

# NEWTON IN THE ISLE

## PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

All members are reminded that they will need to declare any personal or prejudicial interest and reason before an item discussed at this meeting under the Model Code of Conduct Order 2001 No 3576.

### **Present**

Cllr's D Gibbs, G Wilkinson, S Clark, D Nunn and Cllr S King and P Wilkinson (clerk) A resident also attended

### **168/19 Apologies**

Cllr's R Moore, E Jones, J Hoyles and Cllr C Seaton. (FDC)

### **169/19 Public Forum**

The Resident had concerns that the wildflower meadow within the Playing field was not being managed, the weeds growing within the area were seeding and causing problems within his adjoining garden. The Chairman stated that this area would be cut shortly and it would be properly managed from next spring. It was suggested that a grass swathe around the wildflower area may help. The Chairman assured the resident that this matter would be dealt with. The resident left the meeting at this point.

### **170/19 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman stated that a number of courses were being offered which the Councillors may find helpful. Local Plan Consultation and Training sessions were being held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, Councillors would have the opportunity to feed in input for their Parish which had not been possible in the past.

### **171/19 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were approved as a true record and signed.
- b) *Matters arising*  
No matters arising
- c) Planning meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July was also accepted as a true record  
No matters arising.

### **172/19 County and District Reports**

Cllr King (CCC) explained that 263 Parishes had signed up to participate in the Highway Infrastructure Winter Gritting Scheme for this year. Cllr King explained that there was a possibility of Capital Funding being made available for local parishes for community projects

The potholes were being dealt with, however the Chairman suggested that it maybe more practical to repair all the potholes at one time if Parish Councils were told when the dragon patcher was due. Potholes could then be reported in advance and all completed at one time.

Cllr Clark again reiterated the importance of the Parish input to the Local Plan Consultation which could affect the Parish.

## 173/19 Police Matters

Police are keeping watch for Hare Coursing which was on the increase and asked that any suspicious activity be reported.

## 174/19 Reports

### a) *Highways*

Fencing repaired near pond at Roman Bank. The owner of a property in Mill Lane has been asked to cut his hedge back at the junction of Fen Road/Mill Lane as the vision of oncoming traffic was impaired. Pot holes continued to be monitored and reported. LHI Bid for 2020 was completed and submitted. Councillor Clark was to query Cambridgeshire Highways as to when the white lines along the High Road would be completed. Cllr King stated that due to work at Sutton Bridge an increase of heavy traffic would be using the Sutton Road and signs stating unsuitable for heavy vehicles would be put in place at the Chapel Lane junction.

### b). *Village Hall*

No Village hall report submitted, however the kitchen refurbishment was near completion

### c) *Playing Field*

The application for Grant Aid to install outdoor fitness equipment for adult use was not successful on this occasion

Bird boxes to be discussed and bought with grant.

Three incidents of vandalism raised the Fire Brigade had dealt with a tree which had been set alight, and a fire in the dyke was dealt with before it became a serious problem. Various signs had been broken in the play area and on the entrances. These had already been replaced by Cllr Wilkinson. After much discussion it was proposed that if the bike ramps were replaced, input from the children who use the field could help design an updated track that they may find more enjoyable, this may help to alleviate problems. Cllr Gibbs would contact parents to discuss this issue. Cllr King suggested that Cllr Clark contact (Phil Hughes) from Leisure Facilities at FDC or County Community Development Officer Dan Hall for advice.

Two damaged branches had been removed. Cllr Gibbs was to discuss playing field dyke with the Internal Drainage Board on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September and report back at next meeting.

### d) *Streetscape.*

A tree in Colville Road previously reported had been dealt with by the Highways Department. Cllr Moore had also organised the topping of a cherry tree in Goodens Lane Remaining budget for tree maintenance £372.00

*Handyman* - Query raised that the grass areas had not recently been cut. Clerk queried that no invoice had been submitted for any work undertaken since the last council meeting. Cllr Moore would be asked to report back at the next meeting on tasks already completed. The Chairman proposed that Cllrs also suggest tasks for the winter months to be discussed at the November meeting.

Newton Street Pride had placed two planters on the High Road near Boors Farm. Two more would be placed near the seat on High Road/ Fen Road corner. Query raised on the condition of planter near village sign.

### e) *Allotments and Public Rights of Way.*

Cllr Nunn explained that he spoken to the allotment holder regarding the continuation of his tenancy, he agreed that work was needed to bring the allotment up to the required standard and that he also wished to continue his tenancy. The Councillor's agreed to offer a six-month tenancy until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 when the tenancy would be re assessed. Clerk would write to tenant.

Cllr Nunn again pointed out that the state of Black Dyke bridge still required attention to the footway which remained very slippery for walkers and riders. Cllr King suggested that Cllr Nunn send him details by email regarding the situation.

*f) Emergency Plan*

Cllr Jones circulated second draft document to the Cllrs. Priority was to be given to a plan for Severe Winter Conditions and allocation of roles for persons outside of the council itself. The Cllrs accepted the second draft Emergency Plan, the Chairman recommended this should be discussed at the November meeting as an agenda item, proposing that we attempt to enlist persons for the roles of Community Emergency Coordinator, Vulnerable Persons Coordinator, Emergency Resources Coordinator and Village Hall Coordinator, identifying two coordinators for each level as a lead and backup.

*g) Correspondence*

Members Services  
Rural Services Network News  
Rural Bulletins  
Public Services  
Town and Country Newsletter  
Community Gritting Scheme 2019/20 applications  
CAPALC Bulletin  
FDC Property Auctioneers  
Cambridgeshire Acre Conference reminder 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Cllr King – Innovate & Cultivate Funding  
Local Transport Plan consultation September 27<sup>th</sup>  
Letter of thanks for donation received from MAGPAS Air Ambulance  
Planning application

**175/19 Finance Report**

Business Reserve a/c £12033.30 including interest in September £6.00  
Community a/c £12035.52  
Playing Field (P/F) Grant £1128.55  
Income includes  
Concurrent Function Grant £1280.00

*Invoices for payment approval*

Fenland Leisure Products £556.80 including £92.80 vat cheque no 100637  
Kelkay Ltd Anchor Fast, £630 including £105.00 vat from P/F grant cheque no 100638  
Village Hall Hire 29<sup>th</sup> July Planning £10 + September 10<sup>th</sup> Full meeting £20 total £30 cheque no 100639  
Signs for Less replacement signs for play area, £29.70 including £4.95 vat cheque no 100640  
D Large tree maintenance £200.00 cheque no 100641

*i) Resolved to approve payment of five invoices total of £1446.50 Cllrs all agreed to approve payment*

Street light in Chapel Lane damaged while householder cut down a large tree requiring urgent repair work to make light safe at a cost of £136.00. Completion of repair, quoted as £261.63 bringing the total cost to £397.63. The Parish Council has responsibility for this street light, the householder would therefore be approached to compensate the Parish Council for the cost of repair. Clerk to write to householder.

**176/19 Items for Decisions**

*Cllr Check Play Equipment* - Cllr Wilkinson agreed to continue monitoring equipment.

### *Village Hall*

The majority of the Councillors also being members of the Village Hall Management Committee declared a prejudicial interest in this agenda item. Two of the three absent Councillors were also Village Hall committee members.

The Chairman stated that while testing the water, Anglia Water had discovered that the water exceeded the lead content minimum. New piping was essential at a cost of £500.00 in order to reconnect the main supply safely. The Village Hall Management Committee asked the Councillors if they would consider payment for the replacement piping. The two Councillors present who were not members Village Hall Management committee proposed that the Parish Council cover the cost of the £500 for the repairs., Proposed by Cllr Clark and agreed by Cllr Nunn

*ii) Resolved to approve payment of repairs and reconnection to the water main at the village hall at cost of £500.00. All Councillors approved payment*

*Street Light Survey - Still awaiting report*

### *Pub Survey*

Cllr Nunn circulated to Cllrs the draft Village Pub Survey previously prepared by Cllr Nunn and Cllr Wilkinson. Cllr Gibbs asked if he could check the survey and would contact Cllr Nunn before distribution. The pub grounds were looking very neglected, it is also approaching two years since the Woadmans pub closure. Cllr King suggested that Cllr Clark should contact Fenland District Council. The Parish Council should also write to Fenland District Council to remind them of their legal powers regarding the Woadmans Public House.

**177/19 Date of Next meeting** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm

### **177/19 Planning Application Amendments**

F/YR17/1167/0 Land South of Churchill Lodge Roman Bank

Due to short notice received from the Planning Department (September 2<sup>nd</sup>) and comments required by September 10<sup>th</sup> this was discussed with some urgency at the full Council meeting. Amendment to the plans included incorporation of acoustic fencing and triple glazing. The Cllrs had no objections or further comments. Clerk would contact the Planning Department

Meeting closed at 9.45pm