

Newtown Parish council

Hampshire

www.newtown-pc.org.uk

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 9th April 2019
Newtown Village Hall at 7.30pm**

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Rebecca Cloke

1. Welcome

Tony Webb welcomed those present and verified that all present had received the Parish Council Newsletter and invitation to the Parish Assembly. He introduced Nick Adlam, Tim Kelleher and Rebecca Cloke.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tom Reseigh and Sean Curry.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the last Parish assembly on 4th April 2018 were approved by the meeting, proposed by Nick Adlam, seconded by Tim Kelleher and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the 2018 Parish Assembly

Tony Webb proposed to comment on matters arising from the prior assembly as he gave his Chairman's report.

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

a. Sandleford development

Various applications have been made for the Sandleford development but so far all have been refused.

b. Superfast Broadband

After a four year process, the superfast broadband installation is now largely complete. The West side of the Common has presented some particular problems and areas such as Adbury Holt are still in progress.

c. Recycling

The temporary pass system is currently on a rolling basis and whilst the PC has approached our MP to seek a permanent solution to the cross border recycling issue, there has been little in the way of a tangible response. There is little more that can be done until the next phase is agreed between HCC and WBC.

d. Fallen trees

Tony Webb briefed those present of the meeting held that day between Hampshire, Basingstoke and Dean and representatives of the Parish Council following a number of fallen trees on the Common. The responsibility for clearing the trees was under discussion. During the meeting on the 9th April, it was concluded that the liability sat between Hampshire and Basingstoke and Dean as the Parish Council had neither the budget or skills required to carry out the requirements.

e. Common Management

Work has been carried out west of the B4640 by Simon Melville, the Green Gym and working parties. The Parish Council extended their sincere thanks to all who had volunteered. A leaflet outlining the winter work was distributed by the Common Management Committee. The next Nightjar walk is scheduled for Wednesday 5th June.

f. Drainage issues

The drainage issue near the Swan PH, on the C45, have been addressed following correspondence from the Parish Council, however it is unknown how long this will last as a permanent and effective solution is not affordable.

g. Communication

Two new noticeboards are now in place and thanks were given to HCC Councillor, Tom Thacker, for providing funds for these.

h. Newtown Village Hall

Nick Adlam briefed those present that the Village Hall was still significantly under-used at around once a month. Whilst it was not facing imminent closure as there were some financial reserves, the usage and the Venture Club earnings barely covers the running costs. The hire rate is very competitive and the Parish Council are looking into the provision of better parking. Those present were asked to encourage those in and around the community to use it more.

6. Report from Borough Councillor, John Izett

The Borough Councillor did not attend

7. Report from County Councillor, Tom Thacker

The County Councillor did not attend

8. Open Forum

A resident expressed concern with regards to the pot holes on the B4640. It was explained that this was a Highways issue and whilst the Parish Council can report the pot holes, it could be beneficial if residents were to report them too as a volume of complaints may help.

A further resident stated that the road was suffering as a result of the number of lorries travelling down the road and stated that there had been a number of incidents including damage to their property as a result. The Parish Council agreed and explained that as the road is a designated trunk relief road, traffic calming measures could not be introduced but that they were looking into ways to enforce the 50mph speed limit. Sean Curry had contacted Tom Thacker (County Councillor) but had yet to receive a response.

Kathy Summers commented that she understood that the Parish Council owned a Speed Limiter flashing sign and historically paid Basingstoke and Dean to operate it. The Parish Council committed to look into this.

A further resident commented that they had not seen the 30 mph speed limiter sign for a while. It was understood that there was one that was used in the local villages. The Parish Council committed to look into this.

A resident commented that their property had been omitted from the broadband installation list. Tony Webb committed to bring it to the attention of Openreach.

A resident questioned the additional parking planned for the Village Hall. Nick Adlam explained that it was hoped to add another 6 spaces by utilising the two laybys.

A resident questioned why the Village Hall fundraising event (Quiz night) had been planned for September as it seemed a long way in advance. A member of the Village Hall committee

commented that they had not wanted to clash with Burghclere's Quiz night. It was further commented that the previous Hog roast event had not been well supported.

A resident suggested that a film club could be run and committed to look into it.

Nick Adlam commented on the issue of cyclists on the common, that had been raised at a previous Parish Assembly. He explained that the Parish Council had put "No cycling" signs up twice and they had been ripped down and spray painted.

A resident questioned what the "Nightjar walk" was and Tony Webb explained that it was a walk during the nesting season to spot nightjar.

A resident questioned the Neighbour Nextdoor scheme. Tony Webb explained that Sean Curry had been initially involved but had withdrawn when correspondence had been sent out with his details on but not from him. Residents stated that they had signed up believing that they had been contacted by Sean. Tony Webb stated that it was up to individual residents as to whether they would sign up for the scheme but that the Parish Council was not endorsing the service.

A resident queried who to contact to be connected to Superfast Broadband. Tony Webb explained that they would need to contact the Internet Service Provider to establish if they were providing Fibre to the Cabinet Broadband.

9. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Signed

Dated