



Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2017 in Newton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

1. Present. D. Carter (Chairman), J. Hotten (Vice-chairman), F. Preston, A. Davis, I. Davis, L. Hunt.

2. Apologies were received from County Councillor Adrian Warwick.

3. D. Carter declared an interest in item 10 on First Aid Courses.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June. 'For full financial report see minutes of 29th June 2017' was added to section 12a. They were then signed as being a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes. Item 7. R17/0841 Development opposite The Leys. Section 5. The question of the section 106 agreement was discussed. This would need to be transport related. Public transport and the junction at St. Thomas Cross were both considerations but a scheme would need to be put together by the partners who are signatories, County Highways and WCC. This is a long term project, probably 2 years at least before anything would happen. It was agreed Adrian Warwick the new county councillor could take this matter on board.

6. Walkers on Victoria Andrews' field. DC had reported it to WCC. 4 weeks later he had received an email asking if the matter had been resolved. DC had spoken to VA who had not heard anything from WCC so DC had emailed her contact details and said the matter was not resolved. VA was also experiencing problems with parking in Pilgrims Lane and would be putting this in writing to the Parish Council.

7. The declarations of Pecuniary Interests forms were filled in by all Parish Councillors. A copy would go on the Parish Council website and a copy would be sent to RBC elections office.

8. It was agreed 4 copies of the Neighbourhood Planning Guide would be purchased at a cost of £3 each. It was not decided whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be made.

9. The Insurance with Came and Co. Was discussed. This was the final year of the 3 year plan. Items to be covered would be street lights £27,000, bus shelter £15,000, 2 x grit bins £580, phone box £1,150, 2 benches £1,100 and £850, office equipment up to £5,000 and defibrillator £5,000.



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An excess of £250 applied. The garden equipment would not be insured due to the high excess. A revised fee of £402.45 would be charged, a new cheque raised and the old one destroyed. This was proposed by DC and seconded by JH.

10. DC had purchased a defibrillator and cabinet. It was agreed the village hall committee could be consulted about where to place it outside the Village Hall and to have it installed before any First Aid and training to use the defibrillator offered. DC declared an interest and did not join in with discussions. JH took the chair for this. It was agreed that the clerk would obtain 3 quotes for First Aid and defibrillator training from St. Johns Ambulance, The Red Cross and The Fire and Rescue Service. It was agreed that ID would draw up a letter/leaflet to go to residents of Newton advertising the course and depending on the response 1 or more courses could be run. This would not be booked to run until after the summer break. JH handed the chair back to DC.

11. Proposed diversion of footpath R107 Newton and Biggin. This had been circulated to members. All agreed they were happy with the plan so no observations would be made.

### 12. Correspondence

A) Advertising posters on activities in Rugby to go on the Village Hall noticeboard.

B) An email had been received from Grant Thornton the Auditors.

i) Variance for the precept showed 10,056 in 2016 and 12,000 in 2017. The clerk had explained this was to build up a fund to cover the cost of new street lights.

ii) Variance for grants had differed between 2016 and 2017. The clerk had explained this was due to what grants were available at the time.

iii) The figures in 2016 had been written with 'restated' above the column. An explanation was asked for. The clerk had pointed out that there had been periods of no clerk which was why the figures had gone wrong and in the letter from Grant Thornton giving observations about the 2016 audit an instruction had been given to put 'restated' by the figures in the column for 2016 for the 2016-2017 audit.

The meeting noted that we have now accumulated a relatively substantial reserve partly as a result of faster than anticipated completions of houses on that part of the Coton estate lying within the Parish. That reserve,



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coupled with anticipated future income, means that we are now in a position to develop a multi-year capital programme. The programme will need to be prioritised and phased and may also be subject to some form of community consultation but initially it was considered that it could contain the following.

### 1. Environmental projects

A) Improvements to the picnic site car park (possibly in partnership with RBC) - JH and ID

B) Improvements to the 'swamp' area of the Great Central Way (in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife – and possibly including developer contributions from Coton) - JH and ID

C) Repair/replacement of steps where the bridleway crosses the northern extension of the GCW – ID and JH

D) Enhancement of the approaches to the Villages – bulb planting, landscaping etc – AD

### 2. Facilities improvements

A) New roof to Village Hall – FP

B) Improved storage facilities at Village Hall – FP

C) New/replacement gazebos for community events – ID?

### 3. New street lights - JH

C) A letter from a resident had been received about bins being left out on Main Street after being emptied on a Monday. The clerk was asked to write to the people concerned about this and a copy of the letter to go to the resident.

The same letter concerned the 7.58 Stagecoach school bus that takes local children to Lawrence Sheriff and Rugby High Schools. It is now sometimes driving past Lawrence Sheriff School and stopping at the old toilet block causing confusion for children waiting to get on and to those getting off. The clerk was asked to write to Stagecoach about this.

### 13. Financial position

The balance at 26.6.17 was £27,498.10 but since then a vat reclaim of £1,653.17 had been made making a total of £29,151.27.



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14. Bills for payment

RBC – supply and fit dog bin 270.12

Came and Co. Insurance 402.45

Total 672.57

This should leave a balance of £28,478.70.

15. The signatories had now been changed. 2 signatories were required for cheques and all parish councillors were now signatories.

16. Matters to be discussed at the next meeting.

A) Capital Program.

17. The date of the next meeting to be Thursday 7th September, 2017 at 7.30pm.

Chairman

7th September 2017