

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Minutes of Newton St Cyres Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall Club Room on Thursday 2 November 2017

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Members present

Cllr D Baker (chair)
Cllr J Baker
Cllr J Enright
Cllr G Barnell
Cllr G Quicke

Cllr S Parker
Cllr A Reeves
Cllr C Southcott
Cllr P Taylor

In attendance: Cllr P Hare-Scott, MDDC (left 8.05pm), Cllr M Squires, DCC (left 8.30pm), Cllr P Heal, Chairman MDDC (left 8.30pm), 4 members of public (1 left 8.30pm), J Hole, Parish Clerk

Business to be Transacted Public Participation

- (i) Police Report
Incidents reported between 04/10/2017 – 01/11/2017: Highway disruption, petrol tanker broken down on highway A377, 1 x burglary, Road related offences: Motorbike riding recklessly A377, speeding cars A377, possible drunk in charge of motor vehicle A377, drag-racing' on A377, violence on train coming into station, road traffic collision, damage only, 2 x concern for welfare, nuisance ASB (anti-social behaviour), young people window knocking
There has been one crime recorded in this period: 1 x Burglary
- (ii) Public Question Time.
A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for arranging for the no parking signs to be put up opposite the Village Hall, following the recent incident when an emergency ambulance could not get through. Cllr M Squires suggested the **Clerk write to her** to request that double yellow lines be considered and she would put the request forward to the next Highways safety meeting next spring
- (iii) To welcome Cllr Peter Heal, Chairman, MDDC to the meeting. Cllr P Heal will answer questions relating to MDDC
Cllr D Baker welcomed Cllr P Heal to the meeting. Cllr P Heal explained he had been elected MDDC Chairman in May and during his two-year chairmanship hoped to visit most of the parishes in Mid Devon. He noted the key personnel in MDDC and explained that the council is a cabinet run council with various groups and committees. The housing stock is approx. 3,150 houses and on average 4 units are rented each week. A peer review was conducted in March 2017 and this had proved to be a useful exercise. Although the local plan had been submitted for review on 31 March, the review had now been postponed to allow additional work regarding the development at J27. It was hoped that the new garden village east of Cullompton would eventually create up to 5,000 homes. Waste management had been centralised at Willand and recycling rates were good at 54%. The Planning Department were now fully staffed. There was a State of the District Debate on the future of policing taking place on Monday 6 November in Tiverton, all were welcome to attend Questions were invited. Cllr J Enright explained that the Parish Council had recently objected to a planning application. Permission had been granted and Councillors felt that

their objections had not been taken into account. However, the Planning Officer had spoken to the applicant and the plans had been revised to take account of two of the Council's objections, but the Parish Council were not informed that the plans had been revised and it was the revised plans that were approved. Cllr P Heal confirmed that amendments should be notified to the Clerk. Cllr P Hare-Scott agreed to speak to the Planning Officer concerned. Cllr P Heal hoped that training on planning for Councillors would be available in the new year. He suggested viewing the planning website as new documents and information is posted when available. If the Parish Council had a contentious application he would advise to call it in i.e. referred to committee. Cllr D Baker thanks Cllr P Heal for this input and attendance.

Formal Business

01/11/17 Apologies

There were no apologies. Cllr D Baker thanked Cllr J Enright for chairing the October meeting and Cllr G Quicke for compiling the minutes along with Cllr J Enright due to the absence of the Clerk

02/11/17 Declaration of Interest

Item 4.2/5.3 and 9.1 – Cllr G Quicke (PI) and Item 5.3 – Cllr A Reeves (PI)

3/11/17 Minutes of the last meetings held on Thursday 5 October 2017

Agreed and signed as a true record

04/11/17 Mid Devon District Council

4.1 Planning Applications: None

4.2 Planning Decisions

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 – no objection

17/01074/FULL - Erection of a replacement farmhouse and boiler house/bat roost demolition of existing at Woodley Farm, Newton St Cyres – permission granted

4.3 To consider what input the Parish Council has to planning applications

Cllr J Enright had circulated a paper to Councillors outlining the issues as detailed in the public session and seeking ways for the Parish Council to work more closely with planners to ensure its concerns are relevant and taken account of. Should applications that the Parish Council object to automatically be “called in?” Cllr P Heal advised that if the Parish Council wished to object to a planning application, the Clerk should speak to the Planning Officer and ask if they were minded to approve the application or not. If they were minded to approve, then the application should be called in. Planning Officers were willing to attend Parish Council meeting where possible and extension for comments would usually be granted. The acceptance of this advice was proposed and seconded and agreed unanimously. Cllr P Hare-Scott noted that there was likely to be pressure to speed the planning process and this might have some bearing on future extensions that may be granted for comments

4.4 Report from Cllr P Hare- Scott

MDDC were broadly on budget. Any council tax increase would be restricted to 2%. It was not clear what would happen with regard to business rates and whether MDDC would be able to keep 100%. The new homes bonus had been awarded but the rules may change in the future. MDDC were becoming more business minded and looking at ways to generate income and were currently investing in property in Tiverton

05/11/17 Finance

5.1 To approve signatures for this month's cheques

Cllr P Taylor and Cllr J Baker

5.2 Parish Council Receipts Current Account: None

5.3 Parish Council Payment Current Account

These were agreed as:

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
5.3.1	Dorset, Devon & Cornwall CRC	Grassing cutting churchyard	120.00
5.3.2	M J Nicholls	Grass cutting – Sep and Oct	360.00
5.3.3	Quickes Traditional Ltd	Fencing for new churchyard	714.00
5.3.4	J Hole	Salary and expenses	306.10
			£1,500.10

5.4 Balances (after above transactions):

5.4.1 Parish Council Current Account balance: £13,154.09

5.4.2 Footpath Account: £407.29

5.4.3 Car Park resurfacing fund balance: £1,500.04

5.5 Financial Statement and Budget Monitor

Cllr D Baker ran through the budget monitor. **Clerk to check** payments due for surgery and to pay allowance for Vodafone next month.

06/11/17 Matters raised by the Chair

6.1 Report from Raddon Hills Meeting held on 30 October 2017

Cllr D Baker gave a brief report from the meeting, notes from which will be circulated to Councillors in due course. Discussions included pot holes, noting the DCC Highways contractor was now Skanska, agreeing not to go ahead with a Raddon Hills website and no training was required on code of conduct. Members agreed to share services where possible. The Greater Exeter Planning Strategy Group had asked for development sites to be notified and over 700 sites were currently being evaluated before further consultation was undertaken, next year. Cllr D Baker stressed the importance of continued monitoring of any developments

07/11/17 Councillor's Reports

7.1 Areas of Responsibility report

Bus shelters – Half Moon bus shelter would require staining next year

Noticeboards – Cllr D Baker requested that Councillors check regularly to ensure notices are up to date and relevant

Seats – Thanks were passed to Cllr S Parker for staining the seat on the village green

Allotment – Cllr G Barnell had visited the allotments and would like to hold a meeting with allotment holders which it was agreed could take place in the Club Room. A new allotment tenant had signed up.

Recreation Ground – the Clerk had received a request for an update on the proposed new play equipment. It was resolved that the **Clerk should request an update** from the Rec Committee, noting that the Parish Council had given a grant towards this project.

Press – the winter newsletter was due and councillors had been asked for any contributions.

Community Speed Watch – Devon and Cornwall Police had replied to report that the legality of the speed camera in Gloucestershire had been questioned with regard to data protections issues. It was therefore unlikely that the speed camera proposed for the parish would go ahead.

Litter – Cllr G Barnell would hold a meeting with litter pickers.

CLAG – a meeting was due and Cllr G Barnell would attend

Arboretum – work was continuing on the new wheel chair path

Training – Cllr G Barnell had yet to attend the new councillor course. He had attended the DALC Conference and gave a brief report. Discussion topics included the impact of devolution and the increasing duties of Parish Councils, the Localism Act and

neighbourhood planning. A grant was available from BT for schools to access superfast broadband – **Clerk to inform school.**

Community Resilience – the emergency sheds had been checked and would require some maintenance next year. A one-off grant would be paid to Upton Pyne for work to the culvert. A hole remained at Smallbrook following the recent drainage work. DCC had agreed to maintain the tipping rain gauge for a further year so the PC responsibilities would start from April 2019.

7.2 Surgery report from 7 October 2017

Trailer parking in Tytheing Close – as this did not appear to be abandoned, no action could be taken

Hedge on Church Lane – Cllr D Baker to try and make contact with owner

08/11/17 Clerk's Report

8.1 To consider "Village Gateways" – details circulated separately

The Clerk had circulated details of "Village Gateways" which it was claimed helped to reduce vehicle speed. However, after discussion it was proposed and seconded and agreed by a majority not to proceed further.

Agenda items 09/11/17 and 10/11/17 minuted here by taken after Item 4

09/11/17 Parish Council

9.1 Report on meeting with landowner re School Footpaths

The land owner had confirmed that he was happy for the licence for the existing school footpath to remain after the school had moved.

The land owner had agreed that a new path could be installed from the new school site to the river bridge in Station Road as long as legal expenses were paid and the Parish Council agreed to maintain the hedge along the path. Cllr D Baker stated that Highways would not agree for a new path to go next to the road. The path would be eligible for S106 money and it might be possible to apply for funding from the Community Enhancement Fund. Cllr D Baker would meet with the land owner again to further this project.

9.2 Official Opening of New School update

The School would keep the Parish Council informed of plans for the opening.

9.3 Future use of current school site

DCC had indicated that once the pre-school building had been moved, the old school site would be disposed of on the open market. Cllr D Baker stated that the school was in the building envelope. Cllr M Squires would request a meeting and would try to find out if there were any covenants on the land which might restrict its future use.

10/11/17 Devon County Council

10.1 Outstanding Highways issues

- I. Drainage in Sand Down Lane – the contractor had been instructed to proceed.
- II. Broken directional sign at Shute Cross – sign replaced, grant to be claimed from DCC
- III. Cleaning of traffic island bollards – These had been cleared and cleaned by MDDC except the ones at Quicke's had not been cleaned. Cllr M Squires would enquire why this had not been done
- IV. Concrete blocks by Langford Road – Cllr D Baker reported that Steve Tucker, Neighbourhood Highways Officer, had requested that the blocks to be moved back by 1m as the road was cracking up and this presented a hazard to cyclists/motorcyclists. The blue sign had been cleaned

10.2 New Road issues

Cllr J Baker reported that some pot holes had been filled on School Hill, but lessor nearby pot holes had not been filled. This appeared to be a waste of time and money as once the patching team were on site, it would not be much extra work to fill all the pot holes. Cllr M Squires had thought that School Hill was to be jet patched and would speak to Steve Tucker for an update. **Clerk to ensure** that Highways were aware that Court Orchard houses

elderly parishioners and that emergency and carer access will be required when the planned patching takes place.

It was noted that a Highways surgery was held in Crediton every two weeks at which Stephen Tucker, our Neighbourhood Highways Officer was in attendance.

10.3 Report from Cllr M Squires

The new Head of Highways was Meg Booth and Jo Alison had been appointed as Head of Children's services. Cllr M Squires explained the benefits of communities working together and helping to ensure that older parishioners remain active.

11/11/17 Miscellaneous Correspondence

Letter from CPRE asking Parish Council to join for an annual fee of £36.00 – resolved not to join

12/11/17 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda

None

13/11/17 Date of next meeting: Thursday 7 December 2017 in the Clubroom, Parish Hall, 7.30pm

It was resolved there would be no meeting in January unless required for planning or any other reason.

End of Formal Business

Public Participation

There was none

The meeting closed at 9.35pm