

# Newton Parish Council

Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Present** Mr. H. Hurrell (Chairman), Mr. D. Benson, Mrs. J. Brander, Mr. M. Finch, and  
Mr. E Gray and  
Clerk J. Oakes  
Cllrs. D. Whiteman-Downes and T. Orgee  
Public 0

**1. Apologies.** Cllr. B. Shelton

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011.** Acceptance proposed by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Benson and minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters arising.**

- i) Village Green – Weeds. Mr Hinsby quoted £50 to spray the green and he will do so in the Spring.
- ii) Post Box. It was considered appropriate to suggest to the Post office that the box be moved to beside the bus stop on Cambridge Road. Mr. Gray is to write to the P.O.

**4. Questions from the public.**

None

**5. Correspondence.**

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

- i) Clerk training not considered necessary
- ii) Transport. Pilot schemes will be trialled in three areas with poor accessibility where existing service providers are franchised to use smaller vehicles. If successful other areas will be considered. Submission for Newton to be made if the scheme is continued.
- iii) As Cllr Finch is to stand down in the New Year. A note will be included in Newton Matters to seek a replacement. The note will also contain thanks to both Mrs. Kate Murdoch and Mr Mike Finch for their contribution to village life as members of the Parish Council.  
Mrs J. Brander will replace Mr. Finch as a bank signatory. Clerk to organise.
- iv) Localism Bill is due to become law in the first quarter of 2012.
- v) Small grants could be available for supporting youth endeavours in association with the Olympics.
- vi) Further correspondence from Andrew Lansley's office regarding metal theft to be circulated.
- vii) Planning matters
  - a) The extension to 7 Offa Lea has been approved.
  - b) Comments on the legalising the existing use of the land on Newton Hill to be submitted on the basis that the use of parking lorries has intermittently occurred and that it should be remembered that land is in green belt and no further development should be envisaged.
  - c) It was agreed to support the application to reduce trees in garden of 30 Town Street.
- viii) Clerk to investigate cost of insurance from Came & Company parish council insurance.

## 6.. Finance

- i) Financial report circulated and is reconciled exactly with the bank statement.
- ii) Lighting and Maintenance Contract. Confirmation that the up front payment of £336.84 for the agreed option was dispatched on 29/09/11. The portion of the previous contract, £370.44, is due to be invoiced in November 2011.
- iii) Clerk salary Oct-Dec 2011 , £357.88.  
The above expenses were approved, proposed by Mrs Brander and seconded by Mr.Finch
- iii) It was noted that two donations, £250 and £600 have been received and both have been suitably acknowledged. The latter was specifically for playground equipment.
- iv) Village Room request. This will be considered after the Village Rooms AGM has taken place and a specified sum is requested. After the last meeting the Clerk investigated other potential sources of money, but the District Council only supports capital projects and the Lottery does not support maintenance work.
- v) Budget for 2012/13 It was suggested that progress should be made regarding a central village orchard in the coming year.

## 6. Report from Councillors.

Cllr Orgee reported;

- i) The provision of salt/grit for this winter has been stock piled to previous level to avoid a shortage this winter and avoiding higher prices when there could be a crisis period.
- ii) A five year programme has been arranged with BT to improve broadband speed over the whole county.
- iii) The Addenbrookes Road site in the Mineral & Waste Plan has been rejected and an alternative arrangement is being investigated.
- iv) Mr. Orgee stated that he had not voted for members' allowances.

Cllr Whiteman-Downes reported that the plans to proliferate solar panels had been cancelled as the Government had dramatically reduce the subsidies involved. He also advised that the new non-emergency telephone number is 101.

Cllr Gail Kenny advised in her written report that £200,000 has been approved for minor highway improvements. Parish Councils can bid for up to £10,000 and be expected to contribute at least 10% of the cost.

## 7. AOB

When the Clerk was in discussion with the new Community Co-ordinator, Louise Peden, it was suggested that a village meeting should be held to promote the existing village organisations and enticie attendance by making it a social event. It was thought that the Club would be a better venue and to take place some time in February 2012.

**8. Date of next meeting** 8.00 pm in the Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

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