

Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

Public Consultation

Waste reduction – Cllrs were invited to a meeting at the George café to discuss options/projects to reduce waste on Thursday 2nd Feb.

Paving slab condition lower High Street – Concern raised over condition – Part of Highways meeting discussions.

Unlawater Lane modifications – Not consider to be acceptable- Comment noted although general feedback from residents has been positive.

Unlawater Lane Bus Stops – Neither have good disabled access- Noted

Roadside edging badly worn away Dean Road – Clerk to advise Highways manager.

Excess water across A48 opposite cricket club – alleviation scheme was installed last year, clerk to advise Highways manager and add to Highways meeting list.

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2018 at 6.45 p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn. Page 27

Present: Chair Cllr I Walker, Cllrs F. Bihlmeier, N Hughes, J Larkham, C Kenny, L Love, G Murray, S O’Leary & T. Weeden. County Cllr R Boyles

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

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

District Cllr S Phelps.

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 28th November 2017**

Minutes of the meeting were duly approved

4. **Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on the 18th December 2017**

Minutes of the meeting were duly approved

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

The clerk advised that now cheque authorities have been finally approved by the bank electronic banking authorities can now be pursued.

6. **To receive the Clerk’s report**

all matters on Agenda

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

County & District Cllr R Boyles gave the following report

Single hospital for the Dean survey now concluded. There was a response rate of 3.5% with 46% being against the proposal, 43% for and 11% undecided. Main areas for concern for those against were the proposed number of beds, and no clear idea of location.

Pot holes – all county crews (including lengthsman) are engaged in pothole repair, with additional funds provided.

Tourism grants – are now available for applications for any projects that support or encourage tourism.

County & District precepts - planned to rise with the bulk of additional income being directed to elderly and child care

Victoria Hotel – meeting planned for Feb to decide next steps, providers of old photographs etc thanked for their support.

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Financial

8. **Financial Statement**

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

Highways

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

General issues being worked via Highways meetings. Main project of interest in the coming financial year is the resurfacing of the High Street. Planned within the 2018/19 highways plan, subject to funding availability.

Community

10. **To Consider Planning applications received**

P1989/17/FUL – 12 Allsopp close. Single storey extension. **Resolved** “no Objection”

P0044/18/TPO – Wedgewood, The Haie. Removal of two limbs covered by TPO 045

Resolved “no Objection”

P0101/18/TCA – Hill cottage, Dean Road. Removal of Eucalyptus and limb removals from pine trees. **Resolved** “no Objection”

11. **To Receive an update from the clerk of an out-looked cost to refurbish benches and install one with a litter bin outside the Armoury Hall**

The clerk provided council with a quotation which indicated that refurbishment was un-economic by this contractor. He was requested to obtain a further quotation .

12. **To receive an update on the PWLB Loan application**

On chasing GAPTC he was advised the hard copy loan request had been delivered to DCLG but appeared not to have reached the assessment officer. A further copy needs to be signed by the clerk and chair and forwarded on to GAPTC.

13. **To receive an update on the proposed works on the green**

Further works and quotations are on hold pending the processing of the PWLB loan.

14. **To Consider a recommendation from the finance committee to award the three year Hedge maintenance contract to AM Services.**

Two quotations were received with the quote of £490 per cut being far the cheapest. The clerk also confirmed had had received two very supportive references for similar works. After discussion it was **Resolved** to award the contract to AM Services.

15. **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 communications have been received, the clerk was requested to press the MP’s office for a date.

16. **To consider a quotation (and possible suspension of standing orders for two quotes) from Abbey Tree services for £1,000 to fell the 4 trees at Whetstones.**

Concern was expressed that council had been led to believe that the trees were to be pruned rather than felled, with the exception of one leaning badly. It was agreed that before a decision could be reached an understanding of why the trees could not be pruned or what would the cost of pruning be should be obtained. The clerk was requested to speak to the contractor involved.

17. **To receive an update on the pollarding of the limes trees at the beeches.**

The lime trees at the beeches have been pollarded and payment included in this month’s financial statement.

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18. **To appoint an internal auditor for the 2017/18 audit.**
After discussion it was **Resolved** to appoint ICA as the auditor for a further year.
19. **To receive an update from the clerk on the reformatted external audit activity for 2017/18**
The clerk advised that there would be potentially significant changes to the external audit process for the coming year, as a result of the move away from the old centrally controlled audit process. However, little information is available at the time of the meeting. An update will be made at the February meeting if available.
20. **To consider upgrading the pathway from the Fish Hut to the Silver Fox café.**
A request had been received from a parishioner to consider improvement to the pathway. After much discussion it was agreed that there were difficulties due to flooding of the area at high tide and Severn Bore times. However, it was agreed that a potential suitable scheme should be considered. The clerk was requested to investigate further. He was also requested to contact the lady who suggested the improvement making her aware of council's plans.
21. **To receive a report from the chair and clerk regarding unofficial grave surrounds at the church yard and agree next steps.**
Cllr Walker advised that during an inspection with the clerk over 40 graves were identified that contravened the rules and regs for the churchyard, with some of the contraventions having been continuous for decades. However, one grave in particular caused concern due to the poor use of log roll. The clerk was requested to write to the family requesting that they remove it. It was further agreed that the matter should be investigated more fully by the burials committee.
22. **To discuss a request received from a parishioner regarding the planned Unlawater development, S106 support and the benefits of a public meeting organised by the Parish Council.**
After much discussion it was agreed that many of the points had merit, however, at this stage without a formal planning application it was hard to gauge what funding could be available, and a public meeting would be rather speculative. Given council's previous discussions on identifying possible projects that could be achieved via S106 funding, it was agreed that Cllrs C Kenny, L Love, S O'Leary & T Weeden would meet as a working party to develop proposals. The clerk was requested to speak to FoDDC to understand if an outlook could be provided on potential S106 fund values.
23. **To consider a revised communications process and terms of reference**
Cllr Weeden would provide formal terms of reference at the February meeting. It was noted that the facebook page recently introduced was proving a popular with parishioners.
24. **To consider a request from the Cricket Club that the Parish Council become a club trustee.**
After discussion it was agreed that council could see the purpose of the request from the cricket club. However, before decision could be made any financial liabilities (if council agreed to be a trustee) needed to be understood. The clerk was requested to seek guidance from GAPTC and the parish solicitor.
25. **To consider responsibility for cleaning the war memorial (request from the RBL)**
It was agreed council is responsible for maintaining the memorial and the clerk was requested to seek quotations for cleaning.

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26. **To Consider a request from a parishioner that the PC designate the Railway Public house as an asset of community value.**

After considerable debate it was agreed that this would be a long process and considerable funding would be required for it to become a community asset. It was also agreed that this could be led by any community group, it did not have to be the Parish Council.

It was also noted that at present the Railway is being marketed as a public house and if sold for continued use, purchase by the community need not be pursued. Early investigations by several councillors have identified that FoDDC prefer the current owner to be supportive of a community project, Cllr Love volunteered to approach the owner to seek his views.

It was also noted that the Dog & Muffler at Joyford was currently in the process of being considered as a community asset. The clerk was requested to gather any information available on the project for discussion at a future meeting.

27. **To Consider an increase in GAPTC membership fees for the coming year.**

Subscription increases by GAPTC & NALC were discussed and it was **Resolved** that council should continue as members.

28. **To Consider several quotation options from SDG Groundworks to remove the flooding issues in the play park and to widen the pathway to the school gate to ease parent and child access to school.**

The quotations for several options were reviewed by council to both drain the area and widen the pathway. Given that the costs involved exceed the £1K two quote threshold the clerk was requested to seek a further quotation for the work suggested.

29. **To consider a request for dispensation of out of village burial time limits for a parishioner of 27 years standing, who left the village for care reasons in excess of 12 months.**

After discussion it was **Resolved** to allow dispensation from triple fees to resident fees based on long residency in the village with the move elsewhere being driven purely by medical needs. The clerk was requested to advise the family.

Other Matters

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

None

31. **Matters for the Next Agenda**

Slippery paving slabs outside Doctors' surgery – Cllr Weeden to inspect

Road sign obscured Dean Road – Clerk to identify to highways for addition to lengthsman scheme list

Tree maintenance south side of Brightlands – The responsibility lies with the residents of Brightlands and the complainant should contact them directly.

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

- Parish Council Monday 26th February 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed.....

Date.....