

Newton Green Trust

Minutes 9th January 2016

Notes of a meeting held following the village coffee morning

1. Present: Russ Bower
Paul Devlin
Lee Parker
Colin Poole

2. Apologies: Michael Oliver

3. Matters Arising from the minutes of 9th December:

The following matters from the meeting held on 9th December 2015 were considered:

- a. Trustee signing Declarations of appointment – Mr Devlin & Mr Parker will check on this matter.
- b. Cutting back of trees on A134 to improve sightlines – The meeting agreed that the trees should be shaped in order to improve sight lines for people waiting at the bus stop or pedestrians crossing from the village hall. Mr Philip Taylor had already agreed to cut back the blackthorn adjacent the pond at pond cottage to improve sightlines looking towards Colchester for traffic emerging from School Lane.
- c. Cutting back trees on playing field and removing dead trees. It was noted that elm trees needed to be kept short to prevent Dutch elm disease. Some of the trees are getting rather large with very long boughs. It was agreed that Babergh's Tree Officer would be approached to do a survey for us and recommend any works. It was noted that the tree surgeon who had looked at the trees in regard to 3b above had suggested April was a good time as the ground would be firmer for equipment. This might impinge on limits set on tree work during the nesting season. **Action: Mr Parker to approach Tree Officer**
- d. Little Green Track – The meeting noted with thanks that some work had been done by residents and that when the weather improved a more permanent job would be done, as previously agreed. This also applied to the track to nos 1 & 2 Potash.
- e. Licences – The meeting reviewed access to each property. It was agreed that:
 - f. No license would be required for Tinkers Croft parking.
 - g. An easement for the new access to Saracens Cottage and Lilac Cottage was required, along with a license to park on the green in the two established spaces.
 - h. All properties would be offered an easement giving access in perpetuity in return for giving up any previous arrangements. This would provide clarity for everyone and ensure that any house sales were unencumbered by questions over access.

4. Any Other Business

- a. The Village Hall Committee had asked for the hedge between the hall and the swings to be tidied up to match the hedge on the opposite side of the bridge. It was agreed to approach Mr Flowers in regard to that work.

- b. The ditch between the village hall car park and the playing field and between the A134 and the playing field needed to be cleared of growth. It was noted that some of this work required traffic control for safety and may be done in conjunction with Taylor's Farm's work on the ditch between their land and the A134.
- c. The unsightly ruts in the grass outside Saracens Cottage were photographed and the cause would be investigated and action taken. **Action: Mr Parker**
- d. The trust considered Mr Devlin's request to the golf club to move the 1st green to reduce the danger of damage to his property and the need to hit golf balls over the road and other tees. It was agreed that this was a sensible proposal.
- e. Mrs Denise Scammell had written to raise concerns about the aggressive attitude of a few golfers towards interruptions to their game by pedestrians and cars crossing the green. The Committee felt this was primarily a matter for the golf club to try and impress on those players who bring the club into disrepute that patience and politeness must rule. Golfers have no right of way and should not be intimidating people by taking practice swings towards people. The club had acknowledged the problem of golf balls hitting cars by their decision to put up signs warning drivers that they were crossing a golf course – they need to impress on their players that there is never any excuse for reckless play. **Action: Mr French**

2. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged to suit the availability of Mr John Taylor, Mr Alan Vince and Mr Harry Buckledee to be briefed by them on the historical works carried out by the Trust.