

## Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8pm on 09<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at The Village Hall, Newton.

1. **Present:** Parish Councillors: Dave Carter (DC), Anne Davies (AD), Frank Preston (FP), Judith Leggatt, Jim Hotten (JH), WCC Councillor Philip Morris-Jones.
2. **Apologies:** PC S Crabbe-Bailey, Cllr. Leigh Hunt (LH)
3. **Declarations of interest and dispensations:**
  - a. **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda**

FP and JH declared an interest in the village pub.  
DC declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11a; Finances Statement of accounts.
  - b. **To receive written requests for the dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests**

DC explained that there was a concern that FP and JH having declared interests in item 14 that should there be a vote then the parish council might not be quorate and decisions would not be able to be voted on and consequently made. DC and the clerk had sought advice from Alison Hodge at WALC and the explanations and forms had been sent prior to the meeting to the parish councillors so that for the item that FP and JH had declared an interest, then they could delegate the power to grant dispensations to the clerk.  
DC proposed that that the Council delegates the power to grant dispensations to the Clerk. The power rests with the relevant authority under section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 and the basis is set out under section 33(2).  
JL seconded the proposal and all present were in agreement.  
The clerk was asked to amend the standing orders to cater for this eventuality
  - c. **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

None received
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th May 2014 at 8pm:** DC requested that in future the clerk adds the agenda item when a parish councillor declares an interest. He also requested that less personal information is included and that the parish councillor did not participate in the discussion of the specified item.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2014 at 8pm.** DC asked the clerk about progress on the letter the allotments committee. This has not been done as the clerk did not know who and where to address and send the letter to. DC asked to to send him the letter so he could forward it.
6. **Correspondence:**
  - a. **Items for circulation:** Items circulated
  - b. **Police Report:** None
  - c. **Invitation to attend Service of Commemoration to Mark the Centenary of World War I on 03.08.14 at 11am at St Mary's Church, Warwick.** JH said that he would like to attend and would be accompanied by his wife. The clerk to respond accordingly and the invitation was handed to JH.

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**7. Picnic site: Update of progress of planting and grant applications:** The application to RBC for a grant of £1000 has been successful and the clerk has sent RBC the acceptance form and banking details. DC thanked JL and the clerk for their work in applying for the grant.

The grant of £171 applied for and initially awarded to an individual has now been reallocated to NBPC and the clerk has sent RBC the acceptance form and banking details.

Drainage has been put in at the picnic site and this has unfortunately disturbed the planting of wild flower seeds already sown.

There is a post to stop cars from performing U-turns at the picnic-site.

### **8. Highways**

**a. State of the roads update:** The surface dressing to roads is due this month.

Regarding the proposed changes to speed limits on surrounding roads to reduce speeding cars in Clifton there concern and disappointment that Clifton Parish Council had not involved NBPC in the discussion but was imposing the changes upon us. It was felt that the junction at St Thomas's Cross needs a more radical change than a reduction in speed limits alone. The clerk was asked to organise a meeting with RBC to discuss the issues.

**9. Planning: R14/0781 application for the retention of 1m high boundary fence at 1 Betony Road. Response date 14.07.14. Plans at [www.Planningportal.rugby.gov.uk](http://www.Planningportal.rugby.gov.uk):** After careful consideration and discussion the clerk was asked to contact RBC planning department to object to the application as the height and appearance of the fence is out of character with the general street scene.

### **10. Consultation:**

**a. RBC Local plan: Strategic Land availability Assessment 'call for sites': Housing for gipsy and Traveller. Consultation 30.05.14 to 11.07.14. Details at [www.Planningportal.rugby.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.Planningportal.rugby.gov.uk/localplan):**

the councillors appreciated that there is a real need for land, however there is no available land in Newton. The clerk was asked to respond that there is no land available and the parish council do not own any land to make available.

**b. West Northampton Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): documents available at <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737520> . Response by 5pm 07.08.14:** No response required.

### **11. Finances:**

**a. Statement of accounts:** DC did not participate in this item. The clerk explained that she was concerned about the audit figures and showed that since she took over as clerk the accounts balanced. The internal auditor had suggested some changes to the accounts and the clerk had made the changes as recommended. On that basis AD, with the councillors' agreement, signed the audit form to send to the external auditor.

### **b. Accounts for payment**

- i. Eon street lighting electricity
- ii. Reimbursing Dave Carter for paint for telephone box.
- iii. Clerk's salary
- iv. Clerk's expenses
- v. PAYE

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vi. SLCC renewal

items ii and vi signed and others to be signed when new cheque book issued.

### **12. Items for inclusion in next meeting:**

There is a meeting in Dunchurch regarding WCC cut backs in grass cutting service and DC is to attend.

LED street lighting

Heap of road signs and cones by The Leys

Picnic site signage alterations – clerk to ask WCC immediately.

### **13. Date of next meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at 8pm.

**14. Motion to exclude public:** Two items discussed. Regarding planning item a decision is due shortly and clerk to find out what is happening.

FP and JH did not participate in the next item's discussion, where it was agreed that preliminary talks had taken place but a lot more research into details such as ownership and insurance was needed

Signed

Date