

Newport Parish Council Facilities and Amenities Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 17th August, 2009 at Church House, Newport.

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr M. Bowker	(MB)	(Chairman)
	Cllr P. Arscott	(PA)	
	Cllr C. Gilbank	(CG)	
	Cllr C. Mitchell	(CM)	(to F059)
	Cllr J. Rose	(JR)	(to F059)
	Cllr M. Sell	(MS)	
	Cllr J. Smith	(JS)	
	Cllr A. Yarwood	(AY)	

In attendance: C. Griffin Clerk

F045 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Johnson and Cllr L. Baillie

F046 To receive any ‘personal’ or ‘personal and prejudicial’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following interests were declared: MB in F058, AY in F055, F059, F060, JR in F057, F060, JS in F049, F052, F055, F059, CG in F053, F055. F056, PA in F059.

F047 Public participation session

No members of the public present.

F048 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th June, 2009

Resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: AY Seconded: JS All agreed

F049 Report on Village Care & Diana Sell Playground

To receive an update on litter bins and consider a request for additional litter bins in London Road

- Clerk has received a quotation of £160.00 plus VAT for laying a new base. As agreed at last meeting a new base will be laid for the bin at Frambury Lane and the new black plastic bin with metal liner fixed.

- A new base will be laid next to the memorial seat on Gaces Meadow, but members decided to include a new bin for this location in the Budget for next year rather than remove a bin from the Playground. After further discussion it was decided not to put a new bin on the Common.
- Regarding additional litter bins in London Road, it was pointed out that there are no major litter problems in that area and the existing bin by the Bus Stop is considered adequate. Clerk will get back in touch with resident.

To receive an update on issues concerning several trees in the village.

- MS will arrange for the Horse Chestnut tree on the Common to be pollarded in the Autumn
- Clerk has arranged for the London Plane tree, outside Craft Cottage, to be crown lifted by ECC and is awaiting a date as to when the work will be carried out.
- AY pointed out that the large Ash tree in the Station car park requires attention and will raise this when he meets with the Area Station Manager.
- Clerk reported that UDC has now advised that they did cut down the tree on the path near the Tennis Courts. One tree was felled because it was badly diseased and, after removing this tree, it was considered that a nearby tree was unstable so this was also felled. The trees were not subject to a TPO. Clerk will ask UDC to inform the PC when trees are to be removed in future and enquire as to whether a tree specialist was consulted on this occasion.
- CM will report back on the tree in the Coach & Horses car park.
- Clerk and MS will arrange a meeting with Anne Hooper, ECC, regarding other trees that need replacing in the Autumn.
- MS will look at the tree in the verge near Saggars' as the person involved in the accident does not accept responsibility for damage.

F050 To receive a report on the Village "Walkabout" on 31st July

AJ has produced a report that will be circulated. Members were asked to submit any comments to Clerk by 1st September. To be included on the agenda of the Full Council meeting in September.

F051 To discuss the grass cutting contract for 2010

MS advised that the three year contract with NS Landscapes finishes shortly. MS will obtain quotations for the Facilities meeting in October.

F052 To discuss a request for additional street lighting in London Road

The PC agreed that they would like to have some extra street lights and will consider when setting the Budgets for 2010/11. The PC need to review and evaluate all the village lights, particularly the old columns in Frambury Lane. It was suggested that any extra lights in London Road should be on one side of the pavement, the opposite side to the hedge, or perhaps some of the existing lights could

be moved to the other side. Clerk will obtain costs of “strap-on lights” from A & J Lighting.

F053 To receive a progress report on the Diana Sell Playground and discuss the ROSPA report

MS reported that the ROSPA report was as anticipated. Quotes have been obtained for new fencing and this will be raised at the next Playground Committee meeting, Prices have also been obtained for safety surfacing under the aerial runway to replace the existing bark. MS will obtain a complete and clear specification of work to be undertaken. This needs to be carried out by the end of October.

It was agreed, subject to MS obtaining all the necessary information, that a proposal should be included on the September Full Council agenda recommending that all the medium risk items included in the ROSPA report should be addressed.

Clerk will contact Kristina Parkinson regarding applications for grants.

Clerk to obtain a quotation from NS Landscapes for clearing out the shrubbery.

Clerk will ask TD to approach the PCC regarding the logs and leaves which have been left against the fence.

Letter received regarding the swings will be passed to LB.

F054 To receive an update on the Sports Committee

Clerk has spoken to Tony Phillips and he has advised that the next meeting will be late September/early October. PA to be advised of date.

F055 To receive an update on the current situation regarding Footpath 12

A grant of £800 has now been agreed, but it can only be used for this path. Shortly after this was granted a resident reported that the district council was investigating a fly tipping issue on this path. Clerk has been in touch with the Enforcement Department and is waiting to hear whether they have completed their investigations. As UDC has removed some of the rubbish, a revised quotation will be requested from N.S. Landscapes.

F056 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.

Clerk will contact UDC again regarding the rubbish on this area.

CG and Clerk have spoken to Mr Brown at Riga regarding the area of land adjacent to 161/163 Cherry Garden Lane. CG advised that the area is being tidied up but Riga Property Services are not planning to develop it at the moment. CG pointed out that according to the conditions in the Appeal decision notice a screen of trees must be maintained and the footpath across the front of the site, which is very well used, must be installed before development commences.

It was agreed that CG should draft a letter to neighbouring residents concerning several issues in this area.

The area in Frambury Lane, owned by Riga, which has been fenced off will be included on the agenda of the next Planning meeting.

F057 To consider organising a competition to build a village garden on the Common

JR presented some aerial photographs of the area and suggested organising a competition to gain ideas on utilising the space and making the Common more attractive, bearing in mind that it is prone to flooding.

In order to assess whether residents would be interested, JR will draw up a proposal that will be included in the PC Chairman's report in the next edition of Newport News. The PC need to make it clear that there would be restrictions on the use of this area.

F058 To receive a report on the Allotments and consider the proposals submitted by Mr. Alistair Bayford

MB reported that:

- A complaint has been received concerning some allotment plots. These have been inspected with MS and a letter sent to the tenant.
- As there is still a long waiting list, some areas currently used as turning spaces will be reclaimed in order to achieve additional plots.
- The Caretaker will be required to trim some areas. MB will provide PA with details.
- In October, when Allotment rents are due, letters will be sent to tenants who are not cultivating their plots adequately.
- The proposal received from Mr Alistair Bayford was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that MB, CG and an allotment tenant should meet with Mr. Bayford, ascertain his objective in producing the proposal and discuss any issues or concerns.

F059 To receive an update on the Village Hall

PA reported that satisfactory progress is being made.

Clerk will chase ECC again regarding the area at the front of the Village Hall and endeavour to obtain date as to when the work will be carried out.

The Chairman of the Village Hall is applying for funding to replace the windows and bar.

The VHTMC are planning to reinstate the path in between the car park and the river and this needs to be given higher priority.

F060 To discuss the application from the Four Seasons Farm Shop for a license to sell alcohol

Clerk reported that following the last Full Council meeting she met with the UDC Licensing Officer and a report was circulated prior to the meeting. The recent report in the local newspaper concerning the problems experienced at Elsenham was noted.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Licensing Committee stating that the same standards should apply at this outlet as have been applied at Newport Village Stores.

F061 To discuss any other Urgent Parish Matters

F061.1 Clerk will contact the owners of Monks Cottage regarding the piece of concrete above the Barber's shop in the High Street.

F061.2 Clerk will report the two pieces of broken kerb in London Road to ECC.

F061.3 AY reported on a recent meeting with the residents at Bridge End and a proposal will be included on the agenda of the September Full council meeting. Clerk will contact ECC again to try and establish when the granite kerbs will be installed and if the triangle will be re-marked.

F061.4 JS reported that UDC has identified 13 potential building sites in Newport in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). JS pointed out that the PC need to understand the complete report and agree a response at the Full Council meeting in September. AY pointed out that Option 4 is still the District Council's preferred option but this does include extra homes in other villages. Newport is a suitable and attractive location in view of its amenities.

F061.5 JS is preparing a reply to the UDC Draft Housing Strategy 2009 - 2012 and this will be sent to UDC later this week.

F061.6 PA reported that he understands the new footway from Willow Vale to NFGS will be installed shortly. Clerk will contact ECC.

F061.7 PA reported that the hedge from the Bury Water Lane/Cambridge Road junction needs cutting back again. Clerk will chase NFGS

F061.8 Clerk reported on letter received from ECC regarding the Health & Safety Risk Assessment for the Croat. A reply will be sent from the Chairman.

C062 Items for next Agenda

To receive an update on the Playground

To consider quotations for grass cutting and approve new contract

To agree that all medium risk items highlighted in the 2009 ROSPA Report should be addressed (Full Council)

To discuss the report on the Village Walkabout (Full Council)

C063 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, 19th October at Church House.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

