

# Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

## Public Consultation

**Pot holes Station Road** – Highways issue. Condition very poor and really needs resurfacing Completely. – Clerk to contact Brian Watkins

**Grass on pavements and road way after cutting-** The question was asked if the grass should be collected after cutting as it is being spread all over the village. It was pointed out that normal practise for Newnham and other parishes is for the grass to be cut and not collected as collection significantly increases contract costs. The playing field being a particular issue as it is cut with gang mowers and no collection is possible. Some areas are the responsibility of Two Rivers and others the PC's. The Clerk was requested to ask the street cleaner if he can help in the PC areas and write to Two Rivers to ask if their grass should be being collected.

**Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6.50 p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn. Page 16**

**Present:** Chair Cllr I. Walker, F. Bihlmeier, J. Larkham, C Kenny, L Love, S O'Leary, County & District Cllr R Boyles. District Cllr S Phelps

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

**It should be noted that due to a power cut the meeting was conducted by torch light!**

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs G Murray, & T Weeden

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 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** – Additional cheque signatory form raised and in approvals process. New signatories highlighted for internet banking and this can be processed once the form has been approved.

**Letter of thanks to Trevor Firman** – Sent as requested

**Additional Tree the chains** – letter sent as requested

**Uneven pathway The cliff** – Environment agency contacted and plan to dress the surface with a finer stone in either late September or October.

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

all matters dealt with by Agenda item

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

**District Cllr Phelps** advised that the **20/20 vision** designed to reduce operating costs at FoDDC are on plan. **The boundary commission** proposal is currently out for consultation.

Early feedback shows that some parishes are happy with the proposal, others like Littledean are not. The chair confirmed that this is an agenda item for tonight's meeting.

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County Cllr Boyles added that the **hospital consultation process** is on-going. **The youth fund of £50K** provided from County resources is available for youth activity grants. Applications being sought. These will be agreed and distributed in due course. **New social workers** are being given 1-1 training as part of their induction. Ofsted appear happy with the progress being made. **School numbers** remain a major issue due to under capacity. 966 primary places and 1000 secondary are available in the county giving funding issues for teacher and infrastructure requirements, even though per capita allowances have increased. The secondary school in Cinderford has received a special allowance to tackle some infrastructure problems. Although capable of a pupil roll of 1000 only 300 pupils currently attend the school. Recent exam results have shown some improvement and hopefully pupil numbers will improve. **Victoria Hotel** – a meeting is planned to take place in the near future, any progress will be reported back at the next meeting.

## 2016/17 Audit activity

7. **To receive an update on the status of the external audit activity.**

The clerk confirmed that the audit was concluded with no observations. Completion of audit notices have been posted and the report will be scanned and made available on the web site in the coming weeks

## Financial

8. **To Consider financial performance YTD**

After discussion it was agreed that non discretionary spend was in line with the plan. Some amounts of discretionary spend were yet to be committed to projects

9. **To receive a report on the draft budget from the Finance sub committee**

Cllr Bihlmeier reported that the budget was in early stages of development. A significant overspend outlook is being reviewed and a much more balanced budget was expected to be available at the October meeting. The clerk confirmed that he had agreed with FoDDC that if needed the budget could be inputted after the January PC meeting

10. **Financial Statement**

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

## Highways

11. **To Receive an update from Highways on issues discussed at the last highways review**

A variety of issues were discussed with Highways including **paving stones at the George** (lenghtsman scheme) **LED lights on top crossing poles** (funded by Highways). **Clock Tower traffic regulations** (planned in a broader district package in December)

## Community

12. **To Consider Planning applications received**

**1352/17/FUL WI Hut, Dean Road** (HB) – Variation of conditions relating to location of windows and doors – **Resolved No objection**

**P1408/17/FUL WI Hut site Dean Road** (SC) – Raising of levels on site – **Resolved No objection**

**P1409/17/FUL 4 Whetstones, Unlawater Lane** (MB) - Erection of single storey extension and detached car port. **Resolved No objection**

**P1458/17/TPO Garden House, High Street.** (IT) - Felling of Sycamore, Hazel & Holly Trees covered by G1 TP097 – **Resolved No objection**

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13. **To Receive an update on the casual vacancy.**  
The clerk confirmed that no requests had been made and the co-option process would be initiated with a new councillor being selected at the October meeting.
14. **To Consider the performance of the contractor responsible for the wild flower area in the open space and the embankment maintenance activity.**  
A schedule of works planned had now been received. The clerk has now asked for dates of works completed to be added to the schedule. A meeting with the contractor is to be arranged prior to the next PC meeting.
15. **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.**  
Complete
16. **To Consider installing a bench outside the Armoury Hall**  
Agreed in principle providing a bench for relocation can be identified.
17. **To Receive an update on grant availability and Consideration of taking up a PWLB loan.**  
The clerk advised that a loan application is a valid option and a £14K loan over 15 years (approx.) would cost £1k per month. He also confirmed that a loan could be requested but not taken up if circumstances dictated.
18. **To consider the proposed boundary changes recommended by the Boundaries Commission**  
Cllr Bihlmeier presented a draft response which council **Resolved** to adopt. Primary concerns related to the size, the social diversity and the proposed name of the ward. The clerk was requested to forward the objections to FoDDC.
19. **To Receive an update from the communications sub committee.**  
Held over until the October meeting
20. **To Receive an update on the three year hedge maintenance contract for quotation and implementation in 2018/19**  
Cllr Walker committed to generating a draft specification ready for quotation requests being issued
21. **To Consider a recommendation from the finance committee for a three year Insurance agreement.**  
After discussion it was **Resolved** to award the contract to Aviva on a three year basis
22. **To Receive an update on the proposed meeting with Mark Harper MP, a councillor and a representative of the Post office regarding relocation plans.**  
No further updates received

## Other Matters

23. **To consider correspondence received to date.**  
None
24. **Matters for the Next Agenda**  
**Daffodils** – Next agenda  
**Litter bin outside armoury Hall** – Next agenda  
**Allocations Plan** – next agenda

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25. **To Consider taking agenda items 27 & 28 in committee as per Standing orders 1.c & 26.a.**

After discussion it was **Resolved** to take these items in committee

26. **To Confirm date & time of next meeting**
- Parish Council Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**To be taken in committee** (if agreed):

27. **To Consider options to acknowledge dedicated service to the parish.**

After discussion it was agreed to consider this further and the clerk was requested to obtain quotes for certificates etc. A further meeting is to be planned to coincide with the December finance committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

28. **To Agree a process and frequency for moving the speed awareness sign around the village and the associated remuneration for the street cleaner.**

After discussion it was **Resolved** to set a £10 per movement payment. Current expectations is to move the camera twice per month.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm , still in darkness !**

Signed.....

Date.....