

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Minutes of Newton St Cyres Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall Clubroom on Thursday 1 October 2015

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Members present:

Cllr D Baker (Chair)
Cllr J Baker
Cllr S Parker
Cllr A Reeves

Cllr C Southcott
Cllr P Taylor
Cllr J Ward

In attendance: J Hole Parish Clerk, Cllr P Hare-Scott, MDDC, Cllr M Squires, DCC (left 8.15pm)
9 members of public (1 left 8.30pm)

Business to be Transacted Public Participation

- I. Police Report
There was no report
- II. Public Question Time
Any update on Castlands and the removal of the white lines in the middle of the road? There was no update.
Any update on the public meeting with highways? Cllr M Squires reported that she had asked David Whitton to attend a public meeting but had received no reply.
Bus stop at Half Moon – Cllr D Baker reported that the land owners of Higher Marsh would give permission for the bus stop to go on their land if funding for an entrance from the A377 into their field could be arranged. Hanlons would be willing to contribute to the cost of moving the bus stop as long as everyone else concerned also contributed
Speeding vehicles on Station Road. Cllr D Baker stated that if there were more volunteers, speedwatch could operate more frequently
Pot holes on the A377- these should be reported to DCC via phone or website.
A parishioner had requested more information from Thurrock County Council about a pilot scheme which allowed pupils and teacher to issue parking tickets outside schools
It was reported that rumours were circulating suggesting that the new school would not be built. Cllr D Baker stated that there was no truth in this and as far as the Parish Council were aware, things were progressing
Any update on the costing for the pedestrian crossing? There was no update
Cllr D Baker gave a brief report on the conference he had attended recently. DCC were setting up a Community Resilience forum. **Clerk to pass details** to Community Resilience Group.
The new Housing Bill would allow affordable houses to be bought by tenants at a discount and then sold at market value. This could potentially mean that landowners would not be willing to release land at a reasonable price in order for more affordable housing to be built.

Formal Business

01/10/15 Apologies

Cllr G Quicke – holiday and Cllr K Anstey – prior engagement

02/10/15 Declaration of interest

Cllr D Baker – 5.2.4 cheque payment

03/10/15 Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2015

Agreed and signed as a true record

04/10/15 Mid Devon District Council

- 4.1 Planning Applications
None
- 4.2 Planning Decisions
15/01213/LBC - to cap damaged chimney and cover with thatch, and to repair and re-render gable wall and North West elevation at Ash View Cottage, NSC – permission granted
- 4.3 Planning appeal
15/00450/FULL – Installation of Balcony and Access ramp at Hanlons Brewery
- 4.4 To consider the grass cutting consultation and agree a response.
New maps had been received and circulated twice. However the latest map 3 received today showed an area that was not cut by MDDC and map 5 showed grass where there was no grass. **Clerk to request** maps are altered. MDDC had advised that the areas which are currently cut by residents must still stay on the map and be included in the cost as there is no contract in place with the resident to say they will continue to cut the grass. Cllr P Hare-Scott to ask the relevant department why this is necessary as effectively the Parish Council would be paying for something that was provided by a resident.
- 4.5 Report from Cllr P Hare-Scott
Cllr P Hare-Scott reported that the new waste collection system had been implemented and was working well. The budget for the next year was being balanced. The current Chief Executive was retiring and interviews for a new Chief Executive would be held at the end of October.
The Handrail in Court Orchard and the sign for New Estate was still outstanding.

05/10/15 Finance

- 5.1 To approve signatures for this month's cheques
Cllr J Ward and Cllr A Reeves
- 5.2 Parish Council payments Current Account:

These were agreed as:

| Item | Payee | Purpose | Amount £ |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 5.2.1 | Dart Fire Protection | New sign for noticeboard | 15.18 |
| 5.2.2 | Graeme Barnell | Batteries for emergency equipment | 107.40 |
| 5.2.3 | Graeme Barnell | Keys for emergency sheds | 67.20 |
| 5.2.4 | Devon Communities Together | DALC conference for D Baker | 40.00 |
| 5.2.5 | Devon Communities Together | Annual Membership | 50.00 |
| 5.2.6 | J Hole | Salary and expenses September | 202.91 |
| 5.2.7 | HMRC | PAYE | 47.60 |

£530.29

It was noted that there would be an invoice for cutting the hedge by the allotments.

- 5.3 Parish Council receipts

| Item | Payer | Purpose | Amount £ |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 5.3.1 | Parishioner | Purchase of old PC laptop | 50.00 |
| 5.3.2 | Various | Raddon Hills Training reimbursements | 113.10 |

£163.10

- 5.4 Balances
5.4a Parish Council Current Account balance: £4,270.73

5.4b Parish Council Reserve Account balance: £840.68

5.4c Parish Council Footpaths Account: £596.42

- 5.5 Financial Statement and Budget Monitor
These were noted.

Break in procedures for signatories to sign cheques for payment

06/10/15 Matters raised by the Chair

- 6.1 Update on proposal to move Half Moon bus stop
As stated in the public session, the owners of the grass strip at Higher Marsh would agree to the bus stop being on their land as long as access from the A377 into their field was provided. Hanlons would contribute to the cost as long as other parties also contributed. It was noted that moving the bus stop to Higher Marsh would not guarantee that the noise would stop as bus passengers would need to walk past the houses to get to the relocated bus stop. After discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council would take no further action. If residents experience problems with noise they should report this to the relevant authorities.
- 6.2 To consider TAP grants for next year, possibly for the Boniface Trail
No requests for TAP grants had been received to date. **Clerk to e-mail** TAP Application form and guidance notes to Cllr P Taylor.
- 6.3 To consider the Road Warden Scheme
This was on the Agenda for the Raddon Hills Group with the suggestion being that 13 parishes might be able to employ someone between them. Tom Vaughan, the new Neighbourhood Highway Manager would be attending the meeting
- 6.4 Update on new Churchyard
Clerk to contact John Quicke and request his solicitor details and then pass these to the Parish Council solicitor
- 6.5 Housing Bill
As discussed in the public session, the latest Housing Bill would potentially give problems, especially in rural areas with regard to landowners being willing to put land up for affordable houses. **Clerk to write to Mel Stride, MP** to object to the proposals

07/10/15 Councillor's Reports

- 7.1 Areas of Responsibility Reports
Bus Shelters – **Clerk to chase** cleaning
Noticeboards – Langford board needs some more black paint
Press – It was noted that the headline for the Parish Council report in the Crediton Courier was the editors and not the Press Officer's
Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr J Ward was updating the contact details for the scheme deputies and the registration with the Police scheme was now complete.
- 7.2 Surgeries:
7.2a Matters raised on 26 September
Cars parking in the bus stop layby at Half Moon. **Clerk to contact** PC Keith Bradshaw who had previously agreed to monitor this issue
7.2b Next surgery 24 October
Cllr P Taylor

08/10/15 Clerk's Report

- 8.1 To consider any updates to the Parish Council's action plan as circulated at the last meeting
No updates were made and it was resolved to adopt the action plan

- 8.2 Local Council Award Scheme – to confirm that the Council publishes online the information required and has the necessary Governance, Community and Development policies and procedure in place as required for the Foundation Level award
It was resolved that the Council does publish on line the required information and does have the necessary Governance, Community and Development policies in place. **Clerk to apply for Foundation level award**
- 8.3 To consider request from Clerk to undertake the Certificate in Local Council Administration Details had been circulated. It was resolved to pay for the cost of the course, £250.00. It was noted that the Clerk would be completing the course in her own time and as stated in the training policy, if she left within two years of finishing the qualification, the cost would be repaid.
- 8.4 To consider applying for a grant for work undertaken in implementing the Transparency Code
It was resolved to apply for a grant. **Cllr D Baker and Clerk to consult on the amount to be claimed.**

09/09/15 Parish Council

- 9.1 Allotments
9.1 Update on maintenance issues/numbering plots
Topping was still outstanding
- 9.2 To consider any update from Community Resilience Group
A meeting was to be held on Monday 5 October to discuss the results of the two surveys commissioned by MDDC into the flood risks posed by Smallbrook and Shutterbrook
- 9.3 To consider any update from Boniface Trail Group
The Group would be applying for small grants. Cllr J Baker to put details of the Parish Councils grant application process in the Newton Wonder.
- 9.4 To consider the future of the village mini-market
The Clerk reported that two people had expressed an interest in helping with the market following the appeal in the Newton Wonder. A paper written by Cllr D Baker had been circulated which suggested a way in which the Parish Council could run the market. However, a current stall holder had e-mailed to say that they would like to take over the running of the market. **Clerk to advise** stall holder to contact the current organiser. If this offer falls through the model suggested by Cllr D Baker would be considered again.
- 9.5 Update on Langford speeding issues
The Police had advised that the new site offered by a Langford resident would be suitable as a speedwatch site. They would now undertake some monitoring to determine if there was speeding problem before officially approving the site.

Minuted here but taken after item 4/10/15

10/10/15 Devon County Council

- 10.1 Outstanding Highways issues and update on public meeting
As stated in the public session there was no update on the public meeting that Cllr M Squires had request David Whitton hold. **Cllr M Squire to chase** David Whitton for a response. A meeting had been arranged for councillors with Steve Tucker, the new Neighbourhood Highways Officer for 12 October
- 10.2 New issues for Cllr Southcott to take to DCC
None
- 10.3 Report from Cllr M Squires
Cllr M Squires reported that DCC were lobbying for an increase in education funding

11/10/15 Miscellaneous Correspondence

- 11.1 Letter re overgrown brambles opposite the Paddocks on West Town Road
Clerk to contact land owner

12/10/15 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda

None

13/10/15 Date for next meeting: Thursday 5 November 2015 in the Parish Hall Club Room at 7.30pm

End of Formal Business

Public Participation

Cllr D Baker clarified that the Half Moon bus stop would remain where it is. Residents should report any noise pollution to the relevant authorities.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm