

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 14th February 2024 at Newton Village Hall

Present: Councillors David Everett (Chairman), Ian Cole, Louise Evers, Janys Sherwood, Rita Schwenk, Laura Smith and Philip Taylor.

Attending: Dave Crimmin (Clerk).

24/019 Apologies for Absence

Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor) and James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor) sent their apologies.

24/020 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

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

24/021 Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2024

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

24/022 Public Participation

The councillors reviewed James Finch's previously submitted report.

24/023 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated by the Clerk, the councillors requested the Clerk to obtain a free portrait of the King from the Governmental Portal.

24/024 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)

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

24/025 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/24/00246 Valley Farm House, Valley Road** - Proposed boundary treatments following receipt of Breach of Planning Conditions letter EN/22/00206 (re-submission of DC/23/03649) and resolved to support the application.
- b. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/24/00389 Otium, Joes Road (part In The Parish Of Great Cornard)**- Erection of triple garage with solar panels to roof slope and resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:
 - i. The councillors consider that the application does not comply with Policy SP03 as the site is outside the settlement boundary, does not engage with exceptions set out in the policy, and is not a site allocated for development or in the Newton Neighbourhood Plan.
 - ii. The councillors also question the need for a further 3 parking bays at this site as in 2022 Planning Application DC/22/03122 was given permission for a detached 4-bay cart lodge, which was subsequently erected. The applicant has not given any reasons why a further 3 spaces are required.
- c. A further planning application was received since the agenda was posted requiring a response before the next meeting. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/24/00386 Willow Farm, Further Street, Assington** – Change of use of agricultural land and excavation of a field to create a Private Lake and resolved that they had no comment.
- d. The councillors reviewed the status of previous applications, appeals and enforcement referrals (Appendix B).

24/026 Finance

- a. The councillors authorised all payments made and due for authorisation, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C) and noted the income received since the last meeting, the

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reconciliation of accounts, the Statement of Accounts vs Budget and the spending commitment.

- b. The councillors resolved to transfer £20,000 from the Unity Trust Savings Account to the Current Account.

24/027 Newton Footpaths

There was no further update on the creation of any new footpaths. Cllr Taylor was asked to prioritise the engagement with the landowner, as once again the Village Survey has highlighted this item as being important to residents.

24/028 Allotments

The councillors reviewed the correspondence from BWB and resolved that Cllrs Schwenk and Everett sign the transfer documentation on the council's behalf, with the Clerk witnessing their signatures. It is hoped that the transfer will be completed in March. The councillors agreed with BWB's valuation of the allotment land at £25,000.

24/029 Parish Survey

The councillors reviewed the draft analysis of the Village Survey responses. Of the 240+ surveys delivered, 75 responses from approximately 73 dwellings were received, similar to the survey in February 2023. The priorities were as follows:

Rank	Project Name	Priority		
		1	2	3
1	Traffic calming measures through Newton. (NNP)	39	21	1
2	Zebra crossing on A134 in Newton. (NNP)	24	22	11
3	Develop more circular footpaths within parish boundary. (NNP)	3	17	21
4	Maintain and protect the diversity of species across local green space. (NNP)	2	2	19
4	Superfast broadband in Village Hall. (NNP)	4	6	5
6	New Car Park for Village Hall	3	1	4
7	Little Green Track Repairs	0	1	3

24/030 Walk of the Parish

Cllr Evers raised her progress in getting users of the Recreation Ground to pick up dog litter. Cllr Sherwood circulated SCC's Expression of Interest for the Plug in Suffolk scheme. As the application form requires the location where the EV charger could be installed, it was agreed that the Trust and Village Hall representatives would raise the idea with these landowners in the first instance.

24/031 Replacement Litter Bins

The councillors agreed that following the installation of the new bus shelter, the litter bins at both of the shelters on the Green need replacing. As there were sufficient funds in the bus shelter replacement project, they resolved to purchase two dark green Topsy Royle litter bins, which will cost £460 + VAT.

24/032 Village Hall and Trust updates

The Trust reported that they have held a meeting with the Golf Club, are developing plans with Babergh and a local resident for a wildlife area in the Recreation Ground and have reported the broken culvert bridge in Rotten Row to SCC. The Village Hall committee has not met since NPC's last meeting.

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The Village Survey's timing and flooding at the A134 / A1071 junction were discussed.

24/034 Next Meeting

The next Meeting of NPC will be held on **Wednesday, 20th March 2024**, starting at 7.30 pm in Newton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Appendix A Clerk's Report

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
22/117	Awaiting NGT confirmation of location of defibrillator at Little Green.	
23/206	Babergh to repair the second Rectory Road nameplate.	
23/209	Spoke to local stone mason who will inspect War Memorial and provide report.	
23/214	James Finch has allocated a £1,000 Locality Budget donation towards the cost of the	✓
23/222	Clerk liaising with Community Wardens re RoSPA report on play equipment.	
24/003	Minutes sent to BRN and updated on website.	✓
24/007	Planning responses sent to Babergh.	✓
24/008 a	Payments made to suppliers, individuals and organisations.	✓
24/008 b	Precept demand sent to Babergh.	✓
24/009	Clerk to liaise with contractor re FP 2.	
24/010	Clerk to contact list of allotment tenants provided by Michael Oliver.	
24/011	Parish survey distributed to all Newton households.	✓
24/014	Clerk update James Finch on flooding issue.	✓
24/015	Village Hall booked for Spring Litter Pick / Coffee Morning on 6th April 2024.	✓
	Clerk's Actions & Delegated Power	
	None.	
	Clerk Hours	
	Up until the 4th February 2024 - 528 hours paid / 486.25 hours worked.	

Appendix B Planning Status

BDC Ref	Application	NPC Ref	NPC Response	BDC Response
DC/23/05249	Land Adj Assington Road - Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access points to be considered, details for Landscaping, Appearance, Layout and Scale reserved) Town and Country Planning 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 9 no. dwellings (including 4 no. affordable) (resubmission of DC/23/01760)	23/217a	Objected	REFUSED 05/01/2024
DC/23/05409	Land Adj 1 Links View - Application for reserved matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/23/00577 - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the erection of 1no detached single-storey dwelling with parking, new vehicular access and extension of the public footpath to the south of the proposed access.	23/217b	Support	Permission 23/01/2024
DC/23/05898	Hurrells Farm, Boxford Lane - Application under Section 19 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for Listed Building Consent DC/20/04875 - Conversion of and extension to outbuildings to form 1No dwelling and alterations to vehicular access. To Vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per drawing 2565 - P01 and Heritage Statement.	24/007a	Support	
DC/23/05897	Hurrells Farm, Boxford Lane - Application under S73 for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/20/04874 dated 10/06/2021 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Conversion of and extension to outbuildings to form 1No dwelling and alterations to vehicular access - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per drawing 2565-P01 and Heritage Statement.	24/007b	Support	

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NEWTON PARISH COUNCILMinutes of Meeting held on 14th February 2024 at Newton Village Hall**Appendix C RFO Report****Unity Receipts & Payments 2023 / 2024**

Date	Details	Power	Receipts		Payments
02/02/24	SCC Locality Budget grant		1,000.00	Y	0.00
14/02/24	Littlethorpe - Bus Shelter	Localism Act 2011 ss 1 to 8	0.00		16,028.40
14/02/24	BWB - Final balance for Allotments transfer fees	Localism Act 2011 ss 1 to 8	0.00		1,405.90

Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement Balance	Actual Balance	Unpresented Cheques	Credits not shown	Difference
Unity Current Account	06/02/24	£3,928.38	-£13,505.92	£17,434.30	£0.00	£0.00
Unity Trust Savings Account	06/02/24	£45,941.94	£45,941.94			£0.00
		£49,870.32	£32,436.02	£17,434.30	£0.00	

Budget v's Actual

	Budget	Actual		Reserves	Budget	Actual
Assets B/F		£45,116.29				
Income			Expenditure			
Precept	£18,242.81	£18,242.81	Clerks Salary		£12,011.23	£9,395.59
Grants	£177.20	£212.64	Clerk's Pension		£1,260.48	£0.00
Recycling	£500.00	£479.35	Admin		£2,000.00	£1,165.77
CIL	£0.00	£4,836.56	Donations		£800.00	£300.00
Bank Interest	£50.00	£822.27	Annual Subscriptions		£485.00	£452.01
VAT Repayment	£0.00	£3,599.17	Footpath Maintenance		£400.00	£360.00
Other	£0.00	£1,800.00	Insurance		£1,500.00	£1,658.56
			Inspection		£563.00	£430.00
			Maintenance		£500.00	£55.75
			Projects		£500.00	£0.00
			CIL	£27,523.93	£5,842.00	£22,064.37
			Village Hall Hire		£390.00	£0.00
			VAT Paid		£0.00	£5,041.02
			Other		£0.00	£1,750.00
Total	£18,970.01	£29,992.80	Total	£27,523.93	£26,251.71	£42,673.07
			Assets Carried Forward			£32,436.02
Total		£75,109.09	Total			£75,109.09

Project Committed Spending							
Meeting Date	Minute	Supplier	Cost Net	VAT	Total	Project	Budget
15/06/22	22/113	Sudbury TC	£185.00	£37.00	£222.00	Rec Ground jet wash	CIL
13/09/23	23/170d	Scribe	£595.00	£119.00	£714.00	Accounting Software	Projects / Admin
			£780.00	£156.00	£936.00		

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FUNDS	
General Reserves (50% of Budgetted Expenditure)	£13,125.86
Current year balance	£3,634.04
Restricted Funds	
CIL	£10,296.12
Newsletter	£2,880.00
Total Restricted	£13,176.12
Earmarked Reserves	
Asset Replacement	£0.00
Village Hall	£0.00
Legal Fees	£1,000.00
Election Costs	£1,500.00
Total Earmarked Reserves	£2,500.00
TOTAL FUNDS	£32,436.02
Unrecovered VAT	£5,041.02

End of Appendices

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