

Newport Parish Council Facilities and Amenities Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 15th December, 2008
at Church House, Newport.**

Present: Cllr A. Johnson (AJ) (Chairman)
 Cllr M. Bowker (MB)
 Cllr C. Mitchell (CM)
 Cllr M. Sell (MS)
 Cllr J. Smith (JS)

In attendance: C. Griffin Clerk

F074 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Yarwood and Dist. Cllr P. Wilcock

F075 To receive any ‘personal’ or ‘personal and prejudicial’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following interests were declared: AJ in F081, JS in F083, and MB in F082.

F076 Public participation session

No members of the public present.

F077 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th October, 2008

Resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: JS Seconded: MB All agreed

F078 Report on Village Care & Diana Sell Playground

MS reported that:

- A meeting of the Playground Committee will be organised in the new year. Clerk will contact Saffron Walden Town Council and obtain information on the new playground at the Anglo American Playing field in Saffron Walden. The possibility of providing some children’s play equipment on the Common has been raised. An article will be included in the next PC News to try and stimulate some interest in the current facilities and also obtain residents views on whether equipment, on another site, would be welcomed.

- The tree planting programme has been completed. Regretfully two trees have been damaged in Cambridge Road. Anne Hooper, ECC, will inspect in the near future.
- He has several concerns regarding the Caretaking/Maintenance.

Clerk reported that:

- A request has been received for another dog bin at the recreation ground. Having consulted with the Animal Warden at UDC it appears that this is not necessary at present. Clerk will contact UDC regarding dog bin on Gaces Meadow.
- ECC removed the ivy from the streetlight near 27 Bullfields.
- Litter near the railway line, close to Platform 2, has been reported to National Express.
- A letter has been received from AM Alarms advising that the six monthly CCTV maintenance is due in January. As this has been included in the Budget for 2009/10, Clerk to advise that maintenance should be carried out in April and October 2009.
- The CCTV camera removed from the Playground has been passed to AY for use on Jikes Hall. This could not be utilised by the Sports Committee in view of the voltage.
- There is no news on the CIF application for the Traffic Management Scheme.
- Hedging and replacement trees should be planted on the Common on 6th/7th January.
- ECC are chasing for the grant application for the footpaths. NS Landscapes have advised that part of the work requested is not necessary. MS reported that the path leading off Bromley Lane needs attention. NS Landscapes to be advised of this and members to advise in the near future if work is required on any other footpaths.
- A meeting has been organised with Steven Rodzianko, ECC, on 17th December.
- PC confirmed that ECC should be requested to proceed with the installation of a new granite kerb at Bridge End in order that the area can be maintained.

F079 To receive a Report on the meeting with Peter Biggs, David Wilson Homes

The Chairman and Clerk met Peter Biggs. David Wilson Homes on Monday, 10th December, and reported on the discussions relating to the DWH planning application on the Bell College site, Saffron Walden. They had previously met with the Sports Committee. A proposal has now been received from the Consultant acting for DWH and the plan was shown to members. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Sports Committee and obtain their reaction to the plan. Update to be given at the next Full Council meeting.

AJ reported that DWH have every intention of going ahead with development of the site in the new year. New fencing has arrived but this will still not provide adequate security.

F080 To discuss a request to carry out maintenance work on the bank of the stream next to the viaduct in Bridge End

A request has been received from a resident of Bridge End to raise the height of the bank and help protect the houses from flooding.

MS and Clerk will look at this later in the week. It was agreed that this area could probably be made more attractive, but would not protect against flooding.

F081 To approve the naming of the new development at Bury Water Lane

Following discussions at the last Full Council meeting, Clerk contacted UDC and has been advised that Barratts are endeavouring to get the utilities up and running by the second or third week of January and, without a name for the development, are unable to get a postcode.

Clerk has advised UDC that the PC is not in favour of the suggestions submitted and has suggested Bury Water Close. UDC considers this could cause confusion for emergency vehicles and feel it would be advisable to steer away from “Bury Water” MB pointed out that a name including “Wicken” could be confused with Wicken Road.

AJ will contact a nearby resident to ascertain the name of the field at the bottom of Bury Water Lane, opposite the development. Clerk will then advise members and, hopefully, a decision can be made in the next few days.

F082 Report on the Allotments

MS reported that rents are outstanding from two tenants, reminders have been sent. One plot is currently vacant but, after the new tenant takes this, there will still be six people on the waiting list. In view of this MB and MS will carry out a further review in the Spring. MS suggested that perhaps some of the tenants would be willing to help with the management issues.

F083 Report on the Village Hall

JS reported that Phase 1 has not been finalised, as there is still a query on the contractor’s invoice that needs to be resolved. Phase 2 will commence on 9th February and the Committee will be approaching the PC for a further payment of £2,000. Phase 3 includes a variety of items that need doing for safety reasons. JS will be making a firm proposal at the next Full Council meeting. However, if the VH want to go ahead with other items it will be necessary to obtain funding from other sources. Replacement windows are included in Phase 3 and the VH Chairman, Peter Gibson, is looking into a separate grant for these.

The area at the front of the VH will be discussed with Steven Rodzinako during his visit on 17th December. Peter Arcscott has been asked to attend.

F084 To discuss any other Urgent Parish Matters

F084.1 Clerk reported that a complaint has been received concerning the ditch on the Southern side of the Common. MS has inspected and if there is a problem the ditch needs digging out. Clerk will speak to the resident who reported this and report back. In the meantime MS will obtain a quotation.

F084.2 MS reported that the floodlighting for the Hockey Pitch at NFGS tends to go off at different times. On Saturday, 13th December, lights were still on at midnight. This will be discussed under Energy Efficiency at the next Full Council meeting.

F084.3 It was noted that some trees adjoining the Tennis Courts, which have recently been cut down, were planted in memory of a resident. The PC was not aware of this and did not give approval.

F084.4 Clerk will visit Chalk Farm Lane as soon as possible to check on the current situation.

C085 Items for next Agenda

To receive an update on the David Wilson Homes Appeal and the reaction from the Sports Committee to the plan. (Full Council)

To receive an update on Chalk Farm Lane (Full Council)

C086 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, 16th February at Church House.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm