

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30th 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, Janette McCormick, Stephen Robinson, Benjamin Stephenson, Aimee Tombs, Christopher Whitworth.
Borough/County councillor: None, Police: None. Member of the public: Three.

a) FORUM.

i) Parishioner matters.

a) William Pickles park, Clifton - path and drainage. A Clifton parishioner referred to the run off from the path that is contributing to areas of Clifton Lane and Lodge Lane being waterlogged. It was agreed that this required an engineering solution and would likely form part of comprehensive works being considered by Friends of Clifton park, Fylde borough council and the parish council in delivering a community park improvement programme. Notwithstanding the park issues, providing the highway drainage system is properly functioning there should not be occurrence of ponding. The chairman explained this aspect of the matter is being dealt with by Lancashire county council (LCC) as the proper authority. However, as the issues is considered unduly protracted the chairman suggested, and members agreed, that County Councillor Stewart Jones should be invited to a meeting to address specifically the highway drainage issues.

b) Newton Hall park. A parishioner representative of Friends of Newton community park (FoNCP) referred to some ongoing issues and the chairman explained these would be formally considered under the parks and open spaces FoNCP agenda item.

ii) Policing matters - none reported.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Samuel Baugh, Councillor John Kitchen, Councillor Philip Morgan, and County Councillor Stewart Jones.

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Newton-with-Clifton and Salwick Field day committee. Chairman reported providing a communiqué for the Field-Day programme to the committee.

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 - annual council meeting, Thursday 2nd May 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) Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) parking - opposite No. 25 Hill Crescent. The chairman referred to the perceived highway nuisance issue arising from the HGV parking.

Matters arising contd... Clerk explained the matter had been referred to the appropriate government authorities; e.g. driver and vehicles standards agency (DVSA), traffic commissioners. An acknowledgment had been received however, DVSA had advised [DVSA does not routinely give feedback on information received, there may be occasions where feedback cannot, or will not be provided, it may take some time before DVSA are able to provide a response].

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

2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.

a) Consider website development, receive report.

i) Facebook and website communications. Newton ward member reported the website had updated with members personal information and a website QR (Quick Response) code had been created. Chairman referred to the draft social media policy for information and communication technologies (ICT) a copy of which had previously been circulated to members. The clerk explained the policy was based on selected information obtained from other local councils, and following a suggestion by the chairman with regard to publicity during elections (page 3) i.e. delete “purdah” and replace “chairman” with “clerk” it was Proposed Seconded and **RESOLVED** the policy be adopted

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). A Newton ward member and HFHNC nominative governor/trustee reported the special meeting relating to wind farms projects had been cancelled.

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. (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 further highway defects. Newton ward member reported highway deterioration and as a clerk **ACTION** (04/04/24) LCC again requested to assess the issue. No update reported.

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. 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

Highways contd...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** agreed to refer matters again to LCC. Newton ward member reported work had not been executed on New Hey Lane. No update reported.

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 (04/01/24). Chairman advised will enquire if Newton Bluecoat school caretaker could occasionally sweep the accumulated detritus from the gully.

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 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.

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. 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. 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 (02/05/24). Chairman and Clifton ward members reported ongoing potential highway safety issue on Preston Old Road, particularly at the junction with the Goldfinch Drive on the Lantern Fields development and the bus shelters in the locality and close to garage and motor caravan sales. Generally members consider this is a consequence of the number and

Highways contd...type of vehicles being parked associated with the commercial operations of the businesses in the vicinity. The clerk explained recent communications with the business proprietors who did not recognise the issues previously reported by members and emphasised the real issue relates to drivers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit.(04/04/24). Members agreed to provide photographs to be included in a report to Lancashire county council highways/parking enforcement.

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 (02/11/23). Chairman reported (30/5/24) the work had been executed and so the item could be deleted.

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 INO 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

Highways contd... (04/04/24). Newton ward member reported drainage work is now ongoing. (02/05/24). Chairman reported that arising from recent work the A583/Parrox Lane junction is much improved.

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. 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 of 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.

xxxiii) 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.

xxxiv) Meadow Close/Clifton Lane, Clifton. A Clifton ward member reported the unsatisfactory condition of various sections of 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].

xxxv) 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 (02/05/24). No update reported.

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

Highways contd... council highways/Fylde borough council planning and Progress Housing Group (PHG) as the landowner (02/05/24). Clifton ward member reported a tree had been felled on the grass verge frontage maintained by PHG.

xxvii) 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 are 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 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 (02/05/24). A Clifton ward member reported that following LCC pre-enforcement action operations had been suspended pending an anticipated planning application.

xxxviii) 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. No update reported.

xxxix) 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. No update reported.

xl) 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. No update reported.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Flooding vicinity of Springfields Westinghouse main entrance and crossroads junction Church Lane/ Clifton Lane/Deepdale Lane, Station Road, Clifton. A Newton ward member reported this issue and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** the matter be referred to LCC.

ii) Local delivery/bio scheme 2024-25. Chairman referred to this matter and members reaffirmed the LCC scheme is inadequately funded and resourced, given the potential complications with regard to maintenance, public liability and overall responsibilities that would be devolved, and determined not to opt into the scheme.

iii) Overgrown hedgerows, land at Preston Old Road, Clifton, Preston Lancashire PR4 0ZA. A Clifton ward member reported the above issue perceived to present a health and safety and related highway safety issue as highway signage is obscured. It was agreed the matter be reported 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 now in proliferation. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed Community Gateway Association (CGA) should be requested to schedule a programme of grounds maintenance to eradicate the knotweed.

ii) Littering in parish. A Newton ward member reported volunteer collections continue to mitigate the problem however likely accumulations screened by hedgerows will require to be removed.

iii) Dog fouling. Chairman referred to previous suggestion by a parishioner (02/05/24) that dog waste bins and bag dispensers could be located near the Newton Hall park dog run. Friends of Newton Community park providing the equipment and council providing replacement bags. No update provided by members.

iv) SpID deployment. Newton ward members reported matters are progressing however the LCC process is perceived as protracted and it could be several months before matters are concluded. It was reported that there was a possibility of some funding from LCC parish champion grant and, as a clerk **ACTION**, council agreed to process an application.

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

d) Amenity grass cutting built-up areas. Council has accepted a revised quote provided by the contractor to maintain verge area frontages NOS1-11 Stanagate, Clifton and is included within the council grassed open space maintenance contract from 2024.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications. 24/0245 Single storey side and rear extensions, at “Milflor” Vicarage Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Lancashire PR4 3RX. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is granted planning permission

b) Renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals.

i) Proposed solar farm, Newton-with-Scales, Bluefield renewable developments Ltd, anticipated planning application subsequent to application 22/0204 request for screening opinion pursuant to the town and country planning (environmental impact assessment) regulations 2017 in respect of a 25mw solar farm, battery energy storage scheme and associated development, at land at Newton Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Preston Lancashire PR4 3RS. No update reported.

ii) Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL), a joint venture between Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios, S.A. and Flotation Energy Ltd developing Morecambe Offshore Windfarm project. Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL), a joint venture between bp and Energie Baden-Württemberg 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 still not provided any further update. A Clifton ward member referred to 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. A PDPLM established a sub-group is attempting to resolve the FDPLF chairmanship and related planning issues. One option is to increase the number of district/parish liaison meetings so alternate meetings solely consider planning matters. A subset of members (Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) energy Working Group from the LALC Fylde area committee (LALCFAC) is still 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). Also, members considered the next few weeks would perhaps provide an opportunity for all interested parties to raise renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals with South Fylde prospective parliamentary candidates.

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. In view of the ongoing and conflicting positions affecting planning matters, a Clifton ward member cited, as an example of questionable planning procedures, application 23/0651, Ice cream kiosk, Stannah Bank, Fairhaven Lake for which Fylde planning had granted planning permission in March 2024. A local resident had launched a legal action to quash the planning permission. Fylde council had taken counsel advice and had conceded that an aspect of planning policy was inaccurate and had agreed to quash the planning permission.

d) Fylde Borough Council (FBC) Planning Committee planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications - consider Planning-District Parish Liaison (DPL) Working Group letter circulated 7th May 2024. Subsequent to earlier considerations it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council support retaining the extant arrangements for district/parish liaison meetings.

e) Fylde Rural Economy Feasibility and Baseline Study.

A Newton ward member referred to the above study, a copy of which had previously been circulated to members. Members expressed being perplexed as a consequence of the study not referencing the various solar and offshore windfarm renewable energy proposals currently affecting Newton-with-Clifton specifically and the wider Fylde area generally. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed Fylde council be informed the council strongly recommend that, as a minimum, an addendum outlining the potential borough wide economic impact is now incorporated in the published study.

5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

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

Parks contd...

b) Horticultural features contract - consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. Councillor Janette McCormick (authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the contract) reported maintenance is ongoing, subject to prevailing weather conditions in accordance with agreed conditions, schedules, and specifications.

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.

a) Graffiti - castle outpost tower. Incidents of graffiti on the equipment were reported and it was agreed Fylde borough council parks be requested to arrange an inspection and subsequently schedule corrective maintenance work.

b) Rustic path access from existing path. As FoNCP had been unable to progress this matter it was agreed council make enquiries of local contractors regarding dropped kerb access.

c) FoNCP insurance. Following observations raised in open forum members acknowledged that FoNCP employers and public liability insurances cover is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its employees.(i.e. none, and c.15 volunteers) and also persons not in their employment who may be affected by their work activities. Council employers and public liability insurances cover legal liability to employees (1) including volunteers, if they are injured while working for council, and its legal liability to pay compensation to persons not in their employment i.e. members of the public if they are injured or their property is damaged as a result of an accident caused by the council or its employee, including volunteers who may be affected by their work activities. Should an incident occur the council's insurer would be notified and would then make enquiries considered necessary involving all the parties involved. Existing signage states [council will not accept responsibility for accident, damage or loss howsoever incurred]. The clerk explained an opinion that although disclaimer notices are increasingly common they do not absolve the occupier/owner or other responsible party from blame in the event of an incident that required to be reported to the respective insurers. Accordingly, no contract term, or notice, can legally have the effect of excluding or restricting liability for death or injury caused by negligence in the course of business. The council has £10,000,000 as standard public liability insurance (PLI) and FoNCP also has PLI insurance cover. A Clifton ward member reported the rural task force police team mobile CCTV unit van had been parked at Newton Hall park, as a deterrent following reported vandalism, however it had to be relocated to accommodate contractor vehicles.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

i) Issues arising from Ash dieback disease, including storm damage &c. Clerk reported Lancashire county council highways authority has scheduled a re-inspection of trees T47, T48 and T49 on land adjacent Preston Old Road/Silver Street, Clifton PR4 0ZA for June 2024.

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.

i) Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). A Clifton ward member provided an update following attendance at a recent FoCP meeting. FoCP has applied for various grants however it was unclear whether any of the awards were conditional or had still to be finalised. FoCP had not yet provided council with a landscape masterplan outlining its stated aims and objectives. Children's recreational equipment is still decommissioned due to sinkhole issues. A further quote had been obtained from consulting engineers/land drainage surveyors. A Newton ward member had arranged for a drainage survey by a local contractor which is scheduled to be executed this month. It was agreed that a subset of members i.e. chairman, and 2NO Clifton ward members, and a Fylde borough council community parks improvement programme (CPIP) officer should meet with a subset of FoNCP members to try and progress matters, particularly with regards to the CPIP.

ii) Damaged play equipment, main climbing frame. A Clifton ward member reported Fylde council parks department's opinion that the above damaged item of equipment is probably beyond economic repair and should be decommissioned. Moreover, the equipment has also been exposed to anti-social behaviour, notwithstanding that it is fenced off and the access gate locked. Consequently it poses a public health and safety risk together with potential insurance issues. It is anticipated Fylde council will arrange for its removal in due course.

Parks contd...

f) Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). Following an enquiry by the chairman the clerk reaffirmed that; PSPOs are formal orders made by Fylde borough council (FBC), under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They apply to anyone in charge of a dog in certain areas. FBC's Head of Environmental & Housing Services had advised; [The PSPO's are borough wide, unless listed as an exclusion, and assuming it meets the definition then the parish areas will be covered by a PSPO]. FBC's PSPO's applicable to parish dog control issues are : i) Dog fouling, ii) Dogs in enclosed play areas, iii) Dogs on leads in car parks, iv) Dogs on leads on highways v) Dogs on lead by request. FBC had introduced Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to balance the needs of dog walkers with the rest of the public.

g) Signage, Newton Hall park and William Pickles park. A Newton ward member reported that signage required to be refurbished/replaced and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to request a local contractor to arrange an inspection and subsequently outline corrective measures.

6. NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT TRUSTEES (NWCVHC). Members discussed administrative arrangements and a Newton ward member volunteered to join NWCVHC. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to notify the NWCVHC secretary.

7. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

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

Paul Gregory T/A Acer Contracts	Grass cutting and horticultural features operations	£76.75	
	April 2024 RPI increase.	Vat £15.35	£92.10
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges		
	31st March 2024 to 29th April 2024.		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/A Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations May 2024.	£975.00	
	Horticultural features operations May 2024.	£912.20	
		Vat £377.44	£2264.64
1st Clifton Scout Group (Comprising 1st Clifton (Lund) Beavers, 1st Clifton (Lund) Cub Scouts)	Grant 2024/25 s.137 Local Government Act 1972.		£750.00
Northwest Air Ambulance .	Grant 2024/25 s.137 Local Government Act 1972.		£250.00
Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd.	Grant 2024/25 s.137 Local Government Act 1972.		£250.00
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity	£12.05	
	charges 01/05/24-31/05/24.	Vat £0.60	£12.65
F. Wilson	Honoraria to June 2024.		£1877.60
HM Revenue and Customs	Statutory remuneration deductions, charges.		£620.24
National Employment Savings Trust	Pension contributions.		£626.69
			£6751.92

ii) Newton hall park development - Friend of Newton Community park (FoNCP) rustic path and contractor, Woody's Group Ltd. The clerk reported FoNCP anticipated work will finish by Friday 31st May 2024 and the contractor invoice in the sum of £23,977.80 is likely to be received prior to the next council meeting. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the clerk is authorised to process the invoice for payment and formal approval ratified at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 4th July 2024.

8. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Springfields/Westinghouse, Springfields, Salwick, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0XJ and Suez Recycling & Recovery Lancashire Limited Clifton Marsh Landfill Site, Lytham Road, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0XE. A Newton ward member agreed to enquire regarding councillors visiting the respective sites.

b) Date of next meeting. It was agreed the next council meeting be scheduled for Thursday 4th July 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 21:40 hrs.

Chairman