



## Newton and Biggin Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on Thursday 21 February 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Newton

1. Present – Councillors Ian Davis (ID) Chair, Anne Davis (ADa), Frank Preston (FP), Richard Crane (RC) Vice Chair, Clerk Allyson Downes (ADo), Rugby Borough Councillor Leigh Hunt and five members of the public (June Ford, Judith Leggatt, Ray Millward, Geoff Findon and Kate Riley).
2. In Attendance – PC Sharon Bailie-Crabtree – PCSO.
3. Apologies were received from Warwickshire County Councillor Adrian Warwick and Councillor Vanessa Goulborn.
4. Changes to the agenda – The Chair introduced two items missed from the agenda, (I) the Open Session for the Public and (II) the verbal Police Report which would be presented by PC Bailie-Crabtree.
5. There were no declarations of interest expressed.
6. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2019 were agreed with no amendments and signed by the Chair.
7. Matters arising from the minutes:
  - I. The Stag and Pheasant Inn as a Community Asset – The Chair updated the meeting on previous context where the Inn was sold as a going concern and the council lifted the Community Asset designation. June Ford asked if the Inn could be re-instated as a Community Asset to protect its future. The Chair thought this was possible if the PC wished to proceed, but stated that more information on the building's status and plans would be needed before pursuing further.
  - II. Memorial Village Hall – The Chair described progress with the plans for the new Village Hall Roof and the grant to support this from the Rural Development Fund. It was noted that the outcome of the bid would be known around June 2019.
  - III. Five Arches Wildlife Site – It was noted that the wild flower seeding meets the criteria for a Britain in Bloom Award and application forms were awaited from Rugby Borough Council. In response to a previous query regarding plans for a formal opening of the Conservation Area, the Chair agreed to speak to Mike Slater. June Ford said that she was aware of a person who may be prepared to contribute a tree(s).
  - IV. Transport – It was noted that previously, the Chair had agreed to explore changing the day of the Back and Forth mini bus schedule as there was a clash with the village weekly Bacon Butty event. The Chair has raised this issue with the transport providers and it was noted that changing the schedule would not be possible in the near future as this would require fundamental change affecting a much wider geographical area. However, the PC noted that the transport firm would certainly take this into account when reviewing the schedule in future.



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Judith Leggatt referred to her continuing concerns about the inadequacy of public transport in the village. It was noted that the present service relied on a developer subsidy and may well end when it is exhausted. Clifton also relied on a subsidy (in this case public) for its service. There followed a discussion about what future bus services might look like - probably something more flexible and cheaper, like Back and Forth. The Chair reported that he was aware of a conference looking at the future of public transport in Stratford District supported by County, District and Parish Councils, WALC, WRCC etc. He was hoping something similar could be promoted in Rugby. Councillor Leigh Hunt expressed her support.

8. New Residents Pack – Rick Crane reported that he and Frank Preston had met and reviewed existing information. It was noted that out of date information had been removed, but there remained 12 pages of useful information for new residents. It was agreed that:
  - I. The Clerk would create a new link on the PC website to signpost people to the information pack and upload the information when it was updated – Clerk.
  - II. The Parish Council would provide a hard copy pack for new residents – Councillors.
  - III. The Parish Council would offer a hard copy pack for residents on request via the PC website – Clerk.
9. Police Matters – The Chair thanked PCSP Sharon Bailie-Crabtree for attending the meeting. PC Bailie-Crabtree reported that PO Rachel Smith was newly recruited and would attend a meeting in future. PC Bailie-Crabtree also reported on:
  - I. Off-road biking with increasing prevalence on the Great Central Way. It was noted that information around timing of the incidents would be helpful so the police can target patrols. The PC would endeavour to co-ordinate collection of this data and share with the police.
  - II. Incidents in Coton and Clifton – it was noted that there had been significant criminal activity details of which will be in the Police Newsletter to follow. It was noted that garden sheds were a particular target.
  - III. Parking on the road in Clifton – Councillor Hunt raised the issue of increasing incidents of parking on the road in Clifton. The police representative noted this and committed to include in patrols.
10. Public Issues
  - I. Weight limits through Newton Village – June Ford raised the issue of increasing incidents whereby weight limits within the village are being exceeded. There was a wide ranging discussion on the reasoning behind these alleged breaches, which in the main appear to be the result of the extension of the perimeter of the weight limit and the impact of moving signage. It was noted that the installation of repeater signage



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was not within the regulations. Residents were asked to take 'photos of breaches to enable identification of operators. The Clerk would invite residents to provide this evidence via an article in a future newsletter and the website. The Chair described his previous discussions with operators and described how they took this issue very seriously and once data was available he would pick this up with them as appropriate.

- II. June Ford said that consideration was being given to planting a 'Community Orchard' on vacant land at the Townsend Allotments and asked if the Parish Council wish to contribute. In the absence of further information the matter was not put to the vote but general support was expressed and the Council looks forward to receiving further information from the Trustees.
  - III. June Ford raised the ongoing issues associated with the St Thomas junction. The Chair described the minor works that had taken place thus far and the continuance to press for accurate data to inform the expenditure of the DIRFT 3 pot of money which could prompt further works. Whilst DIRFT 3 buildings are not open yet, which is when the expenditure will be available, it will be necessary to be able to show evidence of impact on the junction and the Parish Council would continue to request that WCC undertakes survey work to evidence any increase in traffic as DIRFT 3 is developed.
11. Notice Board – It was agreed to refurbish the Parish Notice Board rather than purchase a new one. The Chair agreed to raise with Mike Durville to undertake the refurbishment work.
  12. Newsletter – The draft newsletter and distribution plan was discussed and it was agreed that the newsletter would focus on Newton Village. It was also agreed to upload it onto the website.
  13. Parish Council Standing Orders – The Clerk introduced the Parish Council Standing Orders, which had been reviewed and circulated to Councillors. There were no changes and these were adopted by the Council. It was noted that the agreed Standing Orders formed part of the Village Hall Roof grant from the Rugby Development fund.
  14. Financial Position – The Clerk introduced the Parish Council financial position. It was noted that expenditure had been validated against the most recent Bank Statement. The following financial position was noted:



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### Current financial position as at 21 February 2019

**Bfwd from statement 87** **30,593.44**

### Cheques drawn and on statement 88 dated 01 February 2019

359	Eon Lighting The Leys £2K +20% VAT	3000
360	Xmas base	38.35
361	Cheque previously reported	
362	Web development	90
363	Clerk salary Nov	181.06
364	Tax Oct	28.6
365	Tax Nov	41
366	Eon Lighting Nov 2018	27.29
367	Cancelled	0
368	Eon Lighting Dec 2018	28.2

**Balance on Statement 88 dated 01 February 2019** **27,158.94**

### Cheques not drawn

369	Clifton and Newton Joint Burial Committee	514
370	Petty Cash	100
371	Eon Lighting Jan 2019	30.54
372	Salary Services Clerk (Dec 2018 & Jan 2019)	440.29
373	HMRC Tax	101.4

**Sub total** **1,184.78**

**Balance as at 21 February 2019** **25,972.71**

### Predicted expenditure up until end of financial year 2018/19

Lighting - Feb and March 2019	60
Clerks salary - Feb and March 2019 & HMRC	541.69
WALC training	100
Increase in street lighting costs	50
New Notice Board	1500

**Total** **2,251.69**

**Predicted Balance at year end 31 March 2019** **23,721.02**



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15. Capital Plan – The Chair outlined the capital plan focusing on the Village Hall refurbishment.

### Capital Plan 2019/20

1. Reserves		£
	Predicted Balance at end of 2018/19 - circa	24,000
	Contribution from 2019/20 Budget	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£29,000</b>
2. Commitments		
	Maintain unallocated reserve (in line with good practice)	12,000
	Open space, street furniture and other improvements	6,000
	Internal improvements to Village Hall	6,000
	Replacement roof to Village Hall (£12,000 less RBC Rural Development Fund £7,000)	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£29,000</b>

16. Web Development Retainer – It was agreed to pay Web Growth a £30 per month retainer for three months to ensure the continued development of the Parish Council website.
17. Litter Pick – It was agreed that the date of the Newton Annual Litter Pick would be Sunday 7 April 2019. The Clerk would ensure the parish is signed up to the Rugby Litter Pick Programme and the National Keep Britain Tidy campaign to not only register the event, but take advantage of any support material. She would also ensure that the local event is shared in the newsletter and on the website.
18. Registration of Allotments – Frank Preston described progress on registration of the Newton allotments. It was noted that this was now resolved and the allotments were now formally owned by the Newton Parish Council and were a Community Asset. The Parish Council are responsible for Solicitors fees associated with this registration and it was noted that this would be in the region of £600 and would be met by the Council.
19. Items for next meeting – Stag and Pheasant Inn as a Community Asset. Apologies from Rick Crane were noted.
20. The next meeting is on Thursday 21 March 2019 in the Newton Village Hall at 7.30pm.
21. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Ian Davis – Chair

Allyson Downes - Clerk

Date: 25 February 2019