

NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2024 commencing at 7.15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall. Present: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Councillors Samuel Baugh, Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, John Kitchen, Janette McCormick, Philip Morgan, Stephen Robinson, Benjamin Stephenson, Christopher Whitworth. Borough/County councillor: None. Police: Pc Jan Unsworth. Louise Housecroft, and Berry Jordan, Vattenfall, onshore wind, market development UK (OWMD), member of the public: one.

a) **FORUM.**

i) Policing matters. PC Jan Unsworth (community beat manager (CBM)) reported significant reduction in recorded anti-social behaviour, police had spoken to known miscreants and some were now channelling their energies by attending Kirkham boxing club, also issues at "The Country House", Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RJ were known and being addressed by the police. Members referenced vehicle parking issues on Goldfinch Drive/Preston Old Road, Clifton, and Bluecoat Crescent, Bryning Lane, Hill Crescent, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, moreover some vehicle drivers are still disregarding the one-way signage, "No waiting" highway markings, and associated parking restrictions signage. It was explained police will attend periodically, when resources permit, particularly at school drop-off/pick-up times, liaising with Lancashire Parking Enforcement, act on any information received from members and deal with those incidents where action is required. CBM provided contact information cards to a parishioner for distribution to members explaining the Kirkham police station front counter service is available Monday-Friday 10:00-14:00. In concluding matters chairman thanked Pc Jan Unsworth who then withdrew from the meeting.

ii) Planning application 24/0414. Louise Housecroft, project manager and Berry Jordan, business community investment adviser, Vattenfall, onshore wind, market development UK (OWMD) in attendance to discuss issues relating to proposed installation of 49.9-megawatt solar farm with associated infrastructure including: series of solar photovoltaic modules in arrays with string converters, transformers, substation, fencing and thermal CCTV cameras, access tracks, cabling, landscaping and other habitat creation at Clifton Marsh farm, Preston New Road, Clifton, Preston PR4 0XE. The chairman introduced the Vattenfall representatives and referred to a representative attending a council meeting earlier in the year when information was provided to members relating to the Clifton Marsh project. Representatives indicated an assurance that a battery storage system is not part of the application, and that site visibility will be aesthetically screened. Members raised issues concerning agricultural land classification, archaeology, ecology, flood risk, geography, glare/glint, historic environment, hydrology/hydrogeology, noise, landscape, ornithology, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and habitat (Newton Marsh, Pippy Lane Banks), traffic, transportation and visual impact. Representatives explained the development land is Class 3b, Clifton Marsh, SSSI will not be adversely impacted, and the developer's environmental statement, included ecological survey information, habitats management plan/regulations appraisal, which covered Black-tailed Godwits natal feeding area linked to the SSSI, had been published, the development's site infrastructure should not increase flood risk as it will not cause additional surface water run-off, and being adjacent a landfill site was not considered of particular benefit for the proposed development. It was explained there is no formal collaboration between Vattenfall and other renewable energy companies in developing and submitting planning applications in the area. It was stated that Vattenfall will liaise with the council to explore its community priorities, this includes researching and analysing the local community needs and priorities in the parish and any area with a coterminous parish boundary e.g. Freckleton, developing ideas, discussion subsequent to receiving planning permission and agree how the community benefit will be managed longer term, including funding mechanisms, flat/variable rate contributions, project eligibility criteria, liaising with statutory authorities when necessary, and monitor/evaluate management and delivery of community benefits over their lifetime. Timeframes indicated by the representatives were; i) completion of the planning application process within 2025/26, and ii) subsequent construction period of nine months. In concluding matters chairman thanked Louise Housecroft, and Berry Jordan who then withdrew from the meeting.

iii) Parishioner matters.

a) Flagpole at Newton-with-Clifton village hall.

b) Vehicle parking, Newton-with-Clifton village hall.

c) Bryning Lane/"Sandy Gap

Parishioner matters contd...

d) Newton Hall park - Friends of Newton community park (FoNCP) any ongoing issues.

Chairman explained these parishioner matters would be formally considered under the parks and open spaces agenda item.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aimee Tombs, and County Councillor Stewart Jones.

b) Chairman's communications.

i) Springfields/Westinghouse, Springfields, Salwick, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0XJ and Suez Recycling & Recovery Lancashire Limited Clifton Marsh Landfill Site, Lytham Road, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0XE. The chairman reported a Springfields site visit will be scheduled in due course.

ii) 27 Acorn Avenue. The chairman reported parishioner information that the property is being sub-let. It was agreed to refer the matter to Community Gateway Association.

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 and respective members would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon;

Councillor Jennifer C Benson, Hornbies Foundation/Hornbies Newton Charity agenda item.

Councillor P. Collins, as a borough councillor planning committee member relating to any applications to be considered under the planning and development agenda item.

Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman), Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) matters.

Councillor Janette McCormick, Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) finance matters.

Councillor Benjamin Stephenson, Newton-with-Clifton village hall committee agenda items.

Councillor Christopher Whitworth, Newton-with-Clifton village hall committee agenda items.

d) Signing of minutes - council meeting, Thursday 4th July 2024 and standing finance and planning committees 01/08/24 meetings). 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. The chairman reported this work had now been executed by Fylde borough council.

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

iv) Newton Hall park - rustic path access from existing path. No update reported.

v) Signage, Newton Hall park and William Pickles park. No update reported.

vi) Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) parking - opposite No. 25 Hill Crescent. The chairman referred to the perceived highway nuisance issue arising from the HGV parking. 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] (30/05/24). No update reported.

vii) 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 updates were ongoing

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). No update reported.

3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

a) Ongoing Lancashire County Council (LCC) matters, including parish highway safety, Newton-with-Clifton. The chairman referred to recent communications from the clerk and Lancashire county council highways. It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED**; unless an item is updated at this meeting, it is reasonable to delete all those items numbered from i to xli, listed in minutes of meeting held on Thursday 4th July 2024, that had previously been referred to the proper/statutorily responsible authorities. To address any issues that might still be perceived as not having been satisfactorily resolved by the proper authorities these will be pursued further if reported again by parishioners as an ongoing concern.

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). The chairman explained issues had been referred, in open forum, to PC Jan Unsworth for action.

ii) Public footpath NOS.6/7. Referred to LCC as a clerk **ACTION** (13/04/23). Chairman reported a kissing gate had been installed at the School Lane entrance to public footpath NO7 (07/12/23). Chairman reported that members had not yet been able to walk the footpaths, suggested, in view of the agenda item longevity, the agenda item be deleted and members agreed.

iii) Amenity grass cutting, 15-35 Stanagate, Clifton. Clifton ward member reported that the above area is not being maintained. It was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** the matter be referred to LCC (04/07/24). The chairman reported LCC information, conflicting from residents communications, about work being executed. It was agreed to request observations from complainant(s) regarding the LCC update.

iv) LCC reporting system - highway issues. A Newton ward member referred to perceived issues with LCC's "Love Clean Streets (LCS)" application, i.e. 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, and that LCC does not record a report reference number on LCS. The Newton ward member reported LCS does now show reference numbers, and other unresolved issues, e.g. closure of duplicated reports, will be pursued again with LCC parish champion member.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Scale Hall Lane, Newton-with-Scales – overgrown verge/vegetation.

Newton ward member reported that Lancashire county council (LCC) had not executed required maintenance which had subsequently been executed by a parishioner. It was agreed to request LCC, including County Councillor Stewart Jones, to schedule maintenance of the highway verge area.

ii) Grass verge, junction of A583/Blackpool Road/Lodge Lane, Clifton – overgrown vegetation. Clifton ward member reported that LCC had not executed required maintenance and it was agreed to request LCC, including County Councillor Stewart Jones, to schedule of maintenance.

c) Street scene matters.

i) Consider amenity improvements in central village area, including eradicating Japanese Knotweed. The chairman reported that currently Japanese Knotweed was abating subsequent to Community Gateway Association sub-contractor executing remedial work.

ii) Littering in parish. A Newton ward member reported volunteer collections continue to mitigate the problem however likely accumulations screened by hedgerows still require to be removed. Following a parishioner complaint to County Councillor Stewart Jones relating to areas on A583/Blackpool Road (between Scale Hall Lane and the Bell and Bottle pub/restaurant - rear of Cedar Close and Birch Avenue) clerk advised issues had been referred to the proper authority i.e. Fylde borough council. Clifton ward member reported 3NO bin bags full of laughing gas canisters had been discarded in a village litter bin. As it is a C class drug, and possession for recreational purposes is a criminal offence, police had been informed. A Clifton ward member reported the car park at the former Windmill public house was now litter free. Clerk reported a letter of thanks had been sent to a young volunteer litter picker in Newton-with-Scales.

iii) Dog fouling. Members reported ongoing dog fouling issues. The clerk reported that, notwithstanding follow up requests, Fylde borough council had still to respond to a request for the authority to display more adversarial Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) notices. The KBT notices were considered appropriate by members to inform those in charge of dogs who continue to disregard a responsibility to clean up after their animal.

Highways contd...

iv) SpID deployment. Newton ward members reported LCC had erected the SpID post in Clifton. It was explained LCC will arrange for initial installation of the SpID for a fee of £315. It was proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** i) LCC street lighting indicated costs be accepted and that LCC be requested to provide a final quote for the supply and fixing the posts and install the SpID, ii) Council place an order with the SpID supplier.

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

d) Overgrown hedgerows, Preston Old Road, Clifton, Preston Lancashire PR4 0ZA. No update reported.

e) Christmas seasonal decorations 2024 - consider arrangements. A Newton ward member referred to the circumstances that required council to review its arrangements, including removal of lighting following the 2023/24 festive displays. Following members suggestions it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** enquiries be made with a local electrician (04/07/24). No update reported.

f) Bryning Lane/"Sandy Gap". Chairman referred to an open forum issue, discarded brash between boundary fencing in the above area, and together with a Newton ward member agreed to inspect the area.

g) Localised rat infestation - subsequent to comments from a parishioner chairman advised such matters should be reported in a timely manner to Fylde borough council as the proper authority.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

a) Planning applications.

24/0381 Erection of six lighting columns with floodlights (retrospective application) at Motor Trust UK Blackpool Road, Clifton, Preston, PR4 0XL. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is refused planning permission - development considered inappropriate for location taking into account the effects (including cumulative effects) of light pollution on health, living conditions, quality of life and the natural environment, including adversely impacting the wider area. Development is contrary to planning authority objectives of limiting light pollution impact from artificial light on local amenity in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 185). Development also has the potential to be a distraction to vehicle drivers, compromising highway safety on A583/Blackpool Road/Preston New Road.

b) Renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals.

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

ii) Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL), a joint venture between Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios, S.A. and Flotation Energy Ltd developing Morecambe Offshore Windfarm project. Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL), a joint venture between bp and Energie Baden-Wurttemberg AG (EnBW), developing the Morgan Offshore Wind project. Two joint venture companies are collaborating to connect the wind farms to the electricity transmission network - statutory consultation transmission assets. Chairman reported Morecambe and Morgan OWL had submitted planning inspectorate applications for orders granting development consents for their respective generation assets projects. A preliminary meeting to discuss the scope of the development and interrelationship with other infrastructure projects has been arranged for Tuesday 10th September 2024. Chairman explained it is anticipated points will be raised relating to proposed National Grid connection at Penwortham and those elements relating to joint application for the transmission assets comprising of offshore and onshore export cables, an offshore booster station for the Morgan project, onshore substations, and associated grid connection infrastructure. The chairman reported attending a meeting with Andrew Snowden MP and members of Lancashire Association of Local Councils energy working group (LALC). The council's position was restated including a need to establish whether it is feasible for a grid connection at Stannah, Cleveleys (former ICI plant at Thornton - now Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ) which members considered could deliver economies and accrue local economic benefits if this EZ was selected. Chairman also reported a private drop-in event on the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets Project originally scheduled for Friday 6th September 2024 has been postponed. A Clifton ward member reported meeting,

Planning contd...together with LALC members, the Blackpool North and Fleetwood MP Lorraine Beavers, to discuss the Hillhouse/Stannah option and issues relating to a proposed solar farm proposal at Blackpool Airport EZ.

iii) Planning application 24/0414, Vattenfall, onshore wind, market development UK (OWMD) proposed installation of 49.9-megawatt solar farm with associated infrastructure including: series of solar photovoltaic modules in arrays with string converters, transformers, substation, fencing and thermal CCTV cameras, access tracks, cabling, landscaping and other habitat creation at Clifton Marsh farm, Preston New Road, Clifton, Preston PR4 0XE. Chairman referred to discussions in open forum reporting the application is being considered by Fylde borough council. In due course council anticipated further consultation with the developer, Vattenfall, and the local authorities with statutory responsibility for specific services that may be eligible for community benefit funding.

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

5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

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

b) Horticultural features contract - consider report from authorised officer/liaison member in respect of the maintenance contract. The council 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) Giant hogweed Newton Hall park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. In view of concern previously expressed by FoNCP, regarding a proliferation of Giant Hogweed (04/07/24), a professional investigation had been executed and Fylde borough council parks had confirmed it was not Giant Hogweed.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

i) Issues arising from Ash dieback disease, including storm damage &c. It was reported a tree on property adjacent Newton Hall park, overhangs the park and merits a safety inspection by the council's contractor. A Newton ward member referred to dieback issues affecting a number of trees on village hall land. (04/07/24). No update reported.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council (LCC), local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust, and parish surveys. The clerk reported that information from Lancashire county council (LCC) regarding "Treescapes" i.e. Forestry Commission funded project, delivered by LCC. It involves a working partnership with LCC to help fund and deliver tree planting aspirations. LCC is also administering the Coronation Living Heritage Fund pot for community orchards in Lancashire. Members agreed to consider potential projects and report suggestions in due course. A member reported a tree/whip, recently planted on William Pickles park, appeared to have failed and died (04/07/24). No update reported.

e) William Pickles Park, Clifton, development, equipment maintenance and repairs.

i) Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). Clerk reported Fylde borough council (FBC) parks had confirmed, 7th August 2024, that play equipment has been scheduled for removal. A Clifton ward councillor agreed to make further enquiries regarding when the work will be executed. The clerk confirmed that the FoCP "Third Party Contribution" to Lancashire Environmental Fund and related documentation had been processed. Accordingly it was anticipated FoCP will now be able to progress its Community Parks Improvement Programme (CPIP) application with FBC. Also it was anticipated that when the play equipment is removed an engineer will be able to assess drainage issues on the park, subsequently a comprehensive drainage system installed, and new equipment, provided, as part of the CPIP, installed.

f) Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). Due to continuing misapprehensions relating to Fylde borough council (FBC) PSPOs it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to request that; i) FBC affix signage that is consistent at the three parish recreational areas, i.e. Newton Hall park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Playing field, adjacent Newton-with-Clifton and Salwick village hall, Vicarage Lane, Newton-with-Scales,

Parks contd...and William Pickles park, Clifton, ii) these 3NO areas be specifically stated in a combined PSPO or separate PSPOs in an order that requires a person to keep any dog in their charge on a lead, iii) when PSPOs are effective FBC arrange for the replacement of parish council signage it removed.

g) William Pickles park, Clifton. Newton ward member referred to an issue caused by BT/Openreach cabling work at the north corner on Clifton park. Work has been completed however the reinstatement was very poor, and Openreach had lifted sections of turf from another part of the field. The council's contractor had then arranged for a proper reinstatement. The matter had initially been referred to the clerk and reported to Openreach who subsequently advised of its [resolution of this complaint].

h) Hill Crescent, Newton-with-Scales open space – disposal of Ash tree branches adjacent highway. A Newton ward member agreed to refer this issue to the council's contractor and request a quote to prune overhanging branches and prevent contact with vehicles.

i) Flagpole at Newton-with-Clifton village hall (NWCVH). Chairman referred to this issue raised by a parishioner in open forum - flag, purchased by the council, was not flying. A Newton ward member and NWCVH committee management trustee agreed to make enquiries regarding this matter.

j) Vehicle parking, Newton-with-Clifton village hall. Chairman referred to this issue raised by a parishioner in open forum - perceived issues caused by users of the playing field adjacent the village hall parking on the footway. Also an overgrown hedge exacerbated problems for pedestrians. It was agreed that the council contractor be requested to arrange an inspection and execute any maintenance necessary and the council's contract liaison member agreed to progress this matter.

k) Bryning Lane/"Sandy Gap". Chairman referred to this issue raised by a parishioner in open forum, discarded brash between boundary fencing in the above area, and together with a Newton ward member agreed to inspect the area.

6. NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT TRUSTEES (NWCVHC).

i) Playing field adjacent village hall. Chairman reported an update from the NWCVHC treasurer, i) Springfields football club has taken on all aspects of football related maintenance and is in regular contact with the council's contractor, club requested permission to erect a large shed on the northern side of the yard, club to ask farmer who uses the field north of village hall for permission to prune/remove 2NO Ash trees affected by dieback that are on a land boundary, it is likely regular youth football will be scheduled for the foreseeable future so Sundays unavailable for party/ community use, ii) grass compost bin in situ and will extend/modify it later in the summer, work to be executed tidying up the pond area, scouts are having a summer tidy up of the rear yard and allotments area, including clearing the wood store and the old nursery shed.

7. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

a) Approve invoices for payment.

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

Black Box Security Alarm Systems	CCTV maintenance/monitoring 4NO cameras.	£832.10	
		Vat £166.42	£998.52
HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 30th June to 31st July 2024.		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/A Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations August 2024.	£975.00	
	Horticultural features operations August 2024.	£912.20	
		Vat £377.44	£2264.64
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/08/24-31/08/24.	£12.05	
		Vat £0.60	£12.65
F. Wilson	Honoraria to September 2024.		£1877.40
HM Revenue and Customs	Statutory remuneration deductions, charges.		£620.45
National Employment Savings Trust Corporation	Pension contributions.		£626.69
			£6,408.35

8. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

a) Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) Conference, Saturday, 7th September 2024, 9am for 9.30 start – finish 3.30pm at the Delta Marriott Hotel, Preston. Council agreed not to send a delegate.

Any other matters contd...

b) Parish and Town Councils – Local Government Association Peer Review - Focus Group Wednesday 18th September, 2:30pm until 4pm, Town Hall, Lytham St. Annes. Following discussion agreed the chairman attend the meeting.

c) LALC Fylde Area Committee, Monday 23rd September 2024 - commencing at 7pm at the ‘William Segar Hodgson Pavilion’ (Coronation Road, Kirkham, PR4 2HE). Following discussion agreed a Clifton ward member and a Newton ward member to attend the meeting.

d) District/Parish Planning Forum on Monday 30th September 2024, 18:30 - 20:00 Town Hall, Lytham St. Annes. Chairman referred to the council’s previous decision to boycott this meeting.

e) District/Parish liaison meeting to be held on Wednesday, 16th October 2024 at 6.30pm Town Hall, Lytham St. Annes. Following discussion agreed a Clifton ward member and a Newton ward member to attend the meeting.

f) Freckleton community windfarm action group, meeting Wednesday 18th September 2024, Freckleton sports and social club commencing at 7:00 p.m. Following discussion agreed a Clifton ward member and a Newton ward member to attend the meeting.

g) Date of next meeting. It was agreed the next council meeting be held on Thursday 3rd October 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 21:45 hrs.

Chairman