

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting held on Thursday 2nd May 2024 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall.

Present: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, John Kitchen, Philip Morgan, Stephen Robinson, Benjamin Stephenson, Aimee Tombs, Christopher Whitworth.
Borough/County councillor: None, Police: None. Member of the public: One.

a) **FORUM.**

- i) Parishioner matters - none reported.
- ii) Policing matters - none reported.

1. **PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

a) Election of chairman 2024-25 municipal year.

The retiring chairman invited nominations for the Office of Chairman from members. No formal nominations were received and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Beverley Duckworth be re-elected as chairman for 2024/25. The chairman thanked members for the appointment which was formally accepted by completing and signing the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman. The Chairman then proceeded with the next item of business.

b) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Samuel Baugh, Councillor Janette McCormick, and County Councillor Stewart Jones.

c) Chairman's communications.

i) Newton-with-Clifton village hall committee of management trustees (NWCVHC). The chairman referred to various NWCVHC issues relating to funding, hire of the playing field adjacent the village hall, and transferability of regular bookings. The chairman suggested and members agreed village hall management become a standing agenda item.

d) Elect Vice-chairman for 2024-25 municipal Year.

The chairman invited nominations for the Office of Vice-chairman. No formal nominations were received and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Philip Morgan be re-elected Vice chairman for 2024/25 The Vice-chairman thanked members for the appointment which was formally accepted by completing and signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-chairman.

e) 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.

f) Signing of minutes - council meeting, Thursday 4th April 2024. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** chairman signs the minutes as a correct record.

g) 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. Chairman reported items not on the agenda are included in the action log available to members.

2.APPOINTMENTS AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The chairman referred to the above item and invited members observations.

Appointments contd... Following discussion it was agreed that appointments, where these are required, be made by formal resolution as follows;

a) Hornbys Newton Charity. Current Nominative Governors hold office until 2026.

b) Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) Fylde area committee. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Jennifer Benson and Councillor Peter Collins be re-appointed as the council's voting representatives for the 2024-25 municipal year.

c) Chairman's Ex Officio representation.

i) Springfields Stakeholder Group (previously Local Liaison Committee). Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman) be re-appointed as the council's representative for the 2024-25 municipal year.

ii) Village Hall Committee of Management Trustees. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Christopher Whitworth be re-appointed as the council's representative for the 2024-25 municipal year.

d) Contract liaison members. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** Councillor Janette McCormick be re-appointed authorised officer/liaison member in respect of both the grassed open space maintenance contract and horticultural features contract.

e) Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP). The chairman referred to the FoNCP group and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** former councillor Gaynor Ellis be re-appointed as council representative member.

f) Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). The chairman referred to the FoCP group and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** Councillor Aimee Tombs and Councillor Christopher Whitworth (substitute) be appointed as council representative members. As a preparatory approach it was agreed the chairman and the two representatives meet informally and consider what FoNCP information could be shared with FoCP to assist in developing a community park improvement programme for Clifton.

g) Data protection lead. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council accept the offer of former councillor Mark Richardson to continue in this post.

h) District Parish Liaison. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** Councillor Jennifer Benson and Councillor Philip Morgan be appointed as council representative members. Councillor Peter Collins attends also as a borough councillor.

i) Planning District Parish Liaison meeting (Fylde P-DPLM) Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** Councillor Janette McCormick and Councillor Philip Morgan be appointed as council representative members.

j) Planning District/Liaison Panel (Parish - PDLP). Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** Councillor Janette McCormick and Councillor Philip Morgan be appointed as council representative members.

3). CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk, previous council deliberations relating to the above matter, implications of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and council's formally adopted position i.e. protocol for both the existing chairman's allowance and an allowance in respect of any hospitality expenses incurred during the annual Civic Sunday and Field-Day Weekend. The clerk referred to the need to comply with legislation governing the chairman's allowance, notwithstanding any underlying intended funding of council expenses from the allowance being perceived as commendable and equitable. The chairman affirmed a previously stated position that it was more appropriate to use the allowance to meet ad hoc contributions towards civic gifts, presentations to members/past members etc, together with general costs incurred on day-to-day council business, circulating documents, telephone &c. Subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the existing arrangement, where the chairman submits a claim for any council ad hoc and general expenses when considered necessary, be retained.

4. GRANTS, ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

The chairman referred members to information, previously circulated by the clerk.

i) Uniformed organisations. Members reported that 1st Clifton (St. John's) Brownie Guides and 1st Clifton (St. John's) Guides had now merged with groups in Kirkham.

Grants contd... Following discussion it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following organisations each receive a grant of £250. 1st Clifton Scout Group, £750 (comprising 1st Clifton (Lund) Beavers, 1st Clifton (Lund) Cub Scouts, 1st Clifton (Lund) Scouts i.e. £250 each

ii) Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee of Management Trustees (NWCVHC). Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that no specific grant need be made at the present time and that ad-hoc requests for financial assistance will be determined by council, as and when submitted and following due consideration being given to the financial requirements of the committee.

iii) Newton Clifton and Salwick Field-Day Committee. Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** that no specific grant need be made and ad-hoc grant requests will be determined by council, as and when submitted, following due consideration being given to the financial requirements of the committee.

iv) NorthWest Air Ambulance. The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the organisation receive a grant of £250.

v) Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau at Kirkham. The chairman referred members to information previously circulated by the clerk. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the organisation receive a grant of £250.

5. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report.

i) Facebook and website communications. Newton ward member reported the website is being updated with contact details for local organisations and members personal information. A Clifton ward member suggested publicising council information in the St. John the Evangelist (Lund) parish magazine. Members suggested regular (monthly, bi-monthly &c) social media updates of council information, website links &c. A Clifton ward member enquired whether certain councillors had delegated responsibility for specific issues and suggested this could be published where applicable. Members agreed it was advisable to formally adopt a policy for information and communication technologies (ICT) and information may be available from other local councils and Lancashire/national association of local councils.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). A Newton ward member and HFHNC nominative governor/trustee reported a special meeting is being arranged relating to wind farms projects. A Newton ward member reported that a council HFHNC nominative governor may resign the position in the near future due to relocating.

6. 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. (04/04/24)

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

Highways contd... inspections and ensuring corrective work is executed and funded by the responsible party, liaising as necessary with the property owners/occupiers. A Newton ward member informed that at a recent District/Parish liaison meeting a LCC engineer had agreed to make enquiries regarding this issue. As a clerk **ACTION** (02/11/23) it was agreed to correspond with the engineer and the county councillor requesting an update. Also, as an **ACTION** (02/11/23) a Clifton ward member agreed to request Fylde borough council chief executive for an update. No update reported.

vi) Drainage system malfunction, inadequate watercourse maintenance, vegetation overgrowth and consequential flooding and ponding at New Hey Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3SA. Newton ward members previously reported some work had been executed. Issue previously reported to proper authorities as an **ACTION** by the clerk (31/10/22), LCC requested to provide updates on 18th February 2023, 28th February 2023 and LCC advised (05/05/23) it continues to liaise with landowner, will revisit site if flooding recurs, on last inspection all gullies were fully operational and matters continue to be monitored by responsible authorities. Newton ward member reported LCC has scheduled drain jetting work in both this locality and Moor Hall Lane (04/04/24). A Newton ward member reported LCC advice explaining a start date had still to be scheduled by LCC. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer matters again to LCC.

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 (04/04/24) 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

Highways contd... 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 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)

Highways contd... to correspond with 1NO business. No update reported. Clifton ward members reported highway safety issues (04/04/24) 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. 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 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, issues are brought to the attention of LCC and 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 (04/04/24). Newton ward member reported drainage work is now ongoing.

xxvi) Drainage, Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales. A Newton ward member reported that, subsequent to

Highways contd... 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. Newton ward member reported (04/01/24) subsequent to LCC maintenance drainage gullies now properly function. Newton ward member advised LCC is to execute further maintenance to ensure all gullies were fully operational, that excavations left by the roadside would eventually block gullies and so the issue had again been reported to LCC (04/04/24). No update reported

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.

xxxii) 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.

xxxiii) 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.

xxxiiii) 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.(04/04/24) No update reported.

xxxv) 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 (04/04/24). A Clifton ward member reported LCC advice received on 23rd April 2024 i.e. [It will raise an order to repair one defect that meets our minimum investigatory level for repair].

b) New LCC matters.

i) Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales – pothole reinstatement required. A Newton ward member reported an issue and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** that when more specific information is provided; what3words reference, a nearby road name, a known landmark, a house number, or a street light number, ideally with a photograph, the matter be referred to LCC.

ii) Crossroads junction Church Lane/ Clifton Lane/Deepdale Lane, Station Road, Clifton. A Newton ward member referred to kerb and pothole reinstatements required at the above junction It was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** the matter be referred to LCC.

iii) Proposed dropped kerb/vehicle access opposite No14 Stanagate. A Clifton ward member reported that

Highways contd... anecdotal information indicated council will receive a request for permission to execute this work. It was explained all necessary permissions should be obtained from the proper authorities; Lancashire county council highways/Fylde borough council planning and Progress Housing Group as the landowner.

iv) Planning applications LCC/2022/0007 and 18/0659 and associated highway issues. Members reported various highway issues relating to the respective developments that had been reported to, and is currently being investigated by LCC. It was agreed LCC be requested to provide an update and a Clifton ward member agreed to liaise with a Treales, Roseacre and Wharles member regarding the 18/0659 development. It was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to request an update from LCC relating to ensuring compliance with the construction management/traffic management plans associated with this development and request information regarding how this will be achieved and subsequently monitored.

v) Church Lane/Vicarage Lane junction - pothole. - A Newton ward member reported an issue and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** that, as required by LCC, when more specific information is provided; what3words reference, a nearby road name, a known landmark, a house number, or a street light number, ideally with a photograph, the matter be referred to LCC.

vi) Thames Street, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RH - pothole (in proximity to "Autumn Fold", adjacent to the rear garden wall of "Dixon's Farm"). The chairman reported the above issue recently been reported to LCC.

vii) Flooding, Clifton Lane. A Newton ward member referred to an issue that LCC has apparently been addressing for several months. The matter involved a local farmer who had been requested to take remedial action. The member agreed to provide the clerk with recent LCC communications.

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 that the issue is assessed on a regular basis.

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

iii) Dog fouling. The chairman reported a parishioner suggestion of providing dog waste bins and bag dispensers near the Newton Hall park dog run provided by Friends of Newton community park (FoNCP). The chairman suggested FoNCP could provide the equipment and council could undertake to provide replacement bags.

iv) SpID deployment. Newton ward members reported parish council, and not LCC, will have to arrange for any consultation with parishioners that may be necessary when replacement SpID equipment is deployed at locations near property. Locations had been agreed in principle, but still required approval by LCC highway engineers. i.e. on open space adjacent Clifton Lane, Clifton, and School Lane (near Hornby Drive junction), Newton-with-Scales.

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

vi) Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) parking - opposite No. 25 Hill Crescent. The chairman referred to a highway nuisance issue arising from the HGV parking. As a chairman **ACTION** it was agreed to provide the clerk with photographs. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed when sufficient information is available the matter will be referred to the appropriate government authorities; e.g. driver and vehicles standards agency, traffic commissioners.

vii) Driving instruction. A Clifton ward member referred to a perceived increase in learner driver instruction in Clifton Village that sometimes could be problematic to parishioners. It was recognised that the area is part of a driving instruction route and that specific information is required e.g. dates/times, driving school, photographs &c to assess the scale of the problem and consider whether referral to the proper authorities is justified.

d) Amenity grass cutting built-up areas. The clerk referred to a revised quote, provided by the contractor to maintain verge area frontages NOS1-11 Stanagate, Clifton, which in due course will be included within the council grassed open space maintenance contract from 2024.

7. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

Planning contd...

a) Planning applications. **24/0133** Permission in principle for construction of up to 4 dwellings land adjacent “Westlee” Dowbridge, Kirkham, Preston PR4 3RD. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is refused planning permission, proposed new access is opposite existing highway junctions and residential development, inadequate visibility splays, traffic turning right into the existing access having to cross over the right-hand turn lane for the housing estate opposite and is detrimental to highway safety, consequently the proposal is contrary to Fylde local plan to 2032 (FLP) policies GD7j, GD7q, National planning policy framework paragraph 110b and general highway safety principles. Dow Brook is a statutory designated main river which runs along the western border of the site boundary application documents do not illustrate that the site can accommodate four detached dwellings whilst maintaining the Environment Agency’s statutory right of access. Similarly, United Utilities (UU) assets, i.e. two large diameter public sewers, cross the site and UU will not permit building over these assets, area is subject to flooding, a large portion of the site is in Flood Zone 2, i.e. land defined in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as having a medium probability of flooding. If the proposed residential development is permitted it will exacerbate flooding issues and have a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) vulnerability classification of ‘more vulnerable’ proposed development conflicts with Fylde local plan (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, and paragraphs 130, 134 and 174 b) of the National Planning Policy Framework.

***24/0149** Permission in principle for erection of one dwelling land the rear of No 1 Clifton Lane Clifton, Preston PR4 0YD. *Prior to considering the application members again expressed 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 and request an explanation from the planning authority. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is refused planning permission, proposed development is inappropriate due to a perceived incongruence with existing residential development, detrimental to the street scene in the locality and inconsistent with the requirements of Fylde Local Plan to 2032 (FLP) policy GD7 and the NPPF, proposed new access on a narrow country lane subject to vehicle width restrictions and opposite existing residential development is considered detrimental to highway safety and the proposal is contrary to FLP policies GD7j, GD7q, National planning policy framework paragraph 110b and general highway safety principles. The proposed single dwelling is within a small-scale confined area contiguous to a pumping station, and conflicts 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, and paragraphs 130, 134 and 174 b) of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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-Wurtemberg 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. Chairman reported Morecambe and Morgan OWL had not provided any further update. A Newton ward member reported on the conflicting positions of the Fylde district planning liaison group (AKA planning-district parish liaison meeting (PDPLM), chaired by Councillor Gordon Smith and the Fylde District Parish Liaison Forum (FDPLF) chaired by Borough Councillor Richard Redcliffe. The PDPLM had established a sub-group in an attempt to resolve the FDPLF chairmanship and related planning issues. A subset of members (Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) energy Working Group)

Planning contd...from the LALC Fylde area committee (LALCFAC) is to meet with Electricity North-west to establish whether it is feasible for enquiries relating to a grid connection at Stannah, Cleveleys (former ICI plant at Thornton - now Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ). Members considered economies and local economic benefits would accrue if this EZ was selected. It was acknowledged that in view of recent events Mark Menzies MP was now very unlikely to be involved, the LALC energy Working Group is also to meet with Hornbys Charity and Newton Residents Association, liaise regarding an ongoing Facebook petitioner group, and local and regional media e.g. Lancs Live, Radio Lancashire. LALCFAC is also to seek the opinion of all parish and town councils.

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.

8. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

a) Grassed open space maintenance contract - consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. In the absence of Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract) chairman reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions, in accordance with agreed conditions, schedules and specifications.

b) Horticultural features contract - consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. In the absence of Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract) chairman 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. FoNCP representative reported various acts of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and vandalism. It was the opinion of members that such acts are on the increase and accordingly members agreed Lancashire police should be requested to increase visibility in the area with more frequent patrols and when necessary deployment of the rural task force team i.e. park a mobile CCTV unit at Newton hall park equipped with cameras, monitors/video recorders/police radios/public address system and other equipment as a deterrent. A Clifton ward councillor agreed to discuss this suggestion with a local police constable. Moreover police representatives had frequently attended council meetings in the past however it had apparently become the norm for police constables/police community support officers not to be present. As a consequence, members formally agreed to invite Chief Inspector, Fylde Neighbourhood Policing western division to a meeting to discuss the ongoing issues. FoNCP representative suggested council display a disclaimer sign. The clerk reported the sign on the car park should suffice. FoNCP representative referred to a request by its treasurer (copy previously circulated to members) for installation of a dropped kerb at the northern end on the current pathway, where it is currently a normal roadside kerb, to enable access from the original path to the proposed rustic path. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that FoNCP arrange with the selected contractor to install a dropped kerb. FoNCP representative reported weather permitting the contractor would begin the installation of the rustic path from 7th May 2024.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

i) Issues arising from Ash dieback disease, including storm damage &c. Clifton ward member reported the trees referenced T47, T48 and T49 on land adjacent Preston Old Road/Silver Street, Clifton PR4 0ZA have significantly deteriorated. It was agreed Lancashire county council highways authority be requested to arrange a re-inspection and provide an update regarding these trees.

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

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, development, equipment maintenance and repairs - Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). A Clifton ward member provided an update following attendance at a recent FoCP meeting. FoCP has applied for grants from Lancashire environmental fund, Tesco community fund and United Utilities. A Clifton ward member reported that children's recreational equipment is still decommissioned due to sinkhole issues. The clerk reported United Utilities had confirmed [We have checked our plans and it does not appear that we have any of our wastewater or clean water assets within this location.].

Parks contd...

Lancashire county council highways (LCC) and Lancashire Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has still to reply. 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. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed these quotes be circulated to members. As a chairman **ACTION** enquiries were to be made relating to possible financial or other assistance available from organisations e.g. Lancashire Wildlife Trust. A Clifton ward member referred to parishioner communications relating to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to seek PSPO clarifications from Fylde borough council.

9. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

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

Lancashire Association of Local Councils	Subscription 2024/25		£535.19
Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription 2024/25		£148.00
Margaret Taylor	Internal audit fee		£135.00
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 29th February 2024 to 30th March 2024.		£23.00
Clear Councils	Insurance		£1,024.65
Paul Gregory T/A Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations April 2024.	£833.33	
	Horticultural features operations April 2024.	£872.92	
		Vat £341.25	£2047.50
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/04/24-30/04/24.	£11.66	
		Vat £0.58	£12.24
Microsoft	Microsoft 365 licence renewal 2024/25	£49.99	
(Reimbursement to clerk)		Vat £10.00	£59.99
			£3985.57

b) Finance and Accounts - consider, approve, and adopt i) the Annual Governance Statement, ii) related Accounting Statements, iii) complete 2023/24 Financial Year Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) by signing the AGAR all in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (copies of which had previously been circulated to members).

i) Annual Governance Statement. The clerk reported that all related matters had been executed in accordance with established procedures relating to governance including insurance, internal audit, risk assessment &c. Members duly considered the findings of the Annual Governance Statement review as a whole and subsequently it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Governance Statement be approved by resolution and the chairman and clerk be authorised to sign the approved section 1 of the AGAR annual governance statement, statement of assurances including an effective implementation and review of its governance in respect of internal audit and control arrangements and assessment of risk for Financial Year 2023/24.

ii) Consider related Accounting Statements and completed 2023/24 Financial Year Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) by signing the AGAR all in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (copies of which had previously been circulated to members). Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the AGAR and related Accounting Statements be approved by resolution and the chairman and clerk be authorised to sign the approved section 2 of the AGAR accounting statement for Financial Year 2023/24, in accordance with the Account and Audit Regulations 2015.

10. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Date of next meeting. Chairman, vice-chairman, and a Newton ward member reported being unable to attend the next meeting of the council scheduled for Thursday 6th June 2024. It was agreed that, subject to the clerk able to attend, the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 30th 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 21:50 hrs.

Chairman