

Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8pm on 11th December 2013 at The Village Hall, Newton.

1. **Present:** Dave Carter, Judith Leggatt, Anne Davis, Richard Greenaway, Cllr Leigh Hunt, Frank Preston.
2. **Apologies:** None received
3. **Declarations of Interests:** Frank Preston declared an interest that he is a member of the village Hall Committee due to be discussed in item 10eii.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 06th November 2013:** Regarding item 7, Dave Carter was asked to clarify the pub's ownership status. He said that at the moment the pub was being run under a tenancy agreement but that the tenant are trying to buy the pub. If the village ever did decide to list the pub as a community asset then it would always remain listed.
5. **Items arising from minutes of meeting held on 06th November 2013:** Judith Leggatt asked about the state of the roads. Dave Carter said that as Newton had missed its slot for resurfacing, the surface dressing would not now be completed until next year. It is too late in the year now because the weather is too cold this time of year. Dave Carter and Judith Leggatt said that we need to keep reminding Warwickshire County Council that the redressing is still outstanding.
6. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Items for circulation were circulated.
 - b. There were no police incidents to report.
 - c. Yelvertoft Parish Council had sent an e-mail requesting the council's views on the planned developments at DIRFT III and the new town (BT mast site) on the A5. It was decided that clerk should send Yelvertoft PC copies of the letters NPC sent regarding both sites.
 - d. An email asking if Newton PC would like to send a representative to the Community Resilience Workshop about flooding to be held in Dunchurch on 23.01.13. Dave Carter said that he was filling to go and the clerk was to reply. Cllr Leigh Hunt commented that the workshop encompasses all sorts of different emergencies and is not just about flooding.
 - e. An email from Alison Hodge re: council tax benefit support grant letter from Stratford Dave Carter Chief Executive was discussed and no action or response was deemed necessary.
 - f. A request for feedback by mid-December on the LEADER scheme had been received. The clerk was asked to give the following feedback; It application process was multi-layered and difficult navigate. The Women's' Movement that received monies had been successful and it a worthwhile scheme but its application process needs simplifying.
It was muted that if the scheme was about social inclusion could we apply for gritting the untreated section of road to ensure social inclusion of the village children to get to school in the icy weather when buses were stopped.
 - g. An email had been received from Rugby Borough Council asking for suggestions to put towards the scrutiny committee on 14.11.13. Dave Carter asked Cllr Leigh Hunt where the line drawn between matters for scrutiny; for example were DIRFT III, BT Site, Coton and St Thomas's Cross matters for scrutiny or planning. Cllr Leigh Hunt that these topics would be too detailed and suggested that a better topic to be raised was something like the broad impact of planning on the local area.
It was suggested that the question of what the rural precept is used for could be asked. For instance in urban areas play areas and street lighting are paid for. A bleak picture could be painted at the lack of equity between urban and rural areas and the issue of gritting could be

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raised as scrutiny can cover county issues. Cllr Leigh Hunt thought it important to start sowing the seeds now as funding continues to be an issue.

Dave Carter suggested that two people represented the committee and Judith Leggatt said she was willing to attend if someone went with her.

The clerk was asked to scan letter and information and send out as a PDF attachment for the councillors' information.

- h. This was discussed and no response / action needed as NPC are happy with the local plan and have no community plan.
 - i. Circulated for information.
 - j. The accounts from the allotment committee have been received and were handed to the clerk.
7. **Picnic Site:** Paul Merghan's update was read out. Richard Greenaway asked why cars can still drive in through the barrier and Dave Carter said it was there as a deterrent. Clerk was waiting hear if grant had been awarded by Cllr. M-J. Dr Collins had also applied for a grant from Alan Webb.
- The clerk was asked to get a site plan from Paul Merghan so that the councillors could assess what needs doing and mark the plan up and return to Paul Merghan for a scheme to be drawn up once they know about the grant decisions. The clerk is to include picnic site as an item at January's meeting.
8. **Highways:**
- a. **Gritting route update:** Newton Lane between The Leys and A5 has not been included in Warwickshire County Council gritting routes for winter 2013 / 2014. The councillors expressed their disappointment and thanked Cllr Leigh Hunt for her help in trying to get the road included in the gritting scheme, despite the portfolio holder and engineers being unsympathetic to Newton's gritting needs. Cllr Leigh Hunt explained that Warwickshire County Council had a short fall in funding of £92 million.

How to proceed with the campaign to get the road gritted was discussed. Dave Carter suggested that he write to David Carter, Warwickshire County Council solicitor asking whether it is reasonable to expect drivers to go from a gritted surface to an untreated surface. Judith Leggatt expressed concern about the disruption caused to the bus service as when the road is too icy for buses to negotiate. It was pointed out that this half a mile section of road in Newton is the only part of a 15 – 20 mile bus route that is untreated. It was decided that the clerk would write, expressing the council's concerns, to Graham Fitton, Head of Highways at Warwickshire County Council and Monica Fogarty, Warwickshire County Council Strategic Director for Communities. Councillor Philip Morris-Jones, Councillor Peter Butlin, Warwickshire County Council Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways and Councillor Leigh Hunt are to be copied into the letter too. Judith Leggatt was to help the clerk by supplying the historical background of the link between the bus service to Newton and the gritting of the bus route.

 - b. **State of roads:**
 - i. A letter had been received from Mrs Andrews requesting tractor warning signage for Newton Road as she has experienced several near misses from cars coming around the bends at speed when they are trying to turn their tractor into their field entrance. After discussion it was decided that the clerk would contact Daniel Perkins at Warwickshire County Council Highways and make the request for signage.
 - ii. Richard Greenaway reported that the salt bin at Watling Crescent was empty. The clerk is to notify Daniel Perkins at Warwickshire County Council Highways.

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9. Planning:

- a. R13/1927 development at 34 Newton Lane, Newton, Rugby CV23 0DX: Approval with conditions had been given for the development.
- b. R13/0203 Land adjacent to Fir Tree Farm, Watling Street, Shawell, Rugby LE17 6AR: The plans to place and use a container as a mess / canteen and toilet were considered. Several concerns were raised and being as the documentation had only been received on 11.12.13 and responses were expected back by 01.01.14, the clerk was asked to request Rugby Borough Council for a two week extension so that the council could give the plans their full consideration. Cllr Leigh Hunt thought that this would be reasonable as normally 4 -6 weeks consultation time is given.
Concerns were raised that the new facilities might be needed to enable an increase in use of the land for scrambling and 4 x 4 off road driving and this could result in an increase in noise especially if late into the summer evenings and dust. The council would like to consider the new plans with reference to the Certificate of Lawfulness that was granted earlier in the year. The clerk was asked to find the previous application for Certificate of Lawfulness to circulate to the councillors.

10. Finances:

- a. Audit: The notice to make the accounts available for public viewing had been displayed on the village notice board and no one had asked to see them.
- b. Precept setting for 2014/2015: Band D has been set at £40.23 giving an extra £1500 because of the extra houses at Coton Park which are within the parish. Judith Leggatt asked if this would fund the gritting of Newton Road and the A5. Dave Carter and Richard Greenaway said that they had looked into the costs previously and it is too costly for the parish council to fund the gritting out of the precept.
There was some concern at accumulating too high a reserve and Judith Leggatt thought that this would be okay as it is to be used on capital projects such as the village hall roof repairs, picnic site planting and replacement of street lights as need arises. The clerk was asked to find out if there was a legal limit for the balance in hand for a parish council. It was suggested that the precept was kept the same at £8600 ($\frac{£8600}{213.83} = £40.22$) but that the council agree a capital spending programme at the next meeting.
A question was asked what happens to the council tax when residents move into the new houses after the end of the financial year. Judith Leggatt explained that she thought that the precept is calculated as of 1st November of the current financial year but it was unclear what happened to the council tax of residents who moved in between 01st November and 31st March. The importance of keeping track of the number of new residents in the Coton Park development was stressed because it will be necessary to apply to change the village boundary before the road is adopted in order to keep the village as a village with its own separate amenities such as the village hall. Dave Carter and clerk to monitor the situation. Dave Carter proposed that the 2014/2015 precept is to be set at £8600. Richard Greenaway seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.
- c. Clifton and Newton Joint Burial Committee have requested a precept of £500, which is the same amount as last year. The amount that the committee has asked from Clifton Parish Council remains the same too. The precept was agreed.
- d. The latest accounts and bank statement were circulated.
- e. Accounts for payment: Payment approved and cheques signed for:

i	Eon Street Lighting	£49.69
ii	Grant to village hall committee for boiler	£500.00
iii	Grant Thornton External Audit	£240.00
iv	Clifton & Newton Joint Burial Committee precept	£500.00

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- 11. Items for inclusion at next meeting:** there has been a strong smell from the pumping station and this is to be discussed at the next meeting. Also to be included on the agenda are the picnic site, planning ref: R13/0203 Land adjacent to Fir Tree Farm, Watling Street, Shawell, Rugby LE17 6AR, and the council's capital spending programme. Judith Leggatt also requested that the council should discuss its charitable giving.
A request from June Ford has been made for the provision of a dog waste bin at the allotments. It was decided that the clerk is to ask Rugby Borough Council for the cost of providing and emptying a new dog waste bin at the side of the allotments in Little London Lane.
- 12. Date of next meeting:** There was concern that the meeting scheduled for 19.02.13 so the meeting was re-scheduled. The next meetings will be on:
08th January 2014 at 8pm at the village hall
26th February 2014 at 8pm at the village hall
- 13. Motion to exclude the public:** There were no public present to exclude. No update was available and the Rugby Borough Council planning portal showed no response. The clerk is to ask Rugby Borough Council what the current planning status is and what enforcements are in place.

Signed

Date