

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st June 2023 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom.

Present: Chair: Councillor Philip Morgan (Vice chairman), Councillors: Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, Gaynor Ellis, Janette McCormick.

Borough/County Councillors: None. Police: None, Tracey Siddle, Morecambe Offshore Windfarm project team, members of the public: twenty one. The chair welcomed members of the public and Tracey Siddle for being in attendance.

a) FORUM.

i) Parishioner matters.

a) Renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals - Morecambe Offshore Windfarm non-statutory consultation presentation. The chair introduced Tracey Siddle, Morecambe Offshore Windfarm project team who was invited to address the meeting. Consultation documents were made available and parishioners raised a number of points relating to the non-statutory consultation; extension of the 4th June 2023 deadline, consultation event should be arranged in Newton-with-Scales, Horlock rules i.e. National Grid guidelines on siting substations, request consortium provide the name and contact details of a responsible and accountable project official in this regard., evidence of an assessment that all options for the substations were considered and the relative pros and cons, one, or two, solutions for the substations presented at the statutory consultation phase, it is understood there will be two solutions, reasons, ecological and technical, why the project could not be delivered further along the River Ribble, substation search area 1 is on a flood plain and considered unsuitable for the proposed development, proposals for relocation of livestock and reinstatement of land, details of proposals in place to compensate individuals whose livelihoods are affected, developer contributions, export cable corridor and details of the site selection and routing process, dimensions of substation size - indicated worst case scenario is 280000m² (c.70 acres) and 25m in height, confirmation all four indicative onshore substation search areas are being considered equally ahead of the statutory consultation process. In conclusion the chair expressed the council's appreciation and thanks to Tracey Siddle for the presentation and explained the matter will be formally considered under the planning and development agenda item.

b) Vandalised CCTV signs. Following an enquiry it was explained replacement signage is on order.

c) Vehicle speeding. Following an enquiry it was explained a meeting is being held, Thursday 6th June 2023 with a Lancashire county council road safety officer dealing with provision of SpID equipment.

d) Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). The chair invited a FoNCP representative to address the meeting. It was explained that the park merits improvement in terms of disability access, footway, improved drainage, multi-games area, replacement play equipment &c. Discussions were ongoing with Fylde borough council relating to a community park improvement programme which will require funding from several sources. FoCP agreed to liaise with Friends of Newton Community park (FoNCP) and benefit from FoNCP experience over five years involving a similar process at Newton Hall park.

ii) Policing and enforcement – No report

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman) and Councillor John Kitchen, Borough Councillor Martin Evans, and County Councillor Stewart Jones. It was agreed to communicate again with the newly elected borough councillor advising of the Fylde borough council District/Parish charter that encourages attendance of borough councillors at parish council meetings, the vacancies for both Clifton and Newton Wards of the parish and that council continue to invite persons to express an interest in considering becoming a parish councillor and members particularly welcome such expression of interest from its borough councillors.

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Fylde council Civic Sunday 4th June 2023. The chair reported the chairman was unable to attend and following enquiries no other member indicated being able to deputise.

Procedural contd...

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 P. Collins formally Declared an Interest, as a borough councillor planning committee member relating to applications to be considered under the planning and development agenda item 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) Annual council meeting, Thursday 11th May 2023. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

e) Matters arising from minutes.

i) Action log - the chair reported items not on the agenda are included in the action log circulated to members.

ii) Council priorities – the chair explained that these will be further assessed at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 6th July 2023.

2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by the chairman. The chair explained that a report had not been provided. Reference was made to the Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and the advice from Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC). LALC is able to check through Chrome Lighthouse software which offers an accessibility score. It was agreed that the chairman, as the council's webmaster be requested to consider this option.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). The clerk reported that a hard copy report of the HFHNC meeting, held on Wednesday 15th March 2023, for circulation and publication had been rescinded by HFHNC. A revised report is to be made available in due course by 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, Bluecoat Crescent/Hill Crescent, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. A Newton ward member reported ongoing initiatives relating to this issue and a recent deployment of civil enforcement parking officials

ii) Public footpath NOS.6/7. As a clerk **ACTION** (13/04/23) LCC had again been requested to provide an update. LCC had advised (14/04/23) repairs, including replacing damaged stile(s) will be executed in due course. The chair reported 4NO damaged stiles on a Newton-Treales footpath 1NO Newton-with-Clifton parish and 3NO Treales Roseacre and Wharles parish.

iii) Moor Hall Lane - potholes. 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.

iv) 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). No update provided.

v) 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.

Highways contd...

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

vii) Drainage system malfunction, inadequate watercourse maintenance, vegetation overgrowth and consequential flooding and ponding at New Hey Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA. Newton ward members reported some work had been executed. Issue previously reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (31/10/22), LCC requested to provide updates on 18th February 2023, 28th February 2023 and LCC advised (05/05/23) it continues to liaise with landowner, will revisit site if flooding recurs, on last inspection all gullies were fully operational and continues to be monitored by responsible authorities.

viii) Planning application 20/0315 - residential development of 37 dwellings comprising 100% affordable housing with associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Nos 8 & 12 Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales, PR4 3RR. Path from Bryning Lane to Parrox lane - previously reported to LCC (09/01/23) as a clerk **ACTION**. Issue involves LCC/developer. Chairman had previously reported the bollards had now been removed/vandalised, the matter reported to the police and is to be rectified by Westchurch Homes.

ix) Oak Lane, tree work, Newton-with-Scales. Newton ward member agreed to provide location details relating to tree maintenance. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed that in due course enquiries would be made with LCC. A Newton ward member advised that LCC had executed maintenance and that parishioners will also report any ongoing tree issues impacting on telecommunications.

x) Drainage, Clifton Lane. Clifton ward member previously reported (02/03/23) a site meeting together with another Clifton ward councillor, clerk, LCC engineer and Clifton resident. LCC had identified an issue with tree root ingress affecting a drain that was a contributory factor causing flooding to occur in certain weather conditions. To alleviate the flooding issue LCC intended to remove the tree, which is located on the boundary of a highway verge and William Pickles park, at its own cost. Council agreed and corrective alternative LCC engineering work is continuing which may not now require felling the tree.

xi) Unauthorised encampment and fly tipping - "The Country House", Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RJ. As a clerk **ACTION** (11/04/23) reported to proper authorities. No update from members.

xii) Potholes - Thames Street, Newton-with-Scales. The chairman again reported that LCC had been notified of this issue.

xiii) Dislodged manhole cover - Acorn Avenue, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3GT. LCC had advised of ongoing discussions regarding s.38 Highways Act 1980 adoption of the estates streets, that the inspection chamber is on private land behind the footway line and the developer, Westchurch Homes, informed.

xiv) "Range of view" (ROV) railings at Vicarage Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RX. The chair reported LCC is to schedule a repair.

xv) Parish highway matters, Bryning Lane/School Lane junction - (particularly affecting traffic turning right from School Lane), Newton-with-Scales - pothole. It was reported in open forum that, notwithstanding a temporary repair, a section of highway continues to deteriorate. It was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to again report the highway defect to Lancashire county council.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Grass verge, junction of A583/Blackpool Road/Lodge Lane.

Chair referred to the overgrown condition of verge areas that is considered a highway safety issue as it obscures the range of view of vehicle drivers, committed to turning from the village onto the main road, of oncoming east bound traffic. The clerk advised council had already reported it LCC

ii) A583/Blackpool Road signage Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA - between Dobbies Garden Centre and Newton. Chair referred to the above issue and clerk advised council had already reported it LCC

iii) Stanagate - grass verges and open spaces maintenance. Members referred to parishioner complaints relating to the grass cutting operations in this area. The clerk explained an understanding that Stanagate (east) adjacent Preston Old Road and Stanagate (east) on the approach to Clifton Green, Clifton PR4 0ZB verge/open space areas are the responsibility of Progress Housing Group and Stanagate (west) adjacent Preston Old Road and Stanagate (west) on the approach to Clifton Green, Clifton PR4 0ZB verge/open space areas are the responsibility of LCC. As a clerk **ACTION** enquiries are ongoing with LCC and Progress Housing Group to determine how matters may be resolved.

Highways contd...

iv) A583/Blackpool Road/School Lane, Newton-with-Scales 'NO ENTRY warnings. Notwithstanding the NO ENTRY signage at the above junction members raised the issue of 'NO ENTRY road markings being in need of repainting. Accordingly it was agreed to request LCC arrange for an inspection and maintenance as considered necessary. The chair advised that 50mph sign at this junction, which had given vehicle drivers the impression of entering (legally?) a 50mph zone, had now been removed by LCC.

v) Scale Hall Lane, Newton-with-Scales - overgrown verges.

A Newton ward member referred to the overgrown condition of verge areas. The unsatisfactory condition of is detrimental to highway safety as it causes pedestrians to move onto the road.

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. Members advised the noticeboard had been received and arrangements are ongoing for it to be erected in due course. Regarding ongoing Japanese knotweed issues the chair reported that, subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (19/05/23) Progress Housing Group had contacted occupiers of property on Avenham Place from which proliferation emanates and continues to spread. Related issues on adjoining land managed by Westchurch Homes/Community Gateway are being addressed by the developer.

ii) Littering in parish. No update reported.

iii) Dog fouling. Chair reported Fylde borough council website now had a "Report It" option for dog fouling.

iv) SpID deployment. A Newton ward member advised that a site survey, proposed by LCC, had been arranged for Tuesday 6th June 2023.

v) Amenity street cleansing including weed killing operations.

A Newton ward member referred to complaints relating to street sweeping and weed killing on highway in the parish, including footways. Issues relate to a perceived infrequency of operations and that some areas are being neglected, Alder Close and New Hey Lane, Newton-with-Scales were given as examples by members. As a clerk **ACTION** agreed to request Fylde borough council execute both amenity street sweeping and weed-killing operations in the parish as a matter of priority and provide a schedule of its amenity street cleansing and weedkilling operations including areas covered, work executed and frequency of operations i.e. weekly or monthly.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications. The clerk reported that Fylde borough council had not consulted on any planning applications since the last meeting.

b) Renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals.

i) 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.

ii) Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL), a joint venture between Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios, S.A. and Flotation Energy Ltd and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL), a joint venture between bp and Energie Baden-Wurttemberg AG (EnBW), developing the Morgan Offshore Wind Project. Two joint venture companies are collaborating to connect the wind farms to the electricity transmission network - non statutory consultation transmission assets. The chair referred to matters raised in open forum and the presentation by Tracey Siddle from the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm project team relating to the projects. Members referred to several proposed energy projects, solar and wind, at various pre-application stages of consideration that combine to significantly impact on Newton-with-Clifton parish, the Rural East ward of Fylde and the Lancashire county council Fylde East division. The singular or cumulative impacts on the countryside, the character of the landscape, townscape, visual amenity and the adverse impact on local residents arising from noise &c result in a loss of amenity. It is recognised that while each application must be assessed on its own merits, and that none have been implemented to date it is unclear whether implementation of one affects

Planning contd...

whether other proposals will receive necessary development consents and permissions. The cumulative impact within the parish, the wider Fylde area and across the boundary in Blackpool, Wyre and Preston is already a cause of concern being expressed by members and parishioners and concerns remain notwithstanding the information presented at the meeting. The scale of some of these projects means they are classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). Moreover, it is understood that NSIP's are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and considered by the Secretary of State for Energy Security with the minister responsible for the area of policy ultimately making recommendations and determining some of these applications. Consequently, applications will not be determined locally and at the stage of a statutory consultation Fylde borough council and Lancashire county council planning authorities will be statutory consultees, as will the parish council. The designation of areas suitable for wind energy development requires community support and there is a perception that to date the consultation process has been flawed and inadequate i.e. the initial notification was by postcards which were not distributed effectively in the parish and did not indicate the potential significant impact on the village of Newton-with-Scales and the wider parish area. Information, particularly regarding substations has been imprecise, vague and therefore potentially misleading. The proposed location of the substations was only obtained by attending consultation events in other areas i.e. Hutton, Lytham St. Annes, and Penwortham, not from documentation, postcards or any on-line content and the diagram on page twelve of the transmission asset document (and on-line) suggests the substations are geographically remote. As a consequence of a perceived lack of information members and parishioners consider it difficult to substantively influence policy in this non-statutory consultation phase relating to the proposals, particularly with the 4th June 2023 deadline being imminent. Council therefore require the following points to be considered;

i) Members request extension of the 4th June 2023 deadline. **ii)** Council considers it necessary for a consultation event to be arranged in Newton-with-Scales to facilitate informed responses subsequent to the requested consultation event. Council has previously requested a consultation event and this appears to have been ignored. This consultation event should include the planning authorities, local Members of Parliament, borough, county and parish councillors and should provide technical information that is transparently independent without any perception of bias, predisposition or predetermination with information regarding land reinstatement and developer contributions towards mitigating the impact of what might be considered unacceptable developments to make them acceptable in planning terms. **iii)** Reference was made to the Horlock rules i.e. (National Grid guidelines on siting substations) and how proposals will be validated, or otherwise, and properly applied to all the alternative substation zones prior to a development consent order (DCO) application and beyond. Those rules have been encapsulated in the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero. They will be what the Secretary of State will consider in determining the application and the rules criteria to evaluate the options include, environmental impact e.g. flooding & ecology including making allowance for climate change, proximity to buildings and residential property, proximity to roads, visual impact & amenity, and cultural heritage. **iv)** Parishioner expressed difficulty in determining who in the consortium is able to answer questions on transmission assets. Please provide the name and contact details of a responsible and accountable project official in this regard. **v)** How and where will members and parishioners be able to assess all the options for the substations that were considered and the relative pros and cons? **vi)** Please confirm whether there will be one, or two, solutions for the substations presented at the statutory consultation phase. It is understood there will be two solutions. **vii)** Please explain the reasons, ecological and technical, why the project could not be delivered further along the River Ribble. **viii)** Indicative onshore substation search area 1 is on a flood plain and in proximity to a designated Area of Separation in the Fylde local plan and so considered unsuitable for the proposed development. Indicative onshore substation search area 2 is on a flood plain and also considered unsuitable for the proposed development. **ix)** Have any discussions taken place with local members of Parliament? **x)** Have any discussions taken place with the local planning authorities, both Fylde borough council and Lancashire county council? **xi)** Members and parishioners require information relating to agricultural land management and legal instruments that will be used e.g. easements, wayleaves etc. including proposals for relocation of livestock and reinstatement of land. **xii)** What proposals are in place to compensate individuals whose livelihoods are affected?

xiii) Please provide information relating to developer contributions towards mitigating the impact of what might be considered unacceptable developments to make them acceptable in planning terms.

xiv) Please provide details including measurements relating to the indicative onshore export cable corridor and details of the site selection and routing process which should take into account the principles in key guidance documents, such as the Horlock and Holford Rules. **xv)** Please provide probable dimensions of substation size - indicated worst case scenario is 280000m² (c.70 acres) and 25m in height. **xvi)** Confirmation is required that all four indicative onshore substation search areas are being considered equally ahead of the statutory consultation process. **xvii)** In view of the above, council cannot support indicative onshore substation search area 1, cannot support indicative onshore substation search area 2 and members look forward to receiving a response to the above points in due course.

iii) Clifton Marsh Solar Development, Screening Report for proposed solar development on 68.7 hectares of agricultural land located at Clifton Marsh Farm, Preston, Lancashire PR4 0XE. No update reported.

iv) Renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals. Following an enquiry by the chair the clerk confirmed council concerns had been referred to Mark Menzies MP, Lancashire county council Fylde east division member County Councillor Stewart Jones and the planning authorities seeking advice regarding these proposed energy projects.

c) Fylde council - planning advisory service (PAS) review. No update reported.

d) Fylde Borough Council (FBC) Planning Committee planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications/ recommendations. The chair referred to a FBC planning training event scheduled for Tuesday, 20th June 2023 from 2.00pm to 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Lytham St Annes. It was agreed to again circulate the information for the benefit of councillors absent from the meeting to establish whether any member is able to attend the training event.

5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

a) Grassed open space maintenance contract.

i) Consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract) reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with agreed conditions, schedules and specifications.

ii) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales and William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton, brambles encroachment. Work, scheduled by the council's contractor, has still to be executed.

b) Horticultural features contract, consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract) reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with agreed conditions, schedules and specifications. It was explained new features have been created with refurbishment of some displays is ongoing. A Newton ward member reported that one display in Clifton is obscured due to vehicle(s) parking on the footway. It was understood to be associated with an adjacent business.

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.

ii) Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) - FoNCP grant application and Third party contribution (TPC) confirmation. The chair referred to this item, the clerk advised the TPC had been processed and it was agreed to formally advise FoNCP that this part of its LEF grant application is complete.

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

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

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council, local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust and parish surveys. No update was provided.

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, development, equipment maintenance and repairs – Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). The chair referred to the presentation delivered in open forum and it was agreed to request FoCP to provide council with regular updates.

f) CCTV - Newton Hall park. Clerk advised that solicitors acting for the complainant had not responded to the council communication dated 10th March 2023.

Parks contd...

g) "Range of view" (ROV) railings at Vicarage Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RX. Subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (17/05/23) Lancashire county council highways had advised (24/05/23) it will schedule repair work.

h) Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) /Natural England - part of a Great Crested Newts and other wildlife ponds programme. A Newton ward member reported some details following a nature survey executed by the organisations i.e.14NO bird species,1NO mammal species,1NO butterfly species,1NO dragonfly species 10NO species of hoverfly.

i) Offer by Clifton resident to gift a Hawthorne tree. The chair referred to a recent communication relating to this matter. Following discussion it was agreed that in view of the outlined personal circumstances council accept the offer and, as a gesture of goodwill that is not to be considered as creating a precedent, arrange for the council contractor to plant the tree in the open space area adjacent Dixon's Farm Mews/Preston Old Road, Clifton.

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 01/03/23-31/03/23.	£12.05 Vat <u>£0.60</u>	£12.65
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st March 2023 to 29th April 2023		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations May 2023 Horticultural features operations May 2023	£833.33 £833.33 Vat <u>£333.33</u>	£1999.99
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/04/23-30/04/23.	£11.66 Vat <u>£0.58</u>	£12.24
Whitehill Direct Ltd.	Manufacture and deliver noticeboard.	£973.00 Vat <u>£194.60</u>	£1167.60
1st Clifton Scout Group (Comprising 1st Clifton (Lund) Beavers, 1st Clifton (Lund) Cub Scouts)	Grant 2023/24 s.137 Local Government Act 1972.		£675.00
Northwest Air Ambulance .	Grant 2023/24 s.137 Local Government Act 1972.		£225.00
Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd.	Grant 2023/24 s.137 Local Government Act 1972.		£225.00
F. Wilson	Honoraria to June 2023.		£1892.32
HM Revenue and Customs	Statutory remuneration deductions, charges.		£543.40
National Employment Savings Trust Corporation	Pension contributions.		£579.48 <u>£7340.68</u>

ii) Retrospective approval.

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

Lancashire Environmental Fund * Paid 19/05/23	Third party contribution Friends of Newton Community (FoNCP) park grant application.		<u>£3097.00</u>
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+Councillor Gaynor Ellis formally Declared an Interest relating to this item FoNCP items and did not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. -7- contd...

Finance contd...

b) Management of contracts.

i) Contract and specifications. No update.

7. NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON UNCONTESTED PARISH ELECTION 4TH MAY 2023. Report any enquiry relating to interest expressed in office of councillor vacancies. The chair referred to recent communications and formal application relating to the above matter. Members observations were invited and following discussion it was subsequently Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Chris Whitworth be co-opted as member for Clifton Ward.

8. ACTION LOG.

Items that required action and not included in earlier agenda items were determined as follows:

i) Finance reporting. – the chair explained a Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28th June 2023.

ii) Potential abandoned vehicle on School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. As a clerk **ACTION** (15/05/23) referred to local police who advised (17/05/23) vehicle is not abandoned and so no action could be taken.

iii) Council priorities - members currently compiling a summary listing of annual priorities.

9. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Resignation of office as councillor. Councillor Gaynor Ellis explained personal circumstances, which made it necessary to resign the post as councillor for Newton ward, and to this effect submitted a letter dated 2nd June 2023 to the chair. Council expressed its appreciation and thanks in recognition of the endeavours as a councillor and council representative on Friends of Newton Community park.

b) Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the council be scheduled for Thursday 6th July 2023 commencing at c.7:15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom. There being no further business the chairman declared the Meeting closed at 22:05 hrs.

Chairman

6th July 2023