

NEWTOWN PARISH COUNCIL**Hampshire**

Minutes of a meeting of Newtown Parish Council held on
Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7:00pm (virtually)

Present: Chairman: Tony Webb
Councillors: Tom Reseigh, Sean Curry, Jo Exelby

In attendance: Clerk: Rebecca Cloke

ACTION

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1. **Apologies**
Cllr Izett and Cllr Thacker were unable to attend the meeting due to the pre-election 'purdah' period.
 2. **Election of Chairman for 2021-22**
Proposed by Cllr Curry and seconded by Cllr Exelby, Cllr Webb was elected unanimously.
 3. **To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office**
It was agreed (due to current COVID restrictions) that the declaration would be completed and signed by Cllr Webb prior to the next meeting of the council.
 4. **Election of Vice Chairman for 2021-22**
Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Exelby, Cllr Reseigh was elected unanimously.
It was agreed (due to current COVID restrictions) that the declarations of acceptance of office would be completed prior to the next meeting of the council.
 5. **Declarations of Interest**
None
- OPEN FORUM – none**
6. **Appointment of representatives to outside bodies**
Village Hall Committee Member – Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Curry, Cllr Reseigh was appointed as the Village Hall Committee Parish Council representative.
 7. **Appointment to committees**
Newtown Common Management committee – Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Exelby, Cllr Curry would continue as Chair on the Newtown Common Management Committee.

Chair

ACTION

- 8. Approval and signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2021.**
The minutes were verbally approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman prior to the next council meeting. Nominated by Cllr Reseigh and seconded by Cllr Curry.
- 9. Report for “News from the Villages”**
Cllr Webb had submitted a report for the May edition of “News from the Villages”. The update covers recent damage to the common caused by cycling and asks parents to advise their children that their activities are not legal.
- 10. Report from the Borough and/or County Councillor**
Absent
- 11. Highways and Traffic Issues**
Water leak on the C45.
Hampshire Highways had completed work on the C45 to divert the underground spring in March. Cllr Reseigh confirmed that the remedial action had resolved the issue of the ground spring causing surface water on the C45.
- SLR Machine**
The Cllrs discussed the deployment and use of the parish council owned SLR machine. Cllrs observed that the SLR machine was largely ignored and that it was expensive to deploy if the machine was not collecting data or having a meaningful impact on the speed of traffic. Cllr Exelby to investigate the cost of purchasing a new machine that would log data and how such data could be used to initiate police speed checks, if available.
It was agreed that as Newtown PC were not utilising the SLR currently, it could be lent to Ecchinswell PC for a deployment as requested.
- 12. Bus Shelter**
No response had been received from Basingstoke and Deane Traffic Officer. Clerk to follow up.
- 13. Waste Recycling**
Cllr Webb to contact Cllr Thacker (County Councillor) regarding the agreement for North Hampshire residents to utilise the West Berkshire household waste recycling facility at Newtown Road. The agreement is due to expire in July and Basingstoke and Deane have confirmed that they would continue to part fund an extension to this agreement however there had been no update from Hampshire County Council on the matter.
- 14. Village Hall Car Park Proposal and funding**
Cllr Reseigh briefed the council that he was awaiting a commencement date from the appointed building firm however there was a potential concern with regards to Planning Application 21/00544/FUL - Castle Cottages, and the potential damage to the building works, should the application be granted. It was acknowledged

JE

RC

TW

ACTION

that right of way had only been granted along the easterly track and not to the Village Hall and signage would be put up to state this to construction traffic. It was further acknowledged that a decision on the application was expected imminently. TW to contact B&D Planning Officer to establish timescales for the planning decision and access restrictions.

TW

15. Planning and development control

- a) **16/02230/FUL - Hill Farm** – there was no further update from B&D regarding this application and it is now listed as “Withdrawn Returned” on the B&D planning site.
- b) **20/01681/OOBC & 18/00828/OUTMAJ– Sandleford Park** – called in by the Secretary of State.
- c) **21/00163/FUL – Adbury Springs** – submitted – PC no objection
- d) **21/00263/HSE- Old Cottage** – granted – PC no objection
- e) **21/00544/FUL – Land adjoining Castle Cottages** –submitted - planning response submitted to Basingstoke and Deane. Concerns raised regarding the height and footprint of the application, surface water run-off, septic tank location and soakaway, arboricultural impact of tree removal and right of way access. It was stressed that any damage that construction traffic makes would need to be repaired.

16. Newtown Common

Cllr Curry briefed the council that the application for a new Higher Level Stewardship Agreement had been exceptionally frustrating with many issues encountered with the Rural Payments Agency. The deadline for the application to be submitted was the end of April but the issues meant it was unlikely that this deadline would be met. Clerk to continue pursuing the RPA to correct their records and continuing with the work to complete the application. Cllr Curry to contact the RPA and Hampshire County Council to try to gain an extension or assistance to meet the deadline.

RC

SC

Cllr Curry briefed the council that concerns had been raised with regards to the damage caused to areas of the common, where cycling tracks and jumps had been created. He stated that Hampshire County Council had been contacted and shared the concern although acknowledged that it was a difficult issue to police. Cllr Curry to organise the removal of the earth jumps and tracks.

Cllr Reseigh further briefed the council that concerns had been raised by local residents regarding general cycling and horse riding on the common. It was further discussed that clarity needed to be sought regarding the categories of rights of way within the common in order that correct action can be taken regarding cycling and horse riding, if required. Cllr Curry to contact Simon Melville regarding his understanding of Newtown Common Rights of Way so a comparison can be made to Hampshire Definitive Rights of Way information.

SC

SC

ACTION**17. Lengthsman Scheme**

Cllr Curry briefed the Parish Council that the lengthsman would continue work on the footpath along the B4640 clearing from the Swan. The next allocated hours are in June.

18. Small project options

The Clerk summarised that this workstream was made up of a more immediate project whereby a list of possible projects had been drawn up having identified that there were funds available for such projects and a longer-term project of identifying future potential projects as part of the budget setting each year.

A list of potential short-term projects had been drawn up and needed to be costed and structured in order that projects could be prioritised. Clerk and Cllr Reseigh to action this.

RC / TR

19. Finance reports**a) To receive the year end report on the budget for 2020/21**

The Clerk summarised the main variances to budget in the income and expenditure and summarised the reserves held at year end. Received and approved.

b) Review and approve the bank reconciliation at 31st March 2021

The Chairman had reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation and associated bank statements.

c) Review and approve audit documents, Expenditure over £100 and variance report – received and approved

d) Resolved that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman and the clerk.

20. Approval of payments

To ratify the following payments:

732	HALC	Clerk training course	36.00
733	R CLoke – expenses	Zoom / Print cartridges	46.12
734	Basingstoke and Deane	SLR deployment	240.00
735	Crescent Signs	Common signage	252.00
2021/22			
736	HALC	Annual subscription	178.95

To approve the following payments:

None

21. Parish Assembly

It was confirmed that the annual newsletter and Parish Assembly agenda had been delivered to all houses in Newtown. The Clerk confirmed that there had been a few requests for the virtual meeting details.

Chair

22. Correspondence

Ecchinswell PC – SLR loan – refer to agenda item 11.

VAT return – The Clerk confirmed the VAT return for 2020-21 had been completed and submitted

Resident regarding cycling on the common – refer to agenda item 16.

Bank online access – The Clerk confirmed that online bank access forms had been submitted to the bank, for all councillors.

23. Date of next meetings

A date for the following meeting was set for Tuesday 22nd June.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm

Action Summary

Agenda Item	Action	
11	SLR – Cllr Exelby to investigate the cost of purchasing a new machine that would log data and how such data could be used to initiate police speed checks, if available.	JE
12	Bus Shelter – No response had been received from Basingstoke and Deane Traffic Officer. Clerk to follow up.	RC
13	HWRC – Cllr Webb to contact Cllr Thacker (County Councillor) regarding use of Newtown Road HWRC.	TW
14	21/00544/FUL – Castle Cottages – TW to contact B&D Planning Officer to establish timescales for the planning decision and access restrictions.	TW
16	HLS Application – Clerk to continue pursuing the RPA to correct their records and continuing with the work to complete the application.	RC
16	HLS Application – Cllr Curry to contact the RPA and Hampshire County Council to try to gain an extension or assistance to meet the deadline.	SC
16	Newtown Common – Cllr Curry to organise the removal of the earth cycling jumps and tracks.	SC
16	Rights of Way - Cllr Curry to contact Simon Melville regarding his understanding of Newtown Common Rights of Way so a comparison can be made to Hampshire Definitive Rights of Way information.	SC
18	Small project options - A list of potential short-term projects had been drawn up and needed to be costed and structured in order that projects could be prioritised.	TR / RC

Signed

Date 15 Apr 2021

Chair