



Minutes of the Newton and Biggin Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 27 April 2022 at 6.45pm

Ref	Minute	Record and Resolution	Action by
1	APM2023/0001	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The Chair of the Parish Council outlined the purpose of the Parish Meeting and welcomed those present. He explained that the Annual Parish Meeting originated in a very different era and that the format should be reviewed for 2024 to encourage community participation and attendance.</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Ian Davis (Chair,) Councillors Bob Threadgold, Anne Davis, Andy Newnham. County Councillor Adrian Warwick, Rugby Brough Councillor Eve Hassell and Rebecca Barry, Clerk.</p> <p>Members of Public - There were six members of the public and community groups present.</p>	
2	APM2023/0002	Apologies for absence- Cllr Rick Crane	
3	APM2023/0003	The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.	
4	APM2023/0004	<p>Report from Chair of Newton and Biggin PC, Ian Davis</p> <p>The Chair gave a brief overview of what the Parish Council has done in 2022-23 covering the administrative side of the council, operational matters and celebrations; and also a look at the year ahead with the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan and improvements to the Five Arches Wildlife Site.</p> <p>The report can be read in full on the Parish Council website http://www.newtonparishcouncil.org.uk/annual-parish-meeting-2023/</p>	
5	APM2023/0005	<p>Update from Warwickshire County Councillor Adrian Warwick</p> <p>Cllr Warwick referred to the various projects on which he had worked to support the Parish Council such as securing funding for improvements to St. Thomas Cross signage.</p> <p>He explained the severe budgetary pressures arising from the escalating costs of funding critical services principally Adult Social Care and Special Educational Needs (SEN). The County Council are near breaking point but has set the precept at 3.9% (below the maximum) to reflect the cost-of-living crisis. The Warm Hub grants have offered useful areas of support for local communities. Funding has been secured from the government for potholes. The success of the Homes for Ukraine scheme was celebrated.</p> <p>Cllr Warwick closed by thanking the Parish Council for being constructive to work with and together we are able to achieve a lot. Schemes in Newton, such as Five Arches sire, are helping to keep people fit and healthy and support wellbeing.</p>	
6	APM2023/0006	Update from Rugby Borough Councillor Eve Hassell	

		<p>Cllr Hassell reported on development for Rugby town centre; 90 council 'eco' houses are being built; and plans for Coronation celebrations in Caldecott Park with a big screen. She also reported that there had been thefts of tools in Newton and Clifton and that the police were aware. Sessions to engrave tools can be arranged if required.</p>	
7	APM2023/0007	<p>Informal updates from village groups and organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Allotments – Andy Newnham on behalf of Rick Crane Townland Garden association situated at the bottom of Little London Lane is the second oldest allotment site in the Country founded in 1757. There are 34 plots all of which are currently occupied – with a small waiting list. Annual fees are £15 which covers membership and insurance. Yearly income is circa £500 – we are run as a 'break even' organisation as the fees cover water rates, insurance and general maintenance of the site. We currently have reserves of £1200 which is set aside for any extraordinary expenditure. The trustees (of which there are six) are currently in discussion about planting a mini orchard, plum/pear/apples, at the far end of the allotment site.</p> <p>• Clifton and Newton Joint Burial Committee – Andy Newnham on behalf of Rick Crane The committee meet regularly to discuss the upkeep, burial requests and finances of Cemetery which is located on Newton Road heading toward Clifton. The closed section from the lychgate to the first hedge is actually owned and maintained by RBC and contains some Commonwealth war graves. The open cemetery is owned and maintained by C&NJBC which consists of 2 Councillors from each Parish plus a clerk. A groundsman is employed to ensure the land is maintained to a high standard. Last year there were a total of 3 new Earthen Plots, 4 new Ashes plots and 6 Re-open of Earthen plots. 95% of expenditure is spent on the groundsman and the clerk's wages averaging just over £4k whereas burials and interments account for all the income...normally just under £5k p.a. As income management is variable there have been occasions when the committee have had to request funds from both Parish Councils to cover fixed costs.</p> <p>• Elkington, Cockerill & Sherrier Trust - Anne Davis The trust was established many years ago and continues to provide help and support to residents of Newton and Shawell. Whilst the charity is small, it has substantial funds. The charity has met, and leaflets have been hand-delivered throughout Newton and Shawell to raise awareness of the charity. Very sadly, the longstanding Chairman, Paul Broadbent, passed away earlier this month and Kersh van Laar has now taken over the position. If anyone needs any further information, please contact either Anne Davis or Dilys Lewis. Details are on the noticeboard or on the Parish Council website http://www.newtonparishcouncil.org.uk/useful-links/</p> <p>• Village Events Committee - Tillie Newman The Committee aimed to put on an event every month and these included the Jubilee; Ukrainian tea party; jumble sales; craft fair; egg hunt; Xmas carols; pantomime; Live and Local; Ken the Postie leaving event. This year they plan to follow the same trajectory and have events planned for the Coronation and an open gardens event. Engagement with the new estate is improving. The Chair pass on his thanks to the committee for their efforts.</p> <p>• Active Ageing (aka Curling and Cuppa) – Anne Davis on behalf of June Ford</p> 	

'The fastest hour of the week' is what players say! This light-hearted interactive hour abounds with good humour and many a laugh. Curling initiated in Autumn 2019 and is a weekly favourite with numbers increasing to double the 2022 levels (circa 24 players). These players are a diverse group of mixed abilities and ages from within the local parish and beyond, who extend a warm welcome to newcomers. With lots of banter this sociable team event promotes inclusivity, boosts confidence levels and is a fun packed competitive activity, The service is provided by RBC through our resident entertainer and coach, Danny. It's held on Thursday afternoons between 2 and 3pm for a nominal donation of £1 per person. Hot drinks and a slice of cake are provided to add to the enjoyment and maintain energy levels. Many thanks to RBC, Danny, Tom and all involved in the organising, plus out fun-loving curlers. Thanks also to the parish council who spotted the opportunity and subsidised the event.

- **Craft Club – Anne Davis on behalf of Jane Morgan**

Usually the second Tuesday in the month 2pm – 4pm and 7pm – 9pm. Sadly, following an accident, we've only managed Feb, March and April 2pm – 4pm since last August. Will stick to the afternoon sessions for the time being but hope to have evening sessions by August. Held in the church at a cost of £1.50 which goes towards church, materials and refreshments. Between 10 and 16 people usually attend in the afternoon, and 6 to 7 in the evening.

- **Morsbagging – Anne Davis on behalf of Jane Morgan**

Takes name from Clare Morsman, who started the project. Usually the same week as the craft club. Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am – 4pm. Sadly this has not happened since August 2022. Will get going as soon as I can. It is a free activity usually with 5 to 6 people. A great way to unwind, especially emotionally.

- **Bacon Butties – Anne Davis on behalf of Jane Morgan**

Meet weekly on a Wednesday morning between 10 and 12. Volunteer led. £1.50 for a bacon butty and 50p for a drink. Money goes to pay for food and the church for heating, lighting etc. Between 10 and 34 people, but numbers are very hard to predict. Lovely atmosphere and a great place for sharing information.

- **Live and Local – Tillie Newnham**

Two events were held last year – Jazz of Dudley Moore and Music of Parisien Cafes. These were well attended. This year the hope is to have a broader range of events.

- **Good Shepherd Church – Ian Davis**

A new vicar – Rev Capt Peter Bone. The church is for the joint parishes of Newton, Brownsover and Clifton. Services are held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 6pm led by Dr Peter Kent; and the 3rd Sunday of the month a communion service led by Peter Bone.

- **Coton Park Residents Association (CPRA) – Ian Davis on behalf of Dean Welburn**

Ian Davis explained that a large portion of the Coton estate falls into the Newton and Biggin parish, and the PC has contributed to the funding of events in Coton. CRPA held their AGM in Newton Village Hall this month.

In 2022/23 CPRA held a number of events such as litter picks; Easter egg hunt; Jubilee; Xmas carols and Santa tour. They have also dealt with community issues such as dog control issues; grass cutting & public amenities; parking; defibrillator. Similar events are planned for this year.

8	APM2023/0008	Questions - None	
9	APM2023/0009	The meeting closed at 7.25pm. The date and time of the next Assembly will be confirmed in due course.	

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