

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2025 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, County Councillor Stewart Jones. Police: None, members of the public: two.

### a) FORUM.

#### i) Parishioner matters.

a) Tree maintenance, Stanagate, Clifton PR4 0ZB. A parishioner reported issues relating to the condition and height of some trees on Stanagate highway grass verge areas. Chairman explained the trees are on verge areas maintained by Lancashire county council highways and the matter will be considered under the highways and transportation agenda item.

b) Maintenance of trees subject to a tree preservation order. A parishioner referred to tree officer administration issues at Fylde borough council (FBC) that were delaying execution of required maintenance. A Clifton ward member/borough councillor agreed to pursue this matter with the FBC chief executive.

c) County council/community matters. County councillor Stewart Jones provided updates, and where applicable agreed to refer feedback to Lancashire county council (LCC), relating to; LCC emergency/urgent telephone contact, Love Clean Streets reporting facility, LCC parish champion grants, police and crime commissioner for Lancashire community fund, Kirkham boxing club, LCC A583/Blackpool Road highway improvement scheme(s) and LCC's relevant representation to the planning inspectorate relating to Morgan and Morecambe offshore windfarms transmission assets (M&MOW). Discussion ensued relating to M&MOW and subsequent to a parishioner enquiry the chairman and a Clifton ward member outlined the present position and provided information relating to potential compulsory purchase procedures and community benefit/ s.106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 arrangements. County councillor Stewart Jones agreed to forward LCC contact details relating to M&MOW.

#### ii) Policing matters. None reported.

### 1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

a) Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Janette McCormick.

b) Chairman's communications. No substantive matters reported

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 agenda item.

Councillor John Kitchen, Hornbies Foundation/Hornbies Newton Charity agenda item.

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

Councillor Aimee Tombs, relating to i) Friends of Clifton park agenda item, ii) Newton Bluecoat School agenda item.

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

d) Signing of minutes - council meeting, Thursday 6th February 2025. 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 (06/02/25). No update reported and it was agreed the matter is unlikely to be progressed and should be deleted.

ii) Newton Hall Park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales and William Pickles Park, Clifton Lane, Clifton, brambles encroachment. No update reported (09/01/25). No update reported, it was agreed that if necessary the matter will be progressed with council's contractor and so could now be deleted (06/03/25).

Matters arising contd...

iii) Newton Hall park - rustic path access from existing path. No update reported (09/01/25).

iv) Signage, Newton Hall park and William Pickles park. No update reported (09/01/25).

v) Flagpole, Newton-with-Clifton village hall. Clifton ward member reported Newton-with-Clifton village hall committee (NWCVHC) will purchase a replacement Union Flag. However protocol adopted by 1st Clifton (Lund) scouts group apparently prevents permanent flying of the Union Flag i.e. usually flown from sunrise to sunset. As a workaround a Clifton ward member agreed to liaise with NWCVHC and acquire a Lancashire flag that can be permanently displayed (09/01/25). Clifton ward member reported purchase of a Lancashire flag enquiries are ongoing (06/02/25). Newton ward member and NWCVHC trustee reported a replacement Union Flag had been purchased together with a Lancashire flag and members agreed the matter could now be deleted.

vi) Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). No update provided (09/01/25). Newton ward member reported attending a recent district/parish liaison meeting and that all PSPO's are to be reviewed in 2026. Councils will be able to submit representations as part of the review.

vii) Supply and emptying litter/dog waste bin, proximity to dog run facility Newton Hall park, School Lane, Newton-with-Scales. No update provided (09/01/25). As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to refer the matter again to Fylde borough council. (06/02/25). No update reported.

viii) Preston Old Road, Clifton - Openreach excavation and temporary cover. A Clifton ward member reported protracted work and it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to request an update from Openreach. (06/02/25). No update reported.

ix) Storage of equipment, Newton-with-Clifton village hall (NWCVH). A Newton ward member and NWCVH committee trustee reported replacement locks will be fixed to the NWCVHC storage sheds. (06/02/25). No update reported.

x) Other matters. Chairman reported any ongoing issues are current agenda items.

## **2. PARISH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, GOVERNANCE.**

a) Consider website development, receive report.

i) Facebook and website communications. Newton ward member reported Facebook/website updates were ongoing, including publishing significant parish achievements for the respective wards. Investigations remain ongoing with regards to possible enhancements to the website, including costs associated with providing a new website, use of GOV.UK domain and emails.

b) Hornbies Foundation - Hornbies Newton Charity (HFHNC). It was reported that the next HCHNF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19th March 2025. Following a chairman enquiry clerk confirmed, subsequent to a recent resignation as a trustee, HFHNC had been notified of the replacement nominative governor/trustee.

## **3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.**

a) Ongoing Lancashire County Council (LCC) matters, including parish highway safety issues.

i) LCC reporting system.

i) Highway issues. A Newton ward member referred to perceived ongoing 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 report reference number on LCS. Newton ward member reported LCS does now show; reference numbers, and other unresolved issues, e.g. closure of duplicated reports. Another issue related to reporting blocked drains, LCS requests, but does not enable identification on a map. The matter continues to be pursued with LCC parish champion member (03/10/24). Newton ward member reported LCC now accepts that LCS indicating works are completed when they are actually works in hand should be included in a review of messages. LCC had previously acknowledged that report numbers should be included on LCS. Blocked gullies/drainage issues on Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales and Spen Lane, Treales were ongoing but being addressed by LCC. (07/11/24). No update reported. 05/12/24.

ii) Watercourse, adjacent playing field, Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall. Chairman referred to flooding on the A583/Blackpool Road that might be exacerbated by the condition of the watercourse. Clerk reported LCC had deemed it necessary on previous occasions to complete an investigation into the flood incident as property and a section of highway were affected. When the watercourse is heavily silted it adversely affect

Highways contd... property and a section of highway were affected. When the watercourse is heavily silted it adversely affects the inlet into the drainage system and during heavy rainfall the watercourse would overflow onto the highway. To reduce the risk of flooding in the future, through a combination of improved land management practices and general drainage maintenance, it was agreed; a) LCC is requested to arrange a survey to ensure culverted drainage is properly functioning, b) council request its contractor to quote for the dredging the watercourse (09/01/25). A Newton ward member agreed to liaise with the contractor to establish whether the quote included disposal of dredging spoil, or is perhaps being used elsewhere on site. The chairman referred to issues raised by a parishioner in open forum, and as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to request LCC to expound on its response, ensure culverted drainage is properly functioning and share inspection results with the council, and if considered necessary the matter should be escalated within Lancashire county council highways and transport directorate (LCC). (06/02/25). No update reported.

iii) Malfunctioning drainage system and consequential flooding/ponding to highway extent, including footway on Clifton Lane/Lodge Lane/Meadow Close, Clifton. Clifton ward member reported LCC had now addressed these previously reported issues (07/11/24). However the final stage of the drainage improvement work is presently on hold as a related drainage issue associated with William Pickles park had still to be addressed by LCC. A Newton ward member agreed to again pursue this matter with LCC once Fylde borough council had determined a Friends of Clifton park capital funding application (05/12/24). A Newton ward member reported an unofficial workaround that alleviated the flooding/ponding, pending completion of scheduled drainage improvements as part of the LCC 2024/2025 programme of priority capital drainage work. A Newton ward member agreed to contact LCC for an update (09/01/25). A Newton ward member reported matters remain ongoing. No update reported. (06/02/25).

iv) Blocked gully - opposite 52 School Lane, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RT. The chairman referred to this issue and indicated an enquiry will be made regarding whether Newton Bluecoat school caretaker had commenced sweeping accumulated detritus from the gully, as had previously been suggested (09/01/25). No update reported. (06/02/25).

v) LCC/2022/0007, creation of a bund at "Moss Farm, Salwick Road, Preston, Lancashire. A borough and Clifton ward member agreed to provide details relating to the materials being transported through the parish, and apparently deposited on site to form part of the bund. It was agreed that when specific information is received it should again be referred to LCC. (07/11/2024). No update provided (06/02/25). A Clifton ward member reported; development appears to have been postponed pending LCC determinations and that related HGV signage at the junction of Lodge Lane/A583 Blackpool Road had been damaged.

vi) Grass verge, junction of A585/Preston New Road, Clifton - overgrown vegetation. A Clifton ward member reported that the verge encroachment required pedestrians to use the carriageway and it was agreed to request LCC to execute maintenance (09/01/25). No update reported. (06/02/25). A Clifton ward member reported work has still to be executed and the clerk advised that LCS indicated the matter is closed. A Clifton ward member agreed to provide photographs of areas requiring maintenance.

vii) Wildlife Warning Signs. (06/03/25). Clerk reported that following an inspection LCC had determined that signage was not required and it was agreed the matter should be deleted.

viii) Overgrown vegetation - Station Road, Salwick opposite "Railway Cottage" property, A Newton ward member reported overgrown vegetation, grass verge areas/hedges encroach the footway on Station Road, Salwick opposite "Railway Cottage" property and consequently pedestrians are required to use the carriageway. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to request the responsible 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. (06/02/25). Clerk reported LCC had agreed to programme the work.

b) New LCC matters.

i) Tree maintenance, Stanagate, Clifton PR4 0ZB. Chairman referred to issues raised in open forum and it was agreed LCC should be requested to arrange an inspection, any corrective maintenance work as considered necessary and advise when it may be programmed for execution.

ii) Bryning Lane, Newton-with-Scales. Chairman referred to recent road works that had been executed on Friday 28th February 2025. No details were available on LCC road works bulletin and LCC had not published notices prior to the work being scheduled. As a result some chaos had been caused to highway

Highways contd...users, with ensuing highways health and safety issues as drivers were attempting access/egress to/from village. As a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed LCC should be requested to provide an explanation.

iii) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Lancashire county council (Freckleton bypass, Freckleton and Newton-with-Clifton, Fylde borough) (revocation and 50mph speed limit) order 202\*. Members referred to the above LCC proposal, the effect of which will be to introduce 50mph measures, as set out in the public notice and plan, notwithstanding any "clearway" signage referenced by a Newton ward member. Members also reported issues with vehicle drivers turning right from Clifton Fields onto the dual carriageway directly facing oncoming traffic. Following discussion, and in the interest of highway safety, it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** to request LCC to review highway signage on the A584.

iv) Public footpath NO 8. Clifton village. Newton ward member informed council of ongoing enquiries with LCC public rights of way team relating to historical OS maps showing an extended footpath north of Preston Old Road, Clifton.

v) Clifton Lane, Clifton, application to provide a pedestrian crossing. Members considered a request for a pedestrian crossing on Clifton Lane, Clifton, in proximity to William Pickles park. As part of a community park improvement programme, in partnership with Friends of Clifton park, Fylde borough council and the parish council the park is being refurbished and it is anticipated these improvements, combined with residential development completed in recent years, will continue to increase pedestrian movement. Accordingly, in the interest of highway health and safety, it was agreed as a clerk **ACTION** LCC should be requested to arrange an inspection and consider providing a pedestrian crossing.

c) Street scene matters.

i) Consider amenity improvements in central village area, including eradicating Japanese knotweed. Chairman reported that currently Japanese knotweed issues had abated subsequent to Community Gateway Association sub-contractor executing remedial work (May and August 2024). However, chairman indicated the plant dies back to ground level so is not visible in the winter months, may return by early summer and any ongoing issue will be reviewed in Spring 2025. (07/11/24).

ii) SpID deployment. Newton ward members reported collated data continues to indicate excessive vehicle speeds and given the volume of traffic related to Westinghouse Springfields Fuels Limited it was agreed details should be shared at the next Springfields Site Stakeholder Group meeting for its observations. Similarly, it was agreed data should be shared with Lancashire road safety partnership to secure its engagement in mitigating perceived highway safety issues. (09/01/25). The chairman thanked 2NO Newton ward members for recently collated data and summary report and it was agreed to communicate with Springfields Fuels Ltd, Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel regarding this data.(06/02/25). Newton ward member reported ongoing enquiries with regard to providing a SpID at Newton-with-Scales.

iii) Wildflower displays. A Newton ward member suggested that entrances to Clifton village would benefit from a wildflower project. Chairman and a Newton ward members agreed to obtain information from the council's contractor regarding this suggestion. (06/02/25). No update reported.

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

a) Planning applications.

**25/0079** Application to vary condition 15 (scheme for highway improvement works) of planning permission 24/0383 to delay the provision of a pedestrian refuge within the carriageway of Blackpool Road to the west of the development's access until prior to the occupation of the fourth (and final) dwelling within the development at "Pathways" Blackpool Road Newton-with-Scales, Preston, Lancashire PR4 3RJ. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the planning authority be advised it is recommended the application is refused planning permission; members referenced a communication from Lancashire county council highways authority and reaffirm observations relating to highways health and safety concerns. The conditional works are important for the sustainability of the site, improving pedestrian connectivity to and from the development and the island would also provide the opportunity for a right turn facility to be implemented along Blackpool Road into the site. If the fourth and final dwelling is sold and becomes occupied prior to works on Blackpool Road being implemented, there is at least a potential risk that these works may never occur. Without the provision of a pedestrian refuge prior to occupation of the first dwelling this could pose a highway safety issue when pedestrians use a high speed and highly trafficked road along the local highway network.

Planning contd...

b) Renewable and low carbon energy generation development proposals.

i) 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 and a Newton ward member/chairman of transmission assets steering committee (TASC) reported; 2,203 representations had been submitted i.e. 6th highest total for representations in respect of 185 projects, examiners have now issued a "Rule 9" letter to the applicant requesting further information regarding: air safety, (concerns raised by both BAe Systems and Blackpool Airport regarding bird strike risks), ecological effects (information required regarding underwater effects of noise and disturbance on fish etc. Also, effects of noise and disturbance on the sand dune ecosystem (sand lizards etc.), gap between projects (information regarding the effects of the of the proposed 4 year hiatus between the 1st and the 2nd projects (M&M and Mooir Vannin), responses are due by 21st March 2025 and likely to delay the preliminary meeting until April/May, TASC has agreed to a Broadfield Law LLP offer to review 23 representations, mainly from statutory consultees, to identify most significant issues and represent council (and others) at the preliminary meeting, Bae, Broadfield Law LLP and Fylde borough council are to meet and a TASC member will also attend. The chairman reported discussing vat with the clerk subsequent to some TASC participants raising issues with regard to contributing towards a vat inclusive invoice. It had been agreed to keep the vat situation as simple as possible and Newton-with-Clifton parish council will continue to pay invoices inclusive of vat, and request contributions from members on a proportionate basis including vat and any overpayment refunded in due course, and on completion of all related matters, including formally establishing TASC as a s.102 Local Government 1972 Act joint committee (i.e. not a working group), by all participating local councils specifying their contribution, nominated representative and voting rights. Treales, Roseacre and Wharles parish council has agreed to join TASC and pledged £2000 towards the costs. Cllr Karen Buckley, leader of Fylde borough council (FBC), has been approached about a contribution towards professional fees and although willing to meet with Broadfield Law LLP it was considered a funding contribution could raise conflict of interest issues and compromise FBC independence during the process.

ii) 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 reported that Natural England (NE) had requested clarification relating to "Best and most versatile" (BMV) (3b or worse) land. Proposed development impacts 32 hectares of farm land and NE consider it is unclear whether all this land is, as claimed, i.e. 75% of site not BMV (09/01/25). Chairman reported a change in Vattenfall personnel dealing with this application and the chairman and a Newton ward member explained their intention to meet with the replacement project manager and obtain an update. (06/02/25). A Newton ward member reported the meeting with the project manager had not taken place, having been cancelled by the Vattenfall representative for personal reasons.

iii) 24/0541 Installation of a 32 hectare solar farm, with associated infrastructure including: series of solar photovoltaic arrays, switch rooms, substations, inverters power stations, fencing, pole mounted CCTV cameras, access tracks and landscaping and biodiversity measures at land west of Parrox Lane, Newton-with-Scales, Preston. Chairman reported that NE had been consulted on this application however its consultation response was not yet available. No update provided (09/01/25).

c) Fylde Borough Council (FBC)/Lancashire county council (LCC) planning decisions/notifications and parish communications/notifications/recommendations.

24/0691 Certificate of lawful development for the proposed use of a dwellinghouse (use class c3) as a home for three young people (under 18 years of age) with care provided 24 hours a day by up to four non-resident carers working in shifts (use class c2) at "Beach House" Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire PR4 0YB. A Clifton ward member reported Fylde borough council had issued a certificate for the purpose of section

Planning contd...191/section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). i) 24/0672 Application to vary conditions, 4 (approved plans) and 13 (car parking scheme) of planning permission 23/0766 for "hybrid planning application comprising: (1) full application for partial demolition and alterations to former forge and existing garage buildings to provide car port and cycle/refuse store together with vehicle access, parking and manoeuvring areas; and (2) outline application for erection of 5 x 1.5 storey dormer bungalows with private gardens and a shared/communal garden (access, appearance, layout and scale applied for with landscaping reserved)" to allow modifications to refuse storage and collection arrangements including: 1) alterations to size and design of existing (retained) garage to be used as a cycle/bin store; 2) introduction of private bin and cycle stores in rear gardens of each dwelling; 3) formation of a communal bin collection area to side of car port; and 4) associated reduction in size of courtyard, at land to the rear of "Smithy House" and north of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Preston PR4 0ZA. Members referred to this ongoing application and a Clifton ward member expounded on the prevailing and proposed refuse collection arrangements.

iii) No. 8 Stanagate, EN/24/0187 refers, and No. 14 Stanagate, EN/24/0189 (05/12/24). No update reported (09/01/25).

iv) Potential unauthorised development - Cherry Blossom Farm, A583/Blackpool Road, Newton-with-Scales PR4 3RE (03/10/24). No update reported (07/11/24).

## **5. 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. Chairman reported arrangements relating to the annual contract review.

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. Chairman reported arrangements relating to the annual contract review.

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

i) Report. Chairman referred to FoNCP's update report which had previously been circulated to members. Chairman reported FoNCP had received a request from 2NO local companies to sponsor information signs displayed around the pond area, signage would include company logos. Following discussion council agreed to the request.

d) Parish tree planting, pruning, replacement etc.

i) Issues arising from Ash dieback disease, including storm damage &c. A Newton ward member referred to dieback issues affecting a number of trees on village hall land. (04/07/24). No update reported. It was reported a tree on property adjacent Newton Hall park, overhangs the park and merits a safety inspection by the council's contractor (03/10/24). No update provided.

ii) Updates, if any, from Fylde borough council, Lancashire county council (LCC), local tree surgeons, Woodland Trust, and parish surveys. The clerk reported information from 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. Newton ward member reported a tree/whip, recently planted on William Pickles park, had failed and died (04/07/24). No update reported (05/09/24). Clifton ward member advised that land adjacent Preston Old Road/Silver Street, Clifton PR4 0ZA, i.e. "Clifton Triangle" location has been inspected by LCC and a works order issued to make safe 4NO trees. Works include a crown lift and reduce back to achieve 2m clearance from lighting of 1NO tree, a horse chestnuts will have a dead limb removed and deadwood over 50mm in diameter from crown, ash tree to be removed due to dieback, ash tree to be reduce to 8m stem, due to dieback. (07/11/24). A Clifton ward member reported LCC had still to execute the work at "Clifton Triangle". (05/12/24). Clifton ward member reported a contractor suggestion that the tree, which is to be removed, should be felled to a height of c. eight feet (c. 2.4meters) - this is to

Parks contd... accommodate a proposed living sculptures from the tree. Council accepted this suggestion and as a clerk **ACTION** it was agreed to request LCC to execute the felling as indicated. (06/02/25). Clifton ward member reported the tree had been marked by the council's contractor and the clerk confirmed LCC has agreed to the suggestion. Chairman reported LCC continue to execute Ash dieback work on affected trees along A583/Blackpool Road.

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

i) Friends of Clifton park (FoCP). It was reported Fylde borough council (FBC) parks had removed play equipment. It was anticipated that an engineer will now be able to assess drainage issues on the park, subsequently a comprehensive drainage system installed, and new equipment, provided, as part of the Community Parks Improvement Programme (CPIP). Clifton ward member and FoCP representative reported, FoCP had still to progress its CPIP application with FBC, the National Lottery Community Fund had extended its project deadline to November 2025 and a FoCP application for a Peoples Postcode Lottery grant was unsuccessful. Chairman requested clerk to circulate again quotes, previously circulated in May 2024, relating to proposed survey work for consideration by members, and following discussion it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** members agree in principle the matter should be progressed by members assessing the quotes and inform the clerk of their opinion, 2) clerk prepare a summary and circulate to members requesting a decision, 3) contractor is selected and a decision formally ratified at the next meeting of the council scheduled for Thursday 7th November 2024, 4) drainage specifications be requested for the total area of the park (03/10/24). A Clifton ward member and FoCP representative reported FoCP had now progressed its FBC Community Parks Improvement Programme (CPIP) application in the sum of £65349. It was also reported that FoCP had secured complementary finance in the sum of £57000. Clerk reported Lancashire county council highways (LCC) had initially indicated it would not permit new drainage connections from the park to the LCC highway drainage system. A Newton ward member reported communication with LCC that was inconsistent with the initial advice. Accordingly, Newton ward member agreed to liaise with both the LCC engineer and a local drainage engineer to verify the position. (07/11/24). The chairman reported an understanding that FoCP's application for capital funding is being progressed by FBC executive committee. No update reported. (05/12/24). Newton ward member reported a storm damaged tree had been removed from the park and a bench repair had still to be executed. Clerk reported a local contractor had been requested to assess the work (09/01/25). Further to recent FoCP communications and a FBC request, it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** council increase its CPIP contribution to £17300 (currently £15000) raising the CPIP project to £125000 (06/02/25). Clifton ward member and FoCP representative advised FBC project manager required drainage to be completed ahead of FBC inviting tenders from suppliers. Clerk reported the contractor had verbally advised drainage work which, it was understood, includes removal of existing substructure will be completed by the end of March 2025. However, the contractor had still to provide the requested written confirmation. Following a request by the chairman a Clifton ward member/FoCP representative agreed to provide copies of related FBC correspondence and a copy of the base plan concept relating to the agreed FBC capital budget grant of £65000. Clifton ward member/FoCP representative reported FBC required, in the interest of disability access/inclusivity, 2NO paths (each c.5m in length) and 2NO entrance gates to be constructed within the project. Following discussion it was agreed the extra cost is to be met from FoCP budget and underwritten by the parish council should FoCP be able to demonstrate a financial shortfall. Clifton ward member/FoCP representative agreed to liaise with the chairman and request a local contractor to quote for the path work.

f) Newton Hall park - anti-social behaviour. Chairman reported a car was driven the length of the park from Thames Street, resulting in sections of grassed areas having been damaged with deep ruts. The matter had been reported to the police and the council's data protection lead officer had assessed CCTV footage. However image quality would not assist any formal investigation. Occupiers of neighbouring property had not been able to provide any information and council agreed to consider options to prevent a recurrence e.g. place boulders/tree planting &c at Thames Street entrance.

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

i) Vehicle parking/use of football pitch. A Newton ward member and NWCVHC trustee reported a gate is to be installed, to replace the damaged bollard (09/01/25). Newton ward member/NWCVHC trustee

Parks contd... reported gate had been ordered (09/02/25). A Clifton ward member reported littering, arising from Sunday football club fixtures, that causes subsequent maintenance issues for the council's grass cutting contractor. NWCVHC is to seek the co-operation of the local football club in addressing the matter.

## **7. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.**

### **a) Approve invoices for payment.**

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

HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st December 2024 to 30th January 2025.		£8.00
Paul Gregory T/A Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations February 2025.	£975.00	
	Horticultural features operations February 2025.	£912.20	
		Vat <u>£377.44</u>	£2264.64
Harry Barton	Repair to bench seat William Pickles park		£170.00
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/01/25-31/01/25.	£10.88	
		Vat <u>£0.54</u>	£11.42
F. Wilson	Honoraria to March 2025.		£1877.40
HM Revenue and Customs	Statutory remuneration deductions, charges.		£620.45
National Employment Savings Trust	Pension contributions.		<u>£626.69</u>
			<u>£5578.60</u>

**8). Newton-with-Clifton Uncontested parish election 4th May 2023, subsequent co-option of member for Clifton ward and casual vacancy arising from resignation.** Clerk referred to the notice of vacancy and that a request from ten electors for an election to take place had not been received. Accordingly council may fill the vacancy by co-option.

## **9. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.**

a) Date of next meeting. It was agreed the next council meeting be held on Thursday 3rd April 2025 commencing at 7:15 p.m. at Newton-with-Clifton village hall. There being no further business the chairman declared the Meeting closed at 21:15 hrs.

Chairman