

Newtown Parish council

Hampshire

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Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Wednesday 4th April 2018

Newtown Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Sally Scrivener

1. Welcome

Tim Kelleher welcomed those present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Izett

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the last Parish assembly on 6th April 2017 were approved by the meeting, proposed by Tony Webb, seconded by Sean Curry and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the 2017 Parish Assembly

Common clearance - John Roskill suggested that it may be in the parish's interest to actually kill the holly rather than just keep chopping it down. He suggested a suitable product called "Garlon" and Simon Betts undertook to discuss this with the common management committee.

5. Chairman's report (assisted by other members of the council)

a. Newtown Common

Simon Betts reported that there has been continued work on the common from Sparsholt college along with the common management committee, the green gym and a small group of volunteers. The students work under supervision to manage the trees. This is a free service to the parish and work is prioritised by Simon Melville, who is passionate about it. There are three working parties a year, not during the down time that would affect plants and nesting birds. This year a quantity of work has been completed on the east of the B4640 where a number of trees have been thinned however the intention is to continue to look at both sides of the common. Nick Kennedy suggested that some plants are valued more than others and caution should be taken. The response was that each area is looked at individually. Bill Lloyd suggested that the piles of wood that are left lying around could cause fires. It was pointed out that these are available for sale but more advertising for this is obviously needed, the inaccessibility was a cause for concern, but it was stated that this is all done by volunteers and moving the wood to a more accessible area would take up a lot of manpower. The chairman undertook to discuss this with Simon Melville.

b. Newtown 800th Anniversary

Sean Curry reported that a small committee had been formed and Horris Hill School have offered their facilities for a fête to be held in their grounds on 16th June 2018. It will comprise mostly stalls manned by the pupils but there is intended to be a bar and a rock choir. Invites will go out to residents 4 weeks beforehand. Sean expressed gratitude to Horris Hill School for all their work. The original intention to publish a commemoration book was shelved after only 30 responses from the residents, however there will be a tract produced on the history of Newtown which will be available. Previous fêtes have had villagers input and it was agreed that if anyone wanted to run a

stall this would be encouraged, but would need to be self sufficient. The chairman suggested the best way to support the effort would be to turn up on the day.

c. Flooding at the Swan

Nick Adlam reported that he had made many attempts to speak with Hants County Council but due to cutbacks this was not seen as a priority by them. The contact we had has apparently left and not been replaced. It was pointed out that this is highways responsibility and we cannot just effect a repair on our own. The Parish Council will continue to pursue the problem.

d. Broadband

Tony Webb reported that most houses will have a fibre option by the end of the summer. There are a few exceptions where households can apply for a grant to HCC to help complete their installation. It was pointed out that availability does not mean automatic transfer. There would need to be dialogue between the user and their ISP, a possible replacement router and there would be an additional cost per month. The improvement to the service would not only mean speed of access but better reliability where “dropping out” has been an issue. Kathy Summers expressed concern that the date keeps getting pushed back and asked if we should write to the CEO. Tim Kelleher agreed it wouldn’t hurt to write, however he advised patience as it will happen. He thanked Tony Webb for his determination in pursuing BT and the meeting showed their appreciation.

e. Recycling

Tony Webb has emailed Cllr Thacker but has not yet had a reply, however he has been led to believe that Cllr Thacker has reassured Burghclere Parish Council that the status quo will continue until a permanent solution has been found.

6. Report from the County Councillor

The County Councillor did not attend

7. Open Forum

John Roskill expressed concern for the amount of bicycles and horses using the footpaths, if left unchecked this may escalate to off road vehicles. It was suggested that the bylaws be published on all noticeboards (currently one only) and there may be a need for additional signage. The councillors undertook to discuss this further.

8. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and asked those present to encourage others to attend meetings such as these.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Signed

Dated