



NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Council meeting of Newton Parish Council 194/20
by Internet Conferencing (Zoom)
on TUESDAY 08 December 2020 at 7.30pm**

Councillors:

Janet Dobson, James Fisher, Margaret Goulder, Rebecca (Penny) Higgs, John O'Hare,
Neil Phillips, Sarah Shaw and Barry Stockton

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner, County Cllr Neil Clarke and Borough Cllr David Simms and two residents

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** None
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Chairman's announcements:** Cllr Penny Higgs thanked vice-chairman Neil Phillips for covering during her illness and also thanked members for their good wishes and for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. She also expressed appreciation for the work of the NHS that she had experienced
- 4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 November 2020 for approval:** The minutes were accepted unanimously subject to a change to Item 11 Wellington Avenue – to delete reference to Cllrs Janet Dobson and Margaret Goulder. The minutes will be signed by the chairman in due course
7.36pm Standing Orders were suspended
- 5. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** A member of the public informed members that the Newton Community Group had been able to deliver a large bulk of donations from Newton Residents to the Meadows Foodbank and expressed thanks to residents for the donations. She also mentioned the lack of footpath and noted this was to be discussed on the Agenda
7.38pm Standing Orders were reinstated
- 6. Councillor working Groups:** These were reviewed:
Planning: Add Cllr Sarah Shaw
Communications: Cllr Penny Higgs
Finance and Assets: Delete Cllr Janet Dobson
- 7. Redrow Homes and school proposals:**
Cllr Margaret Goulder said that she has spoken to Sarah Allsopp of Redrow Homes about costings for the proposed Community Building, but these will not be available until early 2021
Cllr Neil Clarke planned to update members on the proposals for a school but said that he was no further in getting a decision. It was decided unanimously that the clerk should prepare a letter to Kay Cutts, Leader of the County Council, to say that members were very concerned to learn that that the County Council has not yet determined whether the Redrow Housing development at Newton includes provision of a primary school and to say that the parish council feels strongly that it would be a gross mistake for none to be provided. Redrow has elected to pay a contribution (£2.4m) in order to comply with the RBC S106 requirement in the expectation that the school will be built on the site. In the Redrow publicity there is mention of a school – this is very important to them in promoting the sale of houses over the next few years.
He recommended a letter is also sent to Sarah Allsopp and Andrew Pegram, the RBC planning officer
It was observed that the approval for the extra 88 houses in East Bridgford (plus a further 50) is likely to displace Newton pupils. To expect small children - starting from year 1 - to travel daily to Bingham whatever the weather is most unreasonable
Newton will justify a school as 550 new houses is expected to produce well over 220 pupils at any one time
A reporter has asked the council to comment on the prospect of not having a school, but council would like to have a response from the county council before making a statement
Council understands that there is a strong view at RBC that a school should be part of the new development and seeks NCC assurance about its provision. It was agreed unanimously to write to Redrow Homes to seek their support
Details of the plans for the footbridge was raised and the clerk was asked to write to RBC and Redrow about this

8. **RAF Newton Memorial and Gates:** Nothing further to report

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9. **Covid-19: Helping Hands project**

The clerk advised members that NCC has requested completion of the monitoring form by 8th January 2021. Cllrs Janet Dobson and John O'Hare agreed to assist the clerk to complete this

10. **Wellington Avenue: Play Area extension and Friendship Bench proposal:** Cllr James Fisher reported on a visit to the area along the River Trent on The Trent Embankment in Nottingham and has spoken to Alan Colcolucha of NCC who will provide illustration and quotation for ideas to be discussed at the January of February meeting. He commented that a visit to see the Friendship bench at Bottesford was disappointing as the softwood construction was showing signs of deterioration. The clerk was asked to remind Streetwise to empty the overfull waste bin

11. **Outside Tables and Chairs: Storage container:** Cllr Neil Phillips reported that he had been able to source a suitable container in good condition, but at a cost of £1,800 plus £200 delivery. This was available for delivery on Friday. Cllr James Fisher confirmed the availability of an area of land he owned (6 sq. mtrs) that is a suitable siting next to the garages off Fairway and he agreed to prepare a lease for the Council to use this rent free. Local residents have been consulted and agreed the positioning. Members (by a vote of 7 for and 1 abstention) agreed the arrangements. Cllr Neil Clarke offered to contribute £500 and Cllr David Simms agreed to contribute £250 from their respective members funds.

12. **Trees:** In preparation for the housing, members were concerned to observe that there has been extensive tree removal and that trees on Newton Nottingham LLP land had been taken down without permission. Cllr David Simms said RBC were investigating with a view to prosecution as two trees had TPOs. The clerk was asked to contact Rushcliffe planners. Cllr Janet Dobson expressed concern that there is deep digging in very close proximity to the large oak tree in Wellington Avenue and the clerk was asked to refer this to RBC planners

13. **Request for pathway:** Cllr Margaret Goulder suggested council should apply for a prescriptive rights of way form from the Land Registry and advertise its use on the Facebook page. Cllr Clarke agreed to speak to Sarah Allsopp of Redrow and also Bill Hughes of Nottingham Newton LLP to seek agreement for a pathway to be reinstated. The bridleway has become inaccessible because of heavy mud and it was unanimously agreed for the clerk to report this to the Rights of Way team

Cllr David Simms left the meeting

14. **Kestrel Play Area:** The clerk informed members that the HAGS engineer has been asked to return once more, but HAGS do not accept that there is more remedial work to be done to the ineffective spring on the gate. The clerk was asked to inform HAGS that the springs are not fit for purpose and the council will look to them to pay for work commissioned by the council to complete the work. Quotations for a ROSPA risk assessment and regular play equipment inspection reports were considered, and it was agreed to ask Streetwise to undertake this work on a two-monthly basis

15. **Christmas Tree:** Members commented on how good the Christmas tree looked.

16. **Planning Applications:** None

Cllr Neil Clarke left the meeting

Subsequent Application: At the clerk's request, RBC planners sent the application details (20/02465/FUL) for 88 properties off Butt Lane, East Bridgford for information and comments. Members were concerned about the impact on the local primary school as this provides places to Newton children and is already said to be working to pupil capacity. The clerk was asked to tell RBC planners that Main Street Newton is not to be used by construction traffic

17. **Recent Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions:** None

18. **Finance:** a) Nov payments were approved. b) The budget requirement for 2021/22 was discussed and members unanimously decided to maintain the current precept unchanged

19. **Communications:** The chairman confirmed the arrangement with our website provider that a link be made so notices posted onto the Council Website appear automatically on the Council's Facebook page

20. **Councillor's Reports:** Cllr Penny Higgs reported that council has donated food to respond to the Foodbank appeal. It was agreed that a note will be posted on the Facebook page

21. **Correspondence:** None

22. **Reports from Outside Organisations:** None

23. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 12 January 2021

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed: Chairman Date