



## Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm in The Good Shepherd church.

1. Present. D. Carter (Chair), F. Preston, A. Davis, I. Davis, R. Crane, A. Warwick (CC)
2. Apologies were received from L. Hunt. PCSO Sharon Bailie had not been invited.
3. DC declared an interest in item 8. His sister in law worked out the clerk's salary. There were no other declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October were not approved. They would need to be approved at the next meeting.
5. Rick Crane had written to the Parish Council expressing an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. It was proposed by DC and seconded by ID that he be co opted as a Parish Councillor. He filled in the Acceptance of office form and filled in the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form.
6. The Leys Development
  - a) Affordable housing. LH was not present to ask about this, the points system and which housing authority would be taking them on. To be kept an agenda item.
  - b) Play equipment. A modified play equipment had been submitted which members were happy with.
  - c) Open space. ID had been approached and asked if the Parish Council would like to adopt this. It was agreed they would and ID agreed to reply to them.
  - d) Transport fund of £100,000 over 5 years would be given by Lioncourt. When AW turned up this was discussed. 3 signatories would be needed for the section 106 agreement – WCC, RBC and Lioncourt. Pedestrian links, the mini bus that is available to villages were all discussed. The bus service from January would be run by ARRIVA from Leicester instead of Stagecoach so it was hoped this would be an improvement. AW agreed to contact WCC. There were plenty of ideas that could be explored.
7. R. Crane agreed to be our second representative on the Clifton and Newton Joint Burial Committee to join FP. They would contact their clerk direct.
8. Precept for 2018/19

It was agreed the following amounts would be included:- Election £1,200, SLCC £80, Clerk £2,500, Payroll services £130 (DC declared an interest in this), WALC £250, Insurance £500, Internal audit £110, External audit £240, eon electricity £400, Village Hall £2,940, Miscellaneous £1,000, Training £500, IT £150, 5 Arches Maintenance £2,000 giving a total of £12,000 for precept 2018/19.

The clerk was asked to query why our tax rate had reduced from 301.06 to 299.63. The calculated tax base for 2018/19 was 299.63. % decrease in Band D equivalent properties was 0.47%. The amount of local council tax support funding 2018/19 would be £28.02.

Grants that had already been agreed to be given towards the 5 Arches Project, the Village Hall improvements, flower bulbs and street light replacement at The Leys would all come from the money already in the bank account.
9. Petty cash fund. DC proposed and everyone agreed a sum of £100 be given to the clerk to pay for stamps, photocopying etc. She would keep a Petty Cash book and ask for more when necessary.
10. Financial report. There was currently £33,166.93 in the bank account. A cheque for £11 had not yet been cashed, cheques totalling £192.49 to be raised. This would leave a total of £32,963.44.



## Newton and Biggin Parish Council

It was agreed a gift voucher for £50 would be given to Sarah Palmer the internal auditor who had worked so hard to put the accounts right for the external audit.

Grant Thornton had just finished their last audit and PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed the new auditor for the next 5 years (2017-2022). Newton fell under the threshold for needing to be audited but all agreed they would prefer to carry on being audited. The new cost had risen to £200 + vat.

The 5 year Insurance Plan with Came and Co. was due to end in June 2018, the clerk was asked to enquire about a further similar plan and its cost.

DC explained the clerk's salary would move up a scale next year.

The Village Hall Committee would need to discuss what developments they planned, this might involve plans being drawn and planning permission being applied for. They were due to meet in January and FP would report back after that. They had not yet had a grant from the Parish Council for 2017/18.

The Burial Committee were currently self financing and no precept was asked for or budgeted for.

ID had spoken to RBC about replacing the lights at The Leys which RBC currently own. RBC were happy for the Parish Council to pay for this and for the PC to adopt them. FP agreed to speak to residents at The Leys about a modern steel standard with normal LED lights. If all happy then quotes could be obtained.

### 11. Cheques for payment

Eon street light electric for December	24.01
H. Miles clerk for November	168.48

Total	192.49
-------	--------

These were approved and signed.

### 12. The date of the next meeting was Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm in Newton Village Hall.

### 13. Matters to be discussed at the next meeting. AD asked for the Jenaway Charity to go on the agenda. Parish Councillors could email the clerk about any other matters to go on the agenda in due course.

The meeting closed at approx. 9.05pm.