

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Minutes of Newton St Cyres Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall Clubroom on Thursday 3 March 2016

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Members present:

Cllr D Baker (Chair)
Cllr J Baker
Cllr G Quicke

Cllr A Reeves
Cllr C Southcott
Cllr P Taylor

In attendance: J Hole, Parish Clerk, Cllr P Hare-Scott, MDDC, Cllr M Squires, DCC, (arrived 8.30pm) 5 members of public (2 remained until the end of the meeting)

Business to be Transacted Public Participation

- (i) Police Report
There was no police report
- (ii) Public Question Time.
Concerns that the Crown & Sceptre was still empty. Cllr D Baker stated that Heavitree Brewery had informed him and Cllr J Ward, who had been enquiring about the defibrillator, that new tenants should be in residence within the next two weeks. The pub was listed as a community asset which meant that if it was put on the market, the parish council would have first refusal to purchase. Concern was also expressed about the security of the pub and the car park.
Parking in the bus stop at Half Moon was causing difficulties for bus passengers when getting off the bus – **Clerk to put on agenda** for next meeting.
Parking in Court Orchard – **Clerk to put on agenda** for next meeting.
Abandoned car parked outside the garages in Woodlands – **Clerk to report to MDDC**.
Thanks had been received from a parishioner for the cutting back of the hedges opposite the Paddocks in West Town

Formal Business

01/03/16 Apologies

Cllr S Parker (holiday), Cllr J Ward (family commitment)

02/03/16 Declaration of interest

None

03/03/16 Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 4 February 2016

Agreed and signed as a true record

04/03/16 Mid Devon District Council

- 4.1 Planning Applications:
None
- 4.2 Planning Decisions: Appeal decision re Hanlons Brewery installation of balcony and access ramp – appeal dismissed.
- 4.3 Update from Cllr D Baker re grass verge cutting in Half Moon layby/elsewhere
Cllr D Baker reported that the Café in Half Moon layby, Hanlons and PR Cars had all agreed to maintain the grass by their respective businesses'. The section of grass from the café down toward Exeter may not be maintained. It was noted that Quicke's already maintained the grass near Home Farm. The Clerk had requested a quote to cut four times per year the stretch of grass by the entrance to the water works on the A377. It was agreed to monitor the situation around the parish and report back to council if the grass became too long. **Clerk to ensure that the £89 grant from DCC is claimed.**

- 4.4 To discuss the increase in parking charges in Crediton (St Saviour Way £1 for 5 hours will become £2 for up to 10 hours)
Councillors expressed concern that the increased charges would hit shoppers and make shopping in Crediton unattractive. Cllr P Hare-Scott informed the meeting that the decision to increase the charges had already been agreed by cabinet and could not be changed. It was resolved that the **Clerk would write to Cllr P Hare-Scott** expressing the councils concerns and asking MDDC to review the situation in 12 months' time.

4.5 Report from Cllr P Hare-Scott

Decreased funding from central government meant that MDDC would be increasing their portion of the council tax by 2.7%. The amount of funding that would be available from central government in the future was unclear especially with regard to business rates and the new homes bonus. MDDC had lost an appeal made by doctors against their rate charges which would need to be refunded, creating an additional financial burden. The new CEO, Stephen Walford had taken up his post. The Cullumpton extension programme would be going ahead with 300 new homes. Cllr D Baker noted that there was a planning consultation taking place for a housing development at Creedy Bridge in Crediton, which if it went ahead would have a major impact on the traffic using the A377. However, no provision for improved infrastructure was planned. **Clerk to write to MDDC to express concerns.**

Feedback from the "Effects of efficiency measurers" questionnaire had been received and three areas of concern were identified: electronic planning, planning enforcement and communications.

05/03/16 Finance

- 5.1 To approve signatures for this month's cheques

Cllr A Reeves and Cllr C Southcott.

- 5.2 Parish Council payments Current Account:

These were agreed as:

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
5.2.1	G Barnell	CRG signs for sheds	91.15
5.2.2	J Hole	Salary and expenses (includes Raddon Hills admin payment of £110)	290.08
5.2.3	HMRC	PAYE	69.60
			£450.83

- 5.3 Balances

5.3a Parish Council Current Account balance: £8,746.67

5.3b Parish Council Reserve Account balance: £840.86

5.3c Parish Council Footpaths Account: £541.68

- 5.5 Financial Statement and Budget Monitor – attached

Break in procedures for signatories to sign cheques for payment

06/03/16 Matters raised by the Chair

- 6.1 Update on provision of Wi-Fi at the Parish Hall.

Roger Wilkins was making further enquiries regarding Wi-Fi provision. It was noted that the hall would be a business customer and therefore would not be able to take advantage of the deals open to individuals. **Clerk to provide an update for next meeting.**

07/03/16 Councillor's Reports

- 7.1 Areas of Responsibility Reports

Bus shelters – Cleaning should take place in the next 2-3 weeks.

Noticeboards – Councillors were reminded to remove outdated notices from the notice boards they were responsible for: Langford – Cllr J Baker, Half Moon – Cllr K Anstey, Sand Down Lane – Cllr S Parker, Village Green – Cllr D Baker, Station – Cllr C Southcott, Smallbrooke – Cllr J Ward and Tytheing Close – Cllr S Parker

Village Green – **Clerk to ask Cllr S Parker** to apply weed killer in due course

Parish Hall car park – **Clerk to request an update from MDDC** re the abandoned car

Recreation ground – the proposal to use the Rec as a night time landing facility for DAAT was proceeding. Possible sources of funding for the defibrillator were suggested including TAP funding, lottery funding, fundraising, a donation from the Parish Council, or to find out if it could be included in the grant applications that would be made for the DAAT work.

School – Cllr P Hare-Scott reported that the S106 funding had been agreed and, subject to a few outstanding issues, the proposed new school site was still going ahead.

Litter collection – a litter pick, in conjunction with the school was taking place on 4 March in Half Moon layby.

Flowers – Depending on when the bridge repairs were going to take place in Pump Street flowers might not be required this year. **Clerk to find out** timetable for repairs.

Community Resilience – Cllr C Southcott had reported the tree that was in the Creedy by the bridge in Station Road to the Environment Agency (EA) who had taken no action. This had resulted in the bridge being damaged and closed for a short period of time. It was hoped that the repairs needed would take place in the summer without the road being closed. The Creedy at Half Moon also required some clearing.

Raddon Hills - notes from the recent meeting had been circulated. A lot of discussion had taken place about highways and the common problems experienced by parishes. Cllr D Baker would be writing a letter on behalf of the group to Phil Norrey, CEO of DCC outlining the problems.

Press – to consider if NSC PC should have a Facebook page – it was noted that Stoke Canon Parish Council had a Facebook page which was used to post details of road closures etc. It was agreed that the **Clerk would set up a Facebook page.**

7.2 Surgeries:

7.2a Matters raised on 27 February

No report available. February was the first mini market run by the new organiser and it was noted that there was good attendance and several new stalls.

7.2b Next surgery 26 March

Cllr J Ward to attend

08/03/16 Clerk's Report

8.1 Annual Parish Meeting, Thursday 28 April – update on speakers and launch of the parish plan

Mel Stride, MP, had been invited to speak but was unable to attend. The parish plan would be launched and there would be a presentation from the Boniface Trail group. Cllr D Baker informed the meeting that the parish plan had been printed and was ready for collection. It was resolved to deliver the parish plan ahead of the Annual Parish Meeting. Alan Quick, from the Crediton Courier would be prepared to attend and give a short talk about the history of the local paper and this was agreed.

8.2 Updating of Welcome Pack – to consider cost for reprint (£51 for 100 copies or £79 for 200)

It was agreed to proceed with a print run of 50 copies. **Clerk to update** welcome pack and arrange printing

09/03/16 Parish Council

9.1 Allotments

To consider cost for tidying the allotments

A quote of £250 per day, plus the cost to hire the skip had been received. With additional help it might be possible to complete the work in one day. It was resolved to go ahead with the tidy-up in April after it was clear who would be renewing their tenancy.

9.2 To receive a verbal update from the Boniface Trail Group

Cllr P Taylor gave an update – a meeting had been held with an engineer who would be willing to work with the group, subject to agreeing fees, and an initial walking survey would be conducted shortly. The group were trying to contact Paul Tucker at MDDC for his help with grant applications for Viridor and DCC Leader fund. The charity application had been lodged with the charity commission. The group would be making a short presentation at Crediton Town Council's Annual Parish Meeting.

9.3 Community Resilience Group Network – Village Co-ordinator rota

A meeting had been arranged with those on the rota to discuss arrangements further

- 9.4 To consider a proposal from Cllr S Parker, "That the NSC Recognition of outstanding voluntary service to the community award should, from 2017 be subject to the following conditions i) nominations to be considered from parishioners only i.e. not from councillors and ii) serving councillors will not be eligible to receive the award"
Cllr D Baker noted that Cllr S Parker had been informed he had been nominated, even though nominations were meant to be kept a secret. Following a discussion, the proposal was seconded and a vote was taken. All were unanimously against the proposal.
- 9.5 To consider celebrations/events for the Queens 90th birthday celebrations and decide if a working party is required to take any suggestions forward.
Cllr D Baker had met with the Executive Head teacher at NSC school who had agreed that the School would pay for mugs for those children who reside outside the parish boundary. It was resolved to issue all children at NSC Primary School a commemorative mug to be presented at the school by the Parish Council. Parishioners, 90 years and over, would also receive a commemorative mug. A cream tea for all parishioners to purchase would be available in the Parish Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 12th June. Cllr G Quicke would provide costings for the cream tea and tickets would be sold in advance. Entertainment to be considered for the afternoon of the 12 June
- 9.6 To consider proposal from Cllr P Taylor regarding the Crown & Sceptre pub, "that a) the Parish Council write to Heavitree Brewery expressing concern that whilst the pub is closed the village is losing a valuable amenity and local residents are concerned about its future and b) requesting confirmation of the Brewery's plans and commitment to the pub and c) the Parish Council endorses the need to retain the pub and endorses its support for any local campaigns aimed at retaining the pub".
Cllr P Taylor was aware of several non-committal e-mails from Heavitree Brewery regarding the future of the pub. He was anxious to secure a written commitment from the brewery regarding their plans for its future. It was resolved that **Cllr P Taylor would draft a letter to the Brewery** expressing the concern of the parish council and asking for written reassurance regarding the pub's future. Draft letter to be forwarded to the Clerk for the Clerk to send on behalf of the council.

10/03/16 Devon County Council

- 10.1 Outstanding Highways issues
There were no updates on any of the outstanding items. **Clerk to ask Stephen Tucker for an update** on the speed survey promised for West Town.
- 10.2 New issues for Cllr Southcott to take to DCC
Cllr C Southcott had reported a pothole outside the Beer Engine but to date no action had been taken. Cllr M Squires advised that pothole repairs were taking close to four weeks to be repaired.
- 10.3 To consider attendance at DALC Highways Conference on 16 March
Clerk to book a place for Cllr D Baker
- 10.4 Report from Cllr M Squires
Cllr M Squires had sent a brief report. Due to decreasing funding from central government it would be necessary for DCC to increase their proportion of the council tax by 3.99%

11/03/16 Miscellaneous Correspondence

- . E-mail received re dog mess in Sand Down Lane near junction with A377
The dog warden had been informed and the concerned resident had posted notices in Sand Down Lane asking owner to pick up after their dogs. **Cllr J Baker would put another notice in the Newton Wonder** reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.
MDDC Landscape Implications of Solar PV proposals – supplementary planning document available at: <https://new.middevon.gov.uk/media/191651/landscape-sensitivity-assessment.pdf>

12/03/16 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda

- Parking in Half Moon bus stop
Cars parking in Court Orchard

13/03/16 Date for next meeting: Thursday 7 April 2016 in the Parish Hall Club Room at 7.30pm

End of Formal Business

Public Participation

Superfast broadband was still not available in Half Moon – **Clerk to find out the latest position.**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm