

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday,
2nd March, 2009 at Church House, Newport.**

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

<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr. M. Webb	Church Warden (C051-C058)
	Mrs. L. Baillie	Resident
	C. Griffin	Clerk
	J. Grogan	Treasurer
	Dist Cllr P. Wilcock	(PW) (C051-C064)
	Cty Cllr R. Gooding	(RG)

09/C051 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Rose and Cllr M. Sell.

09/C052 To receive any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following interest were declared: AY in C059, C060, C062, and C063, TD in C064, AJ in C063 and C064, PA in C063, C064 and C065, JS in C059, C060, C064, C065, C066 and C067.

09/C053 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

No issues were raised.

09/C054 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th February, 2009.

It was noted that this meeting was deferred from 2nd February.

C041, second sentence to read, "The general issues report is very comprehensive; the transport report in not so fully satisfactory".

C047, amended to read "Dist Cllr Peter Wilcock advised that the overall increase in Council Tax for 2009/10 would be 2.6%"

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

Proposed: JS

Seconded: MB

All agreed.

09/C055 Chairman's comments

The Chairman reported that:

- He has written to the garages in the village asking them to ensure that vehicles do not obstruct the pavements.
- A letter has been sent to NFGS supporting their application to reposition the eastern boundary wall and widen the path at the front of the School.
- At the Annual Assembly last year I announced my ideas for managing traffic. We have now received confirmation of funding from CIF (Highways) for 20mph zones in Bury Water Lane and School Lane, Bridge End, Gaces Acre, Frambury Lane and Cherry Garden Lane. It is understood that the total funding available was £100,000 and we received a significant part of this. It was agreed that this is the first stage of the traffic management plan and the PC must now draw up a list of priorities for the next stage.
- He has been through the model publication scheme received from the Information Commissioner's Office. The model will be included on the website and information will be available from the parish office at 10p per A4 copy.
- He has received a letter from a resident of London Road re the graffiti at the bottom of Frambury Lane/London Road. It is understood that the Police and UDC have asked the owners to remove it but no action has been taken. It was agreed that, firstly, Clerk should contact UDC and request a copy of their letter and then contact the owners of the wall, pointing out that the PC has received complaints from members of the parish and, as owners of the property, they are responsible for removing the graffiti.
- The CCTV unit, previously used at the Playground at Gaces Acre, has been offered to the Church. Michael Webb thanked the Council for this.

09/C056 To receive the Clerk's Report

Duly received.

Clerk reported that:

- She is still liaising with the residents regarding comments made on the Chalk Farm Lane consultation.
- An email has been received from a resident of Bridge End regarding the work that has been carried out on the barrier on both sides of the railway bridge. It is hoped that this project will protect them from flooding in the future. The residents will also be organising a "Clean up your stream Saturday" and wondered if the Council would be able to co-ordinate and promote the project throughout the village. Clerk will thank the residents for all the work they have carried out in Bridge End and advise them that the PC will consider a special day in the future.

Following further discussion on flooding issues it was decided that the PC should get further advice on the ditch at the side of the Common. Clerk will contact ECC regarding a professional investigation and risk assessment.

- The cast iron bollard, which was knocked over, is being kept at Premier Garage.
- Newport News would like confirmation that we will be including the usual advert in the next issue. PC confirmed.

09/C057 To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve accounts for payment

Duly received.

The payment schedule showing 16 items, totalling £4,355.05 was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: JS

Seconded: CM

All agreed

Treasurer reported that:

- Outstanding allotment rent has now been paid.
- Invoice has not been received from the Scouts
- The PC is required to appoint an internal auditor. It was agreed that Patrick Hall, who has been used previously, should be appointed.

09/C058 To discuss the PCC's proposals for upgrading the footpaths in the Churchyard and consider a financial contribution

Following Michael Webb's presentation at the last meeting it was proposed that the PC contribute the balance from this year's grass cutting budget and then consider a further contribution in the next financial year.

PA queried whether adequate space has been allowed in the proposals to allow cars to turn. Michael Webb confirmed that a Highways Civil Engineer has designed this.

Following further discussion it was proposed that the PC should contribute £550.00 towards the upgrading of the footpaths.

Proposed: AY

Seconded: TD

All agreed

This will be included on the next payment schedule. Michael Webb will keep the PC informed of progress.

The PC confirmed that their support for the grass cutting work in the Churchyard would remain capped at £2,600.00.

09/C059 To discuss the Energy Efficiency Day in Newport.

Unfortunately JR was unable to attend the meeting.

Following the discussions at the last meeting it was agreed that whilst the PC consider this is a very good idea and are very happy to support it, they feel that the event should be organised by JR, not the PC.

Clerk to ask JR to circulate a copy of the risk assessment for the event to all Councillors.

09/C060 To receive an update on the Affordable Housing Scheme in Frambury Lane

Seven members of the Council and Clerk visited Hastoe Housing on Friday, 27th February. The Open Day has been organised at Church House for Saturday, 7th March and several Councillors have offered to attend during the day. A notice was included in the Walden Local on the 25th and a further advert will be in the 4th March issue. Hastoe Housing has paid for this. Fliers will be distributed with the newspaper, posters have been displayed around the village and this has been included in the PC newsletter. Hastoe are hoping to submit the planning application shortly after the Open Day and the PC advised that, at the same time, a letter should be sent to ECC regarding a change of use of the bridleway.

09/C061 To approve a response to the Ecotown Consultation

JS advised that the deadline is now 30th April, 2009

JS is drafting a response to the consultation, which will include general issues, and specific issues, which would affect Newport, namely:

- The extra volumes of traffic through the village if it is built.
- Having a large development could cause flooding problems.
- Construction traffic could cause problems at the building stage.
- Would affect our Schools

To be included on the agenda of the next Planning meeting.

09/C062 To discuss the Essex Compact Initiative

The Chairman has studied the scheme. It is a written undertaking between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors and other partners within any given locality about how they operate. Organisations that sign up to the Essex Compact should appoint a Compact Champion and there are other things the PC must do. RG advised that it is a transitional process and it will be driven by ECC

It was agreed to add this to the list of Representatives/Committees and discuss at the next meeting. Clerk will circulate full details of the initiative.

09/C063 To discuss proposals for a new footpath in Bury Water Lane

A report prepared by AJ and PA was circulated prior to the meeting and AJ explained the details of the three proposals. Diagram 1 shows the developer's proposals. Diagram 2, extends the pathway that has been proposed by the developer, and also includes a pathway on the other side of the road and extending the pathway to White

Ditch Lane. This would involve some realignment of the road and, as the road is quite narrow a higher kerb may be required. Diagram 3, includes an extension of the pathway through to Cambridge Road.

The Chairman and AJ have raised the footpaths within NFGS but, to date, the School has not been very forthcoming. PA advised that he believed only one of the trees at the Cambridge Road end is subject to a TPO.

The Chairman asked AJ and PA to contact the developers on behalf of the PC and give an update at the next Planning meeting. CG and RG would like to be involved.

09/C064 To receive a report on the Village Hall and consider whether the Village Hall JSG is redundant

The report prepared by JS was circulated to all members.

Following discussion it was agreed that as the VHTMC is now taking a more direct role in the refurbishment, the JSG is redundant.

09/C065 To agree a further release of PC Funds to the Village Hall

PA advised that he has received an estimate of £3,784.00 plus VAT, for lining the inside of the Hall and JS pointed out that there is a shortfall on Phase 2 (annex works) of £1,669.00. JS advised that there are three things included in the urgent items that could undermine the work carried out so far if they are not undertaken. The Treasurer advised that there is £22,995.21 remaining in the funds.

After discussion, the PC agreed in principle to release approximately £6,000.00 to cover the above and a further £3,000 for urgent items.

09/C066 To discuss a procedure for dealing with urgent items

This item was deferred. Will be included on the agenda of the next Full Council meeting.

09/C067 To update the Parish Representative/Committee list

The May 2008 list has been circulated to all Councillors and requires updating to include new Councillors. The Chairman asked all members to go through the list prior to the next meeting and consider what items colleagues would like to do.

JS asked if the PC would like to publish the list in the Newport News when this has been revised. To be discussed at next meeting.

09/C068 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch

AJ advised that Lindsay Baillie, the Essex Watch Administrator, is bringing valuable information from the Police to Neighbourhood Watch and an improved networking system is now in place.

The next NhW meeting is on 11th March.

09/C069 To receive reports from Dist Cllr P. Wilcock (reported at beginning of meeting) and Cty Cllr R. Gooding

Dist Cllr Peter Wilcock advised that:

- The UDC Council Tax has now been set at 4.875% for 2009/10.
- The G2 enquiry has been delayed, probably for about twelve weeks.

AJ advised that he raised the graffiti issue at a recent JAG meeting as this is causing concern. Clarification is required from the partnership on the best course of action when faced with this problem and any assistance from the district council would be welcome. PW advised that this should be reported immediately to the Police.

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding reported:

- That the ECC increase in Council Tax for 2009/10 is 1.9%.
- As a result of the bad weather this winter, the County has £700,000 to spend across the County, in this financial year, on repairing potholes and rectifying the damage caused. £10,000,000 has been allocated for next year, across the County, for roads and pavements. If the PC has any specific requests they should inform RG.

09/C070 Items for next Agenda

Co-option of a new Council member.

To establish an editorial sub-committee for the website

To discuss the 2009 Village Firework Display (Chairman of the Committee to be invited)

To discuss the Village Fete/Carnival on 4th July 2009 (Committee representative to be invited)

To discuss Flood Protection

To discuss Accounting items and Reserves

To discuss a procedure for dealing with urgent items.

09/C071 To discuss any urgent matters of interest to the Parish

C071.1 The Chairman stated that an editorial sub-committee for the website should be set up and suggested they meet prior to each Full Council meeting in order that any changes can be approved at the Full Council meeting. CG suggested that this could be done by email.

C071.2 The Chairman reported that on Wednesday he will be going to collect a cheque for the Youth Centre from the High Sheriffs Office in London, The Youth Centre have also received an award from grass roots funding.

C071.3 TD reported that UDC has not put notices on the bins left on the narrow piece of pavement in the High Street. Clerk will contact UDC again.

C071.4 AJ reported that the next edition of the PC News should be going out approximately mid March.

C071.5 AJ advised that he is unable to attend the next Tourism meeting.

C071.6 PA commented on the hedge that is encroaching on the pavement near the pedestrian crossing, opposite Sagers. Clerk has already written to the owners. RG advised that ECC Highways could enforce if the owners do not comply.

C071.7 CG reported some fly tipping in the UDC car park at the back of Frambury Lane. Clerk will report to UDC.

C071.8 Clerk reported that MS is in contact with NS Landscapes regarding Footpath 12.

C071.9 Clerk advised that Circus Tyanna have now sent a copy of their Risk Assessment and Insurance, which the Chairman has checked. Clerk has spoken to the PC Insurance company and they have confirmed that the cover is suitable but have stated that the Common should be inspected before the Circus arrives, and before they leave, to ensure that if any damage has been caused this is rectified before they depart. CM agreed to carry out the inspections.

09/C072 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 6th April, at 7.30 pm at Church House.