

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday,
3rd August, 2009 at Church House, Newport.**

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr A. Yarwood	(AY)	(Chairman)
	Cllr P. Arscott	(PA)	
	Cllr M. Bowker	(MB)	
	Cllr C. Gilbank	(CG)	
	Cllr A. Johnson	(AJ)	(Vice-Chairman)
	Cllr C. Mitchell	(CM)	
	Cllr M. Sell	(MS)	
	Cllr J. Smith	(JS)	

<u>In attendance:</u>	C. Griffin	Clerk	
	J. Peachey	Treasurer	
	Dist Cllr P. Wilcock	(PW)	
	Cty Cllr R. Gooding	(RG)	(from C190)
	Mr. D. Cotterill Representative	Chairman, First Newport Scouts First Newport Scouts Committee	

09/C175 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr L. Baillie, Cllr T. Denyer, and Cllr. J. Rose.

09/C176 To receive any ‘personal’ or ‘personal and prejudicial’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following interests were declared: AY in C187, C189, C190, C191; PA in C191; AJ in C191 and C193; CG in C188, C189, C190 and C191; JS in C180, C183, C185, C186, C187, C191 and C192.

09/C177 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

The representatives from First Newport Scouts raised a number of issues relating to the planning application for the new building to replace Jikes Hall. They gave details of Scouting procedure, namely that any changes to premises must be approved by four different Scouting Committees/Organisations.

The Chairman confirmed that the application for the new building is currently being considered by the District Council and the PC should know the decision in approximately 6/8 weeks. The application had to be submitted at this stage in order to apply for funding. If the funding applications are successful and the parties are able to raise sufficient funds for the new building all the parties involved will then have to debate and agree all the necessary details and follow specified procedures. The Chairman emphasised that this cannot be done at this stage. If the First Newport Scouts Committee needed clarification this could have been given outside the meeting.

It was suggested that a Joint Steering Group could be formed which should include representatives from the Scouts, Youth Club, Sports Committee and Parish Council. The representatives from the Scouts agreed to discuss this at their AGM in September.

09/C178 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th July, 2009.

Resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: AJ Seconded: MB All agreed.

09/C179 Chairman's comments

The Chairman reported that:

- The Internal Auditor, Patrick Hall, has submitted his report confirming that the PC records indicate a well run organisation aware of, and in control of, its financial obligations. As the total funds in our bank exceed £50,000.00 the Treasurer was asked to look into the guarantees offered by our bank and, if necessary, open a new account with another bank in order that the balance does not exceed the guaranteed amount.
- A letter has been received from the Fete Committee thanking the PC for their valued and generous support. Five organisations in the village (Newport Village Hall, St. Mary's Church, Newport Primary School, Jikes Youth Centre and First Newport Scouts) have all received £800.00.
- Village Plan questionnaires are still being analysed. If any members have not returned their forms please do so as soon as possible.
- The Licensing Officer at UDC has advised that an application for a licence has been received from the Four Seasons Farm Shop. Clerk will contact UDC for further details. To be included on the agenda of the Facilities meeting on 17th August.
- EALC is looking into the possibility of forming a Committee which would be dedicated to Planning and would like representatives to attend an initial meeting on 9th October. PA and the Clerk are willing to attend. Clerk will also consult TD.

09/C180 To re-define members of the Planning & Environment Committee and the Facilities & Amenities Committee

It was agreed that "Riga Properties/Amenity Areas" on the Representative/Committee list should be changed from Facilities to Planning Committee.

Members of the Committees were agreed as follows:

Planning and Environment Committee

Cllr Ted Denyer (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Yarwood (Vice Chairman). Cllr Peter Arscott, Cllr Charles Gilbank, Cllr Jeremy Rose.

Facilities & Amenities Committee

Cllr Alan Johnson (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Bowker (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Arscott, Cllr Lindsay Baillie, Cllr Charles Gilbank, Cllr C. Mitchell, Cllr M. Sell, Cllr J. Smith.

All members are welcome to attend both Committee meetings and the Chairman encouraged members to attend both. The Clerk will continue to circulate the Agenda and Minutes to Councillors, but it is not necessary for members to send apologies to Committee meetings if they are not a member of that Committee.

09/C181 To receive the Clerk's Report

Duly received.

Clerk reported that:

- Dates will be obtained from EALC for a training evening in Newport.
- Further information will be obtained on the work that ECC are carrying out in Chalk Farm Lane.
- Comments already submitted relating to the Part-night Street Lighting Scheme should be considered but Clerk will check this with ECC. It was agreed that the PC need to carry out a review of the lights owned by the PC. To be included on the agenda of the next Planning meeting.

09/C182 To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve accounts for payment

Duly received.

The payment schedule showing 15 items, totalling £3,975.79 was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: JS

Seconded: AJ

All agreed

Treasurer advised that:

- The bank mandate form has now been completed.
- Cheques are still coming in for the Fete. It was suggested that some funds should be held in reserve for the 2011 Fete.
- Treasurer and Clerk are making a note of queries relating to the accounts and Clerk will arrange to visit the former Treasurer as soon as possible

09/C183 To consider a donation to the East Anglian Children's Hospice

A report, prepared by JS, was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that £100.00 should be donated to the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

Proposed: MS

Seconded: AJ

All agreed

The Chairman thanked JS for his report.

09/C184 To approve the revised PC Risk Assessment circulated prior to the meeting

It was agreed that the PC Risk Assessment, prepared and presented to the previous meeting by the Chairman, should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Prop: JS

Seconded: CG

All agreed

09/C185 To receive a report on the meeting organised by Mr John Gordon to discuss future plans for Newport News

JS attended the meeting and reported on the changes that will be made next year following Angela's retirement. The number of pages will be reduced and instead of publishing full lists, only changes to lists will be published. It is hoped that the cost of producing the magazine will be roughly in line with present costs. Most of the production work will be carried out by volunteers. Advertising will go direct from Miriam Pender, articles will be sent to Tricia Rose before being forwarded to Barney Millar who will deal with the layout.

A further meeting will be held at the end of August.

09/C186 To discuss vacant properties in the village

PA reported that there are at least two empty properties in the village which have been empty for a considerable time – one in the High Street by the pedestrian crossing, and another near the High Street/Wicken Road junction.

PW kindly offered to investigate but pointed out that the District Council has to establish that the owners are not doing anything with them.

09/C187 To discuss a response to the UDC Draft Housing Strategy 2009 – 2012

PW advised that UDC is identifying areas of land suitable for building. The housing needs suggest there is a high need for affordable housing in the area. An additional housing consultation document will be available shortly.

After discussion the Chairman proposed that a reply should be sent to this consultation confirming our position because this has been discussed at length at previous meetings and JS attended the special meeting organised by Sir Alan Haselhurst.

PW confirmed that Option 4 is still the District Council's preferred option.

09/C188 To receive a report from the Playground Sub-Group

CG reported that five residents attended the meeting. The present Committee are willing to continue supported by the PC Playground Sub-Group. LB has spoken to the Chairman, Nicky Beckett, and a further meeting will be arranged in September.

It has been agreed that priority should be given to replacing the fencing and safety matting and quotations are being obtained. It was confirmed that the area must be fenced in order to make it safe for young children and to keep out dogs. Other equipment will be considered after the fencing and matting have been attended to.

AJ asked the Committee to consider cleaning out the shrubbery.

The ROSPA report and other issues will be discussed at the Facilities meeting later this month.

09/C189 To receive a report on the meeting with Mr Sean O’Hagan, NFGS, on 10th July

The Chairman and CG had a very positive meeting with Mr. O’Hagan.

CG reported that:

- Any pupils causing problems in the village should be reported to the Clerk who will, in turn, notify the School.
- The School is fully subscribed for September.
- Staffing problems have been resolved and a new management team is in place.
- Some pupils require specialised learning and vocational work is being introduced.

Other issues raised were Footpaths, Coaches, problems caused by Rabbits, Signs for Car Park, new School signs, and Drains.

Clerk will contact Chris Stoneham, ECC, and arrange a convenient date for a “walk around” with Mr O’Hagan and members of the Traffic Management Group. After this has taken place it was suggested that the Traffic Management Group should hold a further meeting with Mr. O’Hagan to discuss proposals.

In future, a meeting will be held each term with Mr O’Hagan, NFGS, and Mrs Detnon at Newport Primary School. Clerk is awaiting suitable dates.

09/C190 To receive a report on the meeting with UDC on 10th July concerning the piece of land between Frambury Lane and Cherry Garden Lane.

Following discussions at the Full Council meeting in July the Chairman reported on the meeting held with Ros Millership, Roger Harborough and Suzanna Wood of UDC.

UDC has advised that there is an urgent need across the district for housing for disabled people with specific needs. This site is very suitable for this purpose and plans have been drawn up which were presented to members. Flagship Housing Association will build the houses. The PC will definitely not be able to get this site for a car park.

If the new building to replace Jikes Hall is approved, UDC will support a car park at the recreation ground, although an adequate footpath between the car park at the recreation ground and the Primary School would be required. This would be of great benefit to the Primary School.

AY confirmed that the possibility of using Reynolds Court was suggested but the housing is required for families. Ros Millership advised that there are 30 units at Reynolds Court and three were vacant on 10th July.

09/C191 To receive an update from the Traffic Management Group

Clerk reported that there has been no news on the 20mph speed restrictions. RG advised that he has received a letter from Joe Bicheno, ECC, and will forward a copy to the PC.

09/C192 To receive a report on the Village Hall and discuss a request for permission to either lay a drainage pipe across the Common to the river, or dig a soak away on the Common

PA had prepared a drawing which was circulated to members illustrating the requirements for draining the rainwater from the Village Hall.

It was agreed that a drainage pipe could be laid across the Common to the river but the Committee should also consider an open trap to take the surface water away from the rear of the Village Hall.

Proposed: CG

Seconded: AJ

All agreed

09/C193 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch

AJ reported that:

- Lindsay Baillie attended a recent Care Network event.
- The latest edition of the Observer is now available and will be delivered with the August PC News.

09/C194 To receive Reports from Dist Cllr P. Wilcock and Cty Cllr R. Gooding

Dist Cllr Peter Wilcock reported that:

- The government have made their decision on Eco-towns and Elsenham was not among the four locations. UDC has been offered a large tranche of money by the government but has decided not to take this at the moment.
- Further discussions are being held at the moment regarding partnerships to try and work with other parties to improve services and reduce costs.

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding reported that:

- ECC is consulting with UDC regarding the possibility of centralising legal services and human resources which could be of benefit to both Councils.
- The complete package of documents for the 20mph scheme is now with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Norman Hume, and should be approved shortly.

09/C195 Items for next Agenda

To receive an update on Footpath 12 (Facilities meeting)

To receive a report on Fly tipping on the area of land between Cherry Garden Lane and Frambury Lane and decide on action to be taken (Facilities)

To receive report on the Village “Walkabout” held on 31st July (Facilities)

To receive a report on the Playground Committee meeting and discuss the ROSPA report. (Facilities)

To receive an update on the Sports Committee (Facilities)

To discuss the grass cutting contract for 2011 (Facilities)

To receive an update on the planning application for a new dwelling on land adjacent to 161/163 and note the conditions included in the Appeal Decision Notice (Planning)

To receive an update on the Village Plan (Full Council)

To agree that any remaining funds from the Village Fete, after paying all invoices, should be held in reserve and used for the 2010 Fete (Full Council)

To receive an update on the planning application for Jikes Hall (Full Council)

To receive details of memorial plaque for the late Mr Jimmy Cook. (Full Council)

09/C196 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

C196.1 The family of the late Mr. Jimmy Cook would like to have a plaque in his memory. CM to obtain full details. To be included on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting .

C196.2 It was decided that for any future items regarding Jikes Hall, AJ (Vice-Chairman) will take the Chair.

C196.3 CG advised that the camera device needs to be put back in the post.

C196.4 AJ thanked members who took part in the Village Walkabout on 31st July.

09/C197 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 7th September at 7.30 pm at Church House.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm