

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2020 via Videoconference

Present: Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Russel Bower, Rita Schwenk and Laura Smith.

Attending: Lee Parker (Babergh District Council), James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 1 resident.

20/261 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Taylor (no broadband) and Cllr Vince (work commitments) sent their apologies.

20/262 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

20/263 Minutes of Meeting held on 14th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors who resolved that the minutes should be digitally signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20/264 Public Forum

Lee Parker updated councillors on Babergh's support grant for businesses paying rates, the Home and Not Alone service, the forthcoming Joint Local Plan consultation, Babergh's Bio Diversity Plan, and the 6.78 years Five Year Supply of housing. Councillors reviewed James Finch's previously submitted report and he updated councillors on COVID-19, grants being provided to the support network in Suffolk, the Suffolk support and advice service, SCC's objection to the Sizwell C planning application and the undersea options being considered for the electricity generated by the offshore wind farms. Councillors agreed that the Clerk apply for James Finch's Locality Budget grant in support of the new bus shelter required by Links View.

20/265 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated by the Clerk since the last meeting, the councillors agreed to a policy for responding to a resident that regularly writes to NPC over issues. After an update from Lee Parker, the councillors were happy to let Babergh review an allegation regarding a business operating from a dwelling. An issue raised regarding the ownership of a hedge was considered to be outside the scope of NPC's powers and duties.

20/266 Clerk's Report

Following a review of the Clerk's report (Appendix A), there were no further actions requested of the Clerk.

20/267 Finance

- a. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix B), were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also authorised a payment of £40,949.04 to Tennis 2000 and a payment of £754.91 to Came & Co to increase the insurance cover to include the MUGA and Play Equipment. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget and the bank reconciliation against the bank statements.
- b. Cllr Presland is still awaiting confirmation that Cllr Bower and himself have been added to the authorised account signatories for NPC's bank accounts at Barclays. He has also requested that the correspondent for the bank accounts be changed from himself to the Clerk.

20/268 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/20/04701 Valley Farm, Valley Road -** Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 2

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(Approved Plans and Documents) of planning permission DC/18/00101 (Conversion of timber framed barn and adjoining brick granary to dwelling house.) and noted the application.

- b. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/20/04696 Valley Farm, Valley Road** - Application under Section 19 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Listed Building Consent DC/18/00102 (Conversion of timber framed barn and adjoining brick granary to dwelling house) and noted the application.
- c. No further planning application had been received since the agenda was posted requiring a response before the next meeting.
- d. Hastoe has updated NPC that they have now purchased the land for the development off Alston Close and will update NPC with the start date shortly.
- e. The councillors reviewed the status of previous applications, appeals and enforcement referrals (Appendix C).

20/269 Neighbourhood Plan

The issues raised in the Regulation 14 consultation on Newton's draft Neighbourhood Plan have now been reviewed by the Steering Group and consultant and modifications are now being incorporated into the draft. The Steering Group are also producing a Consultation Statement and the consultant is producing a Basic Conditions Statement. Following final proof reading, it is hoped that the Final Draft NP will be completed ahead of the next NPC meeting where it can be reviewed for submission to the Regulation 16 phase of the NP process. Cllr Presland thanked the members of the Steering Group and the Clerk for their efforts in getting the Plan to this stage.

20/270 Recreation Ground

Cllr Presland updated councillors that the installation of the MUGA will reach the end of the first phase of installation on the 13th November 2020. There will be further painting of the tarmac surface in April 2021. The councillors agreed the wording of the sign for the MUGA which will be produced by Tennis 2000. The councillors resolved that the MUGA will not be opened for use until the installation of the Play Equipment is complete, which is planned to be the end of December 2020. The Clerk was asked to purchase two locks and chains for the MUGA gates. Ahead of the next meeting the Clerk and Cllr Presland will review:

- the Risk Assessment and Inspection checklist for the MUGA and Play Equipment
- storage of the tennis equipment
- booking system for the MUGA.

20/271 Speed Sign

NPC are still awaiting feedback from SCC Highways on the installation of posts for the SID which Cllr Bower will now chase.

20/272 SCC Boundary Review

The councillors reviewed the draft response to the SCC Boundaries consultation (Appendix D) and resolved that it be sent to the Boundary Commission.

20/273 Assets

With Cllr Taylor not present at the meeting, the Clerk was asked to contact him regarding the Trust's views on paying for the replacement of the commemorative oak tree marking the parish council service of John Taylor. The Village Sign will need to be fully inspected before a decision on its refurbishment is made.

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The councillors reviewed the options for the replacement of the bus shelter by Links View. They resolved that the replacement shelter should be the same design as the one opposite the Saracens Head. They also agreed that it should be placed to the left of the existing one (closer to Sudbury) with a path across the grass to the kerb on the A134. This would enable the existing shelter to be used until the new one is installed. The Clerk was asked to contact SCC for a quotation for the works.

20/274 Car Charging Point

The councillors resolved that an application be made to Suffolk 2020 for a car charging point to be installed in the village. Subject to confirmation from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), it was hoped that an installation in the Village Hall car park would be acceptable. Cllr Schwenk will liaise with the VHMC.

20/275 Christmas Tree

The councillors resolved to accept Ged Fisher's kind donation of a metal Christmas tree to the village. The councillors also agreed a budget of £200 for the lights which it is hoped can be powered via the Saracens Head. The Clerk to write to thank Mr Fisher for his generous donation.

20/276 Village Hall and Trust updates

Cllr Schwenk updated councillors that the Village Hall is still closed. Cllr Presland updated councillors that the principle of an electrical supply for the Recreation Ground being separately and safely installed from the Village Hall had been proven by a local electrical contractor. The Clerk will now obtain a further 2 quotations in order for a solution to be agreed with the VHMC and the Trust.

20/277 Questions to the Chair

No issues

20/278 Next Meeting

The next scheduled NPC meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th December 2020, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

Appendix A Clerk's Report

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
20/240	Awaiting T&C's for RoSPA's post installation inspection from All Play Solutions.	
20/245	Minutes sent to Newsletter and updated on website.	✓
20/246	Applications made for SCC and BDC Locality Grants.	✓
20/249 b	Payments made to suppliers, individuals and organisations.	✓
20/250	Planning response sent to Babergh.	✓
20/249 b	Donation made to Poppy Appeal.	✓
	Clerk's Delegated Power	
	Nothing to report since last meeting.	
	Clerk Hours	
	Up until 1st November 2020 - 419.25 hours worked / 405 hours paid.	

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NEWTON PARISH COUNCILMinutes of meeting held on 11th November 2020 via Videoconference**Appendix B RFO Report****Receipts & Payments**

Date	Details	Cheque	Power	Receipts	Payments
07/09/20	Bank Interest	BS1		1.54	0.00
14/10/20	RBL Poppy Appeal - Donation	101256	Localism Act 2011 ss 1 to 8	0.00	100.00
07/09/20	Bank Interest	BS1		7.86	0.00

Bank Reconcillation

Account	Statement Date	Statement Balance	Actual Balance	Unpresented Cheques	Credits not shown	Difference
Community	30/09/20	£100.00				
Premium Accounts	30/09/20	£48,672.66	£56,975.00	£3,593.10	£11,795.44	£0.00
Tracker Account	30/09/20	£1,164.96	£1,164.96	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		£49,937.62	£58,139.96	£3,593.10	£11,795.44	

Actual v's Budget

	Budget	Actual		Reserves	Budget	Actual
Assets B/F		£52,445.88				
Income			Expenditure			
Precept	£10,258.00	£10,258.00	Clerks Salary		£11,556.40	£7,017.70
Grants	£0.00	£4,505.00	Admin		£1,900.00	£509.54
Recycling	£400.00	£760.62	Donations		£800.00	£300.00
CIL / Other	£5,000.00	£18,421.87	Annual Subscriptions		£602.00	£260.87
Bank Interest	£25.00	£26.59	Footpath Maintenance		£300.00	£0.00
VAT Repayment	£0.00	£1,419.14	Insurance		£320.00	£331.40
			Inspection		£380.00	£380.00
			Maintenance		£2,000.00	£297.29
			Projects		£1,400.00	£16,051.40
			CIL / Other	£24,448.12	£4,000.00	£0.00
			Village Hall		£165.00	£0.00
			VAT Paid		£0.00	£3,950.38
			Contingency		£500.00	£0.00
			NNP	£5,505.00	£0.00	£598.56
Total	£15,683.00	£35,391.22	Total	£29,953.12	£23,923.40	£29,697.14
			Assets Carried Forward			£58,139.96
Total		£87,837.10	Total			£87,837.10

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Appendix C Planning Status

BDC Ref	Application	NPC Ref	NPC Response	BDC Response
APP/D3505/W/20/3252989	Appeal against refusal of DC/20/00019 Woodean, Links View - Erection of 1no. dwelling and creation of vehicular access.	20/209c	Now object to the original planning application.	Appeal Dismissed 02/11/2020
DC/20/03337	Site Of Former Red House Farm, Sudbury Road - Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) on planning permission DC/18/00190 (to facilitate changes to house types, interior accommodation and other minor changes).	20/232a	Support	
DC/20/03810	Perrywood Garden Centre, Newton Road - Erection of a new garden centre building (Use Class A1) including restaurant, enclosed and open canopies and outdoor sales area. Erection of a glasshouse and store. Partial demolition of and erection of an extension to the existing garden centre building (to be used for Use Classes A1 and B1). Erection of a replacement potting shed. External alterations of the existing barn. Erection of electricity sub-stations and an electricity distribution building. Provision of landscaping, car parking areas, wildlife area and outdoor events space.	20/250a	Support	
DC/20/03914	Marks Meadow, Rectory Road - Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval DC/20/00859 (Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered all other matters reserved) - Erection of 3no. dwellings with garages and creation of new access) - Phased development details for Landscaping, Design and Scale for Plot 1 only.	20/250b	Support	
DC/20/03968	Valley Farm, Valley Road - Application for Listed Building Consent - Alteration to existing vehicular access and demolition of front wall, installation of hard surfaced driveways, patio areas and boundary treatments as detailed in the Design and Access Statement and accompanying plans.	20/250c	Support	
DC/20/04179	Hills Barn, Sudbury Road - Erection of a single-storey detached cartlodge.	20/250d	Support	
DC/20/04199	Buckledee Cottage, Assington Road - Erection of single storey rear conservatory extension.	20/250e	Support	

Appendix D SCC Ward Boundaries response

“The Commission proposes to reduce the number of Councillors in Suffolk from 75 to 70. However, the predicted growth of the population means that councillors’ workloads will be increasing. In that light, we feel it would have made more sense to increase or maintain the number of councillors in Suffolk rather than decreasing it.

We also have concerns over the quantity of parishes within each division and the workload that will entail. Although the make-up of rural divisions has always differed from urban ones, the difference is now even more marked as divisions have increased in size. The proposed division of Cosford, for example, holds 20 parishes. We question how a councillor can effectively do the workload pertaining to 20 different parishes, including attending 20 meetings, when a councillor in Great Cornard (for example) need only concern themselves with one.

The geographical distance between villages in some divisions is also of concern, for example in the proposed division of Clare the distance between Wixoe in the south west and Bradfield St George in the north east is 21 miles. If we return to the pre-Covid system of face-to-face meetings we pity the poor councillor who has to drive for 40 minutes between the two to attend meetings scheduled on the same evening.

In other proposed divisions the collection of parishes does not always complement each other. The proposed division of Constable is one example: villages such as Wissington in the west are not natural neighbours to villages such as Bentley and others east of the A12; they have little in common geographically or historically.

The draft recommendation for Newton is that it falls within the electoral division of Stour Valley; this is satisfactory to Newton Parish Council as it sits comfortably with other parishes within that division (Assington, Leavenheath, Bures St Mary, Great Waldingfield, Little Cornard, Acton and Chilton).”

End of Appendices

Signed _____

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