

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall.

Present: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors Samuel Baugh, Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, John Kitchen, Janette McCormick, Philip Morgan, Stephen Robinson, Benjamin Stephenson, Christopher Whitworth. Borough Councillor Martin Evans, County Councillor Stewart Jones, Lea and Cottam parish councillor Martin Rayfield, Kyle Philpott (BU Energy solutions/Vattenfall), Police: None. Member of the public: None.

### a) **FORUM.**

i) 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 welcomed Kyle Philpott in attendance to provide information regarding the above application. Kyle Philpott informed; Proposal is for a 50-megawatt solar farm on grade 3 (good to moderate quality) agricultural land primarily used for grazing, agricultural use will continue under license and a forty-year lease thereby providing a guaranteed farm income, physical limitations of site preclude further expansion i.e. A584 to north, landfill site to east, river to south and site of special scientific interest (SSSI) to west, grid connection on site with sub-station screened by mature trees, no off site works required, approximately 1000 HGV construction movements, from M55 to the site off the A584, not anticipated that highway upgrades required, which will be confirmed in the environmental impact/transport statement, considered a relatively straight forward proposal, requires liaison with Electricity Northwest for grid connection scheduled for winter 2024/25 at Penwortham power station, projected to commence 2025Q1 and subsequent construction 2025Q3. Cumulative impact is dependent on timing of Morecambe and Morgan wind farms (M&M) applications, output M&M is 20 gigawatts on 18 hectares of land (however members estimated cabling impacts 200 hectares), M&M proposal would commence in 2028/29 at earliest and following its submission and review another consultation may be required before a development consent order is considered. Bluefield renewable developments Ltd solar farm proposal is not considered problematic from a cumulative impact perspective, No intention for battery storage, not considered in the land lease, and a separate planning application would be necessary for any proposed battery storage, there is no capacity on grid/demand need, ecological survey, including bird management and habitat management plans, will be shared, members concerns included the loss of a substantial part of a Black-tailed Godwit natal feeding area that is functionally linked to the Clifton marsh SSSI, and in the absence of mitigation, the development would significantly impact the nature conservation interests of the SSSI to an unacceptable degree, sharing the survey will facilitate comparison with the M&M survey, a noise pollution survey will also be shared, as will environmental considerations within the construction environmental management plan for the proposed development, including foundation alternatives to piling e.g. concrete blocks, on expiration of lease operations will be decommissioned and reversion of land to agriculture effected, council agreed to research possible community benefits and related financial contributions that would be available should the proposal be granted planning permission.

ii) Highway issues. County Councillor Stewart Jones was advised Lancashire county council (LCC) and the LCC road safety partnership with the police had not taken any action regarding parking issues in proximity to Newton, Bluecoat school, Following an enquiry the clerk advised that LCC district lead officers had been provided with comprehensive details outlining issues with its "Love Clean Streets" reporting system particularly relating to highway flooding, ponding and potholes shown as complete on "Love Clean Streets" reports but with works, including the busy A583/Blackpool Road, only scheduled for some indefinite date. County Councillor Stewart Jones acknowledged this is an LCC issue which will be addressed, explained LCC is to deploy new equipment to accelerate more durable pothole repairs and also agreed to raise members concerns relating to prevailing A583 design layout, speed limits and ponding issues involving liaison with riparian owners. County Councillor Stewart Jones referred to deploying Speed Indicator Devices (SpIDs), sharing SpID resources and was advised that Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire will not fund SpIDs through the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund because it would be "inundated with requests", and following previous council enquiries it was considered impractical for parish areas to share SpID resources.

Forum contd... Borough Councillor Martin Evans reiterated the comments relating to LCC highway issues.

iii) Planning and development. Borough Councillor Martin Evans reported the planning inspector had dismissed the appeal relating to application 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. Members expressed concern relating to the appeal which had been held as a result of a Fylde borough council (FBC) non-determination and incompatible opinions were expressed relating to whether FBC planning resources were adequate and deployed efficiently, the liaison between FBC planning and parish councils and the planning advisory service review. The chairman requested Borough Councillor Martin Evans support in enlisting the proactive involvement of FBC and LCC in assisting parish and town councils address issues associated with the Morecambe Offshore and the Morgan Offshore Wind projects. In this regard members encouraged FBC to take up available expert Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects process (NSIPs) advice. Newton ward member explained that Head of Planning FBC had convened a meeting at FBC town hall, commencing at 18:00 hours on Tuesday 12th March 2024, regarding the proposed windfarm. The briefing will cover an update on the application programme and what is expected of interested parties through the NSIP process. The briefing is being held in conjunction with Fylde's cross-party member group who worked on Fylde's consultation response to the pre-application consultation.

iv) External defibrillator – “Bell and Bottle” public house, Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales. On behalf of a parishioner a Newton ward member reported an issue with the defibrillator. Apparently some cabling/wiring is loose and a potential hazard. It was agreed the matter be referred to the public house management requesting an inspection and corrective work.

v) Policing matters - none reported.

## **1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

a) Apologies for Absence. An apology for absence was received from Councillor Aimee Tombs.

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Newton ward. The chairman welcomed the newly co-opted member for Newton ward.

ii) Springfields Stakeholder Group. Chairman reported EDF Energy will probably keep 2NO power stations, Heysham 2 and Torness open beyond their planned closure date of 2028. However, the Office for Nuclear Regulation is likely to require EDF to make a significant investment, which will require addressing reactor encasement issues, for operations to continue longer term. Chairman reported Westinghouse has announced plans in North Teesside to deploy a fleet of AP300 small modular reactors. In view of prevailing nuclear uncertainties it is unlikely that ongoing windfarm renewable energy proposals will be permitted to connect to the national grid at Heysham.

c) Declarations of interest. The chairman reminded members at the commencement of the meeting that any direct or indirect pecuniary, prejudicial, or other interest should be declared in accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011. Accordingly the following direct or indirect, pecuniary, prejudicial, or other interest declarations were made; Councillor Jennifer C Benson formally Declared an Interest relating to the Hornbies Foundation/Hornbies Newton Charity agenda item and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Peter Collins formally Declared an Interest, as a borough councillor planning committee 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 (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 1st February 2024. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

Matters arising contd...

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. Signage is now in place.

iii) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales - missing latch on the MUGA gate. No update reported.

iv) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales and William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton, brambles encroachment. No update reported.

v) 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.

i) Facebook and website communications. Newton ward member reported a new group had been formed on the Newton Facebook pages. Chairman thanked a Newton ward member for the various recent posts on Clifton and Newton (2NO) Facebook pages, including notice of roadworks and a temporary southbound road closure on Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales commencing Monday 11th March 2024, explaining the Newton ward member had now taken over website postings.

ii) Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) gov.uk domain name for council website. Chairman referred to the report circulated by the clerk and it was agreed to consider this further at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 4th April 2024.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). A Newton ward member and HFHNC nominative governor/trustee reported a meeting is now scheduled to be held in April.

## **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. No update reported.

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

Highways contd... recurs, on last inspection all gullies were fully operational and matters continue to be monitored by responsible authorities. Newton ward member reported LCC has scheduled drain jetting work in both this locality and Moor Hall Lane.

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. No update reported.

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). No update reported.

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. 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". No update reported.

xviii) Clifton Lane/Lodge Lane, Clifton - overgrown hedgerows, trees, vegetation, verges various sections.

Highways contd...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; legal notice had been served, it will execute maintenance and recharge the landowner, ii) Lodge Lane; LCC considering enforcement. Clifton ward member reported (01/02/24) work 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 (01/02/24) 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]. No update reported.

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). FBC advised (09/10/23) it will arrange maintenance work. No update reported.

Highways contd...

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 (01/02/24). No update reported.

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 (01/02/24). Newton ward member reported continuing issues with "Love Clean Streets" and LCC had not yet satisfactorily addressed issues and related enquiries.

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. No update reported.

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. No update reported.

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'

Highways contd... locations, or where enforcement is required (i.e. highway maintenance policy). No update reported. 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.] No update reported.

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.

xxxi) Potholes-A583/Blackpool Road, Clifton. A complaint was received by members relating to the unsatisfactory condition of various sections of the eastbound carriageway between traffic signals at "Three Nooks" and the Lea Gate public house (01/02/24). As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC. No update reported

b) New LCC matters.

i) Wildlife Warning Signs. The clerk reported a local wildlife support (LWS) group communication. LWS has concerns from an animal safety perspective and the matter has been referred to LCC.

ii) Overgrown ivy hedge, adversely affecting sightline of users of public transport waiting in bus shelter on A583/Blackpool Road (Bryning Lane/ westbound). A Newton ward member reported a parishioner complaint and it was agreed the issue be referred to LCC.

c) Street scene matters.

i) Consider amenity improvements in central village area, including eradicating Japanese Knotweed. No update reported.

ii) Littering in parish. A Newton ward member advised volunteer litter picking continues to mitigate issues, reported particular problems relating to Church Lane, Clifton and that Fylde borough council had designated the area on its prioritised "litter watch list". Clifton ward members reported volunteer collections and agreed to liaise in formally expressing the appreciation and thanks of the council to the volunteers.

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

iv) SpID deployment. The chairman referred to the report circulated by Newton ward members with assessment details, including battery/solar, fixed/moveability, weight &c. of 4NO types of SpID. Following discussion and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that council advise Lancashire county council (LCC) of its preferred option i.e. Elan City Evolis Radar Speed sign £2809.99. LCC will be requested to affirm preferred locations and the need, if any, for public consultation, and supply and fit bespoke posts at agreed locations in Clifton and Newton-with-Scales the cost of which the council is required to meet. It is intended to collect data and share with LCC for purposes of comparison with its data. Similarly information could be provided to Springfields Fuels Limited/Westinghouse given the volume of site traffic that is perceived to be a contributory factor adversely affecting highway safety.

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

d) Amenity grass cutting built-up areas. It was reported work is ongoing to include the verge area frontage NOS1-11 Stanagate, Clifton in the council grassed open space maintenance contract from 2024.

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

a) Planning applications.

**23/0713** Demolition of existing dwelling, stables and equestrian arena and erection of nine detached bungalows including re-positioning of site access and provision of associated infrastructure and landscaping at "Longacres" Blackpool Road, 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 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 the opinion of members that neighbouring

Planning contd... property “Pathways” site should also influence a decision on this application due to the shared access arrangements from A583/Blackpool Road for both the proposed development and the adjacent Pathways site. It is considered the frequency, type and volume of traffic movement that will be generated by the proposed development, together with anticipated traffic movement arising from shared access associated with property adjacent the development site, evident lack of separate footway on the existing access road, inadequate vehicle parking and indistinct pedestrian access provision, combine to be detrimental to highway safety, particularly at the junction of the A583/Blackpool Road. Consequently the proposed development has the potential to be hazardous to cyclists, motorists, pedestrians, public transport, and other vehicles. These highway and traffic safety concerns also relate to residents of dwelling houses, visitors, and equestrian users of the adjacent site. This site will be busy in terms of normal residential vehicle movement, and the equestrian business, for which vehicles are likely to be larger than average with horseboxes &c being towed. Therefore the proposed development under review and the associated increased site vehicular activity has the potential to adversely impact highway safety with the type and volume of vehicles seeking access to/egress from the busy 50MPH A583/Blackpool Road. Moreover there is a bus stop in proximity to the existing site entrance exacerbating safety concerns. It is therefore considered that the proposal is contrary to FLP policies GD7j, GD7q, National planning policy framework paragraph 110b and general highway safety principles. 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. The A583/Blackpool Road is where the blurring of the AOS is most acute. 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. Consequently as the proposal does not satisfy any of the exceptions where residential development can be permitted it is in conflict with FLP to 2032 development strategy and contrary to the requirements of policies S1, DLF1 and GD3 of the local plan, and paragraphs 2, 12 and 15 of the National planning policy framework which require developments to come forward in accordance with a genuinely plan-led system. Also, members consider the proposed development is excessive in scale, would result in harm to the existing landscape structure enclosing the site and consequently is considered to conflict with FLP policy GD7d, which is intended to prevent over development and ensure building to plot ratio, design, layout, massing, scale, and siting of the proposed dwellings proportionately relate to the surrounding location, GD3 f) and GD7 of the FLP to 2032 and paragraphs 130, 134 and 174 b) of the National planning policy framework. Consequently the development as proposed may adversely impact the residential amenity of neighbouring property. Accordingly, members consider the proposal inappropriate given the location of the development site, scale of development, existing development in proximity to the site, extant planning permission indicating further incremental development on an adjacent site with shared access and the precedent that may be created for similar proposals, which will be difficult to refuse, if permission is granted in this instance. Should the application case officer be minded granting the proposed development planning permission members require the matter to be referred to 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.

**24/0040** Partial demolition of exposed section of chimney stack above ridge height to northern gable and erection of replacement chimney stack at “Newton Hall farm” School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, PR4 3RT. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission.

**24/0041** Listed building consent for partial demolition of exposed section of chimney stack above ridge height to northern gable and erection of replacement chimney stack at Newton Hall farm School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Preston Lancashire PR4 3RT. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission.



Planning contd....

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. The chairman referred to information provided in open forum indicating an overlap between the boundary of this potential development and the Morecambe and Morgan Offshore Windfarm projects boundary as revised to facilitate operational access requirements. Accordingly members considered this scheme may not be progressed as originally envisaged by Bluefield renewable developments Ltd.

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. A Clifton ward member and a Newton ward member confirmed they will attend "Windfarm - next steps briefing", convened by Fylde council head of planning, at town hall Lytham St. Annes on Tuesday 12th March 2024. A Newton ward member also recommended a meeting be convened, later in March 2024, of a subset of members previously authorised to represent the council and representatives from parish, town, borough, and county councils. The chairman explained Mark Menzies MP is to arrange a debate either in the House of Commons or Grand Committee Room Westminster Hall when MPs may raise local or national issues and receive a response from a government minister.

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 discussion in open forum and the development information provided by Kyle Philpott, Senior Project Manager BU Solar, and Batteries on behalf of Vattenfall.

iv) Application 20/0357 Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 3NO gypsy families each with 2NO caravans, together with the erection of an amenity block, erection of a boundary fence, installation of a package sewage treatment plant, the formation of a landscaped area and alterations to the vehicular access with alternative scheme of contamination remediation to that previously approved under condition 14 of 12/0118. The chairman referred to the above matter and members considered issues relating to; **i)** Fylde borough council (FBC) had allowed an unlicensed contractor to execute work on the bund to the rear of the site on the basis that additional sampling work has been undertaken which evidenced material at that location is inert. Members considered that the correct process would have been for the sampling report to have been part of a separate application to FBC for a variation of extant conditions, and this should also have then been considered by the environment agency, parish council, local residents &c as part of a formal consultation process. The prevailing perception is that a consequence of a failure to execute correct process is that activity has now been carried with the potential to adversely impact public health. **ii)** Moreover, some of the excavations arising from the rear bund work, that FBC chose not to stop, have apparently been deposited on the mound in the centre of the site, which is subject to environment agency enforcement action and therefore should have been left undisturbed. Again, as a consequence of the failure to execute correct process, work has been executed beyond what the sampling report would permit, adversely impacting on the efficacy of testing processes designed to protect public health. **iii)** Council was aware of a formal complaint that has been made relating to how FBC has dealt with this issue, members endorsed the observations of the complainant. It was agreed that FBC should be requested to provide its formal observations from regarding how it has dealt with this issue and why related actions and decisions were taken.

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

Planning contd... Chairman referred to the information discussed in open forum confirming the appeal had been dismissed by the planning inspector.

## **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) Contract review. Details considered concurrently with horticultural features minute 5b)ii.

b) Horticultural features 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 during the winter months is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions in accordance with agreed conditions, schedules, and specifications.

ii) Contract review. The liaison member reported, that together with the chairman, contract operations had been reviewed at various site locations with the contractor. A report had previously been circulated to members and council recognised the high level of maintenance that is executed. The liaison member enquired about the method of review and the chairman explained the contract period is five years. The clerk explained that the contract, as originally agreed, had been revised in 2023 to include cutting grass verge areas at Hawthorne Avenue and additional shrub bed maintenance on Hill Crescent. The clerk reported arrangements for previous contracts when rates and prices accepted within the tender specifications are assessed on each anniversary of an agreed review date, March, or April, and increased (or in theory reduced but in practice remained the same) by a percentage equivalent to the percentage increase (or reduction) if any shown by the all-item Index of retail prices (RPI) issued by Office for National Statistics. In March 2023 members had previously suggested a possible alternative triple lock approach where the highest of three measures is applied; i) flat 2.5% rise, ii) growth in average earnings, iii) CPI/RPI inflation. During various clerk/contractor communications in the initial months of the contract the clerk had not explicitly referred to a method of review, nor had the contractor indicated expectations in this regard. During those communications it was anticipated matters would likely be raised informally when contractor/members liaise on an annual basis to review operations and raise points of increased costs given the prevailing levels of inflation associated with grassed open spaces and horticultural features specifications.

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

i) Report. The chairman referred members to the report that had previously been circulated to members.

ii) King's award for voluntary service (KAVS) enamel lapel pin badge. The chairman suggested, and council agreed, that the FoNCP chairman, together with all FoNCP members, be invited to the meeting of the council scheduled to be held on Thursday 4th April 2024 to be presented with KAVS enamel lapel pin badges. It was also agreed FoNCP certificates, trophies and other awards could be brought to the meeting to be displayed permanently at the village hall.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

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

a) Fylde borough council gift of 15NO trees. The chairman reported 3NO trees had been planted at Newton Hall park and the remaining 12NO trees had been planted at agreed locations in Clifton.

b) William Pickles park, Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported the tree had been removed.

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 report provided by FoCP. A Clifton ward member referred to a current sink hole/collapsed drain issue and the previously circulated land drainage contractor report. As this is the third sinkhole event in as many years members decided a topographical engineering survey should be executed, depending on the results of the land survey it may then well be the case that comprehensive drainage works should be executed and, in view of ongoing community park improvement discussions, liaison with Fylde borough council and FoCP will be required. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to arrange an engineering survey to be executed by a contractor.

Parks contd... A Clifton ward member agreed to liaise with FoCP.

**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:

Pipescan Ltd.	Repair to collapsed drain, William Pickles Park, Clifton.	£1390.00 Vat <u>£278.00</u>	£1668.00
Dragonfly Publishers *Clerk reimbursement	King's award for voluntary service, Friends of Newton Community park, enamel lapel pin badges		£49.61
Divine Signs Ltd	CCTV signage.	£205.50 Vat <u>£41.10</u>	£246.60
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st December 2023 to 30th January 2024		£23.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations February 2024 Horticultural features operations February 2024	£833.33 £872.92 Vat <u>£341.25</u>	£2047.50
HT Barton Joinery	Manufacture display cabinet for Friends of Newton Community park and fit at Newton-with-Clifton and Salwick village hall.		£500.00
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/02/24-29/02/24.	£11.27 Vat <u>£0.56</u>	£11.83
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Planting trees, Clifton gifted by Fylde council	£335.00 Vat <u>£67.00</u>	£402.00
F. Wilson	Honoraria to March 2024.		£1892.32
HM Revenue and Customs	Statutory remuneration deductions, charges.		£543.41
National Employment Savings Trust Corporation	Pension contributions.		<u>£579.48</u> <u>£7963.75</u>
ii) <u>List 2</u> Beverley Duckworth.	Travelling expenses		<u>£114.30</u> <u>£114.30</u>

**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) Public Access Defibrillator (PAD). Clifton ward member reported a local business offer of a PAD with ancillary equipment, batteries &c. Another Clifton parishioner had offered related training of volunteers. Clifton ward member explained the business proprietor will provide detailed information in due course.

b) Burglaries in Clifton. Clifton ward members reported recent incidents and 2NO individuals falsely purporting to be on day release from HM Open Prison, Kirkham. Local police were aware of the incidents.

b) Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 4th April 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 22:00 hrs.

Chairman