

Newton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th January 2012

Present Mr. H. Hurrell (Chairman), Mr. D. Benson, Mrs. J. Brander, Mr. M. Finch, and Mr. E Gray
Clerk J. Oakes
Cllrs. T. Orgee and B Shelton
Public 2

1. Apologies. Cllrs Whiteman-Downes and Nightingale

2. Minutes of meeting held on 14th November 2011. Acceptance proposed by Mr. Finch and seconded by Mr. Benson and minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising.

- i) Mr. Gray is awaiting information from the Post Office regarding the moving of the post box.
- ii) Replacement for Mr. Finch. There was no response from the request placed in Newton Matters. Individual approaches to be made. It was noted that Newton is due for a Council election this year .
- iii) Promotion of village organisations to be delayed to ensure all representatives of the organisation can attend a meeting in the Sports & Social Club

4. Questions from the public.

Despite creating telephone preference unwanted calls still plague households. Cllr. Orgee took the name and address of member of the public and will refer this to the trading Standards Officer.

It was noted by the member of the public that holes in the highway by the cross roads in Newton had been successfully filled. The Chairman commented that maybe the holes in the road in Town Street could be filled.

5. Correspondence.

In addition to the papers circulated before the meeting and forwarded e-mails the following were discussed.

- i) SCDC Housing Strategy consultation. This was forwarded by e-mail earlier and comments can be submitted till the end of January 2012.
- ii) Audit & Accountancy Update. It was noted that the question whether legislation should require external audit for the smaller public bodies is still on the table with the added difficulty of fixing a threshold.
- iii) Standard Street Lighting Columns. Letter in reply to the Head of Transport Asset Management's letter pointed out that no decisions could be made without further clarification. This response was apparently a common one from Parish Councils. Replacement of columns will be a five year project and unlikely to start in the near future.
- iv) Letter sent to bank for forms to change signatory.
- v) Items referring to the Diamond Jubilee had been received. Mr. D. Short to be invited to the next meeting to discuss any involvement of the Parish Council for celebrations on 4th June..
- vi) Booklets on Planning to be circulated.

6.. Finance

- i) Financial report circulated and is reconciled exactly with the bank statement.
- ii) Precept for 2012/13. It was proposed by Mrs.Brander, seconded by Mr. Finch that the precept should remain at £5,500 and this was agreed by the Council.
- iii) Outline budget presented for coming year. This to be finalised at the next meeting.

6. Report from Councillors.

Cllr Orgee reported the following;

- i) Cambridge Trading Standards highlighted rogue traders causing serious problem. Some were seeking access to household because of alleged problems of next door's water supply. This scam resulted in household being made to pay thousands of pounds for unnecessary work.
- ii) Other scam on e-mail and telephone seeking individuals' bank details.
- iii) It is recommended that people with financial difficulties should seek independent advice rather than resorting to loan sharks.
- iv) CCC has £200,000 from central government's £20m fund for winter warmth. There is also help with administration to find cheaper energy supplies.
- v) He stated he would encourage greater police action of speeding and parking problems in Newton.

Cllr Shelton passed over an Emergency Plan for Newton to be completed and sent to SCDC. He also pointed to available money for specific small projects, such as a village orchard.

7. AOB

A number of residents has expressed frustration with the slow speed of broadband. A letter to encourage improvement to be sent SCDC, CCC and MP.. Mr. Benson offered to establish the timing of proposed action by BT in the locality.

There are dead trees to be replaced and the cost to be included in this year's budget.

There were expressions of desire for greater speed to establish a village orchard.

8. Date of next meetings 8.00 pm in the Village Hall on 5th March and on 21 May 2012, and the latter date to include the AGM.

Chairman.....Date.....