

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday,
7th September, 2009 at Church House, Newport.**

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

<u>In attendance:</u>	C. Griffin	Clerk
	J. Peachey	Treasurer
	Dist Cllr P. Wilcock	(From C204 - C211)

09/C198 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr T. Denyer, Cllr C. Mitchell and Cty Cllr Ray Gooding.

09/C199 To receive any ‘personal’ or ‘personal and prejudicial’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following personal interests were declared: AY in C205, C211, C214, C215, personal and prejudicial in C205 and 213; AJ in C208 and 217; JR in C206; LB in C215 and C217; PA in C216; CG in C207; JS in C208, C216, personal and prejudicial in C212.

09/C200 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

No members of the public present

09/C201 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd August, 2009.

C182 and C195, date for next Village Fete, amended to read 2011.

C190, third paragraph, amended to read “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.

Resolved that with the above amendments the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: JS Seconded: MB All agreed.

09/C202 Chairman's comments

The Chairman reported that:

- AJ, Vice Chairman, will be requested to take the Chair for item C213.
- Rev. Barbara Sherlock has asked me to do a reading at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 8th November. (Clerk has ordered Poppy wreath and the usual donation of £30 will be made)
- The Firework Committee have not yet sent a copy of their Risk Assessment and Insurance. PA advised that he attended a meeting recently and informed the Committee that the PC require this urgently. Clerk will write to Clive Bunting, Scout Leader, requesting both documents and send copy of letter to Tom Archer and Sgnt Mick Ashton.
- The Friends of Newport Church have asked if the PC would be willing to sponsor or make a donation to their Charity Football Match on 4th October. This request will be considered at the Planning meeting on 21st September.
- As our agendas are long, the items on the next agenda for the Full Council meeting on 5th October, will be marked "for note", "for discussion" or "for decision". As much information as possible should be provided in advance and members should ensure they read all the documents prior to the meeting.

09/C203 To receive the Clerk's Report

Duly received.

Clerk reported that:

- The meeting with ECC at NFGS on 9th September has now been confirmed
- A meeting has been organised with Anne Hooper, ECC Arboriculturist, on Thursday 24th September. Please advise if you have any issues to raise.
- Steven Rodzianko, ECC, has advised that the necessary orders have been placed for the granite kerb at Bridge End, the area in front of the Village Hall, the railings at the bottom of Bury Water Lane and the replacement bollard in the High Street. However, he is unable to give any indication as to when the work will be carried out.
- Ownership of the lights at Bowker Close has still not been established.

09/C204 To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve accounts for payment

Duly received.

The cheque for £349.00 to Country House Interiors was cancelled and a new cheque was issued for the same amount, payable to the Village Hall.

The amended payment schedule showing 18 items, totalling £4,548.71 was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: CG

Seconded: PA

All agreed.

The Chairman confirmed that he has requested the Treasurer to open a Deposit Account with the Saffron Walden Building Society in order that we do not hold in excess of £50,000.00 in the Nat West Bank.

Following a question regarding the Fete proceeds, the Chairman confirmed that the Fete Committee will be opening their own bank account on the next occasion.

Treasurer reported that:

- There are still problems with the Nat West bank mandate form. Cllr Margaret Bowker will visit the Bishops Stortford branch and try to resolve the problems.

09/C205 To approve the purchase of a new plastic litter bin from Broxap. To be placed near the entrance to the Railway Station (raised during the Chairman's meeting with the Area Station Manager)

The Chairman reported on his meeting with Alan Neville, the Area Station Manager, National Express. He would like to become involved with the local Community and has therefore been invited to the Full Council meeting in October

One of the issues discussed was a new bin near the entrance to the Station in Station Road. However, members felt that following the letter from a resident in the Saffron Walden Reporter on 3rd September, the PC should consider another bin on the other side of the Station. Network Rail will be putting new bins on the platforms.

It was decided to defer a decision on this until after discussions have taken place with Alan Neville at the next meeting.

JS suggested that the PC could object to the vending machine which had been installed without providing a satisfactory litter bin. To be discussed at the next FC meeting.

09/C206 To approve a payment of £25 for "Consulting your Community" Training Course (Cllr J. Rose has volunteered to attend)

It was proposed that a payment of £25.00 for the "Consulting your Community" Training Course on 21st September should be approved. Clerk to confirm booking.
Proposed: JS Seconded: CG All agreed

09/C207 To agree that all items in the ROSPA report, considered to be medium risk, should be addressed.

Following discussions at the Facilities meeting in August, it was proposed that all items in the ROSPA report, considered to be medium risk, should be attended to.
Proposed: CG Seconded: LB All agreed

MS is obtaining detailed quotations and will discuss with AJ before the next Facilities meeting.

09/C208 To receive report on the Village Walkabout produced by Cllr A. Johnson

AY thanked TD, CG and LB for taking part in the Walkabout and JS for his comments.

AJ, PA and MS will now go through the list and establish which items should be given priority. The list will then be reviewed regularly.

JR said he felt the list should include good/positive items, for example, the flowers at the Newport Club.

The report will be discussed further at the Facilities meeting in October.

Copy of litter picking round to be circulated.

09/C209 To receive an update on the Village Plan

JS reported that 181 responses (approximately 20%) were received from a reasonable cross section of the village. A recent grant application was unsuccessful but the Committee will be applying to other funding sources.

JR advised that the information is now being processed electronically and when complete a copy will be passed to the PC.

09/C210 To receive details of a request for a memorial plaque for the late Mr. J. Cook

Deferred until the October Full Council meeting as details have not been received.

09/C211 To receive a report from the Chairman on a meeting with the residents regarding the triangle at Bridge End and approve the planting of a hedge on the edge of the triangle and two additional trees

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting with residents and the recommendation to plant a hedge around the triangle plus two additional trees.

Following discussion it was agreed that:

- the kerbing must be installed before any planting takes place.
- there must be sufficient planting on the triangle to prevent cars parking
- advice on the planting should be obtained from Anne Hooper, ECC Arboriculturist.

It was proposed that the planting scheme for the triangle should be in line with the advice obtained from Anne Hooper,

Proposed: AJ

Seconded: PA

All agreed

09/C212 To discuss the Uttlesford Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and agree a response

JS has studied the Assessment and reported that 13 sites have been identified in Newport as being suitable for housing. Details were given of the various locations.

The report includes 443 houses, 2011 – 2016, and a further 732 if all the land is developed. The first stage would increase the number of houses by approximately 50%, the second phase would more than double the number of dwellings.

The PC need to decide how to respond.

It was proposed that a response should be sent:

- reiterating the numbers given at the meeting last year organised by Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, namely the PC would be prepared to take 155 (15%) up to 2021.
- highlighting the fact that a number of the sites are well outside the current development limit.
- some sites are on the flood plain
- current infrastructure is totally unsuitable for future development.
- pointing out that other issues should be considered, not just housing.

Proposed: PA

Seconded: LB

8 members agreed,
1 objection.

09/C213 To receive an update on the planning application for Jikes Hall (Cllr A. Johnson, Vice Chairman, took the Chair)

It was reported that the planning application for the new building has been conditionally approved. AY has been in touch with Tony Phillips, Chairman of the Sports Committee, and will meet with him prior to the next Sports Committee meeting.

The Chairman raised the formation of a Steering Group, which was suggested at the last meeting, and felt this would be an appropriate time to set this up. AY advised that he should receive notification on a large funding application shortly and when this is received he will arrange a meeting with the Sports Committee and the Scouts. The Steering Group can then be organised.

JR thanked AY for all the hard work he has undertaken on this project.

AY will give an update on the funding application at the first available meeting and outline his proposals for taking the project forward.

09/C214 To consider planning application UTT/0842/09/FUL for the repositioning of the eastern boundary wall at NFGS

PA advised that the plans are incorrect and the scheme is inadequate because part of the pavement, near the bridge, will still be very narrow. The Chairman reported that ECC have looked at the bridge and advised that this cannot be changed without

funding. Although the plans are not as expected, the repositioning of the wall will result in a wider pavement near the entrance.

It was proposed that as the repositioning of the wall will provide more space near the School entrance this would be an improvement, therefore the plans should be supported by the PC

Proposed: JR

Seconded: CG

4 members agreed

3 against

1 abstention

09/C215 To receive the plans for the Affordable Housing Scheme at Frambury Lane, approve the drainage scheme across the recreation ground and accept ownership of the balancing pond

Clerk reported that the plans arrived today, 7th September. The Chairman urged all members to look at the plans before the Planning meeting on 21st September as the PC need to agree a response at that meeting.

There are some legal issues to deal with regarding the balancing pond. Clerk has sent details to the PC's Insurance company and is awaiting a reply.

09/C216 To receive a report on the Village Hall

PA reported that:

- the soakaway on the Common may have to be revised.
- the fencing of the car park and the footpath near the river will have to be carried out in conjunction with the PC.

09/C217 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch

AJ reported that:

- Next meeting is on 9th September.
- Operation Spice, reported in the local newspapers last week, is designed to help the over 60's and is made up of a number of measures. Initially, a new door sticker will be introduced.

09/C218 To receive Reports from Dist Cllr P. Wilcock (reported earlier in the meeting as Cllr Wilcock had to leave early) and Cty Cllr R. Gooding

Dist Cllr Peter Wilcock reported that following discussions at the last meeting regarding empty properties, he raised the issue with the Officers at the District Council and they have identified a number of properties in the village. PW pointed out that UDC has to establish ownership and, in some cases, this is an extremely difficult and protracted process.

JS pointed out that this issue is included in the UDC Housing Strategy 2009 – 2012. PW confirmed that UDC are getting to grips with it, albeit very slowly.

Empty properties will be discussed when members meet to discuss the Village Walkabout report and the PC could consider contacting owners direct.

No report from Cty Cllr Ray Gooding as he was unable to attend

09/C219 Items for next Agenda

To discuss further the Uttlesford Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and other housing issues. (Full Council)

To consider a donation to a defibrillator which will be available for public access. (Full Council)

To consider splitting the litter picking and maintenance duties (Facilities)

To consider a request for goal posts in Gaces Meadow (Facilities)

To consider a parking restriction in Bullfields (Planning)

To consider a request from the Friends of St. Mary's Church Newport for a donation towards the Charity Football Match on 4th October (Planning)

09/C220 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

C220.1 PA pointed out that the drains into the ditch at Willow Vale are unsatisfactory

C220.2 CG advised that a list of courses has been received for inclusion on the website from the company running the Culinary Skills Courses at the Maltings. JR has asked if they would be prepared to make a payment for this. The PC needs to address charging issues for the future.

C220.3 JR has presented an invoice for website hosting for the year 2009/10 which is lower than last year.

09/C221 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 5th October at 7.30 pm at Church House.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm