

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2023 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall and via Zoom.

Present: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors: Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, John Kitchen, Philip Morgan, Christopher Whitworth.

County Councillor Stewart Jones. Police: None. Member of the public: Five. Arising from the parish elections held on Thursday 4th May 2023, the chairman welcomed Councillor Christopher Whitworth, newly co-opted member who provided a Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and Register of Members Interest (Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests), duly countersigned by the clerk and will be submitted to Fylde borough council.

a) FORUM.

i) Parishioner matters.

a) Newton Hall park vandalism. Following a parishioner enquiry the chairman explained incidents had been reported to the police. Subsequent to a police request CCTV footage of reported incidents, where available, had been uploaded to the "NICE" secure police portal and matters are still being investigated.

b) Acorn Avenue/Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales highway markings. County Councillor Stewart Jones, subsequent to a parishioner enquiry, agreed to make enquiries regarding this matter with Lancashire county council highways authority (LCC).

c) SpID deployment. Following a parishioner enquiry the clerk advised that LCC was still assessing the parish council proposals arising from the Tuesday 6th June 2023 site survey. Subsequent to communications with LCC relating to Slow Down Save Lives (SDSL) resources arrangements were in place for both Clifton and Newton-with-Scales. SDSL resources had already been made available to a Clifton parishioner for display along Clifton Lane/Lodge Lane, Clifton. A Clifton parishioner offered to obtain photographic evidence of vehicles associated with Westinghouse Springfields Fuels Limited apparently not complying with Clifton Lane/Lodge Lane speed limits so the matter could be referred to the company CEO. A parishioner explained that the Lancashire road safety partnership's limited resources made it difficult to increase the frequency of deploying speed cameras, executing traffic surveys and therefore regularly collating data for problematic areas. A Clifton ward members agreed to discuss related issues with an officer at Kirkham police station.

ii) Policing and enforcement – No report

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for Absence. An Apology for absence was received from Councillor Janette McCormick.

b) Chairman's communications. None

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 Beverley Duckworth 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 Philip Morgan formally Declared an Interest with regard to planning application 23/0442 Certificate of lawful development for the proposed use of a dwelling house (use class c3) as a home for up to two young people (no older than 18 years of age) with care provided 24 hours a day by up to three non-resident carers working in shifts (use class c2) 23 Beech Drive Newton-with-Scales, Preston, Lancashire PR4 3TA to be considered under the planning and development agenda item.

d) Signing of Minutes.

i) Meeting, Thursday 1st June 2023. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

Procedural contd...

e) Matters arising from minutes.

i) Newton-with-Clifton uncontested parish election 4th May 2023. Following an enquiry the clerk advised that a reply had not been received to the council's second communication inviting the newly elected borough councillor to the meeting.

ii) Offer by Clifton resident to gift a Hawthorne tree. A Clifton ward councillor is liaising with the parishioner regarding this matter.

iii) Amenity street cleansing including weed killing operations. As a clerk **ACTION** (08/06/23) Fylde borough council had advised relating to its weed spraying treatment schedule.

iv) Action log - the chair reported items not on the agenda will be included in the action log to be circulated to members.

2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report by the chairman. Chairman reported that Councillor John Kitchen had volunteered to become the council's webmaster.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk explained HFHNC had not yet provided a revised document relating to its last meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

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. The chairman referred to ongoing initiatives relating to this issue and a recent deployment of civil enforcement parking officials. County Councillor Stewart Jones agreed to make enquiries relating to the increased reception class intake at Newton Bluecoat School from September 2023.

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 (01/06/23) reported 4NO damaged stiles on a Newton-Treales footpath 1NO Newton-with-Clifton parish and 3NO Treales Roseacre and Wharles parish. The chairman reported this remains an ongoing matter.

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 to 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.

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.

Highways contd...

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. Previously reported (11/05/23) by chairman. No update and agreed to refer again to LCC.

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 estate's 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. Subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (17/05/23) Lancashire county council highways had advised (24/05/23) it will schedule repair work.

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** (16/06/23) to again report the highway defect to Lancashire county council.

xvi) Grass verge, junction of A583/Blackpool Road/Lodge Lane. Members 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 (Clerk reported 30/05/23). However, LCC had advised (09/06/23) it does not consider sightlines were impeded and is not proposing any action at this time. County Councillor Stewart Jones explained the matter will be taken up again with LCC.

xvii) A583/Blackpool Road signage Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA - between Dobbies Garden Centre and Newton. Chairman referred to the above issue and clerk advised council had already reported it LCC (26/05/23) County Councillor Stewart Jones explained the matter will be taken up again with LCC.

xviii) Stanagate - grass verges and open spaces maintenance. Members referred to parishioner complaints relating to the grass cutting operations in this area. Progress Housing Group had recently executed maintenance however issues with LCC verge areas still required to be addressed. As a clerk **ACTION** (02/05/23) enquiries are ongoing with LCC to determine how matters may be resolved.

xix) A583/Blackpool Road/School Lane, Newton-with-Scales 'NO ENTRY' warnings. Subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (08/06/23) LCC had arranged for highway road markings to be refreshed. However, members reported drivers of vehicles still disregarding the one way signage, "No waiting" highway markings, and associated parking restrictions signage.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Blocked gully - opposite 52 School Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RT.

A Newton ward member referred to this issue which had been reported to LCC.

Work had recently been executed by LCC and it was explained the situation will be monitored to assess any further malfunction.

ii) A583/Blackpool Road/Preston Old Road junction at traffic signals. The clerk reported a parishioner concern relating to vehicle drivers disregarding speed limits i.e. when entering from A583/Blackpool Road on to Preston Old Road the speed limit is reduced from 50MPH to 20MPH.

Highways contd...

Apparently speed limits are being ignored and drivers do not slow down quickly enough, causing a highway safety issue generally and specifically at the Goldfinch Drive/Preston Old Road junction. LCC had agreed (03/07/23) Preston Old Road would benefit from an improved buffer for those vehicles reducing their speed when travelling from A583/Blackpool Road and will introduce a section limited to 30mph between the current 50mph & 20mph zones, however there are no plans to change the speed limit or signage on A583/Blackpool Road.

iii) Rural and urban areas highway grass verge maintenance Members referred to the overgrown condition of verge areas that is considered a highway safety issue. It was agreed to refer these concerns to LCC. County Councillor Stewart Jones explained the matter will be taken up again with LCC.

iv) Acorn Avenue/Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales highway markings. The chairman referred to this matter raised in open forum, as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC.

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 reported the noticeboard had been received and agreed to liaise further with Westchurch homes Ltd in arranging for the noticeboard to be assembled and installed.

ii) Littering in parish. Members reported littering was still problematic on Newton Hall park.

iii) Dog fouling. A Clifton ward member reported William pickles park was now experiencing problems similar to those that had occurred at Newton Hall park i.e. commercial exercising of a number of dogs. In view of the business denying any involvement relating to Newton Hall park it was agreed dates/times together with photographs would assist in trying to resolve issues. Subsequent to a clerk **ACTION** (15/05/23) it was agreed to again request Fylde borough council environmental protection to refresh penalty signage and display Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) notices. Members understood the notices used as part of a KBT "We're watching you" campaign were particularly effective.

iv) SpID deployment. The chairman referenced this matter discussed in Open Forum which is currently being progressed with Lancashire county council highways.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications.

23/0390 Erection of agricultural storage/livestock building at Moss Farm, Salwick Road, Salwick, Newton-with- Clifton, Preston, PR4 3SN. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the proposed development is granted planning permission

23/0442 Certificate of lawful development for the proposed use of a dwelling house (use class c3) as a home for up to two young people (no older than 18 years of age) with care provided 24 hours a day by up to three non-resident carers working in shifts (use class c2) 23 Beech Drive Newton-with-Scales, Preston, Lancashire PR4 3TA. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that, although not being formally consulted regarding the application, the local planning authority (LPA) be advised council recommend the application is refused a certificate of lawfulness; council is aware that with regard to a planning application for a lawful development certificate there is no statutory requirement for the LPA to consult the parish council or neighbours. Members referenced that Blackpool and Wyre councils include advice and guidance relating to these types of applications on their respective websites. However, such advice and guidance does not appear to be available on the Fylde planning portal/website and consequently members required LPA observations in this regard. Based on information that is available members request the LPA, in determining the application, to be particularly mindful of several issues of concern to the parish. Concerns of members regarding the proposal relate to what is considered a material change of use that is effected when a residential home is used as a residential care home. It is considered that the proposal is detrimental to highway safety, car parking provision is inadequate and consequently inconsistent with safeguarding arrangements at a home for up to two young people with three non-resident carers.

Members consider that it is likely the proposal will also increase site vehicular activity when the carers change shifts and when related professionals and others visit the home to address the specialists educational, health, and well-being needs of the children. The application supporting documents does not evidence how the property will be kept safe and free from potential health hazards e.g. electrical, fire and gas safety.

Planning contd...

The proposal is considered inappropriate due to a perceived incongruence with a location which is a quiet residential area. Moreover, the proposal may add to the cost of related service provision and travel if children in the home are originally from outside the Fylde area. Therefore the proposal is considered inappropriate given the location of the dwelling and a precedent may be created for similar proposals if a certificate of lawfulness is granted in this instance. Council agreed to include documents relating to parishioner observations submitted to the council with its representation to the LPA. Councillor Philip Morgan formally Declared an Interest with regard to planning application 23/0442, withdrew from the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon.

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. No update reported.

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.

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

d) Fylde Borough Council Planning Committee planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications/ recommendations. No update reported.

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. The chairman referred to the report previously circulated by Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract). It was agreed council should formally convey its appreciation and thanks to the contractor in respect of the standard of service being provided in respect of contractual services executed in the parish.

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. The chairman referred to the report previously circulated by Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract). It was agreed council should formally convey its appreciation and thanks to the contractor in respect of the standard of service being provided in respect of contractual services executed in the parish.

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

i) Report. The report previously circulated by Gaynor Ellis (FoNCP representative) was taken as read.

ii) FoNCP contractor downselecting for park path. Chairman referred to details provided by FoNCP and circulated previously by the clerk. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** a) Council accepts that the process adopted by FoNCP in determining specifications for construction of the path and subsequent downselecting of contractors was reasonable, transparent and complied with promoting equality, and fairness in the procurement process. b) Council agrees with the FoNCP recommendation that Contractor D be selected to execute the work.

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

i) Issues arising from dieback disease affecting Ash trees - update. A Clifton ward member referred to trees previously surveyed on "Clifton triangle" and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to request Lancashire county council to provide an update.

Parks contd...

The member also reported an understanding that this land is owned by 1NO surviving trustee, from 3NO originally included in a Deed of Trust.

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). No update provided.

f) Anti-social behaviour, Newton Hall park, consider possible initiatives, CCTV, lighting &c and funding e.g. police and crime commissioners community fund (PCCCF) and drain jetting subsequent to vandalism. Previous neighbour concerns relating to improved lighting were reported and it was generally considered that CCTV funding from PCCCF was unlikely to be forthcoming for the reasons provided relating to a previous SpID enquiry. The chairman referred to FoNCP recommended drain jetting work and it was explained this was likely to be included in a maintenance schedule to be circulated in due course. In view of the increased incidence of anti-social behaviour it was agreed to continue to lobby for the police to increase the frequency of beat patrols rather than vehicle only.

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 01/05/23-31/05/23.	£12.05 Vat £0.60	£12.65
Fylde Borough Council	Election expenses		£200.00
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 30th April 2023 to 30th May2023		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations June 2023 Horticultural features operations June 2023	£833.33 £872.92 Vat £341.25	£2047.50
*Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee (NWCVHC).	Reimbursement of 2023/24 insurance premium. *Payment subject to formal request from NWCVHC.	£1052.59 £3320.74	

ii) Invoices submitted at meeting.

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

Guideline Surface Marking Ltd	Marking vehicle parking bays Newton Hall Newton Hall park	£675.00 Vat £135.00	£810.00
+The Picture Frame Studio. +Reimburse Councillor Beverley Duckworth	Framed long service certificate former member.		£35.00
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/06/23-30/06/23.	£11.66 Vat £0.58	£12.24 £857.24

b) Management of contracts.

i) Contract and specifications. The chairman referred to the draft contact prepared by the clerk and previously circulated to members. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the draft contract be approved and arrangements made for it to be signed.

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 Ben Stephenson be co-opted as member for Newton Ward. Members suggested publishing notices e.g. local press, Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser, and St. John the Evangelist (Lund) parish magazine, noticeboards and shops to fill remaining vacancies.

8. ACTION LOG.

Chairman explained the action log will be updated and items that required action and not included in earlier agenda items were determined as follows:

i) Finance reporting. – the chair explained that following a Zoom meeting, Wednesday 28th June 2023 the clerk is to provide finance reports in a revised format.

ii) Council priorities summary listing of annual priorities.

Subsequent to discussion a Newton ward member agreed to prepare a list of priorities/smart objectives to include inter alia, sensible use of social media so encouraging community engagement, promote parish council website in the community, publish information relating to parish councillors duties, responsibilities &c, improve partnership working with local authorities/organisation and police including quarterly police reports and succession planning.

9. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Newton-with-Clifton Field-day Week-End, Civic Sunday 9th July 2023.

The Chairman referred to the above service, members are invited to attend at St. John the Evangelist (Lund) church, Church Lane, Clifton PR4 0ZE.

b) Lund Way (BW12) - Newton-with-Scales and Freckleton. It was reported that signage has been removed.

c) Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that meetings of the council's standing finance and planning committees be scheduled for Thursday 3rd August 2023 and that the next meeting of the council be scheduled for Thursday 7th September 2023 each 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 21:25 hrs.

Chairman

7th September 2023