

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th January 2023 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom.

Present: Chair: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors: Samuel Baugh, Jennifer C. Benson, P. Collins, Gaynor Ellis, Janette McCormick, Alan Metcalf.

Borough/County Councillors: None. Police: Pcs0 2NO, Member of the public: One.

### a) FORUM.

i) Planning application 20/0315 - residential development of 39 dwellings comprising 100% affordable housing with associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Nos 8 & 12 Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, PR4 3RR. A member of the public complimented the footway work that had been executed, provided as part of the above development, and used as a sustainable shared surface highway link by cyclists and pedestrians between the site, Bryning Lane and Parrox Lane.

ii) Policing and enforcement. The police reported issues relating to anti-social behaviour: including suspicious activity in vicinity of domestic property, drug dealing and misuse (cannabis left on Parrox Lane including liaising with Fylde council for collection/disposal), and highway safety: community road watch (CRW), Lodge Lane, Clifton, risk assess CRW for Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales. Police encouraged In the Know registration by parishioners as a means of receiving regular neighbourhood updates.

### 1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Philip Morgan and Councillor Mark Richardson.

b) Chairman's communications. The chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

c) Declarations of interest. The chairman reminded members at the commencement of the meeting that any direct or indirect pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest should be declared in accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011. Accordingly the following direct or indirect, pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest declarations were made; Councillor Jennifer C Benson formally Declared an Interest relating to the Hornbies Foundation-Hornbies Newton Charity agenda item and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Peter Collins formally Declared an Interest, as a borough councillor planning committee named substitute member relating to any applications to be considered under the planning and development agenda item and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman) formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Gaynor Ellis formally Declared an Interest relating to the Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Janette McCormick formally Declared an Interest with regard to any finance related Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) matters and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon.

d) Signing of Minutes.

i) Council meeting, Thursday 1st December 2022. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

e) Matters arising from minutes.

i) Condition of footway and ginnel between Bryning Lane and Hawthorne Avenue Newton-with-Scales. As a clerk **ACTION** previously referred to Fylde council on 7th November 2022 and work completed.

ii) Chairman report. Items not on the agenda are included in the circulated action log.

f) NALC Civility and Respect Pledge - Councillor Stewart Jones encourages adoption by Fylde East division councils. The chairman referred to this item and it was agreed as an **ACTION** members should consider related documentation and council determine whether to adopt in due course.

### 2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by chairman. The chairman reported circulated public information items will be posted on the website.

Parish communication contd...

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). The chairman referred to this item and the clerk advised HFHNC had still to provide information relating to a meeting between the respective nominated subset of councillors/trustees. As an **ACTION** it was agreed that to progress matters with the clerk to HFHNC council should communicate with the chairman and vice-chairman of HFHNC.

### **3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.**

a) Ongoing Lancashire County Council (LCC) matters; including parish highway safety, Newton-with-Clifton.

i) Vehicle parking and waiting restrictions, Bryning Lane, Hill Crescent, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. The chairman referred to this ongoing issue that continues to receive Pcs0 deployment.

ii) Public footpath NOS.6/7. The chairman referred to the previously circulated LCC update (18/10/22) and it was agreed the item remain on the agenda.

iii) Condition of highway in vicinity of development at former "Brook Farm" Dowbridge, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 3RD - footway, in proximity to westbound carriageway and 30mph sign/traffic island. The chairman again reported that, notwithstanding an update from LCC (10/11/22) with regard to Fylde council having been requested to execute highway/footway cleansing operations, the highway/footway remained in an unsatisfactory condition.

iv) Moor Hall Lane - potholes. Subsequent to an observation from Councillor Jennifer C. Benson the clerk explained LCC had previously advised on its "Report It" facility the issue does not meet the required measurement levels for highway work at this time. As a previous **ACTION** council had agreed to continue monitor for further highway deterioration.

v) Bryning Lane, (junction with A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales) 30mph highway signage post is in an unsatisfactory condition. Previously reported as a clerk **ACTION** (20/06/22), LCC had not yet replaced the sign.

vi) A583/Blackpool Road - footway verge encroachment, overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, and surfacing issues various sections. Previously reported as a clerk **ACTION**, LCC had already advised it executes periodic monitoring (13/06/22).

vii) Surface water flooding/ponding, Station Road, Salwick. No update reported by the clerk

viii) Maintenance and cleaning of highway drainage gullies A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales – opposite Scale Hall Lane, bus stop/shelter in proximity to "The Country House", and A583/Blackpool Road junction with Parrox Lane, Newton-with-Scales. Previously reported to LCC as an **ACTION** by Councillor Philip Morgan and the clerk (07/11/22). Councillor Philip Morgan continues to monitor these issues.

ix) Drainage issue in proximity to "Willow Dene" Moor Hall Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR3 3RY. No update reported. The issue had previously reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (07/09/22).

x) Drainage system malfunction, inadequate watercourse maintenance, vegetation overgrowth and consequent flooding and ponding at New Hey Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA. No update reported. The issue had previously reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (31/10/22).

xi) Parish highway matters - pothole and overgrown tree, Mulberry Close, Clifton. As a previous **ACTION** Councillor Samuel Baugh had still to provide more detail to assist LCC highways inspection and corrective maintenance work.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Planning application 20/0315 - residential development of 39 dwellings comprising 100% affordable housing with associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Nos 8 & 12 Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, PR4 3RR. Members referred to the above development and the related footway provided as a sustainable shared surface highway link used by cyclists and pedestrians between the site, Bryning Lane and Parrox Lane. Members considered the existing arrangements are detrimental to highway safety given the footway joins a single carriageway road where the volume of vehicle movement is increasing at a junction where the national default speed limit is applicable.

Highways contd...

Members considered the bollard provides a very limited degree of safety. It was agreed as an **ACTION** clerk to request LCC highways to arrange an inspection, recommend highway safety improvements and ensure implementation.

ii) Parish highway matters - A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales - east bound, highway drainage gullies associated with highway improvements as part of the unilateral undertaking outline planning application for up to 50 NO dwellings (all matters reserved other than access)" at Land off Woodlands Close, Newton with Scales . in accordance with the terms of application 16/0554. Councillor Gaynor Ellis reported issues relating to gullies/sewers serving sections of the A583/Blackpool Road being blocked and a cause of surface ponding/flooding in proximity to the new traffic signals. As an **ACTION** it was agreed that the clerk request LCC highways authority to arrange an inspection and corrective engineering/jetting/maintenance work as necessary and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

iii) Tree maintenance, Stanagate, Clifton. Councillor Samuel Baugh raised an issue relating to the condition of some trees on Stanagate highway grass verge areas. The trees are not the responsibility of the council and the issue was referred to Lancashire County Council highways (LCC) in 2021. It was anticipated LCC would liaise, if necessary, with the landowner - possibly Progress Housing Group Limited. As an **ACTION** it was agreed the clerk communicate with LCC and request the authority to arrange an inspection, any corrective maintenance work as considered necessary and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

c) Street scene matters.

i) Relocate noticeboard from Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales and related improvements, including bus shelter provision to enhance amenity in central village area. The chairman referred to recent engineering work executed by the developer. In view of ongoing issues the chairman, as an **ACTION** agreed to communicate with the developer regarding the unsatisfactory condition of an area adjacent the path, knotweed eradication and desired visual amenity improvements including removal of advertising signage and other debris. Additionally in view of the noticeboard being in a state of disrepair, and council considering replacement, the developer will be requested to postpone its offer to relocate the existing board until further notice. Also, as an **ACTION** Newton ward members agreed to assess the site to establish the preferred location for a noticeboard.

ii) Littering in parish. Informal litter-picking remained operational and generally littering incidents had abated.

iii) Dog fouling. As a clerk **ACTION** (06/12/22) this matter had previously been referred to Fylde council dog warden service.

iv) SpID deployment. Councillor Janette McCormick referred to possible funding from LCC parish champion grant, police and community fund &c and explained that enquiries with suppliers are ongoing.

v) LCC surveys, highways and transportation and public realm agreement. The chairman reported completion of the survey in a personal capacity. The public realm agreement was considered to offer inadequate financial resources for footpath maintenance responsibilities to be devolved.

vi) Clifton Green, Clifton. Councillor Samuel Baugh reported a recent parishioner issue with a stray peafowl wandering around part of the estate. One resident was feeding the bird, encouraging it to stay which may not be consistent with the views of neighbours. It was unclear if it had escaped from a nearby property and generally accepted as not being a parish council matter.

#### **4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.**

a) Planning applications.

None received.

b) Proposed solar farm, Newton-with-Scales, Bluefield renewable developments Ltd, anticipated planning application subsequent to application 22/0204 request for screening opinion pursuant to the town and country planning (environmental impact assessment) regulations 2017 in respect of a 25mw solar farm, battery energy storage scheme and associated development, at land at Newton Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Preston Lancashire PR4 3RS. No update reported.

Planning contd...

c) Fylde Borough Council (FBC) Planning Committee planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications/ recommendations.

i) District/parish liaison meeting (DPLM)/Fylde borough council customer satisfaction survey (CSS)/planning advisory service (PAS) review. No update available.

## **5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.**

a) Parks, open spaces, rural area grass verges, grass-cutting contract, receive report from authorised officer/liason member in respect of the parks and open spaces maintenance contract.

i) Contract. Councillor Samuel Baugh (authorised officer/liason member in respect of the contract) reported maintenance remains ongoing subject to prevailing weather conditions.

ii) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, brambles encroachment. William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton, brambles encroachment. The contractor had still not provided an update – as an **ACTION** it was agreed the clerk should again communicate with the contractor.

b) Flower/Shrub beds maintenance contract - receive report from authorised officer/liason member in respect of the flower/shrub beds maintenance contract.

i) Contract. Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liason member in respect of the contract) reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with the contract conditions and specifications.

c) Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) receive report, if any, from member.

i) Report. The report previously circulated by Councillor Gaynor Ellis (FoNCP representative) was taken as read. FoNCP had received favourable comments from the It's Your Neighbourhood judges which had assessed Newton Hall Park in 2022.

ii) Consider Fylde borough council (FBC) s.106 grant agreement - Newton Hall Park. The clerk reported that the duly signed service level agreement had been completed by FBC.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement &c - various locations. Ash dieback disease.

i) Issues arising from dieback disease affecting Ash trees - update. No update was provided.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council (LCC), local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust and parish surveys. No updates were provided, as an **ACTION** it was agreed the clerk again communicates with LCC requesting an update following its parish survey.

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, equipment maintenance and repairs. No update was provided.

f) Christmas seasonal decorations 2022 - consider arrangements. Councillor Janette McCormick reported that the number of hours the lights are in use might need to be reviewed in 2023.

## **6. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.**

a) Approve invoices for payment.

i) List 1.

The chairman referred to this item and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoices be paid:

Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 18/10/22-30/11/22.	£17.10	Vat £0.86	£17.96
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*Friends of Newton Community Park/ Rick Kenyon T/A Kenyon's Tree and Fencing Services.	Fell and remove 3NO trees Newton Hall Park prior to drainage work.	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
			c/fwd...	£377.96

Finance contd....		b/fwd... £377.96
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st October 2022 to 29th November 2022.	£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Flower & shrub beds and floral displays contact maintenance December 2022.	£1080.50
	Cut shrubbery William Pickles park.	£50.00
	Cut hedge Dixon's Farm mews.	£15.00
	Cut hedge, Clifton triangle.	£15.00
	Cut hedge Newton Hall Park	£15.00
	Vat	£235.10 £1410.60
T. Pawson T/A PDQ Garden Services.	Grass cutting contract maintenance December 2022.	£1905.33 Vat £381.07 £2286.40 £4082.96

b) Management of contracts.

Chairman referred to this matter and as an **ACTION** the clerk explained that tenders will be circulated to members of the contracts management working group week commencing 9th January 2023.

c) Consider for approval 2023/24 budget report and precept.

The chairman referred to the report (copies of which had previously been circulated to members). Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk explained, as indicated in the report, that in view of the time limits imposed by Fylde council and related statutory requirements a decision is required to be made no later than the February 2023 meeting to either adopt the precept recommendation and report or otherwise determine how the net expenditure may be funded or reduced. Councillor Gaynor Ellis commented, and it was agreed, that to be consistent in comparing analysed expenditure office employment expenses for 2021/22 page 5 should total £851.02. The chairman expressed a difficulty identifying some of the revenue account summary figures on page 5 with the detailed analysis pages 6-10. Both the chairman and Councillor Gaynor Ellis expressed difficulty in identifying; balance sheet and related revenue transactions, anticipated s.106 monies and related expenditure, repairs and renewals costs, which included some depreciation, the historical analysis of parks and open spaces which includes some former Fylde in Bloom trust projects flower/shrub bed display descriptions (e.g. fishing boat, windmill &c) that had been replaced and did not match the current physical display, indicated expenditure in 2023/24 on hedges, shrubbery, vegetation &c when the revised horticultural feature tender is also inclusive of hedge maintenance. Councillor Janette McCormick suggested referencing separately the s.106 expenditure, on Newton Hall Park and Councillor Gaynor Ellis suggested referencing separately s.106 grant funding earmarked for Newton Hall Park improvements. The chairman referred to vat issues highlighted by the clerk and following explanation it was agreed that Friends of Newton Community Park be advised of the prevailing issues. In conclusion it was agreed that the clerk as an **ACTION** circulate a revised budget report for consideration.

7). ANY OTHER MATTERS.

a) Flagpole. Councillor Samuel Baugh referred to the forecast weather conditions and the chairman explained that a village hall management trustee oversees the flag display/flagpole in accordance with recognised procedural and safety protocol.

b) District Parish Liaison meeting scheduled for Monday 23rd January 2023 at the Town Hall. Councillor Jennifer Benson explained being unable to attend the meeting.

c) Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the council be changed, from Thursday 2nd February 2023 to Thursday 9th February 2023 commencing at 7:15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom. Councillor Jennifer Benson explained being unable to attend on the revised date. There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:40 hrs.

Chairman

9th February 2023