

Newport Parish Council Facilities and Amenities Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 19th October, 2009 at Church House, Newport.

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr A. Johnson	(AJ)	(Chairman)
	Cllr P. Arscott	(PA)	
	Cllr L. Baillie	(LB)	
	Cllr M. Bowker	(MB)	
	Cllr M. Sell	(MS)	
	Cllr J. Smith	(JS)	
 <u>In attendance:</u>	C. Griffin	Clerk	
	Ulrike Maccariello	Hastoe Housing Assoc. (UM)	
	Residents of Frambury Lane and London Road		

F064 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Yarwood, Cllr C. Gilbank, Cllr C. Mitchell and Dist Cllr P. Wilcock

F065 To receive any ‘personal’ or ‘personal and prejudicial’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following interests were declared: AJ in F071, F076, MS in F070, F071 F072, F074, LB in F066, F074, MB in F075, F080, JS in F069, F071, F076, F077, F079, F081, PA in F076.

F066 To discuss concerns relating to Planning Application UTT/1109/09/ FUL for construction of 34 Affordable dwellings at Frambury Lane with access road, drives and parking with off site drainage works (balancing pond) with Ulrike Maccariello, Development Manager, Hastoe Housing Association.

The Chairman welcomed Ulrike Maccariello, Development Manager at Hastoe

Housing Association who kindly offered to attend the meeting to answer any

questions. Since the last meeting the PC have received another petition from the residents of London Road who feel there will be a higher risk of flooding due to the balancing pond.

UM said the PC had advised her of the concerns. A Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out and can be viewed on the UDC website. It was pointed out by a resident that there are currently flooding problems at the School. UM advised that the surface water run off goes into the road at the moment, with the new development it will go into the balancing pond. All schemes have to be assessed and a developer cannot increase the existing surface water run off from a green field site.

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A question was raised regarding management of the balancing pond.

UM advised that Hastoe will look after the pond. Hastoe are the owners of the site and will retain the freehold. If there are issues in the future Hastoe will deal with them. Hastoe will have a maintenance contract with the PC and will maintain the balancing pond.

A question was raised regarding hydrolic modelling.

UM advised that this is only required in a high risk flood zone and therefore is not a requirement on this scheme.

A resident of London Road advised that the existing culvert cannot take more water. The plan shows that the water will go into the balancing pond and then into the culvert that is already inadequate.

UM agreed to feed this back to their Engineer.

The Chairman asked at what stage would the pipe work be installed.

UM said that Hastoe do not have a construction programme in place yet, but could request that this is carried out at an early stage.

A resident advised that the sewage system is already at maximum capacity.

UM said her company have to ensure there is sufficient capacity to cope with the new houses. This will have to be taken up with the water authorities.

A resident asked when Hastoe envisage starting work on the scheme and how will the company cope with the School, the residents and traffic, particularly between 8.00am —8.45am and 3.00pm —3.45pm, when it is extremely busy.

UM advised that they hope to commence work early next year. The scheme will be managed by the contractor who has yet to be appointed. Studies have been done on traffic movements in the area but a detailed traffic survey has not been carried out. Hastoe has now received comments on its planning application from ECC Highways and they have requested a transport statement and a safety audit and these will be carried out shortly. UM added that she visited the area on Friday morning, 16th October.

UM pointed out that Hastoe organised a consultation earlier in the year and residents who attended completed forms. A total of 69 forms were completed and 48 of those are currently resident in Newport and live in close proximity to the development. The selection process should ensure that some of these people will occupy the new properties.

A resident asked if improvements could be made to the traffic. It is extremely difficult to get up Frambury Lane at the moment and the UDC Refuse lorries and Emergency vehicles have difficulty getting through and frequently mount the pavement. The situation will only get worse.

UM pointed out that Hastoe cannot improve the road although surveys will be carried out before building commences. People living on the new development will not park in Frambury Lane. One resident suggested that an exit road from the new development to the Wicken Road would solve the problem.

JS said he calculated that as 433 houses feed on and off Frambury Lane, as well as many motorists from outside the village using it as a 'rat run', we need to consider what we can do with Frambury Lane as a whole. The PC has an ongoing dialogue with ECC regarding village safety measures. One resident pointed out that since the pedestrian crossing was installed near the Village Shop, many residents cut through Frambury Lane to avoid the Wicken Road/ High Street junction.

The PC agreed that Frambury Lane is a critical area and a radical solution is needed. ECC have agreed to a 20mph speed limit and double yellow lines around the 'T' junction near the School, but this is only part of the solution.

JS pointed out that if residents move into the development they will not be adding to the traffic. Some residents pointed out that several families have applied for houses therefore they will be moving and this will result in extra traffic. UM added that applicants have to be able to demonstrate that they are in housing need.

A question was raised regarding the development of the UDC garage site between Frambury Lane and Cherry Garden Lane. The Chairman confirmed that UDC is proposing a small development on this area.

A question was raised regarding the bridleway. UM advised that Hastoe could not address this until after the planning application was submitted and this issue still has to be resolved. Hastoe will be consulting with ECC Rights of Way Officer on this shortly.

A question was raised regarding an alternative site. UM said that the Rural Housing Trust carried out an assessment and several other sites were considered but the Frambury Lane site meets the criteria set out by UDC.

A question was raised regarding additional housing in Newport and is the site in Cambridge Road progressing. The Chairman advised that a Housing Needs Survey was carried out for Cambridge Road. This is a very thorough process and will be progressed. The whole of Essex is going to expand and we understand there is a housing need. However, developments

have to be put into a suitable area and the risks in Frambury Lane have to be considered. All the points you have made will be passed to the UDC Planning department and will be taken into account by the people who make the decision.

The Chairman thanked Ulrike Maccariello and the residents for attending.

(The residents of Frambury Lane left the meeting)

The Chairman raised the question of an alternative access with UM and she advised that it would add tremendous cost to the project and would not be feasible.

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F067 Public participation session

No other members of the public present.

F068 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th August, 2009

Resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: MS Seconded: MB All agreed

F069 To discuss the Facilities & Amenities Committee Budget for 2010/11

The following amendments/additions were made to this year's Budget:

Facilities Revenue

CCTV Maintenance and Repairs (to be combined)	£600
Tourism and Fete (to be deleted)	
The Common—Ditch clearing (to be added)	£1,000
Footpaths (to be added)	£500

Total Budget 2010/11 £18,415

Facilities Capital

Car parking (to be added)	£1,000
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Total Budget 2010/11 £15,715

The Chairman asked members to give this further consideration and identify any other additions/amendments at the next Full Council meeting.

Treasurer to give a review at the November Full Council meeting.
Reserves to be revised at the year end.

F070 To receive reports on Village Care

MS reported that:

- NS Landscapes have submitted a quotation for the PC's grass cutting contract for the next three years, 2010 — 2013. The format has been changed slightly, but as the new contract is only marginally more than the last three year contract, he will be making a recommendation at the next Full Council meeting that the PC accept this.
- Anne Hooper, ECC Arboriculturist, is unable to replace the Oak tree outside the Coach & Horses and the tree outside the Elephant. We are awaiting a response from her on the two Chestnut trees near Shortgrove. The PC agreed to pay for all these trees if AH is unable to help and plant during the Autumn.

Regarding the triangle at Bridge End, the Rhustyphina (Sumac) growing on the triangle must be removed. AH has given some planting suggestions which can be implemented after the granite kerb has been installed.

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AH is unable to help with tree planting at Gaces Acre. She suggested that the PC liaise with the residents before approaching UDC for assistance. Clerk to contact UDC regarding the self set shrubs near the walls of Reynolds Court.

During the visit AH identified a dangerous tree on NFGS land. Clerk has reported this to Barbara Draper.

It may be possible to obtain funding from the National Environment Project for the proposed garden project on the

Common. AH said she would ask Ecologist, Emma Simmonds to contact the PC.

- A list of jobs has been given to NS Landscapes.

Clerk advised that she met the UDC contractor who cut down the Ash trees near the Church. He advised that there was a large hole in the tree, the trunk was hollow and therefore dangerous. He confirmed that one new tree would be planted during the Autumn. Clerk has requested that UDC inform us when any further work is carried out in the village.

F071 To receive a report on the Village Walkabout

Discussed under item F076

F072 To consider splitting the litter picking and maintenance duties

MS advised that there are many maintenance jobs outstanding that need attending to quickly. MS to provide details and these will be added to the Walkabout list.

It was agreed that PA should draw up a clearly defined work schedule for the Caretaker, based on 30 hours per month. In future, NS Landscapes to be engaged to carry out heavy maintenance work and painting.

F073 To receive an update on existing litter bins and dog bins and discuss a request for an additional dog bin between Wicken Road and Frambury Lane

NS Landscapes have been asked to fit the new plastic bin in Frambury Lane. The new base will not be laid on Gaces Meadow until the situation has been monitored.

PC felt an additional dog bin on the corner of Wicken Road/ Frambury Lane could be useful, but it was decided that Clerk should contact the resident who had made the request to clarify where it was required and report back at the next meeting.

Additional bins in other areas to be considered at next meeting.

F074 To receive an update on the Diana Sell Playground

MS reported that an order has been placed with NS Landscapes for:

- new matting under the aerial runway.. NS will purchase and PC will pay the cost price. Area will be turfed during the winter
- removal of the sandpit

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- clearance of the rough wooded area to a height of 3M, with the exception of a small area of shrubs by the swings.

PA advised that the new gate for the playground, to comply with ROSPA requirements, would cost £250.

MS has obtained two quotes for replacing the existing wooden fencing with metal fencing. This should have a 20/25 year life and be maintenance free.

It was proposed that the above should be funded from the maintenance and capital budget for this year, plus the reserves. To be included on the agenda of the next Full Council meeting.

LB reported that a quote has been obtained for an Activity Trail, total cost £6,988. This will be suitable for older children which the playground does not cater for at the moment. It is hoped that a Roundabout and Spinner, plus a new Swing can be added at a later date. An application will be made to CIF for funding for the whole scheme, although the level of support is unlikely to cover the total costs. If unsuccessful the PC will consider funding this item from reserves.

Clerk will make enquiries at the next Quality Council meeting as to whether a proportion of Section 106 money can be allocated to fund Playground equipment.

PA said he was concerned about the abuse of the playground by older children. This will be raised again with NFGS at the next meeting

F075 To consider a request for goal posts on Gaces Meadow

The Chairman advised that a request was made two years ago and this was rejected by the PC and the Gaces Trust. After further consideration the PC felt that Gaces Meadow should remain an open area for various activities. The request for goal posts was therefore rejected.

F076 To receive an update from the Traffic Management Group

The Chairman and PA met with Cty Cllr Ray Gooding on 14th October. The meeting focussed on Bury Water Lane and Cambridge Road and a review of the Walkabout report which will now be revised.

Regarding Bury Water Lane, the Chairman reported that work on the pavement stopped because the contractor, appointed by David Wilson Homes, did not have the correct license. The PC had hoped to improve the path on the south side but ECC has advised that there is no funding available in the foreseeable future. A new pathway is now being installed on the North side that could facilitate the pathway on the South side if this is required by ECC Highways. RG agreed to raise with the Engineers.

Regarding Cambridge Road, NFGS submitted a planning application to remove the ÷int wall at the front of the School. However, they are now proposing to leave the ÷int wall and divert to a new path inside the wall and exit near the Toll House.

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The PC felt it would be beneficial if this path could continue to the Bury Water Lane/ Cambridge Road junction and then continue on the South side of Bury Water Lane. A copy of the plan prepared by PA was passed to the Clerk and this will be raised with NFGS.

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding has agreed to set up a meeting with ECC and NFGS to discuss this and also many other issues which have been outstanding for a considerable time.

JS will be submitting some ideas for consideration by the Traffic Management Group.

F077 To receive a report on the Sports Committee Meeting held on 15th October

PA attended the meeting which dealt mainly with the practical issues in running the club.

At that meeting AY presented the plans for the new building. PA reported that he has been advised by a local resident that the area where Jikes Hall stands was used as a dumping ground when the motorway was being built.

MS reported that he has obtained a quotation from AM Alarms for a new CCTV camera at the recreation ground but the total cost will be considerably higher because a new electricity supply is required.

F078 To receive a report on the meeting with the Environment Agency on 16th October and discuss other flooding issues

AY, PA and Clerk attended the meeting.

PA reported that the residents are very unhappy as they have been informed that the barrier they constructed must be removed which will leave them unprotected. PA will carry out a survey as the levels taken in the last survey do not comply with the consent that was given some years ago. The infrastructure appears to be inadequate and there are some important issues that need addressing.

Mike Bodell from the Environment Agency said he would obtain details of the maintenance contract and see if this could be changed to a higher priority in order that the river could be cleared on a regular basis. Dan Macauley, Environment Agency, said he would come back to the PC with details of projects carried out in other villages and hopefully come up with a suitable scheme for Newport.

F079 To carry out a review of the Parish Council's Street Lights

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

F080 To receive a report on the Allotments

MB reported that:

- A meeting was held with Alistair Bayford. It was agreed to create additional plots by cultivating areas that are currently used for turning spaces. AB will cultivate these ready for next Spring.

It was suggested that water dipping troughs could be used in some areas. A copy of the current agreement will be passed to AB as he would like to put forward his proposals for updating

- All Allotment letters requesting payment of rent have been sent out.
- Two plots have been given up and will be divided into half plots.

- There are fourteen residents on the waiting list at present
- A further letter will be sent to one tenant regarding a tree that overhangs an adjacent plot.

F081 To receive a report on the Village Hall

The VHTMC have agreed that the windows should be replaced and the noise attenuator will be installed shortly. This will leave the fencing, path and new drain outstanding, plus the bar area. The Committee have discussed the bar area and are considering alterations. Mr Alan Carr of Costcutters will be taking on the licence which will enable the Village Hall to run more events requiring bar facilities.

F082 To discuss any other Urgent Parish matters

F082.1. MS advised that the CCTV maintenance is due, total cost £290 for both sites. It was confirmed that this should be carried out every six months as previously agreed. MS was requested to seek advice from AM Alarms on the correct CCTV signage for the Recreation Ground and the Playground.

F082.2 MS has discussed Footpath 12 with NS Landscapes and will liaise with JS.

F082.3 JS reported that he received a telephone call from a resident at Bridge End regarding the area outside his house. He advised the resident to write to the Conservation Officer at UDC and send a copy to ECC and the PC.

F082.4 Clerk reported that the Risk Assessment has been received from the Firework Committee. A copy of the Insurance Certificate will be supplied shortly. It was agreed that the

Common could be used for parking providing weather conditions are suitable. PA will inspect on the day.

F083 Items for Next Agenda

To propose that the PC accept the quotation from NS Landscapes for grass cutting for the next three years. (Full Council)

To discuss the Budgets for 2010.2011 (Full Council)

F084 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 15th December at Church House.

The meeting closed at 10.40pm.