



NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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198/20

Minutes of the Council meeting of Newton Parish Council by Internet Conferencing (Zoom) on TUESDAY 09 February 2021 at 7.30pm

Councillors:

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner, County Cllr Neil Clarke and Borough Cllr David Simms and one member of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Chairman's announcements:** Cllr Penny Higgs thanked Cllrs Janet Dobson and John O'Hare for preparing and delivering the well-written Helping Hands offer of Help note to residents – to be discussed under item 16.
4. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 January 2021 for approval:** The minutes were accepted unanimously and will be signed by the chairman in due course.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.36pm

5. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** A member of the public asked about use of salt from the grit bins and whether the council can support having a footpath created in Newton Lane. Cllr James Fisher confirmed that the grit is available for all residents to use on the road and he has a small supply of grit to top up the bins from time to time. Cllr Neil Clarke was able to outline VIA plans for footpaths – the work may be done in three stages – a.) a combined cycle/footpath along Newton Lane from the roundabout to the T-junction with Main Street and then onto the junction at Wellington Avenue b.) a combined cycle/footpath along Newton Lane to Newton Gardens c.) a footpath from East Bridgford Road turning to the airfield bridleway. The jobs will be split into different financial years and a) is expected to be started before 31 March 2021. For c.) a strip of land will need to be acquired from the landowner.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.40pm

6. **Redrow Homes school proposals:**

Chairman Penny informed the meeting that letters had been sent as planned and she has heard from the office of Ruth Edwards, MP and is encouraged by their words of support. The County Council elections are in May and this could have an impact on the decision-taking. We are advised to await until after May. Cllr Clarke confirmed that the wording of the S106 agreement specifies that a school will be provided on site – available with water, electric and gas supply.

Community Centre - Cllr Margaret Goulder informed members that she still awaits costing details from Redrow (Pegasus)

7. **RAF Newton Memorial and Gates:** - Cllr Margaret Goulder said she has heard from Tim O'Brien to say that the memorial has been agreed and will be unveiled at the second phase in 2022 – the gates are in the open near to a hangar and will be moved into a compound when this is established.
8. **Wellington Avenue: Play Area extension and Friendship Bench proposal:** The clerk advised members that the application submitted last year for funding from the Local Improvement Scheme was not successful but there may be other funding opportunities once council decides on the proposal details. Cllr James Fisher had nothing to report – Cllr Janet Dobson expected to have outline plans to present to the next meeting.
Mowing contract: it was agreed to continue to use the present contractor.

9. **New noticeboard:** The clerk confirmed that a green coloured noticeboard has been ordered. The location for the new noticeboard was agreed and the clerk will arrange for it to be installed. It was agreed to be for the use of Parish Council matters only.
10. **Trees removal:** Members continue to be concerned with the tree removal activities of the developers and are concerned that we are not being kept informed. The clerk was asked to write to RBC, including the leader Cllr Simon Robinson, to say that we have no opportunity to be consulted locally – members are very keen to maintain the environment and make comments.
11. **Kestrel Play Area:** The clerk informed members that HAGS say that the problem with the gate spring is a maintenance matter and that Council should have adjustments done in its regular inspection and maintenance checks. Members consider that the gate springs are not fit for purpose and it was decided to consult an expert to give a view – the clerk will contact the Association of Playgrounds to seek assistance.
12. **Planning Applications:** 21/00224/TPO - Redrow Homes - Crown lift oak tree - Chipmunk Way – Do Not Object
13. **Recent Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions:** None
13. **Finance:** January payments were approved.
14. **Councillor's Reports:** Cllr David Simms confirmed that the Leisure Centre at Bingham is due be started 15 Feb 2021 and to be completed by Sept 2022. Members asked for an update about the planned A46 footbridge the clerk was asked to write to RBC to determine the present situation. Cllr Neil Clarke confirmed that Highways are being asked to improve the very dangerous stretch of road from Shelford Road to East Bridgford – the verge is too narrow for a pathway - a discussion will be arranged with the landowner with a view to having the hedge removed at the apex to the bend.
15. **Correspondence:** An email has been received from a resident to ask about a van and other vehicle parking on street corners and it was decided to prepare a Polite Notice stressing children's safety, for councillors to put under windscreens of offending vehicles if the problem persisted. Un-cooperative offenders should be reported to the police. An appropriate note will be put on the Council website, Facebook page and What's Happening in Newton
The clerk had followed up a previous email about dog fouling and members decided to purchase dog bag dispenser units. A response from Rushcliffe Borough Council asked that we check that all lampposts have a notice that says "no dog fouling - maximum fine £100" RBC say: "please signpost all residents and parish council members to log all dog fouling incidents at <https://selfservice.rushcliffe.gov.uk/renderform.aspx?t=1086&k=2F9C03B0D1AFDEB6607817D8321ECE886688BF0F> This will help build up a picture over time of the volume of incidents and assist with any other measures."
It was agreed to put a similar notice on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.
A resident has complained about the churned-up public footpaths and vehicle tyre marks – not helped by the very wet weather we have experienced recently.
16. **Reports from Outside Organisations:** Cllr Janet Dobson reported that there had been one response to the Helping Hands letter-drop and the need identified has been met.
17. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 09 March 2021

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed: Chairman Date

DRAFT