

NEWTON AND BIGGIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 07th March 2013 in Newton Village Hall at 8pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs. D. Carter (Chairman), A. Davis (vice-Chairman), F. Preston, J. Leggatt, R. Greenaway, Cllr. Philip Morris-Jones
2. **Apologies:** PCSO S. Bailie-Crabtree,
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2013:** The minutes were agreed and the chair signed the minutes as correct.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2013:** item 5a; the tree has no preservation order on it and Foxons were claiming it.
It was unlikely that Steve Pell could be invited back before June 2013, to talk before a meeting about DIRFT / J19. Ian Davies had offered to talk for about 10minutes, before the AGM about J19. The councillors all agreed that he should do so.
6. **Correspondence:** Circulars were handed to Dave Carter for circulation to the parish councillors and the following items discussed in greater detail:
 - f. **Litter Pick:** The clerk had received information from Rowena Billing at RBC regarding this year's litter pick. The clerk had spoken to Rowena and been told that the weekends of 24/03/13 and 01/04/13 were already full and that gloves were no longer provided by RBC. After a discussion it was decided that Anne Davies would ask if Ian Davies could borrow some gloves and Dave Carter was also going to ask at work if he could borrow some old gloves from work. Judith Leggatt suggested that volunteers were asked to bring their gloves with them. It was decided that the litter pick would take place on 14/04/13, Dave Carter signed the health and safety form and the clerk was asked to book the litter pick with RBC and ask that the equipment was dropped to Dave Carter's house ready for the event. It was decided that half an hour be allowed before the AGM to give notice of the litter pick and to enable Ian Davies to give his talk.
 - g. The next Fosse Community Forum is at Monks Kirby at 7.30pm on Thursday 14.03.13
There is a handyman scheme being considered for parish councils to have local person available for minor repairs and maintenance such as verges and hedge cutting. The clerk was asked to request information about it and add the item on to next meeting's agenda.
7. **Council IT:** Anne Davies reported that William Davies had produced a rough plan of the Newton website. There was a discussion as to whether local tradesman could be listed on the website and Dave Carter said that he would need to check on protocol for this. Everyone was in agreement that WD should go ahead and send the council the home pages (not live yet) for approval.
8. **Superfast Broadband Update:** It was asked whether being on the Swinford exchange would make a difference. Dave Carter said that Leigh Hunt had told him that the distance from green boxes made a difference and Newton could go to the Rugby number instead of the Swinford number. RG said that would be costly for businesses and Dave Carter said that it would be up to

the village to decide. It was commented that Churchover are still on dial up and not even on broadband yet.

Dave Carter reported that the project was in the procurement stage and Newton had had a fantastic response per head compared to other areas. Dave Carter reported that emails from Leigh Hunt had been circulated to the parish councillors.

9. Picnic Site Update: The progress report from Mick Stent was read out and circulated.

10. Highways:

a. Gritting: Cllr. Morris-Jones said that Warwickshire County Council have replied by saying they can't review the existing route and DC questioned their arguments.

Judith Leggatt asked whether, that in order to keep the bus route open, the PC should say to WCC to grit the bus route instead of the road from St Thomas's Cross to the A5.

Cllr. Morris Jones thought it should be done in addition, being as the length of road in question was such a short one and the PC should keep up the pressure to get it done.

Dave Carter and Judith Leggatt both acknowledged that finances are tight but the buses might not be able to sustain their routes, including the school buses that serve The Revel, Avon Valley and Harris Schools. Dave Carter was worried that when he reported back to Centre buses about the continued lack of gritting, they would start to bypass the village. Dave Carter asked Cllr Morris-Jones if the PC should concede the gritting of Biggin Hill in order to get the bus route gritted. Judith Leggatt said it wasn't right to take away one route to get the section of road in question gritted but as Newton has no shop, the loss of a bus route would be a great loss to the village.

It was also commented that WCC do not subsidise the current bus service and if this service were lost WCC would end up having to subsidise a bus service again, which would likely cost more than extra 5 mile journey and a digger bucket of grit if they continued around the block and included the bus route on the gritting route.

Dave Carter asked Cllr Morris-Jones how the PC should proceed and when the gritting routes were reviewed for next year. Cllr Morris-Jones thought that the gritting routes were reviewed in September and the PC should prepare a list of options to help sort it out for next year.

Dave Carter suggested that the parish council start to make a nuisance of themselves in order to keep up the pressure until the road was included in the gritting route. Judith Leggatt said that councillors should make note of all the private cars and buses that come off the road in icy conditions.

Frank Preston suggested that being as Churchover has two gritted routes in and out of the village, could Newton suggest to WCC that one of their gritted routes is given up in order to maintain Newton's bus route. Dave Carter said that he didn't want to rob Peter to pay Paul and thought that the best way forward was to be constructive and not take away another parish's service.

Richard Greenaway wondered whether the parish council should get Mark Pawsey MP involved or go to *The Advertiser* to persuade WCC to act.

RG asked what is a life worth and Judith Leggatt wondered if we had to wait for deaths before WCC took action.

Dave Carter asked Cllr Morris-Jones to get a copy of WCC policy on gritting and the clerk was asked to put gritting on to the agenda for the next meeting.

Judith Leggatt said it was important to keep people at the WCC on board and Dave Carter agreed that the PC should try other tactics first before going to the MP and press. Cllr Morris-Jones suggested that the Parish Council write to the spring forum to give the item a public arena. Dc agreed the Parish Council needed informed pressure.

The clerk was asked to write to Cllr Morris Jones and Leigh Hunt to raise the question of the gritting route in Newton at the forum.

- 11. Planning: R12/220:** RG had not been able to access the plans on Rugby Borough Councils planning portal but the plans had been circulated and so the councillors had been able to look. No comments had been made and the plans had been approved.

12. Consultations:

- a. J19 Ian Davies is to talk at the AGM when a report would be given.
- b. Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure Strategy: documents circulated

13. Finances:

- a. The clerk was asked to claim the VAT on the village Hall before the end of the financial year.
- b. There was an invoice for the costs of the electricity for the street lighting from November 2012 to March 2013 of £192.34 which was approved and cheque signed. The precept for the Clifton and Newton Joint Burial Committee has been set at the same amount of £500 from Newton PC as previous year. A cheque for £500 for the year 2011 to 2012 was signed.

Judith Leggatt requested that the clerk send the village hall Committee a receipt for the monies received from Newton pc of £1747.96 on 01.08.12 and £1960.72 on 21.08.12. The receipts should be sent to Gordon Coates c/o Judith Leggatt.

- c. The clerk showed the accounts (on EXCEL worksheet) from when she took over in September and will produce a balance sheet including the previous clerk's hand written accounts for the year end.
- d. The accounts are to go to Mr Ken Maycock for the internal audit at the financial year end, by May 2013 before being passed on to the external auditor.

14. Items for inclusion in next meeting:

- a. Ownership of the land in front of the post office was discussed. Judith Leggatt thought that it might have been owned the Post Office. The owners of the old post office think that it is the state's land. Frank Preston suggested that the land registry would know and Dave Carter thought that it belongs to the highway authority.
- b. The potholes that had been filled were not considered adequate. Dave Carter said that the potholes had not been mentioned in the email he had received from WCC. RG said that if the job had been done for a home owner then trading standards could have been called. It was agreed to add this item to the next meeting's agenda.
- c. For flowers in the planter Judith Leggatt said that you could bulk buy assorted bulbs at homebase for £20. Dc said that Judith Leggatt should go ahead and buy the bulbs and take the money from his chairman's allowance.
- d. The 200 new homes in Coton Meadows is to be added to the agenda and the clerk is to check the electoral roll register to see if the new homes are within the village boundary.

15. **Date of next meeting:** The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday 11th April 2013 at 8 p.m. in Newton Village Hall preceded at 7.30pm by the Annual Parish The annual general meeting will take place at 8pm on 09th May 2013 at the village Hall.
16. **Motion to exclude the public:** proposed by Dave Carter and seconded by Judith Leggatt. An update on the tipping problem on A5 is due by RBC tomorrow and it was agreed that something needed to be done about the situation. An update would be given at the next meeting

Chairman
07th March 2013