

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th April 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, Aimee Tombs, Christopher Whitworth. Police: None. Member of the public: Ten, including five committee members of Friends of Newton community park. An apology for absence was reported in respect of a Friends of Clifton park committee member and one member of the public.

a) **FORUM.**

i) Presentation to Friends of Newton community park committee (FoNCP). The chairman and vice-chairman thanked FoNCP for its endeavours over c. five years which had recently been formally recognised with a King's award for voluntary service (KAVS). Subsequent to FoNCP receiving KAVS recognition, council had purchased a number of KAVS enamel lapel pin badges and proceeded to present these to members of FoNCP (8NO). FoNCP also provided certificates, trophies to be displayed permanently at the village hall. FoNCP suitably responded to members acknowledgements and thanked council for its support.

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

a) 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. A parishioner referred to the appeal that had been dismissed by the inspector and thanked the council for its representations in recommending that the above application be refused planning permission.

iii) Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). A FoCP representative referred to recent communications and thanked members for their support relating to a Lancashire Environmental Fund application and council's agreement in principle to fund the requisite third party contribution. It was acknowledged improved communication between the council and FoCP was essential if plans for a community park improvement programme (CPIP), also involving Fylde council, were to be satisfactorily progressed. Similarly fund-raising events, public consultation &c would increase parish awareness of FoCP's objectives. In this regard the chairman suggested a Clifton ward member, who had volunteered in this regard, be the council liaison member on the FoCP committee. FoNCP members also volunteered their assistance with regard to FoCP developing a CPIP.

iv) Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.30 to accommodate the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting. On conclusion of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting, chairman subsequently reconvened the meeting at 7.35 pm.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

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

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Newton-with-Clifton and Salwick Field-Day Saturday 13th July 2024.

The chairman advised that the usual arrangements will be made to officially open the Field-Day event and that a communiqué for the programme will be prepared in due course.

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.

Matters arising contd...

d) Signing of Minutes.

i) Council meeting, Thursday 7th March 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) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales - missing latch on the MUGA gate. No update reported.

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

iv) 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 the website required to be updated with contact details for local organisations and members personal information. The chairman referred to recently circulated advice from the Minister of Local Government explaining details of councillors' sensitive interests and home addresses can be redacted. It was agreed Facebook postings should primarily relate to matters of public consultation and information encouraging parishioner engagement, rather than promoting any commercial or individual purpose.

ii) Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) gov.uk domain name for council website. Chairman referred to the report circulated by the clerk for the meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024. Following further assessment members agreed it was not considered to be a current priority, that council should continue with existing email and website arrangements, address any issues that may arise during the audit process and consider how other Fylde parish and town councils address the matter.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). A Newton ward member and HFHNC nominative governor/trustee reported a meeting scheduled in April 2024 has been postponed.

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 (07/03/24). Highway safety concerns were expressed relating to future increased capacity at the school and members agreed to approach county councillor representatives in an attempt to mitigate the perceived problem.

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). No update reported.

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 continued to monitor for further highway defects. Newton ward member reported highway has deteriorated and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** (04/04/24) LCC should again be requested to assess the issue.

iv) Bryning Lane, (junction/A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales) 30mph unsatisfactory condition of LCC signage post. Report to LCC 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.

Highways contd...As a clerk **ACTION** (02/11/23) it was agreed to correspond with the engineer and the county councillor requesting an update. Also, as an **ACTION** (02/11/23) a Clifton ward member agreed to request Fylde borough council chief executive for an update. No update reported.

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

xi) Grass verge, junction of A583/Blackpool Road/Lodge Lane. Members referred to the overgrown condition of verge areas that is considered a highway safety issue as it obscures the range of view of vehicle drivers, committed to turning from the village onto the main road, of oncoming east bound traffic (clerk reported 30/05/23). However, LCC had advised (09/06/23) it does not consider sightlines were impeded and is not proposing any action at this time. County Councillor Stewart Jones had previously explained the matter will be taken up again with LCC. No update reported.

xii) A583/Blackpool Road/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.

xiii) 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.

xiv) 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.

xv) 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.

xvi) Acorn Avenue/Oak Lane, Newton-with-Scales highway markings. The chairman referred to this matter

Highways contd...previously raised in open forum, as a clerk **ACTION** (31/07/23) and referred to LCC. LCC advised (17/10/23) Acorn Avenue is currently “not part of the adopted highway network”. No update reported.

xvii) 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; 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.

xviii) 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.

xix) 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.

xx) 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.

xxi) 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.

xxii) 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.

xxiii) 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

Highways contd... 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.

xxiv) 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.

xxv) 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.

xxvi) 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.

xxvii) 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. It was reported (04/04/24) that excavations left by the roadside would eventually block gullies and so the issue had again been reported to LCC.

Highways contd...

xxviii) 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). 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.

xxix) 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.

xxx) 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 (01/02/24). As a clerk **ACTION** (07/02/24) it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC. No update reported.

xxxi) 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. No update reported.

xxxii) Overgrown ivy hedge, adversely affecting sightline of users of public transport waiting in bus shelter on A583/Blackpool Road (Bryning Lane/ westbound). As a clerk **ACTION** (07/3/24) it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC. No update reported.

b) New LCC matters.

i) A583/Blackpool Road speed restrictions. A Newton ward member referred to recent communications and it was agreed that notwithstanding it is acknowledged proposals are at a very early-stage council is keen to be involved from the outset in the consultation process. Accordingly it was agreed council invite a LCC highways representative to a meeting to discuss the proposal.

ii) Meadow Close/Clifton Lane, Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported the unsatisfactory condition of various sections the carriageway. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer the matter to LCC.

c) Street scene matters.

i) Consider amenity improvements in central village area, including eradicating Japanese Knotweed. The chairman reported that currently Japanese Knotweed was not in proliferation and a Newton ward member reported that recent anti-social behaviour incidents had been reported to the police.

ii) Littering in parish. A Newton ward member reported volunteer collections continue to mitigate the problem.

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

iv) SpID deployment. Newton ward members reported LCC had agreed preferred locations, on open space adjacent Clifton Lane, Clifton, and School Lane (near Hornby Drive junction), Newton-with-Scales. LCC will supply/fit bespoke posts, estimated cost of £400 per post which the council is required to meet.

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

vi) Highway safety - Preston Old Road, Clifton (junction with Goldfinch Drive and proximity to bus stops). Clifton ward members reported 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. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to raise the issue with the proprietors of 2NO businesses.

d) Amenity grass cutting built-up areas. 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.

a) 24/0081 Alterations to property with two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and single storey front extension including front porch and canopy; and change of use of open space to rear to form extended domestic curtilage with 1.8m brick wall to enclose extended area at No14 Clifton Green, Clifton, Preston PR4 0DB. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission and notwithstanding the recommendation members formally express their concern regarding the apparent lack of planning site notices i.e. usually displayed on street lighting columns or similar for 21 days near a development address.

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. Members considered recent communications from Morecambe and Morgan OWL as unsatisfactory and the website still lacked onshore export cable corridor and substation(s) information. Some Newton/Clifton ward members confirmed they will attend a planning-district/parish liaison meeting & working group on Monday 8th April 2024 and district/parish planning forum at town hall Lytham St. Annes on Tuesday 16th April 2024. Some Newton/Clifton ward members confirmed they will attend a Lancashire association of local councils Fylde area committee meeting at Kirkham community centre Thursday 18th April 2024. The chairman explained Mark Menzies MP has still to arrange a House of Commons/Grand Committee Room Westminster Hall debate when it is anticipated options for offshore windfarms and offshore substations will be raised and require 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. No update reported.

c) Fylde Borough Council (FBC) Planning Committee planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications/recommendations. None reported.

5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

a) Grassed open space maintenance contract.

i) Consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. 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.

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 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) Report. The chairman referred to FoNCP's report which had previously been circulated to members.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

i) Issues arising from Ash dieback disease, including storm damage &c. No updates reported.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council (LCC), local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust, and parish surveys. Clifton ward members reported LCC had marked diseased trees on the A583/Blackpool Road and the A584 Preston New Road.

Parks contd...

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, development, equipment maintenance and repairs - Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). Chairman referred to matters discussed in open forum and council formally agreed to; i) Support FoCP relating to a Lancashire Environmental Fund application and in principle agree to fund the third-party contribution. ii) Accept a Clifton ward member offer to be the council liaison member on the FoCP committee. A Clifton ward member reported that children's recreational equipment was currently decommissioned and council agreed a short-term fix by arranging for a local contractor to infill the sinkhole. As a clerk **ACTION** (07/03/24) quotes had been obtained from consulting engineers/land drainage surveyors. Depending on work to be executed (e.g. consulting engineer review of existing drainage network, drainage survey, ground penetrating scanning survey, topographical survey technical reports and liaising with public authorities) estimates varied between £375 to £2350. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that; **a)** As a clerk **ACTION** the council correspond with Lancashire county council highways (LCC) and Lancashire Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) requesting advice as to whether it will be; **i)** Permissible in principle to discharge the surface runoff into a local highway drain or sewer. **ii)** Necessary to also contact United Utilities (UU) for permission to connect to a public sewer, **iii)** Ensure that any additional flows entering the sewer network are not detrimental to performance of LCC/UU assets and **iv)** If LCC/UU are prepared to allow a connection what would be considered an acceptable surface water flow rate and how would this be calculated? b) As a chairman **ACTION** enquiries be made relating to possible financial or other assistance available from organisations e.g. Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

6. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

i) List 1. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** following invoices be paid:

HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st January 2024 to 28th February 2024.	£8.00
Paul Gregory T/A Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations March 2024. Horticultural features operations March 2024.	£833.33 £872.92
		Vat <u>£341.25</u> £2047.50
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/03/24-31/03/24.	£12.05 Vat <u>£0.60</u> <u>£12.65</u> <u>£2,068.15</u>

b) Contract review. The liaison member reported, that together with the chairman, contract operations had been reviewed with the contractor. A report had previously been circulated to members and following discussion it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** i) Council formally adopt the policy for determining the contract value annual increment based on; retail price index information (RPI) published by office for national statistics in March, for twelve period February to February, council budget, and taking into account discussions held as part of the annual February review of parish contracts ii) Council contracts be increased accordingly by the office for national statistics publication for retail prices in March 2024, for twelve period February 2023 to February 2024, of 4.5%.

8. ACTION LOG. Chairman explained the action log will be updated to include any items that required action from the meeting but can be removed as an agenda item for future meetings.

9. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Public Access Defibrillator (PAD). Clifton ward member reported installation of a PAD with ancillary equipment, batteries &c at a Clifton business is ongoing.

b) Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the annual council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 2nd May 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 21:05 hrs.

Chairman

2nd May 2024