

# Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8pm on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at The Village Hall, Newton.

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

FP 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:**

None received
  - c. **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

None received
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 8pm:** The minutes were agreed and signed.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 09<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 8pm.** Regarding the reduction in bus service, the clerk reported that she had spoken to Dave Mathews at WCC. He said that when the X44 service frequency had been reduced he had asked stage coach to extend the No. 9 service from Clifton. This was too expensive. The yellow and green flexi service has been cut from 15 to 11 buses in 2011 so that was not an option. He said that he would look into the matter but was not optimistic of the provision of an extra bus service.
6. **Correspondence:**
  - a. **Items for circulation:** Items circulated
  - b. **Police report – forwarded via email**
  - c. **Neighbourhood planning meeting on 13.11.14 :** DC was going to try to attend
  - d. **Remembrance Day Service:** JH to attend and clerk to accept invitation for him.
7. **Picnic site: Update of progress of planting and grant applications:** FP reported that he was to arrange a meeting at the picnic site but needed a plan and sketch. He was going to borrow a OS map from the library to produce the plan / sketch.
8. **Highways**
  - a. **State of the roads update:** The clerk was asked to bring the following defects to the attention of Daniel Perkins at WCC
    - 1) From St Thomas's Cross heading towards Brownsover along Newton Manor Lane, the road surface is breaking up and needs attention.
    - 2) From St Thomas's Cross heading towards Brownsover, along Newton Manor Lane, where the road dips it was reported that the road is flooding due to a gully being silted up.
    - 3) Along the road towards Triponium Point opposite Coton Farm (150 yards from the A5) there has been a problem with the half the road flooding. These is a new occurrence and could do with checking out.
    - 4) Between the railway and the A5 there has been a large volume of fly tipping, including settees and unfortunately 5 Canadian Geese in plastic bags, which need clearing up.
    - 5) There is also concern at the state of the pavements in Orchard Way and Newton Lane; the paths are cracking up and are in need of attention before their condition deteriorates further.

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- b. LED Street Lights:** JH has researched the possibility of replacing existing street lights with LED lights. The information given is attached as an appendix to these minutes. JH has found that the installation of LED lights would reduce maintenance, reduce electricity usage to 15-20% of current usage. With built in clocks and reduced wattage after 2pm keeping lights on after 2am may be feasible. LED are blue (natural) but colours can be mixed to produce a soft light. The provision of LED lights would be approx. £4000 to £5000 + between £2000 and £3000 to install, and tenders would be sent out to ensure best value.

DC proposed that the council were in principle agreed to considering the issue in more detail. JH is to arrange a meeting between councillors, suppliers and fitters at the village hall.

Other suggestions included reviewing that lights were situated in the correct locations, the work could be phased so that the oldest lights are replaced first.

- c. Bus Service:** Discussed in item 5.

### 9. Planning:

- a. **R14/01872 application for the proposed erection of two storey extension and single storey rear and front at 36 Main Street Newton:** No comment to be made to RBC.

**10. Consultation:** The proposed 30mph/40mph/50mph speed limit in Clifton was discussed again. In addition to previous comments the clerk was asked to add that 50mph was not a safe speed to approach the St Thomas's Cross Junction.

### 11. Finances:

- a. **Statement of accounts:** presented to parish council with bank statements
- b. **Audit Report from External Auditor:** The clerk reported that the accounts for 2013-2014 had been passed by the external auditor. However the clerk was unsure as to which figure should start the accounts in next years audit and the council asked to seek auditor's advice.

### b. Accounts for payment

- i. £120.00 Grant Thornton, external auditor
- ii. £106.68 Eon Street maintenance
- iii. £97.78 Eon street lighting electricity
- iv. £168.00 Clerk's salary
- v. £42.00 PAYE
- vi. £14.10 Midland admin Payroll

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

LED street lighting

Bus service

A request for the council to support a neighbourhood watch scheme had been received. In principle the council would be supportive of a scheme, but similar initiatives have previously fallen by the way side due to lack of participation by residents.

**13. Date of next meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 8pm in village hall.

**14. Motion to exclude public:** The clerk reported back to the council with the approximate costs for additional insurance and the weekly checks that would have to be done and logged to meet the insurance conditions. There would also have to be clear divisions of ownership /responsibility.

Signed

Date