

Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

Public Consultation

Sheen's Meadow Wild Flower area- Concern was expressed that this area has not properly been developed as a wild flower area. The chair advised that a formal contract had been awarded for the activity but it was not clear what work had been conducted or planned, despite the clerk requesting a status from the contractor. Add to next agenda

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29th August at 6.50 p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn. Page 13

Present: Chair Cllr I. Walker, F. Bihlmeier, J. Larkham, L Love, G Murray, & T Weeden. County & District Cllr R Boyles. District Cllr S Phelps

In Attendance: The Clerk + 3 members of the Public.

In advance of the meeting the chair advised those present that Cllr Firman had tendered his resignation as a parish councillor. The clerk having informed the returning officer has posted notices announcing the vacancy. Assuming that an election is not called, the vacancy will be filled via co – option using the normal co-option process previously adopted.

Cllr Walker expressed his thanks to Mr Firman for his hard work and dedication during his tenure as councillor and chair of the finance committee adding that his resignation is a loss to the village. This view was endorsed by all councillors. The clerk was requested to write to Mr Firman thanking him for his efforts.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Cllr's C Kenny & S O'Leary

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 31st July 2017**

The minutes of the meeting were duly adopted

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

Land registration – Awaiting update from Solicitor.

Electronic banking – On hold due to Cllr Firman's resignation. Only Felix remains authorised. Additional Cllrs with cheque and internet banking approvals required.

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

all matters on Agenda

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

County Cllr Boyles advised the kerbing changes at Unlawater Lane had been approved and would be partially funded from his member's allocation. **Planning issues** identified by members of the public were being addressed with the department. He also confirmed that he had spoken to the MP's office regarding the potential closure plans for **Newnham Post Office**. **Boundary Commission recommendations** to reduce FoDDC from 48 members to 38 are out for consultation. If approved Newnham would share one district Cllr with Awre, Blakeney, Littledean & Soudley. He also confirmed that the **Victoria Hotel** was in the hands of the County solicitors and that the owner planned to contest ownership of the land in front of the hotel. Given the length of time this issue has been ongoing it is being pursued with some urgency at county level. As court proceedings will follow limited information will be available.

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2016/17 Audit activity

- 7. To receive an update on internal audit actions and the status of the external audit activity.**
HMRC dispensation for parking VAT not yet received. Internal audit advice was to close the action but retain a copy of the dispensation request. All internal actions are therefore closed. The external report should be complete by the September meeting.

Financial

- 8. To Consider financial performance YTD**
Not discussed at this meeting left on agenda in error
- 9. Financial Statement**
The monthly financial statement was received and duly approved.
Monthly payments were received and duly approved.

Highways

- 10. To Receive an update from Highways on issues discussed at the last highways review**
No formal report had been received from Highways but it was noted that the high street had been weed killed during the previous week.

Community

- 11. To Consider Planning applications received**
none

Not considered due to pre meeting response date P01252 Swan House – Tree works

- 12. 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 no further info had been received from Two Rivers. However, residents had passed to him documents that appeared to show that the oval (and possibly the land on which the houses were built) belonged to the PC. Although unlikely the paperwork has been passed to the solicitor for his consideration.
- 13. To Receive an update on the relocation of an existing benches from the water fountain to the area by the old ferry and the war memorial.**
Work at the war memorial has started but the move of the bench to the old ferry is yet to be completed.
- 14. To Receive an update on the proposed works on the green and receive an update on grant availability.**
Cllr Walker advised that the outlook for all the repairs and improvements identified would cost between £10K & £15K. Grant funding from the Environmental Trust would not be forthcoming as their project funding has now ended. A lottery grant may be possible but the application process is quite complex. He and the clerk planned to look into this in more detail prior to the next meeting. A follow up meeting with heritage England is planned for the 8th Sept where any of their concerns or requirements can be understood. The clerk added that if grant funding could not be secured a PWLB loan would also be a funding option.
- 15. To Consider formulating a standard response for planning applications moving from commercial to Residential use.**
After lengthy discussion it was agreed that each individual case should be discussed on its own merits and that by the time it reached a planning application most businesses would have passed the point of no return.
- 16. To Receive a proposal from Cllr Weeden regarding the development of a standard parish communications and consultation process.**
After discussion it was **Resolved** that a three person sub committee comprising of Cllrs Love, O'Leary & Weeden would generate a proposal for review at a future meeting.

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17. **To Consider generating a three year hedge maintenance contract for quotation and implementation in 2018/19.**

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Walker would prepare a specification for the hedges involved and the frequency for cutting ready for an advert to be placed in the local press seeking quotations.

18. **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 confirmed that he had now spoken to a representative from Mark Harper MP's office and now having an understanding of council's many concerns on the potential closure, they were prepared to support a meeting. Potential dates to be agreed.

19. **To Consider parking issues relating to Church Road and outside the Victoria Hotel and to Receive an update from the Clerk on discussions held with the PCSO**

After discussion it was agreed that although frustrating management of parking was difficult unless parking restrictions were in force such as double yellow lines. It was also agreed that with parking being such a sensitive subject in the village further restrictions would be unpopular. The PCSO has started to introduce himself to local residents and businesses and in doing so will try to persuade people to park more courteously. Street Wardens also have powers to act and should be encouraged to do so.

Other Matters

20. **To consider correspondence received to date**
To Consider a request from a parishioner to replace the removed tree (some years ago) in the chains.

After discussion it was agreed the owner of the land should be consulted, as should the parishioners via the next newsletter. The clerk was instructed to write to the proposer of the additional tree advising him of council's intentions and thanking him for his offer to part fund the purchase.

Liaison meeting with FoDDC cabinet

Cllr Walker advised that he had been invited to attend a meeting with cabinet members as part of a FoDDC/parish liaison activity program. For his part he felt that the interaction with our current district Cllrs was already very strong and was unsure of the benefits in attending.

21. **Matters for the Next Agenda**

Uneven pathway at cliff after Environmental agency works – Clerk to contact agency

Boundary commission proposed changes – add to next agenda

Installation of bench outside Armoury Hall – add to next agenda

Daffodils donations received by Cllr Weeden – pass to clerk for banking

Grass stimming on approach to Armoury Hall – Clerk to speak to Complete Gardeners.

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

As per approved schedule Monday 25th September 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed

Date