



Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7.30pm in The Good Shepherd

1. Present. D. Carter (Chairman), A. Davis, I. Davis, F. Preston and 4 members of the public (including Mike Slater).
2. Apologies were received from Cllr. L. Hunt (RBC), Cllr. A. Warwick (WCC), and PCSO Sharon Bailie.
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2017 were approved by everyone and signed by the Chairman.
5. There were no matters arising.
6. We moved item 16b on the agenda, Conservation to be discussed early. Mike Slater explained that work had already begun with volunteers on the Picnic Site. They had named the project The Five Arches. One part was North of the bridge to encourage rare butterflies to inhabit the area. It would involve creating the structure (completed), clearing scrubland, management of the grass (cutting at the right time of year), planting with wildflowers and putting up boards explaining the work. A costing of £5,000 had been submitted for this. The second part was South of the bridge, the Wetland which had not been touched for 20 years to encourage dragonflies, toads and wildlife. Where the sidings had once been and there were now old neglected ponds. This would involve the removal of a number of trees to create more sun and other work. A figure of £5,000 was submitted for this. Further annual funding would be needed to maintain the site.
It was suggested notices go up or flyers be sent to each house in Newton explaining the work that would be done. A grand opening next spring was planned with guided tours and talks and eventually the public could become involved in projects and enjoy the wildlife. Mike Slater was thanked by the Chair.
7. There was a councillor vacancy following the resignation of Jim Hotten. No formal applications for the position had been made. To be an agenda item at the next meeting.
8. Outcome from the meeting with Lioncourt Development. ID explained they had taken our suggestions on board. A Project Manager had not been appointed yet but groundwork was supposed to begin before Christmas and building start in the Spring. Affordable housing had been discussed but no housing partner appointed as yet. Part of the planning application had been based on the bus service Newton had at the time. This had now been reduced to 4 buses a day. A grant of £100,000 by Lioncourt over a 5 year period to be given towards transport for Newton residents was discussed. RBC and WCC are the signatories for this. To be kept an agenda item and to be discussed when LH and AW present at one of our meetings (Jan?).
9. Walkers on Victoria Andrews field. DC had passed the information to AW (CC) and VA. The track to the farm had been blocked off. It was felt up to Victoria and WCC to sort this out.
10. The defibrillator and basic first aid training courses had been booked and filled. They would run on 1st Dec (15 booked on this), 13th Dec (16 booked) and 16th Dec (16 booked) 4 people had requested we hold training in the New Year. The Instructor would point out at each session that it had been funded by the Parish Council. The Chair thanked the clerk for organising this.
11. The proposed Information Pack for new residents in Newton was work in progress. Lion Court had offered to pay towards the printing. The Emergency pack was believed to hold a similar booklet. The clerk agreed to ask WCC or RBC for the latest copy of our Emergency Plan booklet to see if this could help with contact numbers etc. ID and DC Emergency Committee.



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12. The Stag and Pheasant pub was believed to be sold but the sale had not yet gone through.
13. The junction at St. Thomas Cross. The Chair outlined the problems at the junction and how DIRFT III was under construction currently by Prologis who would not pay for any improvements until the site occupied. The junction had been monitored prior to work starting and would be monitored again when completed and then a decision could be made.
14. Review locking the Picnic Park. FP currently doing this at dawn and dusk. ID and AD offered to help with this. It was agreed to keep locking it.
15. Correspondence
 - a) Gritting plan – it was the same as previous years and gritting would go through Newton and stop at The Leys.
 - b) A letter from a resident about trees and hedges blocking a piece of public grass at 2 The Leys had been received. This was now being dealt with by the houseowner and County Highways were in touch with them. It was agreed not to take any action.
16. Planning – none.
17. Capital spending program
 - a) Quotes had been received for work on the roof of the Village Hall

Roger Smith	£11,100 (inc vat)
D T Wall	£13,325.40 (inc vat)

It was agreed one more quote would be needed. It was suggested Planning Permission or building regs might be needed to carry out this work. It was also suggested that if the roof coming off further work to improve the Hall might be worthwhile (extension). FP agreed to put this to the Village Hall Committee.

It was agreed in principal to supply funding for the Village Hall to replace the roof and possibly extend the building.

b) Picnic park			
Butterfly area North of the bridge		Wetland area South of the bridge	
Wildflower seeds	2,500	Contractor to take trees out	3,500
Pond construction	500	Sundries	1,500
Weed treatment	500		
Elms	200		
Sundries fuel for brush cutter,			
Chainsaw maintenance	500		
Signs	800		
Total	5,000	Total	5,000

It was agreed to pay for these and to commit funding for future years.

- c) Flower bulbs. It was agreed the £500 agreed at the last meeting to be planted at the entrances to Newton would be deferred to 2018-2019 as the planting season had already passed and there would be a lot of disruption at the entrance by The Leys while the new houses were being built.
- d) It was agreed to move replacement of lights at The Leys for traditional standard ones to 2018-2019. FP reported that one of the lights had stopped working. He had replaced the bulb but that had not worked. ID agreed to speak to RBC to ask for the light to be sorted and for a quote to replace the lights.

The total capital spending for 2017-2018 - £23,325.40 (approx.)

2018-2019 - £500 (bulbs) + street lights + Picnic Park funding

18. DC proposed and AD seconded that ID be the Parish Council representative on the Townland Allotment Committee.



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Financial report

On 4/10/17 there was £33,360.22 in the bank. There were £204.29 cheques to be raised.
This would leave a total of £33,155.93.

19. Cheques for payment

Eon – street light electric for November	24.81
D. Carter – reimbursement for IT support bill paid	11.00
H. Miles – clerk salary for October	168.48
Total	204.29

20. Members were asked to email the clerk with any agenda items prior to the next meeting. A member of the public asked for Superfast broadband at The Hollies to go on the next agenda. All agreed.

21. The date of the next meeting was to be Thursday 14th December at 7.30pm in The Good Shepherd. Budget meeting.

The following meeting would be held on Thursday 25th January at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm approx.