

# Newton St Cyres Parish Council

## Minutes of Newton St Cyres Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall Club Room on Thursday 7 September 2017

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

### Members present

Cllr D Baker (chair)

Cllr J Baker

Cllr J Enright

Cllr S Parker

Cllr A Reeves

Cllr C Southcott

In attendance: J Hole, Parish Clerk, Simon Trafford, MDDC (left 7.30pm), Ian Sorenson, DCC (left 7.30pm), 7 members of public (4 left 8.15pm)

### Business to be Transacted Public Participation

(i) Police Report

Incident logs recorded between 01/07/2017 and 30/08/2017

July: Bull in road – A377, large branch in road – Langford Road, RTC, damage only – Half Moon, harassment, gunshots heard, 4 x reports of dangerous driving

August: Insecure vehicle, missing person, suspicious circumstances – building site entered, suspicious vehicle abandoned – A377, suspicious call/scam on elderly resident, information on driver under the influence of alcohol, branch in road – A377, abandoned call, vehicle driving with children not in seatbelts, 1 x domestic incident, 1 vehicle RTC - head injuries A377, 3 vehicle RTC, concern for welfare, domestic harassment, car driven erratically – Newbridge Hill

Crimes recorded:

July: 1 x burglary with intent to steal (unsuccessful attempt to steal quad bike), 1 x assault causing ABH

August: 1 x owner/person in charge of dog dangerously out of control, 1 x harassment

(ii) Simon Trafford, MDDC Planning and Ian Sorenson, DCC, will attend to answer questions as to how the Local Plan plans positively for development and infrastructure, including transport required to meet forecast demands

Cllr D Baker welcomed Mr Trafford and Mr Sorenson to the meeting and explained concerns that developments north of the parish impact on the parish, especially with regard to traffic on the A377. What plans were MDDC making for public transport, for example was a park and ride at Crediton being considered and could bus and train timetable be better co-ordinated? A letter from the relevant government minister indicated that the problem was a local one to be addressed by MDDC through its local plan. Mr Trafford confirmed approximately 500 new homes are in the local plan for Crediton, from which it can be estimated that approx. 1,000 extra cars will be generated by these new homes. In addition, more traffic will be generated by new retail shops at Wellparks.

Mr Sorenson reported that the strategic planning team were looking at the A377 and were looking at ways to improve rail links. He noted that a pedestrian crossing in the village was not possible due to the layout of the existing road and junctions. He confirmed that road modelling was undertaken although this concentrated on junctions rather than through routes. It was suggested an impact assessment looking specifically at local amenities might be useful.

Parishioners identified pollution, noise and safety concerns and it was noted that the proposed Boniface Trail cycle route would be beneficial.

Councillors pointed out that trains through NSC are only two carriages and were not big enough for current usage. There was a concern that the central crossing island in the village would not be suitable for the school crossing patrol to use.

Mr Sorenson and Mr Trafford agreed to talk to their respective colleagues about the concerns and report back to the Parish Council. Cllr D Baker invited both to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in April next year and this invitation was accepted. Both left the meeting.

(iii) Public Question Time.

Was there any update on the proposed speed camera? Cllr D Baker reported that despite contacting three different people in Devon and Cornwall Police, he was still waiting to hear and would keep chasing.

Concerns about the speed of traffic along Station Road, by the Beer Engine – could an angled mirror be installed on the bridge to aid visibility? **Clerk to ask DCC.**

Parking on the bridge by the Beer Engine reduces visibility for motorists and is dangerous for pedestrians. **Clerk to ask PCSO** to monitor. Suggested parishioner rings 101 and reports.

Overgrown hedges from the bridge down to the Rec ground leading to reduced visibility

### **Formal Business**

**01/09/17 Apologies**

Cllr P Taylor (holiday), Cllr G Quicke (personal), Cllr P Hare-Scott, MDDC (holiday), Cllr M Squires (recovering from operation)

**02/09/17 Declaration of Interest**

Item 7.3.6 – Cllr S Parker (PI)

**03/09/17 Minutes of the last meetings held on Thursday 7 July/Thursday 13 July 2017**

Agreed and signed as a true record

**04/09/17 To consider adoption of Co-option policy**

The draft policy for consideration had been circulated to Councillors. It was resolved unanimously to adopt the policy with immediate effect.

**05/09/17 To consider applicants for co-option**

Cllr D Baker suspended standing orders and invited the three candidates to give a presentation. Cathy Yates did not wish to add anything further to the presentation she gave at the July meeting. Roger Cashmore and Graeme Barnell gave a brief presentation. The Chairman thanked all three candidates for applying. Standing orders were reinstated and voting took place according to the co-option policy. There was a majority of votes in favour of Graeme Barnell and the Chairman declared Graeme formally co-opted to the parish council. Graeme gave apologies for the rest of the meeting due to a prior engagement. The Clerk would arrange to meet with Graeme before the next meeting.

**06/09/17 Mid Devon District Council**

6.1 Planning Applications: 17/01253/HOUSE - erection of 2 garages following demolition of existing garage and partial demolition of shed at 5 Creedy View, NSC, EX5 5AU – Councillors viewed the plans and documents on MDDC planning portal and a discussion

took place. Cllr C Southcott had received a few comments regarding the application. It was resolved to object to the application on the grounds of size in relation to the surrounding building, concerns about disturbing the neighbouring bank and the apparent lack of vehicle access.

Since the agenda had been sent out, a further application had been received and it was agreed to consider this application at the meeting:

17/001412/CAT- Notification of intention to fell 1 Sycamore tree, 1 Holly tree and 1 Holm Oak tree; fell 1 Sweet Chestnut tree to 5m above ground level, crown reduce 1 Prunus and removal of 2 stems from a multi stemmed Holm Oak within the Conservation Area at 7 Newton House, Newton St Cyres. Councillors wished to comment that it was hoped that the reason for removal was due to safety or age and that the trees would be replaced.

## 6.2 Planning Decisions:

17/01102/CLP – Certificate of lawfulness issued for the proposed erection of an extension in accordance with submitted plans/drawings at 11 Woodlands, NSC

17/01098/HOUSE - Conversion of existing open garage into additional accommodation at East Barn, Newton St Cyres – permission granted

## 6.3 To note response from Stuart Noyce, MDDC Waste/Transport Manager re MDDC employing “authorised officers” to enforce potential new dog fouling rules

The response stated that MDDC currently had no spare capacity in its enforcement team and had a £1million deficit in future budgets, so was unlikely to be able to take on additional work within existing resources. Would the parish council be able to support the project financially? It was resolved that given the likely cost, no further action could be taken.

## 6.4 To note confirmation from MDDC that the creation of a footpath from the new school to the Rec will be eligible for S106 contributions

Noted

## 6.5 To consider input from Simon Trafford and Ian Sorenson and agree any further actions. As both officers had agreed to talk to colleagues and come back with any comments, it was resolved there was no further actions at this stage.

## 6.6 Report from Cllr P Hare- Scott

There was no report

## 07/09/17 Finance

### 7.1 To approve signatures for this month’s cheques

Cllr J Enright and Cllr A Reeves

### 7.2 Parish Council Receipts Current Account: £880.00 DCC Locality grant for churchyard fencing

### 7.3 Parish Council Payment Current Account

These were agreed as:

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
7.3.1	Dorset Devon & Cornwall CRC	Grass cutting at churchyard Jun/Jul	240.00
7.3.2	M J Nicholls	Grass cutting July/Aug	320.00
7.3.3	Devon Communities Together	Membership	50.00
7.3.4	Hotchkiss Warburton	Balance for land transfer work	266.00
7.3.5	Thorverton PC	Handyman work	184.70
7.3.6	S Parker	Stain for bench on green	31.48
7.3.7	J Hole	Salary and expenses Jul/Aug	606.28

**£1,698.46**

### 7.4 Balances (after above transactions):

7.4.1 Parish Council Current Account balance: £9,058.85

7.4.2 Footpath Account: £407.29

7.4.3 Car Park resurfacing fund balance: £1,500.04

7.5 Financial Statement and Budget Monitor  
Noted

**08/09/17 Matters raised by the Chair**

- 8.1 Verbal update from Cllr A Reeves regarding councillor e-mail addresses  
Cllr A Reeves had undertaken some research and suggested that a standard format could be set up using a free domain name such as g-mail or outlook. However, most councillors present were not concerned with using their personal e-mail address for council business and it was resolved that the question should be considered again when a new council was formed after the next election.
- 8.2 To consider if quotes for a new parish council website should be sought. Copy of MDDC report showing number of website hits circulated separately  
The MDDC report showed the website was not that well used. However, it was provided free of charge. It was resolved that the matter should be considered again by the new council formed after the next election.
- 8.3 To consider a village flag pole and a village flag  
Two comments in favour of a flag pole and village flag had been received. It was resolved to ask parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting in April to see if a majority were in favour or not.
- 8.4 Chairman to report on meeting with John Quicke re school footpaths  
Cllr D Baker reported that John Quicke would be willing in principle to leave the agreement for the existing school footpath in place once the school moved. This would allow children to walk to the new school using this path. He would need to consult his partners with regard to the proposed path from the new school site to the bridge in Station Road. Cllr D Baker explained that the path would need to finish at the existing road bridge as it would not be possible to put a pedestrian bridge across the river and the land the other side was owned by Church Commissioners. Cllr C Southcott asked that the Rec committee are kept informed of any developments. Cllrs noted that the existing school path would require ongoing maintenance and could the cost be justified? It was resolved to consider again once the school had moved.

**09/09/17 Councillor's Reports**

- 9.1 Areas of Responsibility report  
*Bus shelters* – clerk to arrange cleaning for October  
*Village Green* – it was noted that the present grass contractor is retiring at the end of the year. **Clerk to draw** up grass cutting schedule and obtain quotes. The Clerk had sent a thank you to the parishioner who had cut the grass at the entrance to Langford Road. It was noted that there were many parishioners who helped out around the village with various tasks and it was agreed to send a thank you with a Christmas card – **Clerk to arrange.**  
*Allotment* – Cllr A Reeves to see if brambles could be cleared when the hedge is cut. **Clerk to send** a thank you note to the person cutting the allotment grass.  
*Recreation Ground* – **Clerk to write** and compliment the Rec on its upkeep.  
*Press* – Cllr G Quicke had agreed to write the next press report as Cllr J Baker was away.  
*Community Speed Watch* – Cllr S Parker reported that speed watch had been suspended due to health issues, lack of support and concern over instructions received from a newly

appointed Road Casualty Reduction Officer, Richard Juniper. Mr Juniper had not attended any speed watch meeting or observed any speed watch sessions but had issued instructions changing where the group should stand when carrying out sessions in the village and Cowley and had said that no speed watch could be carried out in Half Moon. **Clerk to draft** a response to Mr Juniper expressing the PC disappointment with this and pointing out that speed watch could be superseded by a speed camera if the police would respond to efforts to contact them.

- 9.1a *Surgeries* - Matters raised on 5 August. There were none.  
Matters raised on 2 September. An invitation to take part in a flower festival at the church in October. No councillors were available to attend. **Clerk to advise**  
River bank at Pear Tree Cottage – noted, noisy drain at Half Moon layby – **clerk to report**, a new neighbourhood watch deputy had been recruited.  
Cllr allocation for October surgery – Cllr A Reeves. **Clerk to invite** G Barnell to attend
- 9.1b General and allocation of areas of responsibility for new councillor  
**Clerk to allocate vacant areas** to G Barnell and circulate updated lists
- 9.1c To note minutes from car park meeting  
These had been circulated and were noted.
- 9.1d To note risk assessment of assets  
This had been circulated and were noted
- 9.1e Report from footpath walks undertaken by councillors  
Most paths had now been walked and any problems reported to Cllr S Parker
- 9.1f Training - MDDC course on standards and Code of Conduct – 8/22 November  
**Clerk to suggest** G Barnell attends

**10/09/17 Clerk's Report** - none

**11/09/17 Parish Council**

- 11.1 To agree training for new councillor  
**Clerk to agree** a suitable date with G Barnell and book course
- 11.2 To note update from Cllr P Taylor re responsibility for the open space that will be created in Kingfisher Close – further clarification has been requested from MDDC.  
MDDC had replied that the open space would be subject to a management agreement with property owners. **Clerk to write** to Erika Smith at Kingswood Homes and confirm this.
- 11.3 To consider support for TAP application for Shobrooke Parish Council for a defibrillator and Thorverton PC for purchase of garage to store handyman equipment  
It was resolved to support both applications.
- 11.4 To consider attendance at DALC AGM/Conference (£25.00) on 10 October and DCT Rural Futures Conference (£45.00) on 28 September  
**Clerk to invite** G Barnell to attend the DALC Conference
- 11.5 To note the transfer of the land for the new churchyard took place on 23 August 2017.  
To agree procedure for installing new fencing and plaque.  
There was a requirement to erect the new fencing within six months. Cllr D Baker noted that the area had been strimmed and tidied up by a parishioner and it was agreed to pay for this on presentation of an invoice. Cllrs D Baker and S Parker would meet with Cllr A Reeves on site to agree the stock proof fencing necessary. Quotes for installation could

then be obtained. Some thought would be given as to what material should be used for the plaque.

- 11.6 To note the completion of the handyman tasks. It was not possible to clean the road bollards due to traffic. To consider any further tasks  
The installation of the depth markers was still outstanding. **Clerk to ask** Cllr M Squires if DCC can clean the traffic island bollards.

**12/09/17 Devon County Council**

**12.1 Outstanding Highways issues**

- I. Missing Markers on A377 – agreed to take this off the list
  - II. Drainage in Sand Down Lane – following a meeting with J Quicke, Cllr D Baker had obtained a quote for work to be carried out to unblock the drain and prevent future flooding. DCC had indicated that they would not be able to carry out this work and J Quicke's solicitors had suggested it was a highway responsibility and not a land owners. The Clerk had applied for a grant from DCC Community Enhancement Fund and a grant for half the cost had been agreed. Councillors were concerned that DCC would not accept liability for this work and the ongoing implications of this and the **Clerk was asked** to clarify with DCC their policy for drains and maintenance. It was resolved that the homeowners affected should be asked to meet the other half of the costs. **Clerk to write** and find out if they would be willing to pay.
  - III. Chevron at entrance to Station Road – in place
  - IV. Broken directional sign at Shute Cross – a grant from DCC's Community Enhancement fund had been agreed and Cllr D Baker would order the sign.
- 12.2 New Road issues  
Add cleaning of traffic island bollards to list and concrete blocks by Langford junction
- 12.3 Report from Cllr M Squires  
There was no report

**13/09/17 Miscellaneous Correspondence**

DALC Annual Report and constitution

**14/09/17 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda**

Cllrs D and J Baker gave apologies for the next meeting.  
Responsibility for the grass by the telephone exchange  
Langford Bridge – request for financial support for flooding work.

**15/09/17 Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 October 2017 in the Clubroom, Parish Hall, 7.30pm**

**End of Formal Business**

**Public Participation**

There was none

The meeting closed at 9.40pm