer contribution from Lioncourt. We are exploring options with WCC and WRCC on how the funding can be used more flexibly and creatively and a representative from WRCC will be attending the May meeting.

The St. Thomas Cross junction remains a concern. Funding may be available from DIRFT3 when it is up and running. The Parish Council are ensuring that the transport authorities are reminding of this.

The litter pick had been well supported and everyone thanked for this. 12-15 people of all ages had helped. The rubbish had been left outside the Village Hall and collected by RBC the following day.

### 8. Charities

- A) The Jenaway Charity was inactive. When the money reclaimed from the account it would be put towards a charity event in Newton.
- B) The Elkington and Sherriers Charity had continued to support people in Shawell and Newton.



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C) The Village Hall was doing well. It had been decorated inside and had the floors lightly sanded and recoated. The 'Live and Local' performances had been a success. The grass cutting, cleaning and booking taking was going well. All those involved were thanked. To go forward with arranging an extension for the Village Hall quotes are needed to give guidance on how much they can do and the cost. They are still waiting for quotes.

D) The Clifton and Newton Burial Committee was in a sound financial state. No precept had been requested.

E) The Townland Allotments were doing well. 27 of the 35 plots were taken. Fees were to go up from £5 to £10 a year from 2019. They had made a loss of £150 last year and would do the same in 2018 but the funds were still standing at £920, water rates and insurance had been the expenses. June was thanked for creating a paved patio area with a bench and for organising the planting of 31 new trees. They were hoping to have a plot for the local children to use and a communal polytunnel.

9. Financial report. There was currently £26,292.17 in the bank but after cheques to be raised after the meeting there would be £25,157.28. The vat of £1,260.80 had been reclaimed but not received yet. The balance was high due to there being £7,910.40 worth of cheques raised in previous years which had not been cashed and would be written back in at the audit. The audit paperwork would go to the Internal Auditor the following week. ID explained that although funds high a lot of it was earmarked for the Capital programme.

10. Borough Councillor L. Hunt gave her report. It covered: World of Fame, Elliotts Field Phase 2 opening, the Local Plan, Tripontium and Broadband. The broadband issue was still very much in her thoughts and she was still pushing to get it sorted. She thanked the Parish Council and clerk for their support.

11. Suspension of standing orders to allow questions from residents.

A) R. Preston congratulated the Parish Council on the Five Arches Project which was looking so good. ID had had his article on this published in a Wildlife Magazine. An official opening of the site had not yet been arranged. It was hoped the pot holes would have been fixed before it was held.

B) It was noted that sadly Ken Maycock who had been clerk for Newton and Biggin Parish Council until 2002 had died. It was agreed a letter of condolence would be written and sent to the Funeral Directors to be passed to his next of kin.

C) Victoria Andrews asked if the trees on both sides of the road from St. Thomas Cross up into the village could be trimmed back as they now touch the tops of her cattle wagons when come into Newton and could cause them damage. It was agreed this would be referred to Warwickshire County Councillor Adrian Warwick.

D) The bus service would be discussed at the May meeting. It was agreed not to canvass residents about what they would like from the service until after they knew what was on offer.



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E) The Stag and Pheasant pub was doing well but not serving food yet. It was leased for 18 months with an option to purchase at the end. They now had a Ladies skittles Team which was bringing in more folk.

There being no other matters for discussion I. Davies thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.