

Newtown Parish council

Hampshire

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Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Friday 6th April 2017

Newtown Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors with Tim Kelleher in the Chair
22 residents and guests

In Attendance: Clerk, Sally Scrivener

Welcome

Tim Kelleher welcomed those present.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony Webb, Nick Adlam, Tom Thacker, John Izett, Gretta Robertson and PCSO Damon Hope

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the last Parish assembly on 14th April 2016 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's report (assisted by other members of the council and clerk)

The Chairman reported on the latest developments in the Sandleford park development. The project will go ahead but at present there is a standoff between the planners and the builders. WBC are pushing for another exit from the estate onto the B4640 and the building of a new primary school, neither of which Bloor homes wants to fund. The Parish Council are concerned this will create a "rat run" and will be monitoring developments closely. A number of members of the public expressed concern about the existing speed of traffic and several suggestions were put forward. The chairman stated that the best way forward would be for each resident to write a letter outlining their concerns.

Sean Curry reported the latest news from BT. Tony Webb is the usual contact and is having regular meetings with BT. It was stated that Burghclere is due to switch on this week but Newtown is not likely before the end of 2017.

Simon Betts reported on the common management committee. Their task is to coordinate the clearance of scrub to allow the heathland to flourish and keep boundaries under control. This has been undertaken by Simon Melville and a group of volunteers. They have been recently surveying the other side of the B4640 and clearing under the power lines. Removal of the cut material decreases fertility which is necessary to promote regeneration of heathland. Work previously done by SSE has left the material behind which is not good practice. The Green Gym, 12 volunteers, have cleared holly and thinned

the trees which is just ongoing maintenance. Tim Kelleher added for clarification the common is owned by HCC and managed by Newtown PC on their behalf. They own 11 commons and the intention is to return them to heathland as 90% of heathland has been lost over the last 100 years. There were specific enquiries from members of the public re skunk cabbage and dead cherry trees. Simon Betts undertook to investigate further. The chairman suggested more volunteers could assist and there is an intention to reinstate the winter working party.

Tim Kelleher reported that the lengthsman scheme introduced 3-4 years ago is continuing and we have had clearance of grips, ditches and litter picking. The cause of flooding down by the church continues to be an issue as this needs to be dealt with by the highways authority. It is currently being controlled with sandbags. Two new notice boards have been installed by the lengthsman.

Tim Kelleher reported on the celebrations for the 800th anniversary. There had been a number of initial suggestions but a lack of co-ordination was hampering the proceedings. It was suggested that a sub-committee was formed to move the project forward. The current thinking is a commemorative book as created at the millennium but with a history of Newtown included, this is currently being worked on by Tony Webb and Ann Frazer has agreed to take the lead on this part of the project. There is also a suggestion of a fete which can be held at Horris Hill School and the books can be collected there. It was suggested that people could be approached to control different aspects but there needs an overall co-ordinator. A list of willing helpers names and emails/phone numbers was taken by the clerk for future use.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed

Dated