

Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

Public Consultation

Newnham on Severn Community Benefit Society (Ex ReNewnham) – Advised that a structural survey showed the building to be in general good shape, with some maintenance actions required. Negotiations with CVT ongoing.

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29th July 2019 at 6.50p.m. in the Armoury Hall, Newnham on Severn.

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

In attendance: County Cllr R. Boyles, District Cllr N Packer, the clerk & 4 member of the public.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

None

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Bihlmeier advised that the planning application P1109/19/TCA has been submitted by a neighbour and friend. He confirmed he had no pecuniary interest in the application

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 24th June 2019**

The minutes of the meeting were duly approved

4. **To receive representation from candidates for co –option and to select via ballot.**

An expression of interest in the role was received from Gill Moir who addressed the meeting, giving details of her background.

Item 34 was moved up the agenda and it was unanimously **resolved** that Gill be elected to council. Cllr Weeden welcomed her to council and looked forward to her joining them at the September meeting.

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

Play rangers scheme – Details and timings for the event have been received and published on the web site, facebook and the notice board.

Hedge maintenance Station Road and the cliff – Several enquiries have been received regarding the trimming of the hedges. The contract with A & M Services states that the hedge should be cut in August due to the bird nesting season. A& M have confirmed they will cut during the first week of August.

Lime Trees in the Chains – No update has been received from Mr Kerr. The clerk was requested to contact him and ask for a response prior to the September meeting

Trading rights at the Cliff – A meeting between the selected vendor and Cllrs has been planned to allow business to commence

Lifebuoy at the Cliff – A replacement has been procured and available to install. The invoice was cleared for payment in this month's financial statement. Cllr Larkham will reimburse council for the cost of the item in memory of the late Fred Larkham.

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

all matters on Agenda

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

County Cllr Boyles updated the meeting on a number of subjects including the recognition of the council as being **2nd out of 52** councils for managing children with high needs and minors in police custody. **Giga are now working to install fibre broadband at Bullo**, following a complaint from a resident that installation was not currently planned. He thanked council for bringing it to his attention. **District Cllr Packer** advised the meeting that **champions had been identified** for a number of roles within FODDC and committed to providing the clerk with a list for future reference. **Strategic planning meetings** are ongoing with the intention of creating a new local plan.

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2018/19 Audit activity

8. **To receive and update on the external audit and public viewing rights**
The clerk advised that the audit report was in the final stages of approval.
The public viewing rights period has now expired with no requests received to view any documentation.

Financial

9. **Financial Statement**
The monthly financial statement was received and duly approved.
Monthly payments were received and duly approved.
10. **To Receive an update on the implementation of Internet banking from Cllr Kenny & the clerk**
The clerk advised that a new authority card had been received for Cllr Bihlmeier. Cllr Kenny's approval had still not been received. Cllr Kenny committed to chasing the bank to ensure all approval were complete. The clerk further advised that he planned to trial the system on his expenses at the first available monthly payment, once proven roll it would be rolled out to all suppliers. Updating of the financial regulations would also be required once the new process was fully understood.

Highways

11. **To Receive an update from the Highways subgroup**
There were no further developments on the current item list

Community

12. **To receive an update from the ReNewnham group regarding efforts to purchase the George café.**
Cllr Love advised that the auction had raised over £6k and enjoyed by all those in attendance.
13. **To Consider Planning applications received**
- **P0928/19 FUL & Po929/19/LBC Caerville, High Street** - Erection of single storey extension – **Resolved** "No objection"
 - **P0957/19/FUL 14 Hyde Lane** – Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch. - **Resolved** "No objection"
 - **P1109/19/TCA – Hill House Unlawater Lane** – Removal of Ash Tree - **Resolved** "No objection"
 - **P1060/19FUL Mutloes Farm, Pleasant Stile** – Change of use from a redundant Barn to a single dwelling with amenity space. - **Resolved** "No objection"
 - **P1102/19/TCA Walnut Cottage, Harrison Close** – Conifer & Walnut tree reduction - **Resolved** "No objection"
 - **P1142/19/TCA The Old House, High Street** – Removal of 1 Prunus tree and 1 Walnut tree, plus coppicing of three other trees. - **Resolved** "No objection"

The clerk advised that a further application had been received after the legal cut off date for the agenda. **P1161/19/TBC The Nab, Church Road** related to removal of 2 conifer and works to 4 other trees. It was not felt that a special planning meeting would be required for a tree works application

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14. **To consider an apparent lack of consideration of council's views by planning officers on planning developments such as Hyde Lane.**
Considerable discussion on this subject took place. Concerns were expressed on the lack of attention paid by the planning committee to the comments of the parish council (and public), the lack of attention to the quality and legal requirements of the environmental surveys and a number of other matters. It was agreed that Cllr Bihlmeier would compose a draft reflecting the corporate view for submission to the leader of FoDDC planning, once concurred by all council members.
15. **To receive an update from the clerk on the works on the Green**
The clerk advised that the refurbishment quote from Peter Hood would not be forthcoming. Photographs of telephone boxes in Bath that had been turned into flower displays (using red geraniums) were circulated. After several other suggestions were discussed it was agreed that the flower displays could be a way forward at reasonable cost. The clerk was requested to obtain a quote for the works required and check with the WI if they would be prepared to manage it once complete. Cllr Hughes volunteered to take responsibility for investigating the information boards. The Clerk was further requested to check with BT to establish if the box had been decommissioned from the electrical supply.
16. **To receive an update on land ownership and registration in the burial ground**
The clerk advised that Land registry had acknowledged the application although no date for completion had been given.
17. **To receive an update from the Cllr Hughes regarding future use of the football pitch and changing room improvements.**
Cllr Hughes advised that he was discussing the replacement windows with Glevum and that replacement doors are required. He committed to sponsoring the doors himself if no other sources were available. Cllr Larkham suggested he spoke to Glevum regarding the replacement
18. **To consider requesting additional parking at the Beeches via S106 funding from the Unlawater Lane development or via the County Council given it is their land.**
County Cllr Boyles committed to discussing potential improvements with County Council colleagues and Highways. The need for a scheme sympathetic to the approach of the village would be required and that a base plan would be needed for evaluation. Cllr O'Leary advised that a full plan was already available (due to previous discussion) that would give a base for any proposal. It was acknowledged that the cost of such a scheme would be considerable and potentially uneconomic. A further suggestion was made for a carpark to be located in the playing field, or at the cliff, again costs would be similar to the Beeches. It was agreed that a working party consisting of Cllrs Larkham, O'Leary, Love & Kenny would investigate further.
19. **To receive an update for clearance of undergrowth at the old ferry point**
The clerk advised that clearance of the area was complete, and the invoice cleared as part of this month's financial statement. He further advised that he had held discussions with the contractor with regard to adding this area to the annual contract. A verbal quote had been received to brush cut the area twice annually (May and September) at a total cost of £150 with up to 5 grass cuts (down to and around the point) depending on need at a cost of £20 per cut. After discussion it was **Resolved** to accept the quotation
20. **To receive an update concerning slow progress over Victoria Hotel legal proceedings.**
County Cllr Boyles advised (during his report) that as no progress has been made with the owner, a barrister has now been appointed and funding made available to pursue legal action.

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21. **To receive an update from Cllr Isaac-Holland regarding installation of an electric vehicle charging point in the village.**

It was agreed that Cllr Isaac- Holland would engage a contractor for a free no obligation quotation, with the following areas being considered potential locations. The Chains, the Cliff, around the Clock Tower & near the Victoria Hotel. Any possible locations would of course have to be discussed with Highways and the landowners if deemed suitable
22. **To consider a quotation to clear the sheep pound and weed kill the sycamore saplings and vegetation.**

Several concerns have been raised regarding the clearance of the area due to wildlife using the pound, particularly hedgehog nesting. After discussion it was agreed that the proposal to clear the area would be abandoned. It was also noted that the pound does not belong to the parish council but a local landowner.
23. **To consider investigations into upgrading the current Zebra crossing by the Church to a pelican crossing**

The safety of pedestrians is cause for concern to many villagers due to the speed of approaching traffic. The clerk was requested to contact Highways asking them for possible improvement to the visibility and notification of approaching a crossing.
24. **To investigate a suggestion to install gate type traffic calming signage on the approach to the Village**

It was generally agreed that this approach could lead to some level of traffic calming. The clerk was requested to talk to Highways about suitable schemes that would be supported by them.
25. **To consider parking activity potentially contrary to the tenancy agreement at the Beeches.**

After discussion it was agreed that there were breaches of the parking agreement. The clerk was requested to write to the relevant tenant and request that the agreement is adhered to, otherwise their tenancy will be reviewed.
26. **To receive an update, from the clerk on the Highways investigation into a second hand rail outside the club.**

The clerk advised that no update had been received from Highway's. He was requested to chase the Highway's manager
27. **To consider future bench/ refurbishment activity**

After discussion it was agreed that Cllrs O'Leary and Hughes would survey the current bench stock for location and condition. It was further agreed that the clerk should contact the two families currently requesting permission for memorial benches, advising them of the survey and possible options.
28. **To Receive an update regarding the protection of the Village sign by the pound.**

The clerk confirmed he had spoken to Highway's and they now planned to ensure it remained in location on Dean Road. They also committed to cutting the undergrowth back on the bank. Cllr Hughes advised that he had already cut around the sign itself.
29. **To consider refurbishment of the information board at the cliff**

Cllr Hughes volunteered to add this to his general investigation

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30. **To consider a quotation for lens replacement and mechanism overhaul on the telescope at the Cliff.**

The clerk advised that he was awaiting a quote from S Bluett to replace the lens and service the mechanism. The quotation was not expected to be expensive. Given the lack of a meeting in August the clerk was delegated authority to spend up to £150 prior to the September meeting.

31. **To consider a quotation to weed kill and clear the Sheep Pound on Dean Road.**

Repeat of item 21

32. **To consider a quotation from Abbey Tree Services to pollard the Ash Tree on the Open Space at Sheens Meadow, due to major limb damage and resulting imbalance of the tree.**

Cllr Bihlmeier advised that he had attended a site meeting with Abbey Trees. He concurred the assessment that the limb was dangerous and needed removal as a matter of urgency. He also concurred the contractor's view that as this limb comprised of 30% of the tree, pollarding would also be required to maintain its safety. After discussion it was **resolved** to approve the quotation for £850 from Abbey Trees.

Other Matters

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

- None

34. **To consider co-option of a further councillor to fill the remaining vacancy**

This item was taken after item 4

35. **Matters for the Next Agenda**

- **Sign at Church for Public right of way** – Add to next agenda
- **Silver Fox condition** – Clerk to contact owner
- **Beeches parking sign** – add to next agenda
- **Bus shelter outside club** – add to next agenda
- **Tree outside club causing property damage** – add to next agenda
- **Culvert repairs Silver Fox pathway** – add to next agenda
- **Alan Coates letter of thanks for notice board paint** – clerk to write

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

- Parish Council Monday 30th September 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....