

Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

Public Consultation

Street Fair – The street fair committee requested that consideration be given to moving the street fair onto the playing field with bar services provided by the Railway Inn – add to next agenda

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27th March 2017 at 6.50 p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn. Page 40

Present: Chair Cllr I. Walker, F. Bihlmeier, T. Firman, C. Kenny, J. Larkham, G Murray, & S O’Leary.
County Cllr R Leppington & District Cllr R Boyles.

In Attendance: The Clerk + 8 member of the Public.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Cllr T Weeden & District Cllr S Phelps

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 27th February 2017**

After consideration the minutes were duly adopted.

4. **To receive a report from the clerk on outstanding actions for items not on the current agenda**

The Green – The planning application for the removal of the diseased chestnut tree has been approved. Awaiting a quote from Abbey Tree services

Brambles & Ivy at the Beeches – Wtg quote from Abbey Trees.

Bench near war memorial – Wtg Quote from RJB to relocate benches currently near horse trough

Peace garden gate & Flag stones repairs – Wtg quote from RJB

Land registration – Awaiting update from Solicitor

web site hosting changes – Awaiting a conversation with web designer to confirm if benefits are significant.

Cllr Walker requested the clerk to arrange a meeting with RJB for the works being quoted.

5. **To receive the Clerk’s report** all matters on Agenda

6. **To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors.**

County Cllr Leppington advised that activity at CC level is quite low due to the forthcoming elections. **The Grammar school motion** was not debated when planned, his intention is to continue to press for one. **Boar working party** this group is active but he fears that such a wide range of attendees from supporters of a mass cull to those who believe they should be allowed to breed freely will be too diverse for progress to be easily made. **Bus service breakdowns** remain an issue. However, analysis shows that many of the breakdowns are not on subsidised routes, making CC approaches difficult. After general discussions on subsidised services Cllr Leppington committed to supplying a list to Cllr Kenny.

Cllr R Boyles advised that activity at **The Vic hotel** was being monitored by the Conservation Officer who was working with the owner. A planning application is expected shortly.

20/20 shared services are still under development and expected to yield good savings to all concerned.

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Boar, many issues surround the control of boar, which is apparently, a Europe wide problem. Plans for a cull of 700 are well underway and K Stannard of the Forestry Commission feels that the numbers of rangers in post is adequate, and to increase them would result in Health & Safety issues for the public as many people use the woodland overnight, and early morning/late evenings. Cllr Bihlmeier pointed out that to maintain a stable population, a cull of at least 70% of existing stock is needed. He also questioned the issue of public safety as, given the area covered by 6 rangers, many more could safely be added. It was generally agreed that national government intervention is required for the problem to be resolved. The local MP Mark Harper is engaged.

The clerk was requested to write to the Forestry Commission regarding the importance to locals and visitors alike in reducing numbers to eradicate the unacceptable levels of damage being created by boar on both public and private land.

Financial

7. **Financial Statement**

The monthly financial statement was received and duly approved.

The monthly payments were received and duly approved

8. **To receive up to date copies of the following**

11 + 1 performance tracker – The clerk advised that performance against original targets for the year is good and expected to conclude generally on plan. Areas of over spend are well understood and correctly covered by council decisions and virement of funds.

YTD Income and expense report – The report was received by council and confirmed as accurate. It was noted that the inspection of the report and its completion is conducted quarterly at routine finance meetings

Highways

9. **To Receive an update on pole installation and S106 reclaim from Highways.**

The Clerk confirmed that the S106 money has been received. Pole installation in two locations has yet to be completed.

The following highways items were also updated.

Kerb alignment Unlawater Lane – in Highways 2017/18 budget

Keep Clear markings Smythian close in Highways 2017/18 budget.

School turning area – Clerk to arrange meeting with Two Rivers

Double yellow lines around Clock Tower – scheme submitted for approval.

Footway Sheen's meadow – Highways to request via County Councillor allocation.

Slippery Steps Sheens Meadow – Amey to investigate solutions.

Community

10. **To Consider Planning applications received**

None

11. **To Receive an update on the possible grant support for the full upgrade of the Clock control mechanism.**

No response to clerk from school. Clerk to chase prior to next meeting. Cllr Walker to visit school.

12. **To receive an update from Cllr Weeden on the purchase of history boards for the village.**

Cllr walker confirmed that progress in identifying potential sponsors was progressing well.

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13. **To Receive and update on the free defibrillator training conduct by CHT.**
Potential dates still being awaited from Armoury Hall committee. Clerk to chase by giving suggested dates
14. **To Receive a report from Cllrs Firman & O’Leary regarding the parking review.**
Cllr O’ Leary confirmed that public consultation should now be conducted
15. **To Consider allotments issues on a twice yearly basis as agreed at a previous meeting.**
Discussions to include:
To receive a report from the Allotment Liaison councillor (Cllr Larkham)
Cllr Larkham confirmed that a number of allotments were in need of attention and the clerk was instructed to write to them requesting improvements be made.
To Consider any possible changes to the rules and regulations.
After discussion it was **Resolved** that rule 12 should be amended as follows
Revised Rule 12 – The parish council will deal direct with tenants on all allotment matters unless the tenant is a member of the Allotment Association and requests that any discussions are dealt with via the Association. It was also **Resolved** that the paragraph relating to delegation of duties to the association should also be removed
To receive a report from the clerk on tenancy levels and waiting lists
The Clerk advised that notified terminations have been filled by the waiting list (now empty) and that approximately 40% of renewals have been received. Notices advertising allotment availability have been posted and although none are available right now it is expected that several will become available in the coming weeks.
16. **To Receive an update on the filling of the casual vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr W Anderson.**
Cllr Walker advised the meeting that Cllr Anderson had resigned from Council after many years of dedicated service. The clerk was requested to write to Mrs Anderson thanking her for her years of support. The clerk confirmed that the electoral process has been initiated. Notices requesting interested parties requiring an election to write to FoDDC are displayed. If less than 10 such requests are received then council will be requested to fill the vacancy via co –option. Any formal election would be managed by FoDDC.
After discussion it was agreed that the following process would be followed if co option was the route to fill the vacancy.
 - Confirmation of no election received from FoDDC by 3/4/17
 - Notices displayed requesting interested parties to apply in writing to the clerk by 17/4/17 including a brief statement on why they wished to become a councillor.
 - Agenda item on April agenda to allow any candidates to address council.
 - In committee agenda item to be included in April agenda to select the new councillor by ballot.

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Other Matters

17. **To consider correspondence received to date**

A response from Mark Harper MP on the Post office relocation plans was considered. In effect it repeated the standard position of the Post Office in terms of restructuring services. Given that there is no obvious business in the village that would take it on, concern remains that the village will lose its postal services. After discussion it was agreed that the offer for a meeting between Mark Harper and the Public affairs manager for the Forest of Dean be accepted and that a councillor should also be in attendance.

A response from the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to PCSO support enquiries was considered and although it states he has no responsibility for operational matters, it was not accepted as being true. However, it was agreed not to challenge this point until after the response from the chief constable (as promised in the letter) has been received.

A request to place a memorial plaque on a bench at the cliff was considered and duly approved providing the specification and content of the plaque was confirmed as acceptable by the clerk.

A series of questions relating to Highways issues posed by a parishioner (and Highways responses to them) was discussed. It was agreed that the issues raised that will be actioned by Highways would be added to the Highways review conducted a regular basis. The clerk was requested to advise the parishioner of these actions.

18. **To consider grant applications from the following organisations**

After discussion the following decisions were made

St Peter's school – Resolved to make a grant of £1000.

Forest of Dean Health forum – Resolved no grant be made

Forest opportunity centre – Resolved no grant be made.

It was further **Resolved** to vire an additional £700 into the budget to cover the value of the school grant.

19. **Matters for the Next Agenda**

None

20. **To Confirm date & time of next meeting**

Annual Parish meeting 17th April

Parish meeting 24th April.

Post meeting note: It was identified that the pre planned Annual parish meeting falls on a bank holiday and has since been re arranged for the 10th April.

To be considered for discussing in committee as per SO 26a

21. **To consider Centigen grass contract cancelation and proposed price increase (new Contract proposal) against other tender offers submitted last year and resolve who should be awarded the on-going contract.**

It was **Resolved** that the discussions should be held in committee in the commercial interests of the applicants and the personal nature of some of the discussions.

After consideration of the quotations provided it was **Resolved** to award the contract to Complete Gardeners for a period of two years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Signed

Date.....

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DRAFT