

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2024 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall.

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

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

a) FORUM.

i) Parishioner matters.

a) Friend of Newton Community park (FoNCP). A parishioner FoNCP representative reported the following matters which, if necessary, will be formally considered under the parks and open spaces agenda item;

i) Fylde borough council gift of 15NO trees. 3NO trees planted at the park would be appreciated and FoNCP would fund the cost of planting.

ii) FoNCP Annual general meeting (AGM) Friday 23rd February 2024. AGM commences at 7:30 pm at the Bell and Bottle public house. If permitted by council FoNCP will publicise the AGM on the parish noticeboard.

iii) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RT. MUGA missing a gate latch.

iv) Contractor installation of path at Newton Hall park. Council was requested to consider a FoNCP communication regarding engineering specifications and lack of a contractor guarantee.

b) Flooding Blackpool Road/A583 Newton-with-Scales. A Newton ward parishioner referred to this ongoing issue and the chairman explained the matter has been reported on several occasions to Lancashire county council and will again be considered under the highways and transportation agenda item.

c) Planning application 24/0027. A parishioner provided members with information to complement the official application which is to be formally considered under the planning and development agenda item.

ii) Policing and enforcement. Clifton ward member reported an apology for absence from the PC Jan Unsworth area police officer and that police community support officers (Pcso) are now required to cover all rural parish areas. It was agreed Pcso resources should be considered at the next district/parish liaison meeting.

iii) Neighbourhood plan (NP) presentation. The chairman reported communications with parish and borough Councillor Peter Collins and Mark Evans Fylde borough council Head of planning (FBC). It had been suggested FBC allows time to discuss renewable energy projects, deferring part of the NP presentation if considered necessary. Apparently, as a consequence it now appeared FBC would not be in attendance.

iv) Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL) and Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL) Chairman referred to FBC's consideration of offshore windfarm applications and options for parishes and town councils to be involved in deliberations; i.e. the head of planning to arrange and chair a special meeting at the town hall, or the district/parish planning liaison chairman convene a special meeting.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Samuel Baugh, Councillor Peter Collins, and County Councillor Stewart Jones.

b) Chairman's 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 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.

Procedural matters contd...

d) Signing of Minutes.

i) Council meeting, Thursday 4th January 2024. 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 various recent posts on Clifton and Newton (2NO) Facebook pages and particularly with regard to Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL) and Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL) proposals. The chairman reported the usual notifications which had posts on the council website.

ii) Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) gov.uk domain name for council website. The clerk reported potential issues arising from measures recommended by JPAG. In order to address annual governance and accountability return (AGAR), assertion number three, councils should ensure they have an email account address that belongs to the council, ideally this would be a gov.uk or org.uk address linked to the council website. The clerk advised enquiries are ongoing and further information will be provided in due course

b) 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 continue to be monitored.

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.

Highways contd... 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. 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) 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.

xiii) 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.

xiv) 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).

xv) 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.

xvi) 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.

xvii) 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.

Highways contd... 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”.

xviii) 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. 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. A Clifton ward member reported that work had now been executed and sight lines were much improved.

xix) 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** (04/01/24) it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC. Chairman reported LCC had advised [works completed so far have been pre-patching works ahead of further surface dressing work which is due to take place in Summer 2024].

xx) 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.

xxi) 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.

xxii) 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.

xxiii) 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.

xxiv) 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).

Highways contd... FBC advised (09/10/23) it will arrange maintenance work. No update reported.
xxv) 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 (04/01/24). A Newton ward member reported that sight lines and related visibility had improved subsequent to recent hedgerow maintenance, and that the 1NO bollard was now padlocked.

xxvi) 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. 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 ponding issues. 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. As an **ACTION** (04/01/24) by members it was agreed to collate photographic evidence which could be submitted to LCC requesting 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. Members again reported complaints relating to highway flooding and ponding apparently caused by malfunctioning gullies/sewers reporting that LCC had previously indicated work was rescheduled for Monday 15th January 2024 and that this work has still to commence. Council considered this protracted issue detrimental to highway safety, accordingly as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed LCC should again be requested to arrange an inspection, execute maintenance necessary and advise when this work may be programmed for execution. It was also agreed to request information relating to the criteria used by LCC when managing and determining its highway maintenance priorities e.g. risk assessment and its performance measured against the code of practice for highway maintenance management. Moreover, members determined that perceived issues with the Love Clean Streets application are brought to the attention of LCC as the system often indicates a job(s) has been completed and on subsequent physical inspection it is evident work has not been completed.

xxvii) 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.

xxviii) Blocked gullies at Spen Lane, Treales. A Newton ward member reported (04/01/24) that, subsequent to LCC maintenance, drainage gullies properly function. A Newton ward member advised LCC is to execute further maintenance to ensure all gullies were fully operational.

xxix) 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** (04/01/24) it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC. A Clifton ward member reported the LCC response (11/01/24) [LCC only replace or refresh traffic markings that have faded at 'safety critical' locations, or where enforcement is required (i.e. highway maintenance policy).

Highways contd... Safety critical sites include, the renewal of solid centre line marks (no overtaking), junction give way and stop lines, solid edge of carriageway markings, formal pedestrian crossing points and school zig zag markings. There are a significant number of road markings on the residential, and arterial roads of Clifton, however not all of these meet the safety critical criteria. If there are any locations which do meet these criteria their exact location is required with photographic evidence, or a nearby landmark/building, or a what3words reference. LCC would assess the location and decide if the road markings need refreshing. LCC, will continue to monitor the area and will refresh any faded lines which may create a potential safety issue.]

xxx) 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. As an **ACTION** (04/01/24) chairman and another Newton ward member agreed to arrange an inspection and assess work that is required. No update reported.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Potholes-A583/Blackpool Road, Clifton. A complaint was received by members relating to the unsatisfactory condition of various sections the eastbound carriageway between traffic signals at "Three Nooks" and the Lea Gate public house. 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 other work, including bus shelter provision to improve amenity in central village area. In view of the work completed to date it was agreed this agenda item should be changed to "amenity improvements in central village area, including eradicating Japanese Knotweed".

ii) Littering in parish. A Newton ward member advised volunteer litter picking continues to mitigate issues, reported particular problems relating to Church Lane, Clifton at the entrance to rural business park, and that this has happened on more than one occasion in recent months. In an attempt to address the problem it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** the proprietor of the rural business park be advised and their assistance requested by informing those associated with the various Church Lane rural business park operations of the issue, and seek their co-operation in ensuring the proper disposal of litter to improve the amenity of the area.

iii) Dog fouling. The chairman reported this issue is still problematic, particularly in Newton-with-Scales.

iv) SpID deployment. A Newton ward member advised that 3NO types of SpID were being assessed. Details will be circulated in due course and Lancashire county council (LCC) requested to consider preferred locations in Clifton and Newton-with-Scales. LCC has previously advised street lighting columns could not be used to position SpID equipment and that LCC will supply and fit bespoke posts, at locations still to be specified, the cost of which the council is required to meet.

v) Install noticeboard, Preston Old Road, Clifton. The noticeboard was now in situ.

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

d) Amenity grass cutting built-up areas. Members referred to a Fylde borough council (FBC) communication that indicated; [i) FBC own the shelter, FBC does not have historic records as to how it "first came about", ii) FBC parks department confirm it is LCC who is responsible for the grass cutting. Following deliberations it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that as the first and second tier authorities retain incompatible opinions the verge area frontage NOS1-11 Stanagate, Clifton be included in the council grassed open space maintenance contract from 2024.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications.

24/0027 Change of use of land to create 8 additional hardstanding pitches for touring caravans including formation of associated access track at "Norcross" Parrox Lane Newton-with-Scales Lancashire PR4 3RJ. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is refused planning permission; members determined the proposed development fails to comply with the Fylde Local Plan (FLP) to 2032 Policy GD4 Development in the Countryside which, if permitted, would have an adverse intrusive effect on the area to an unacceptable extent. It is considered the frequency, type and volume of traffic movement that will be generated by the proposed development, together with

Planning contd... anticipated traffic movement associated with related planning application 23/0529, which has received planning permission on the same development site, is hazardous to highway safety particularly at the junction of the A583/Blackpool Road. The proposed development site is considered to be within the defined Area of Separation (AOS), therefore would compromise the function of the AOS and consequently is not consistent with FLP GD3. There are examples of previous applications in the designated AOS which have been refused planning permission that members consider set a precedent for planning permission being refused for this and other similar applications. Moreover, members consider the development does not fall within any FLP policy exceptions that would justify planning permission being granted, would, if allowed, serve to consolidate that development which does exist to the detriment of the character of this part of the countryside and would set a precedent for further similar development which consequently would be difficult to resist. Also, members understand that any site advertising signage on the A583/Blackpool Road linked to the approved /proposed developments require planning permission and members request the planning authority to ensure compliance with this requirement. Should the application case officer be minded granting the proposed development planning permission members will appreciate the matter being referred to the Fylde council planning committee and request an assurance that council's observations are duly considered, recorded in full and not otherwise abridged as part of a report.

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 anecdotal information that indicative onshore substation search area 2 had been selected and that no further information had been made available relating to the indicative onshore export cable corridor. The parliamentary petition process is ongoing with additional signatories from Freckleton, Kirkham and St. Annes. A Clifton ward member reported an exploratory test drilling rig was now operational in the Ribble estuary and is viewable from St. Annes. The chairman explained that a proposed meeting of a subset of members previously authorised to represent the council and representatives from Freckleton, Treales Roseacre and Wharles, and Westby-with-Plumpton's parish councils (subsequent to an invitation shared by Ribby-with-Wrea parish council) and Kirkham town council had been cancelled due to the venue being previously booked for a Clifton Marsh Solar Development, exhibition.

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. The chairman referred to the above proposed development and, notwithstanding the ongoing public exhibition by Natural Power (on behalf of the developer, Vattenfall) at Newton-with-Clifton village hall, the perceived unsatisfactory consultation process and lack of engagement with the parish. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed that Vattenfall should be advised of the expressed disquiet relating to what is generally perceived as inadequate consultation and also request a digital copy of the display boards from the public exhibition.

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. Clifton ward member advised attending the planning hearing which began on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at Fylde borough council town hall. Also in attendance were two other parishioners, representatives from Breck Homes Ltd (developer), Progress Housing Group Limited and owner(s) of adjacent land with consultants. An opportunity had been provided by the planning inspector to raise issues relating to the proposed access which is considered unsuitable, the lack of open space provision,

Planning contd.... the developer intention to provide a site construction compound off Ash Lane when there is existing vehicle width restrictions prohibiting most lorries and heavy goods vehicles using Ash Lane, together with inadequate footway, and pedestrian crossing provision. Previous planning authority communications indicated a decision will be issued by the end of March 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 during the winter months is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions in accordance with agreed conditions, schedules, and specifications.

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

i) Installation of path at Newton Hall park. The chairman referred members to the report and a recent FoNCP communication. Following due deliberations council agreed that the engineering specifications had been previously assessed and considered appropriate for the path construction, also the contractor selected by FoNCP has a good reputation in the area and is unlikely to associate the company with workmanship of questionable standard. Therefore the absence of a formal guarantee was not considered problematic. It was reported the council's grass cutting contractor is aware that operational machinery should be kept off the proposed path, which is only for pedestrian users of the park. Moreover it was not anticipated that pedestrian footfall is likely to be such as to cause undue wear and tear and so it is reasonable to conclude that the lifespan of the path should be the usual 15-20 years and requiring no more than the usual routine maintenance.

ii) King's award for voluntary service (KAVS) enamel lapel pin badge. Subsequent to FoNCP receiving KAVS recognition, Councillor Philip Morgan suggested council purchase a number of the KAVS badges and gift these to members of FoNCP (9NO). Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that as a clerk **ACTION** council place an order for 9NO KAVS enamel pin badge £4.99 each.

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 referred to a tree(s) on land off Lodge Lane understood to be owned by United Utilities for wastewater pumping station purposes. As a clerk **ACTION** (04/1/24) in the interest of highway and public safety the matter had been referred to the responsible authorities and the Clifton ward member reported necessary work had been executed.

b) William Pickles park, Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported (04/01/24) a dead tree on park land that required to be removed and council had agreed to request the council's contractor to arrange an inspection and execute work as required. No update reported.

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). The report previously circulated by FoCP representative was taken as read.

f) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RT.

Members reported a missing latch on the MUGA gate and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** Fylde council be requested to inspect and arrange replacement.

g) Fylde borough council gift of 15NO trees. The chairman referred to this matter raised in open forum and it was agreed 3NO trees to be planted at Newton Hall park and FoNCP would fund the cost of planting. The remaining 12NO trees to be planted at locations to be agreed in Clifton and council fund the cost of planting. A Clifton ward member and Newton ward member agreed to liaise with the council's horticultural features contractor in this matter.

Parks contd...

h) William Pickle Park, Clifton – collapsed drain. The chairman referred to recent communications relating to the above matter and the action and explanations subsequently provided by the clerk. Following discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the quote in the sum of £1668 (£1390 + £278 vat) is accepted. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed the clerk inform the contractor and request the work to be scheduled and executed.

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:

Divine Signs Ltd.	Public space protection order signage at Newton Hall Park and William Pickles park	£477.20 Vat <u>£95.44</u>	£572.64
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 30th November 2023 to 30th December 2023		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Fix noticeboard, Newton-with-Scales	£100.00 Vat <u>£20.00</u>	£120.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations January 2024 Horticultural features operations January 2024	£833.33 £872.92 Vat <u>£341.25</u>	£2047.50
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/01/24-31/01/24.	£12.05 Vat <u>£0.60</u>	<u>£12.65</u> £2760.79

b) Consider 2024/25 budget report and precept.

The chairman referred to the revised report (copies of which had previously been circulated to members. Following discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED**

i) Council accept the budget report.

ii) Council precept in the sum of £81250 for 2024/25 financial year which, based on currently available information, will achieve a local council tax Band D level freeze.

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

Chairman referred to this item and clerk reported there is now 1NO vacancy (Newton ward). The clerk reported subsequent communications, including a formal response following an expression of interest enquiry. It was then Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Stephen Robinson be co-opted as member for Newton Ward.

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) Newton-with-Clifton village hall committee (NWCVHC). The chairman reported the NWCVHC treasurer had been provided with Lancashire Environment fund grant application details together with details of government supported programmes. These initiatives aimed at improving energy and environmental efficiencies. Indications to date are NWCVHC will consider related energy efficiency improvements, improvements to the playing field and surrounds including the pond, and external/internal building work.

b) Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 7th March 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