



Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th July 2018 at 7.30pm in Newton Village Hall

1. Present. D. Carter (Chair), I. Davis (Vice-Chair), F. Preston, A. Davis, R. Crane, Borough Councillor L. Hunt and 9 members of the public.
2. Apologies were received from County Councillor Adrian Warwick.
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. The Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2018 were approved as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.
5. There were no matters arising.
6. Village Hall. It was agreed that before any work could be carried out on the Village Hall it would need to be established who owned the building. A working party was being formed to deal with this consisting of Frank Preston representing the village hall committee and it was unanimously agreed that Ian Davis could be nominated as the Parish Council representative. It was agreed that a solicitor would need to be consulted for this and the parish council would pay for the consultation. The building would also need to be registered with the Land Registry. It was agreed that the solicitor could be consulted about the Townlands Allotments land at the same time to decide on the ownership of that too. FP and ID were delegated the authority to make any necessary decisions and make any necessary expenditure. F. Preston informed members about the Enclosure Act of Parliament in 1757 where common land was enclosed for people to grow vegetables. The minute books for the Allotments go back to the 1930's.
Newton Village Hall was built in 1923 as a Memorial Hall to those who died in the 1st World War. There was a wooden plaque in the church but nothing in the Village Hall. Quotes had been sought from local stonemasons for a plaque to go on the Village Hall but the only suitable quote had been obtained from a specialist stonemason in Kilsby. It would be white etching on slate, the wording would be based on the wording on the plaque in church and mention those who had lost their lives in both WW1 and WW2, and could go on the front of the gable end of the Village Hall in the recess niche. If the order was placed soon it could be made and installed in time for Remembrance Sunday to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1. The total cost would be £1,700 and no VAT would be charged. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by AD and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would pay the full amount of the cost of the plaque.
7. Re-establishment of the Rugby Area Committee. ID had attended this. It was chaired by WALC and approx. 20 representatives from various Parish Councils attended. It was agreed this would need to have a themed topic for each meeting in order for members to gain anything from it. This would be separate from the Fosse Divisional Panel meetings. No future dates for the Rugby Area Committee meetings had been given out yet.
8. As a number of the public had turned up to talk about the junction at St. Thomas Cross the Chair brought Item 17 forward. He opened this up to the public for discussion. There had been 2 recent collisions at the junction, both involving Newton drivers. S. Bryan had drawn up a petition which residents of Clifton and Newton had signed and it had now gone on facebook. There had been a total of 600 signatures in a week. S. Bryan had checked the junction and trees and hedges were blocking the sign so he had cut them back. The problem



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seemed to be cars coming from Newton Manor Lane not stopping and most people had experienced 'near misses' at the site. It was asked if there could be a Stop sign, better prewarning signs, a lower speed limit, better road markings, vegetation cut back and rumble strips on the approach from Newton Manor Lane to St. Thomas Cross in order to slow down drivers approaching the junction. It was highlighted that no one knew who had right of way at the junction which caused a lot of the problems. Concern was raised about pedestrians trying to cross the road and their safety.

The Chair pointed out that a survey had been carried out at the junction and this would be done again when DIRFT III opened to assess the impact this had had on the traffic. This could lead to funding from the pot of money but not yet. So far DIRFT III had only spent money on improvements to the A5 and not the St. Thomas Cross junction. The Parish Council, BC L. Hunt and CC A. Warwick had campaigned long and hard for improvements in the past and present. As a result of the 2 accidents and communication with A. Warwick there should be the following improvements before the end of September:

Refreshed road markings.

Foliage cut back.

Install advanced warning signs before the junction.

It was unfortunate that AW had not been able to attend this meeting but LH explained the history of the problem junction and her involvement in the past and reiterated she had not lost interest in this. It was a complicated process to get a sign changed or moved and a County Highways issue. A road safety officer was due to assess the junction very soon due to AW's proactive interest. S. Bryan had done a good job publicising the problem.

It was asked whether the Parish Council could obtain quotes for rumble strips, slower speed limit signs and a stop sign. It was pointed out that this is not a Parish Council issue but a County Highways one. ID proposed the Parish Council:

- a) Note and support the interim measures that will be implemented by September at the latest.
- b) Call for stop signs on the Newton Manor Lane and Newton Lane approaches to the junction, a 40mph speed limit and rumble strips on Newton Manor Lane.
- c) Continue to ask WCC to survey the junction with regards funding from Prologis (DIRFT III).
- d) Note the problems experienced by pedestrians.

WCC have agreed to meet with the Parish Council and AW. It is their decision what happens at that junction but it was hoped with AW on board things would progress. DC would discuss all the above issues with them when they met.

Everyone was thanked for coming.

9. Community transport. ID explained that Lioncourt have granted £100,000 over 5 years to community transport and how it could be used with regards the Back and Forth bus. It would be not just be a bus for Newton and could only be used on certain days if booked but was a door to door service although not free to bus pass users. We needed to know how many people would be likely to use this before going forward. The Bacon Butties in Church on Tuesdays seemed the best place to start enquiries. It was agreed a Public Meeting would be arranged to raise awareness and get feedback on this.



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10. Item 11 was brought forward. Mike was thanked for redrawing the Newton Crest digitally and he handed this over to the clerk on a j peg.
11. The Broadband issue had still to be resolved but LH was still very aware of the problem and still determined to get it sorted.
12. GDPR – there were some documents in the filing cabinet in the Village Hall. It was agreed a Sunday morning session would be arranged to go through these.
13. The new Emergency Plan. This had been drawn up but members wanted more of the information that had been on the previous one included (i.e. people able to help, 4 x 4 owners etc). The clerk agreed to do this and to recheck it with members before circulating. It was emphasised that this should not be placed on the website or circulated out of the Parish Council.
14. Planning.
 - a) Diversion of part of Bridleway R103 Rugby. This was noted. It was not in Newton.
15. Quotes for replacement street lights in The Leys, Newton.

The following had been received:

e.on	1,810.00 + VAT – hockey stick style
WCC	2,200.00 + VAT – not hockey stick style
Hi-lite	1,970.00 + VAT – not hockey stick style

It was agreed that the street light replacement would be requested from e.on at a cost of 1,810.00 + VAT (hockey stick style). The clerk could go ahead and order this.

A member of the public pointed out that a street light in The Hollies had a tree growing into it. DC agreed to take a look.
16. Self assessment. This had been done and the results of what we could do highlighted. To be kept an agenda item.
17. ICO. It was agreed we would need to pay this each year. The clerk agreed to arrange the paperwork to do this for the next meeting.
18. The trees overhanging the road from St. Thomas Cross to Newton had been reported to AW who had forwarded it to the right department.
19. The insurance had been renewed at a cost of £425.25 (the cheque had been drawn out of meeting) with Came and Co after they matched the price from the competitor. This would be for a 3 year plan but the payment was just for 1 year of it.
20. Five Arches Site. ID reported everything was going to plan and still ongoing. An increase in butterflies had been noticed in Newton. FP felt another litterbin was needed at the site. To be an agenda item at the next meeting.
21. Information pack for new residents in Newton. This was nearly completed. FP was asked to pass on our thanks to Rosemary for doing this.
22. Correspondence
 - a) A letter about St. Thomas Cross junction from a resident.
 - b) All relevant emails had been circulated to members.
23. Financial report

The VAT of 1,260.80 had been reclaimed. After cheques to be raised at the meeting £30,819.83 would be left in the account.

The Chair asked about the Capital Program and projected expenditure.

There were the following:



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Village Hall/Allotment Solicitors fees	1,000
Plaque for the Village Hall	1,700
Street lights	2,200
Roof for the Village Hall	10,000
5 Arches Project	6, 257.54* 5,742.46 spent so far
from the 10,000 budget 2017-18 +2018-19, plus 2,000 budgeted for 2018/19	
The flowers at the entrance to the Village were deferred for a year due to the building works at The Leys	
Total	21,157.54

This would leave £9,662.29 for general expenses.

24. Bills for payment

e.on – May and June street light electric	55.49
H. Miles – clerk May and June	<u>356.02</u>
	411.51

25. Outcome of audit – nothing had been heard back from the External auditors yet.

26. Items for inclusion at the next meeting

a) Litterbin – Picnic Park/5 Arches site.

b) Burial Committee – DC reported that due a decrease in burials they would be asking for a grant. This had not been budgeted for.

c) AW – St. Thomas Cross Junction.

d) Public meeting – Community Transport.

27. The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday 13th September at 7.30pm in Newton Village Hall. FP agreed to book the hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approx. 9.45pm.

Chairman

Date



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