

Newton and Biggin Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8pm on 25th September 2013 at The Village Hall, Newton.

1. **Present:** Dave Carter, Judith Leggatt, Anne Davies, Richard Greenaway, PC S Crabbe-Bailey, Cllr L Hunt
2. **Apologies:** Cllr P Morris-Jones
3. **Declarations of Interests:** Dave Carter declared an interest that he is the chair of the PUB committee and although he has no financial interest, Anne Davies would chair item 7 of the agenda.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2013:** Judith Leggatt proposed the minutes were correct and Anne Davies seconded the proposal. The minutes were agreed and signed.
5. **Items arising from minutes of meeting held on 19th June 2013:** Frank Preston reported that the damaged road sign in item 13 had still not been repaired. The clerk said that Dan Perkins of Warwickshire County Council had been notified and she would remind him that the repairs were outstanding.
6. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Filming at Council Meetings: no objections as doesn't involve NPC
 - b. Warwickshire County Council community computer scheme
 - c. Warwickshire Healthwatch Young People's Survey
 - d. Interest in Forming a Flooding Pressure Group Requested: Dave Carter thought it would be a good idea for NPC to be represented at meetings and as Anne Davies is the councillor involved in emergency planning, thought it would be a good idea if she attended. The clerk is to write to express an interest and ask for more information.
 - e. Local Councils Charter Revised Draft
 - f. SLCC annual general meeting
 - g. Items for circulation given to chairman.
 - h. Temporary Traffic Order closing M6 Junction 1 Roundabout, Rugby to vehicular traffic: Dave Carter explained to those present how the traffic was being diverted
7. **Community Asset:** Anne Davies chaired this item and an up-date was given as to the progress of keeping the pub open.
8. **Picnic Site:** The clerk has requested a grant for the seeding and planting and is waiting for further information. Richard Greenaway and Anne Davies had noticed that the dog bin bases were in-situ but the bins had not yet been replaced. Richard Greenaway suggested that the old bin should be re-used.

Judith Leggatt said that the picnic tables had not been fixed yet and Dave Carter thought that this was probably because the barrier was not yet in place.

Cllr Leigh Hunt suggested that Rugby Borough Council is asked for an update and the clerk was asked to do this.
9. **Highways:**
 - a. **Gritting route update:** Dave Carter said that there had been no news. Judith Leggatt suggested getting a grit bin if the road was not included on the gritting route again. Richard Greenaway said that Warwickshire County Council had not supplied the last grit bin and asked who would spread the grit, who would be liable and what happens when road users suddenly find themselves over the Churchover boundary on a potentially untreated surface? Would this cause a new hazard?

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Dave Carter suggested we wait and see what happens. Richard Greenaway asked if the bus company had been asked to write to Warwickshire County Council, in support of NPC, requesting that the road is gritted. Judith Leggatt thought that if we were unsuccessful this year then we could try asking the bus company this winter.

Cllr Leigh Hunt suggested we try Cllr Peter Butlin again. Dave Carter observed that Warwickshire County Council's gritting budget had been cut.

- b. **State of roads:** Dave Carter has been informed that there will be no surface dressing done at present but it would be done next year. Judith Leggatt suggested keeping up the pressure and Richard Greenaway thought that it should be re-done at the contractor's expense as it was a poor job in the first place.

10. Consultations:

- a) **M1/J19 Junction:** It was thought that the slip road from the M6 to A14 was a big improvement and Cllr Leigh Hunt thought the NPC should accept the proposal. As there were no observations or comments on the scheme it was decided that no response was required.
- b) **DIRFT – invitation to submit written representations, evidence and questions (letter circulated to councillors via e-mail prior to meeting):** This item was also discussed when considering the impact of the BT mast site (item 11 a). Cllr Leigh Hunt said that decent traffic calming measures were looking likely for Clifton, which would hopefully reduce traffic in Newton Manor Lane. Richard Greenaway noted that Biggin Hill could then be used by drivers to avoid the traffic calming in Clifton. Dave Carter said that Cllr Leigh Hunt and Ian Davies were "on the case" for Newton.
The clerk was asked to resend the letter to DIRFT III and ask for a receipt. The letter was given for circulation.

11. Planning:

- a. **Radio Mast Site:** Dave Carter has arranged for Sarah Fisher to give an overview and prior to the council meeting on 30.01.13 at 7.30pm at the village hall. Sarah is to take back any comments back to Rugby Borough Council. It was decided to raise the issue of St Thomas's Cross road junction. Cllr Leigh Hunt reported that, according to Rugby Borough Council cabinet, there was nothing in the mast scheme for improvements to St Thomas's Cross but Steve Pell is looking into using monies from DRIFT III development to fund junction improvements. Judith Leggatt commented that Warwickshire County Council had discussed the effects of the development with her and had been advised that the impact of the development would be negligible at St Thomas's Cross as it was anticipated that there would be queues of 14 vehicles at the most. The councillors were concerned that this length of queue would encourage risk takers which would cause even more than the stressful prangs and skirmish that currently occur. It was noted that there had been 2 deaths at the junction that the councillors could recall.
Dave Carter commented that the two projects, DIRFT III and BT Site had been looked at in isolation, but Cllr Leigh Hunt said that modelling does look at the impact from both projects but where the funding for any improvements comes from, if any, will depend on the timing of the projects.
- b. **Planning ref: 13/1751:** It was discussed and decided that the clerk would write and say that NPC had no objections subject to there being sufficient and adequate landscaping. Also the lights should be directed downwards to reduce the impact of the lights to the wider area.

12. Finances:

- a. Dave Carter said that as the clerk had been in post for a year she was due a pay increment. Anne Davies is to write to clerk to confirm this.

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- b. **Audit: Update and internal auditor's invoice:** The clerk was waiting to hear from the external auditor.
 - c. **Statement of accounts:** The account were shown.
 - d. **Half yearly budget statement:** the clerk showed the half yearly budget statement, which showed the council's spending was within the set budget. The clerk is to circulate the half year budget to councillors via email.
 - e. **Accounts for payment**
 - i. Eon electricity £99.38
 - ii. Eon sustainable energy street lighting maintenance £106.68
 - iii. PAYE £42.00
 - iv. Clerks Salary
 - v. Midland Admin Payroll £12.00
 - vi. Re-issue cheque that has been lost in post for K Maycock for internal audit.
 - vii. Clerk's expenses
13. **Items for inclusion in next meeting:** Gritting update, Watling St Site, were to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
SC-B read out her Police report: saying that it had been quiet apart from a burnt out motor bike had been found, 10 hay bales had been stolen between July and September. An iron gate had also been stolen in Pilgrim Lane.
Richard Greenaway reported that he had tried to get the Allotment Societies accounts to present to NPC, but had not yet received them. The clerk was asked to write to The Allotment Society to formally request their accounts.
14. **Date of next meeting:** 30th October 2013 at 8pm at the village hall, preceded by a meeting regarding the BT radio mast site at 7.30pm when Sarah Fisher of Rugby Borough Council will give an overview of the proposed development at the mast site.
15. **Motion to exclude the public:** Item not required as no update available yet.

Signed

Date