

# Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

## Public Consultation

**Allotment condition** – Concern was expressed that some allotment conditions have not improved. Cllr Walker advised it was an agenda item for this evening and comments made taken into consideration.

## **Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 6.50 p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn. Page 6**

**Present:** Chair Cllr I. Walker, F. Bihlmeier, T. Firman, J. Larkham, L Love, C Kenny, G Murray & S O'Leary. County & District Cllr R Boyles. District Cllr S Phelps

**In Attendance:** The Clerk + 6 members of the Public.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Cllr T Weeden

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Larkham declared an interest in planning application P0896/17/FUL due to family connections. The chair advised that this was not a pecuniary interest, but accepted the declaration. Cllr Larkham confirmed she would take no part in any discussions or resolutions. Cllr Bihlmeier declared an interest as planning application P0871/17/FUL relates to a neighbour. No pecuniary interest applies.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

After discussion the minutes were duly approved

4. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

After discussion the minutes were duly approved

5. **To discuss the roles and responsibilities of PCSO's with the responsible Forest of Dean Sergeant.**

The chair proposed (prior to the discussion) that standing orders should be suspended during this agenda item to allow the public to participate. Council **Resolved** to do so. A number of subjects were debated with Sergeant M Burns (based in Coleford) ranging from PCC policing policy, recent H M inspector reports on poor performance of Neighbourhood policing, and staff levels/ work schedule allocations to the parish. It was agreed that the responsible PCSO (s) would meet with Councillors at some point either during a planned visit or a future meeting. Local crime figures and their availability were also discussed. Sergeant Burns advised that they can be found on [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) should anyone wish to view them.

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

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

**Bench near war memorial** – Wtg Quote from K Morris

**Peace garden gate & Flag stones repairs** – K Morris approved to complete work waiting action.

**Land registration** – Awaiting update from Solicitor.

7. **To receive the Clerk's report**

All matters on Agenda

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

**District Cllr Phelps** advised that boundary changes (reducing the number of councillors from 48 – 39) are still under review with no consensus being achieved within FoDDC. The county council are also looking to move to single councillor wards. Submissions have now been made to the boundary commission for their consideration. All proposals will be subjected to public consultation **County & District Cllr Boyles** updated council on a number of issues. The **shared services company (publica)** project continues in line with the planned introduction. Further support for the **leisure centre in Cinderford** and the integration in to it of Forest Fitness is proving successful. **Highways** are engaging Parish council's in a consultation process which all Parishes are encouraged to participate in, with a prize (drawn at random) of a full weeks additional lengthsman support. **Children's services** poorly rated by Ofsted is undergoing considerable change following the departure of a number of senior officers. A portion of **members allowance** has been set aside for the proposed double yellow lines and disabled parking spaces around the clock tower if they get approved.

## 2016/17 Audit activity

9. **To receive an update on internal audit actions and the status of the external audit activity.**

The clerk advised that one action remained open. HMRC dispensation for VAT against parking charges has been applied for and a response awaited. The external audit report is due during July and public viewing of accounts is still open.

## Financial

10. **Financial Statement**

The monthly financial statement was received and duly approved.  
Monthly payments were received and duly approved.

## Highways

11. **To Receive an update on pole installation for speed sign.**

All poles in place and speed sign erected in several locations.

## Community

12. **To Consider a formal definition of maintenance standards for allotments and agree next steps regarding allotments that fall short of agreed standards.**

After considerable debate it was agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to review allotment activity and condition. It was duly **Resolved** that Cllrs Larkham, Love & Walker would form the committee and have delegated responsibility for allotment activities. A standard letter should then be sent to all tenants whose allotments fell below an acceptable standard.

13. **To Consider Planning applications received**

**P0871/17/FUL Pavilion End barn, Unlawater Lane** – Removal of conditions to allow change of use to residential. **Resolved** to support

**P0048/17/DISCON Women's Institute Hut Dean Road** – Discharge of conditions relating to materials, drainage, landscaping and bio diversity. **Resolved** to support

**P0887/17/FUL The Old Chapel High Street** – Change of use to 3 residential units – **Resolved** No objection. However, the clerk was requested to express concerns over parking in the response to FoDDC.

**P0896/17/FUL Land at Bullo Pill** – Siting of mobile home for 3 years to be used as ancillary to the business. **Resolved** to object to the application. The application does not seem to provide the rationale for the 3 year time frame. The mobile home is sited to the east of Dock

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Cottage which is grade II listed, as is the Dock. It is felt that the impact of the mobile home on these heritage sites is likely to be considerable.

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**P0955/17/FUL Swan House, High Street-** Alteration to door/windows and erection of fence (retrospective) and alterations to external wall/safety lighting & Cellar area. **Resolved** to support.

**P0954/17/FUL Swan House, High Street-** proposed alteration to wall and demolition of out buildings. **Resolved** to support

14. **To consider any projects suitable for lengthsman scheme activities in August & October**

After discussion it was agreed the paving slabs from the George café to the club have never been adequately repaired and would be a suitable project. The clerk was also requested to check if public footpaths (not highways related) could be included in the scheme.

15. **To receive and update from Cllr Love regarding Street lighting changes to LED and the need for additional lighting.**

Cllr Love reported that not all lights will be replaced, currently only those on steel poles would be upgraded. In respect of additional lights there is no budget. Should council feel a need for any additional lights then a case for installation can be put forward for consideration. The general effectiveness of new lights will be monitored on completion of the installation. As a result of the significant savings lights currently turned off at 12.00 am will now be left on but will be reduced to 30% power from that time.

16. **To Receive an update on discussions between the owner of the Victoria Hotel and Glos County Council**

Cllr Boyles confirmed that no agreement could be reached with the owner regarding land ownership. This will now progress to Court and be fully contested.

17. **To Receive an update on the discussion with St Peter's school re the learning experience for pupils relating to the clock tower and associated grant application.**

The clerk advised the meeting was yet to be arranged.

18. **To Receive an update from Cllr Walker regarding discussions with Two Rivers on parking opportunities at Station Road and agree next steps.**

Cllr Walker advised that Two Rivers have no problem (in principle) with the area being used to create parking spaces. However, they plan to consult their tenants before any formal decision is made. They also confirmed they were not in a position to fund any of the works.

19. **To agree the relocation of an existing bench to the area by the old ferry.**

Cllr walker advised he has agreed with the owners of the land that the two benches will be removed and replaced with one from near the horse trough on the high street. The clerk was requested to obtain a quotation.

20. **To Receive an update on quotations to crown raise the lime trees in the chains in August and pollard them in the Autumn.**

A quotation for £675 to crown raise the lime trees was considered and **Resolved** to approve. A further quotation to pollard the trees will be available for the next meeting. The clerk was requested to contact the owner for permission to conduct the works.

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

Carried forward to next meeting

22. **To Receive and update on the free defibrillator training to be conduct by CHT on 13<sup>th</sup> July.**

CHT have now confirmed the date. Clerk to post notices on boards and the website. He also advised he would notify the library group who have already expressed interest in attending.

23. **To Consider a request from FoDDC that the PC become the first point of contact for riparian rights issues.**

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the PC had neither the knowledge nor resource to act on behalf of FoDDC. The clerk was requested to advise them of this decision.

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24. **To Consider the robustness of the village emergency plan to deal with all eventualities.**  
Cllr Bihlmeier advised that having recently reviewed the procedure as part of the annual review he was happy that its robustness meets the requirements set out by FoDDC. It was therefore agreed no further work was required.
25. **To Receive an update on the proposed meeting with Mark Harper MP, a councillor and a representative of the Post office regarding relocation plans.**  
The clerk advised that since the election he had reconfirmed to the MP that council wished him to be present at any meeting arranged with the PO. A response is awaited.

## Other Matters

26. **To consider correspondence received to date**  
The clerk advised that a resident of Sheen's Meadow had contacted him concerned about the condition of the Ash Tree outside of the fencing around the Open Space. He is assisting in identifying ownership and if necessary would add this to the next agenda.
27. **Matters for the Next Agenda**  
**Handrail Dark Orchard** – Next agenda  
**Standard Consultation process** – Next agenda  
**Hedge work and tree maintenance** - Next agenda
28. **To Confirm date & time of next meeting**  
As per agreed schedule, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm**