

Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

Public Consultation

Wi/ Club Representatives of the WI made a number of comments relating to the discussions held at the February PC meeting, expressing concerns that they were misrepresented. They also confirmed that as a charity they had a responsibility to protect funds raised by the sale of the WI land and that they should be respected for trying to ensure its proper use. It was also confirmed that in their opinion correspondence between themselves and the planners regarding withdrawal from the agreement had previously been shared with the mediation group.

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25th March 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn. Page 35

Present: Chair Cllr T Weeden, Cllrs, F Bihlmeier, N. Hughes, J Larkham, C Kenny, L. Love, & S O'Leary.

In attendance: County Cllr R Boyles, the Clerk and 8 member of the public.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

G Murray

Absent District Cllr Phelps

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 25th February 2019**

The minutes of the meeting were duly approved

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

None

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

all matters by agenda item

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

Cllr Boyles advised that **NHS consultation** on local provision is currently active in the county. **Glos C.C budget** has now been approved with £11M in additional funding being allocated for Children's services and £2M for adult social care. A **hospital education service** for severely ill children is being piloted in the county, allowing, via a robot in their class room and an i pad for the child in hospital will allow them to continue in education in a virtual class room environment. **Victoria Hotel** a meeting of the Glos CC legal team is to take place on the 10th April when it is expected that a decision to issue proceedings will be achieved. The **lengthsman scheme** is to be replaced by a community scheme within which issues raised will be allocated on a task by task basis, rather than a period of time allocated to each parish, which proved to be inefficient.

7. **To receive an update on the ordinary election in May 19**

The clerk advised that all relevant notices had been posted and that details of nominees would be supplied by the returning officer on the 15th April. He also reminded Cllrs that the nominations had to be hand delivered to the Coleford office and electoral numbers for nominators could be obtained from the clerk.

Financial

8. **Financial Statement**

The monthly financial statement was received and duly approved.

Monthly payments were received and duly approved.

The income /expense report YTD was received and duly approved.

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Highways

9. **To Receive an update from the Highways sub group**

Cllr O'Leary advised that no village tour had taken place as planned due to the lack of available people. **Dean Road** issues with the slippery surface are being addressed by Highways, but there are concerns over the lack of urgency being shown at the present time. Upgrade of the **Zebra crossing lighting** to LED is being progressed by the County lighting team.

Community

10. **To consider and approve GAPTC affiliation fees for 2019/20**

Council **Resolved** to continue membership

Note: This item was moved for consideration before Item 8 (Financial) as the fees were included in the payment schedule for March

11. **To consider requests for grant support from the following organisations**

Forest sensory services

After consideration council **resolved** not to support this application for several reasons. Firstly the proper grant application process had not been used. Secondly the grant process is not intended for general running of the organisation which their application letter states is the case. It is also unclear if there is a benefit to Newnham parishioners. As this application has been received and considered in the past, the clerk was requested to write to them making it clear that future submissions would not be considered unless the above issues were addressed.

ReNewnham £5,000 request to support purchase of George Café –

After much discussion it was agreed that a grant would not be made at this point for the following reasons. The proper grant process had not been followed, the sum requested was disproportionate to the potential funds available within the parish and there was no clear evidence of substantial funds already being gathered (pledges excluded). The clerk was asked to write to the group suggesting a further more reasonable application is made in August for consideration in September using the correct process.

12. **To consider an annual increase in Allotment rent applicable from 1st April 2020**

After discussion it was **resolved** that in future an annual increase in allotment rents would automatically be applied in line with inflation (CPI)

13. **To further consider the breakdown in relations between the WI & The Club and receive an update from the clerk regarding correspondence with FoDDC planning.**

The clerk advised that there had been no response to his latest e mail requesting information and a date for a meeting with FoDDC planning. After discussion it was **resolved** that a formal complaint about the lack of communication and release of information be made to FoDDC.

The clerk was instructed to lodge the complaint as soon as possible.

Cllr Kenny (in response to WI comments in public consultation) expressed the view that council as a whole, (and he as an individual) had supported the WI during the planning application and that support from the PC and others, had a significant influence on the decision to approve the application. He also felt the mediation efforts by council supported both parties. It was further agreed after discussion that there were legal ways in which the WI investment would be protected should the club fail as a business, although it was felt this was unlikely.

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14. **To receive an update from the ReNewnham group regarding fund raising efforts for the George café.**

Cllr Love advised that the fund raising was going well with approx. £112K being raised in pledges and donations with around £20k being direct donations. It was pointed out by some councillors that a request for 17% of parish reserves and 10 X the budget allocation for grants was unrealistic

15. **To Consider Planning applications received**

- None

16. **To receive an update from the clerk on the works on the Green**

The clerk advised that no progress had been made on this matter since the last meeting. It was suggested that MR P Hood may be interested in looking at the refurbishment of the telephone box. The clerk committed to contacting him.

17. **To receive an update on land ownership and registration in the burial ground**

The clerk advised that documents raised by the solicitor for Cllr Murray to sign were not yet available. He committed to chasing this up before the April meeting.

18. **To receive a report from Cllr Kenny regarding compulsory purchase advice regarding the chains and agree next steps.**

After discussion it was agreed that there may be some opportunity for this area to be classed as an open space and that the Open Space Society does give support to such investigations. However, at the last annual parish council meeting it had been agreed not to continue membership. The clerk was requested to confirm this and if so look to re-apply for membership.

19. **To receive an update from the clerk on internet banking implementation.**

In progress with Cllr Kenny

20. **To review opening and closing requirements for the toilets at the Cliff.**

The clerk advised that FODDC still expected the block to be locked at night. He was instructed to request details of any agreement with them that the PC would be responsible for locking and unlocking the facilities.

21. **To receive an update from the clerk regarding discussions with Cinderford Town FC for the use of the football Pitch and changing rooms.**

Cllr Hughes advised that discussions were on going with both Cinderford Town FC and villagers who are considering reforming a football side. A view was also expressed that should it be re laid out properly again, the local school might be persuaded to use it.

Other Matters

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

None

23. **Matters for the Next Agenda**

None

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

- Parish Council Monday 29th April 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....