

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th January 2024 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall.

Present: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors Jennifer C. Benson, Samuel Baugh, Peter Collins, John Kitchen, Janette McCormick, Philip Morgan, Benjamin Stephenson, Aimee Tombs, Christopher Whitworth.

Borough/County Councillors: None, Police: None. Member of the public: Two.

### **a) FORUM.**

#### **i) Parishioner matters.**

a) William Pickles park, Clifton - path and drainage. A Clifton parishioner referred to the run off from the path that is contributing to areas being waterlogged. It was agreed that this required an engineering solution and would likely form part of comprehensive works being considered by Friends of Clifton park and Fylde borough council in delivering a community park improvement programme.

b) SpID deployment. A Clifton parishioner referred to a site meeting that he had attended together with a Clifton ward member, Newton ward member, Lancashire county council county road safety officer (LCC) and the clerk. The parishioner had recently requested an update from LCC which had still to be received.

ii) Policing and enforcement - No report

### **1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

a) Apologies for Absence. An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Stewart Jones.

#### **b) Chairman's communications.**

i) The chairman welcomed the newly co-opted member for Clifton ward and wished everyone "Happy New Year".

ii) Other communications. None reported.

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. 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 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 7th December 2023. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

#### **e) Matters arising from minutes.**

i) Flower and shrub bed display(s) advertising and sponsorship. No update reported.

ii) CCTV signage Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. No update reported.

iii) Other matters. No other matters reported that were not to be dealt with as agenda items.

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

a) Consider website development, receive report by the chairman.

i) Facebook and website communications. Chairman thanked a Newton ward member for the recent posts on Clifton and Newton (2NO) Facebook pages particularly with regard to Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL) and Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL) proposals. Similarly the chairman had arranged recent posts on the council website.

Parish communications contd...

ii) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). A Newton ward member and HFHNC nominative governor/trustee reported a meeting is scheduled to be held next week.

### **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 reported ongoing issues with drivers parking vehicles in a manner detrimental to highway safety and the nuisance caused to residents requiring driveway access/egress. It was agreed that in future affected parishioners should be advised to immediately contact the police.

ii) Public footpath NOS.6/7. Previously referred to LCC as a clerk **ACTION** (13/04/23). The chairman reported a kissing gate had been installed at the School Lane entrance to public footpath NO7 (07/12/23).

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 reported.

v) 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). Members had previously referred to contaminated water draining on to the south side of the highway. The untreated effluent in the open environment is associated with a dysfunctional or missing septic tank and it is considered a health and safety risk to pedestrian users of the highway. As a clerk **ACTION** (11/09/23) it was agreed to request Lancashire county council/Environment agency/Fylde borough council to advise which authority had assumed responsibility for monitoring the issue by arranging inspections and ensuring corrective work is executed and funded by the responsible party, liaising as necessary with the property owners/occupiers. A Newton ward member informed that at a recent District/Parish liaison meeting a LCC engineer had agreed to make enquiries regarding this issue. As a clerk **ACTION** (02/11/23) it was agreed to correspond with the engineer and the county councillor requesting an update. Also, as an **ACTION** (02/11/23) a Clifton ward member agreed to request Fylde borough council chief executive for an update. No update reported.

vi) 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 previously 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 matters continue to be monitored by responsible authorities.

vii) 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. No update reported.

viii) 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.

ix) "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. No update reported.

x) Parish highway matters, Bryning Lane/School Lane junction - (particularly affecting traffic turning right from School Lane), Newton-with-Scales - pothole. It had been previously 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 highways (LCC). LCC reported (27/06/23) work will be executed.

Highways contd...

A Newton ward member reported reinstatement work had now been executed although road markings had still to be completed.

xi) 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 had previously explained the matter will be taken up again with LCC. No update reported.

xii) A583/Blackpool Road signage Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA - between Dobbies Garden Centre and Newton. Chairman referred to the above issue and clerk advised it had already been reported to LCC (26/05/23). County Councillor Stewart Jones had previously explained the matter will be taken up again with LCC. It was reported (02/11/23) the sign had been removed and not yet replaced. A hole had developed on the footway in the vicinity of the sign which had been reported to LCC and corrective maintenance is scheduled, as advised by LCC on 20th October 2023. A Clifton ward member reported LCC had now replaced the sign and it was agreed the matter could be closed.

xiii) 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. This issue is now an agenda item and will remain so until resolved - please refer to Highways and transportation item 3d.

xiv) 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 had previously reported drivers of vehicles still disregarding the one-way signage, "No waiting" highway markings, and associated parking restrictions signage. No update provided.

xv) Blocked gully - opposite 52 School Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RT. A Newton ward member referred to this issue which had again been reported to LCC (07/09/23) as the gully remains blocked. The issue continues to be monitored however in view of recurring incidents it was agreed that as a clerk **ACTION** the issue should be escalated (02/11/23). No update reported. A Newton ward member reported further issues had again been reported to LCC (07/12/23).

xvi) A583/Blackpool Road/Preston Old Road junction at traffic signals. The clerk had previously reported (22/06/23) 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. LCC (03/07/23) agreed to provide an improved buffer when travelling from Blackpool Road and introduce a section limited to 30mph in-between the current 50mph & 20mph zones. No update reported.

xvii) 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 (06/07/23). County Councillor Stewart Jones had previously explained (06/07/23) the matter will be taken up again with LCC. No update provided.

xviii) Acorn Avenue/Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales highway markings. The chairman referred to this matter previously raised in open forum, as a clerk **ACTION** (31/07/23) it had been agreed to refer the matter to LCC. No update provided and agreed as an **ACTION** clerk will contact LCC. LCC advised (17/10/23) Acorn Avenue is currently "not part of the adopted highway network".

xix) Clifton Lane/Lodge Lane, Clifton - overgrown hedgerows, trees, vegetation, verges various sections. The chairman referred to this item previously reported in open forum (07/09/23 and 02/11/23). Complaints had again been received relating to the alleged unsatisfactory condition of hedgerows, trees, vegetation, verges on various sections of the highways. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed council again request the highways authority to arrange an inspection and corrective work, liaising with the responsible landowners/occupiers if applicable, recharging costs as necessary, and advise when it will be scheduled for execution.

Highways contd...

LCC advised (4/10/23) with regards to i) Clifton Lane; a legal notice had been served, it will execute maintenance and recharge the landowner, ii) Lodge Lane; LCC is considering enforcement action.

xx) Initial Notification: Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) - School Lane & surrounding areas, Newton-with-Clifton 20th November 2023 to 1st December 2023. Chairman reported (07/12/23) workers were co-operative and efficient in executing the scheduled highway resurfacing. The chairman reported that the work executed was surface dressing/reinstatement of areas of highway, rather than extensive highway resurfacing, and highway markings had still to be replaced. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC.

xxi) Traffic signal controls, Blackpool Road/A583/Preston Old Road, Clifton junction. A Clifton ward member referred to traffic signals at this junction malfunctioning, primarily affecting traffic emerging from Preston Old Road - possible incorrect calibration/phasing/vehicle actuation issue. It was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** (02/11/23) to again refer the matter to LCC. No update provided.

xxii) A583 Blackpool Road footway encroachment, overgrown hedgerows, vegetation, verges westbound carriageway (junction with School Lane, Newton-with-Scales). LCC advised (17/10/23) that following inspection, as there were no highway safety issues identified, no further action is to be taken.

xxiii) Parish highway matters, footway survey. The chairman referred to a parishioner complaint raised in open forum (05/10/23) relating to the unsatisfactory condition of footways in the parish - particularly Newton-with-Scales. Members agreed sections of footway that form part of the highway continue to deteriorate. As a clerk **ACTION** (12/10/23) it was agreed to request that LCC arrange to execute a survey of parish footways as there is a perception maintenance is required as a matter of priority in some localities due the present condition of the footway extent of the highway being considered detrimental to highway safety. Ahead of any parish wide survey the following specific Newton-with-Scales areas, identified by members, required as a clerk **ACTION** (12/10/23) to be referred to LCC i) Beech Drive, ii) Bryning Lane (various sections), iii) Grange Lane at junction with Bryning Lane, iv) Hawthorne Avenue, v) Oak Lane, (junction with Acorn Avenue), vi) Oak Lane, (junction with Grange Lane). Temporary road closures of surrounding areas were scheduled on 20th November 2023 to 1st December 2023 to enable carriageway resurfacing works to be executed by LCC highways it was suggested LCC may consider it opportune to address concurrently these footway issues. LCC had advised (18/10/23) i) It inspects all of the adopted roads and footways in the county at least once a year to identify any defects which meet minimum investigatory level for repair i.e. any defect that causes a tripping hazard and which has an up-stand in excess of 25mm. ii) Various inspections arranged in November 2022 and subsequent repair executed. iii) Routine inspections are scheduled in coming weeks. No update reported.

xxiv) Highway safety - Preston Old Road, Clifton (junction with Goldfinch Drive and proximity to bus stops). A Newton ward member reported (05/10/2023) highway safety issues caused by the number and type of vehicles associated with 2NO commercial operations in the locality being parked off-site on the highway. A Clifton ward member expounded on the problem and a fellow Clifton ward member agreed to raise the issue informally with the proprietor of 1NO business. Council agreed a clerk **ACTION** (12/10/23) to correspond with 1NO business. No update reported.

xxv) Condition of footway and ginnel between Bryning Lane and Hawthorne Avenue Newton-with-Scales. A parishioner complaint, previously raised in open forum (05/10/23) relating to the unsatisfactory condition of the ginnel due to an accumulation of detritus, leaf fall, litter, weeds &c at the above location had been referred to Fylde borough council (FBC) as a clerk **ACTION** (09/10/23). FBC had advised (09/10/23) it will arrange corrective maintenance work. No update reported.

xxvi) 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. The matter had previously been considered closed and no update reported.

xxvii) Flooding A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Clifton. Members referred to the highway flooding and ponding that is caused by malfunctioning gullies/sewers serving sections of the A583/Blackpool Road.

Highways contd...

Flooding crosses over two lanes of both eastbound and westbound traffic, a section in the vicinity of Dobbies Garden Centre being cited as an example. Members considered that water draining from a fishing lake to the rear of property Blackpool Road (Vicarage Lane junction) is contributing to the issue. In the interest of highway safety it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** (02/11/23) that LCC is requested to arrange an investigation and corrective jetting/maintenance work as necessary and advise when it may be programmed for execution. Lancashire Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) had advised (24/11/23) the sites that had been referred are diversely located and directly connected to highway drainage issues and not within LLFA policy on flooding investigations which requires specific criteria to be satisfied in order to establish whether a formal investigation is 'necessary or appropriate': i) internal flooding to five or more residential properties in close proximity during one flood event, ii) internal flooding to one or more properties on two or more occasions in the previous 5 years, iii) internal flooding to two or more business/commercial premises during one flood event, or iv) flooding has affected critical infrastructure for a period in excess of 3 hours from the onset of flooding, v) where there are specific health and safety concerns (e.g. environmental health or risk to life), or vi) if there is ambiguity surrounding the source or responsibility related to a flood incident in addition to one of the above. LLFA had suggested pursuing the matter with the local highway management team (LCC). The clerk explained that LCC /LLFA had been advised concurrently. It was agreed to collate photographic evidence which could be submitted to LCC to request the authority execute a risk assessment and associated corrective work. A Newton ward member agreed to prepare an evidential risk assessment of the areas for submitting to LCC.

xxviii) Drainage, Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales. A Newton ward member reported that, subsequent to LCC maintenance, seven (of eight) drainage gullies properly function and LCC is to address the outstanding issue.

xxix) Blocked gullies at Spen Lane, Treales. A Newton ward member reported that, subsequent to LCC maintenance, drainage gullies properly function.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Highway markings, Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported that highway markings are either completely missing, or faded to the point of being unclear throughout Clifton, other than Goldfinch Drive. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC.

ii) A583/Blackpool Road (proximity to School Lane junction) Newton-with-Scales. A Clifton ward member reported the overgrown condition of a tree(s) that required maintenance as it is considered a footway obstruction and detrimental to highway safety. The chairman and another Newton ward member agreed to arrange an inspection and assess work that is required.

c) Street scene matters.

i) Relocate noticeboard from Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales and other work, including bus shelter provision to improve amenity in central village area. The chairman reported a local contractor had executed a noticeboard repair following storm damage.

ii) Littering in parish. Newton ward member advised volunteer litter picking continues to mitigate issues, reported particular problems relating to Church Lane, Clifton and that Fylde borough council waste operations had still to reply to a communication informing several bin liners will be left for collection at this location. Following a Clifton ward member enquiry it was explained that a disused car park, located off Church Lane, is private land.

iii) Dog fouling. The chairman reported this issue is still problematic, particularly in Newton-with-Scales. It was explained that, on completion of the path at Newton Hall park, Friends of Newton Community park is to request Fylde borough council environmental protection to provide an additional bin for dog waste and general litter to be fixed in proximity to the dog run area.

iv) SpID deployment. The chairman referred to this ongoing matter and as advised in open forum by a Clifton parishioner Lancashire county council/Lancashire road safety partnership has still to provide an update. The chairman reported distribution of "Slow down Save lives" resources at a recent petition signing event.

v) Install noticeboard, Preston Old Road, Clifton. A Clifton ward member advised a local contractor is to schedule the work.

Planning contd...

vi) Street cleansing, Lodge Lane, Clifton - reported in open forum (02/11/23). No update reported.

d) Amenity grass cutting built-up areas. The clerk advised subsequent to an **ACTION** (14/12/23) Angie Ridgwell (LCC Chief executive) and Councillor Phillips Williamson (Leader LCC) had still to provide a reply.

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

a) Planning applications.

23/0825 Single and two storey side and rear extension (resubmission of application 23/0668) 25 Hornby Drive, Newton-with-Scales, Lancashire PR4 3ST. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission.

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 developing Morecambe Offshore Windfarm project. 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 - statutory consultation transmission assets. The chairman reported that a subset of members previously authorised to represent the council had met with representatives from Freckleton, Treales Roseacre and Wharles, and Westby-with-Plumpton parish councils (subsequent to an invitation shared by Ribby-with-Wrea parish council) and Kirkham town council. The chairman explained that it had been agreed all Fylde area parish & town councils should be encouraged to engage in a collaborative group to ensure any representations relating to the Morecambe & Morgan proposed development are coherent, collaborative, and consistently structured. Accordingly the subset of members will continue to communicate with other parish and town council representatives and will meet again on Thursday 1st February 2024 at Newton Village Hall commencing at 17:45pm. Moreover it was agreed that this unified collaborative council group should be separate from any local interest group(s) that may be established. A Clifton ward member and borough councillor reported Fylde borough council is unlikely to sign off the statutory consultation as adequate. A Newton ward member reported that the parliamentary petition is scheduled to be submitted on Monday 12th February 2024.

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

i) Planning consultation - 22/0939 Erection of 39 (previously 41) affordable dwellings with associated access off Ash Court, car parking, open space, landscaping and pumping station, land off Ash Court, Clifton, Lancashire. The chairman referred to Fylde borough council (FBC) correspondence relating to the development and potential s.106 schemes. The parish council representation had originally stated that should FBC be minded to grant planning permission council strongly recommends; i) that it is conditional on securing a developer contribution towards mitigating the impact of what is considered an unacceptable development to make it acceptable in planning terms e.g. i) improved recreational facilities at William Pickles park, ii) enhanced highway safety measures including provision of pedestrian crossing facilities on; Clifton Lane to facilitate safer access/egress to/from the recreational open space and particularly for users of public transport, and A583/Blackpool Road/Preston Old Road junction, SpID equipment on; Lodge Lane and Clifton Lane, iii) need for comprehensive foul and surface water drainage/sewerage infrastructure improvements requiring an agreement between the applicant and the local highway authority, lead local flood authority relating to both on and off site highway issues. Council agreed these recommendations be reiterated to FBC, and that FBC be requested to provide details of its position relating to the proposed development.

Planning contd...

Also FBC be requested to provide clarification of the current development proposal, due to the original application being for 41 affordable dwellings and recent communications indicate 39, together with a copy of its draft planning inspectorate appeal representation

d) Neighbourhood Plans (NP). The clerk reported that Mark Evans FBC Head of planning is to address the council meeting scheduled for Thursday 1st February 2024.

## **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. The contractor has scheduled maintenance work throughout the winter months, including removal of a dead conifer.

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

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

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

i) Issues arising from Ash dieback disease, including storm damage &c.

a) Lodge Lane, Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported concerns relating to a tree(s) on land off Lodge Lane understood to be owned by United Utilities for wastewater pumping station purposes. In the interest of highway and public safety council agreed the matter should be referred to the responsible authorities.

b) William Pickles park Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported a dead tree on park land that required to be removed. It was agreed to request the council's contractor to arrange an inspection and execute work as required.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council (LCC), local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust, and parish surveys. No updates reported.

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, development, equipment maintenance and repairs - Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). No updates reported, however it was agreed to communicate with FoCP explaining that a Fylde borough council planning officer is to address the next meeting of the council scheduled for Thursday 1st February 2024 and so it would assist members to receive the FoCP written report but without any verbal presentation which has been the case in previous open forum sessions.

## **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:

HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st October 2023 to 30th November 2023		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations December 2023 Horticultural features operations December 2023	£833.33 £872.92	
			Vat £341.25 £2047.50
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/12/23-31/12/23.	£12.05 Vat £0.60	£12.65 £2068.15

Finance contd...

b) Consider 2024/25 budget report and precept.

The chairman referred to the report (copies of which had previously been circulated to members. The chairman explained that Friends of Newton community park (FoNCP) is to provide more detailed information relating to how its projects are to be allocated available funding. Following an enquiry by a Newton ward member the clerk reported the anticipated level of accumulated revenue reserves at 31st March 2024 is c. £100000. Following an enquiry by a Newton ward member the clerk reported it is considered best practice that councils should typically hold up to 12 months expenditure as a general reserve together with earmarked reserves for projects where money is allocated for a specific purpose. Council is currently liaising with Friends of Clifton park (FoCP) and Fylde borough council parks department in delivering an anticipated community park improvement programme (CPIP). It is estimated that reserves of between £25000-£35000 will subsequently be earmarked for William Pickles park CPIP. It was agreed the report should include a more detailed explanation of the level and proposed use of reserves, accumulated over c. five years. In conclusion it was agreed that the clerk as an **ACTION** circulate a revised budget report, including recommended precept, for determination at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 1st February 2024.

c) Consider request for funding Fresh Food 4 Working Families Community Interest Company.

The chairman referred to the above request and subsequent communications. Following due deliberation it was determined the company be advised that council only provides grants to charitable organisations.

**7. NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON UNCONTESTED PARISH ELECTION 4TH MAY 2023. Report any enquiry relating to interest expressed in office of councillor vacancies.**

The clerk reported there is now 1NO vacancy (Newton ward) and that subsequent to a council communication a Clifton ward resident had not responded with regard to potential candidature as a Newton ward representative. A Clifton ward parishioner in attendance expressed an interest in the vacancy and agreed to submit a formal application in due course.

**8. ACTION LOG.** Chairman explained the action log will be updated and include any agenda items that required action from the meeting.

**9. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.**

a) Christmas tree collection. Following an enquiry by a Clifton ward councillor it was reported Fylde borough council (FBC) is collaborating with Trinity Hospice to offer the doorstep collections of real Christmas trees to all areas of Fylde. The collections will take place on Friday 12th January, Saturday 13th January and Sunday 14th January 2024. Residents can book a tree collection online and pledge a charitable donation to Trinity Hospice for their doorstep tree collection. The bookings site is accessible on the Trinity Hospice website, a link to the booking form is on FBC website - recycling at Christmas. FBC has arranged temporary Christmas tree collection sites, from Wednesday 3rd January to Sunday 14th January 2024. Collection sites for the residents to use are coastguard station, north beach car park, St Annes, William Segar Hodgson Park, Coronation Road, Kirkham, residents have the option of using the Trinity doorstep collection or chopping up the tree and placing it in the green wheeled bin (if subscribed) once the service resumes on Monday 8th January 2024. Real Christmas trees collected by Trinity Hospice or taken to one of the designated collection points will be planted on St Annes beach as part of the ongoing sand dunes restoration project.

b) Festive Christmas season, parish trees displays. Members expressed their praise regarding the attractive Christmas tree displays in both villages.

c) Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 1st February 2024 commencing at 7:15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall. There being no further business the chairman declared the Meeting closed at 20:55 hrs.

Chairman

1st February 2024