



## Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.30 pm in Newton Village Hall

1. Public recording of proceedings - noted.
2. Present: Jim Hotten (acting as Chair), F. Preston, Ann Davis, Ian Davis, Borough Councillor Leigh Hunt and H. Miles was acting as clerk for the meeting.
3. Apologies were received from D. Carter (Chairman).
4. Declarations of interest - F. Preston declared an interest in the Village Hall.
5. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December were approved and signed. The precept figure agreed at the last meeting had been altered to £12,207.27 by consultation of members out of meeting.
6. Village defibrillator - to be re-agendered to the next meeting.
7. Street lighting  
JH reported that all the street lights had been fitted and were fully working. The engineers had swapped the lamp by the car park at The Leys with another one and no extra costs incurred. The cost of £1,362.00 inc vat for the column in The Paddock (the last one) was retrospectively approved.  
The maintenance contract with eon had been cancelled as the new lights had 7 years warranty on the circuit boards and 9 years on the housing. The bill up to September 2016 had been paid and there would be no further maintenance charges.
8. There was a proposed nomination for the 2017 Queen's Garden Party. ID agreed to speak to the nominees before putting them forward and to liaise with JH.
9. Finance
  - a) All agreed to retrospectively approve the final payment to Eon for the new street lighting (see item 7).
  - b) A letter had been submitted by the Village Hall Committee asking for a precept of £500 to cover painting internal walls and resealing the wooden floors. FP declared an interest and did not take part in the discussions. It was agreed it would be paid at this meeting.
  - c) The Report from the external auditors had been received. Comments included a need to improve the bookkeeping and to keep a better control of finances. There was a conflict of interest having the internal audit carried out by a relation of the Chairman so a new internal auditor would need appointing in future. The cheque for payment had been raised at the last meeting and needed sending off.
10. Electronic banking - to be an agenda item at the next meeting.
11. 2017/18 Capital programme  
DC had circulated this. The two possible proposals were WIFI in the Village Hall (which needed further research) and improvements to the Picnic Site.
12. The clerk vacancy had not been filled. More advertising was needed and all agreed to try to find someone.
13. LH reported on the broadband situation. ID and AD agreed to deliver leaflets about this to residents.
14. St Thomas Cross - LH reported the Transport Reform Group would do nothing about the junction at present but would monitor it when the new DIRFT opened up.
15. LH reported the weight limit signs would not go up until the traffic calming installed at Clifton.



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16. It was agreed a litter pick would be held on Sunday 23rd April. ID agreed to organise borrowing equipment from RBC.
17. Items for inclusion at next meeting.
  - a) Capital projects.
  - b) Defibrillator.
  - c) Moving to electronic banking.
18. The date of the next meeting to be Thursday 2nd March at 7.30 pm. FP to book the hall.
19. The Annual Parish Meeting to be held on either 6th or 13th April - to be confirmed. It would need to be advertised a month in advance.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.