

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Wednesday, 12th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Paul Presland (Chairman), Russ Bower, Sue Crawte, Rita Schwenk and Laura Smith.

In Attendance: Cllr James Finch (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Lee Parker (Babergh District Council), Teresa Devine (Locum Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

20/113 Apologies

An apology for absence was sent by Cllr Philip Taylor. (Holiday).

20/114 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

None received.

20/115 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th January 2020 and Minute of the Special Meeting held on Monday, 27th January 2020.

The Minutes of both meetings were agreed by the Council as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20/116 Public Participation and Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Two members of the public aired their concerns about Planning Application No: DC/20/00019 'Woodean'.

Cllr L Parker (Babergh District Council) informed everyone that this application had been considered and was about to be withdrawn or refused. The Chairman explained that the Council's earlier decision to support the application had been made on the information available at that time.

(It was noted that Cllr Finch would be arriving a little later and would present his report at that point).

Report from Cllr Lee Parker (Babergh District Council)

Cllr Parker presented his report to the Council. The following points were noted:

- a) Babergh Council's **budget for 2020/21** had been approved and would be presented to Full Council next week. Full details could be accessed on-line.
- b) **Sudbury Exhibition** – an exhibition was currently running in Sudbury which revealed the ambitions of the District and County Councils for the area, specifically funding for Gainsborough House and for Belle Vue. Cllr Parker encouraged everyone to go on-line and comment on the proposals.
- c) A **Housing Assistance Policy** had been approved by Babergh with up to £7,500 available in grants for residents in need of assistance with ramps, heating etc.
- d) **Sudbury Citizens' Advice** – Owing to the invaluable service provided by the Advice Centre, funding of £160,000 had been approved.

- e) The **King Fisher Leisure Centre** – The first phase of work had been completed. The full cost of the extension is £2.4 million.
- f) **Hadleigh Swimming Pool** – work has started.
- g) Local **Neighbourhood Plans** – To date 5 Neighbourhood Plans have been approved and more are awaiting approval. At a Babergh Committee Meeting on 12th February two Planning Applications had been refused owing to the fact that they did not fit in with Neighbourhood Plans.
- h) **Parking Enforcement** – Babergh Council has not yet received full details and therefore no agreement has yet been made for the Council to take over this function.

20/117 Action on Correspondence and Emails

- a) A new **co-option notice** had been prepared by the Locum Clerk to advertise for another Councillor. The Clerk to send a copy to Cllr Crawte for inclusion in the Newsletter.
- b) Suffolk Association of Local Councils will be holding the next **Babergh Area Forum** on Monday, 16th March 2020 at Hadleigh Leisure Centre at 7.00 pm. The main topic would be ‘Homelessness’. Any Councillor interested in attending should contact the Clerk. These forum meetings are open to both Clerks and Councillors.

20/118 Locum Clerk’s Report

The Chairman read out the report received from the Locum Clerk. The following points were noted:

- a) Information about a **replacement 14th Century Church sign** was awaited. Cllr Finch (Suffolk County Council) had written to the Highways Department about the matter.
- b) The **Bank Deposit book** for the Council had not been found and a new copy would need to be requested from Barclays. This had to be done via the cheque signatories. (Clerk to draft a letter to the bank).
- c) The **Financial Report** previously circulated, and to be discussed was based on the most recent statement from Barclays dated 31st December 2019 and the Financial Report submitted by the Clerk at the October Meeting.
- d) **Pay Scales** – the most recent pay scales published by NALC had been circulated to Council Members for the Part Two Agenda item.

20/119 Planning

- a) **No: DC/20/00421 Application for Agricultural Determination (Land to the North East of Valley Farm, Valley Road, Newton, CO10 0QQ)**
A detailed discussion took place concerning the application and it was **RESOLVED THAT:** The Council **objects** to this application.
- b) **Appeal to Planning Application No: DC/19/05143 – The Organic Box, Rectory Road, Newton, Sudbury.**
RESOLVED THAT: The Council **objects** to this Appeal.

c) **No DC/19/05588 Jordans , Sudbury Road, Newton, Sudbury**

The Clerk informed the Council that **Outline Planning Permission** had been **granted** by Babergh District Council. Cllr Parker (Babergh) confirmed that outline planning permission had effect for 3 years.

d) **No: DC/19/05340 – Replacement of Children’s play equipment; Creation of an outdoor fitness area and multi-use games area at Playing Field, The Green, Sudbury, Suffolk**

The Chairman reported to the Council that a site visit had taken place in the previous week where plans had been discussed for the construction of the Multi-Purpose Games Area, the erection of sports equipment for adults and the replacement of the swings. The plans were met with approval with the exception of the proposed adult sports equipment which included too many working parts. A new company would be contacted to supply the adult sports equipment.

The Chairman had been informed that 75% of the funding originally applied for would be granted. Contribution from CIL would need to be made. A further £20,000 could be awarded from Community Grants and Funding.

Newton Parish Council had made application for the new games and play areas to go ahead within the May deadline for 2019. Cllr Parker (Babergh) informed the Council that the CIL Team had written to say the application would be carried into May 2020. He believed that this meant no re-application had to be made but that the matter had been deferred pending new details of the modified outdoor keep-fit equipment.

Cllr Crawte agreed to submit an article to the Newsletter regarding the new MPGA and sports area. Cllrs agreed that several Village Events might be necessary to help raise funds for the project.

20/120 Financial Report

a) The Chairman outlined the main points from the **Financial Report**. It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed to give an extra £1,000 into Neighbourhood Plan expenditure and this would be recorded in the Accounts.

b) **Cheques for signing** – A cheque for £2,061.85 payable to Opus was signed for payment.

c) **Movement of monies into Current Account** – The Chairman informed the Council that a previous Clerk had set up a system whereby any debit from the Current Account was instantly replaced by a credit from the Business Premium Account and therefore a large sum of transfer to pay bills was not necessary.

20/121 Bus Timetable Changes

Cllr Smith spoke to the Council about the new bus timetable changes for the No 84 from Sudbury to Colchester. Discussion took place as to whether the Council should, as a body, have a position on the matter.

20/122 Village Hall

Cllr Taylor expressed concern that the new defibrillator is not locked and could therefore be vandalised or misused. The former Clerk to be contacted to ascertain the name of the company that fitted the defibrillator in order to facilitate a lock to be added.

20/123 Newton Trust

Cllr Schwenk reported that no meeting had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting. The new chairs are still on trial.

A Quiz Night will take place on 28th March 2020. This is a joint venture with the Parish Council.

Cllr Bower reported that enquiries had been made into providing a new metal bridge leading to the recreation ground and a quote of just under £3,000 had been received.

(Cllr James Finch joined the meeting at 8.29 pm)

Cllr Bower also informed the Council that a meeting had taken place concerning the removal of a tree. The Golf Club were also desirous of a meeting with the Parish Council and the Trust regarding the upkeep of gorse bushes and other fauna and flora.

The Chairman of the Council is happy to meet with other representatives about the planning and management of necessary coppicing.

Abbey House – Cllr Parker has made application to the land registry to ascertain accurate records about Abbey House.

20/124 Neighbourhood Planning

A ‘**character assessment**’ of the village is currently in progress. Discussions have taken place about the things considered desirable in the village and how they can be maintained. Ten policies on this matter are currently under discussion.

The Clerk to add this item to the next Agenda of Newton Parish Council.

20/125 Report by Councillor James Finch (Suffolk County Council)

Cllr Finch presented his report to the Council. The following points were noted:

a) **Drop-In Sessions** with Councillor Finch were available to local residents.

b) **Children in Care** – Up to 900 young people are currently in care in the Suffolk area: just under 80% of funding for the care is raised by Suffolk County Council.

c) 14th Century Church Sign

Cllr Finch had contacted the Highways Department but it was deemed that the sign is a private sign and would need to be funded locally.

d) Speed Sign in Newton – Cllr Bower had been informed that Newton PC needs a “Memorandum of Understanding” from the County Council because the Speed Signs at Newton have to be regularly moved. Cllr Finch informed the Council that request can be made for a police car to carry out speed checks if desired. The Council should write to Cllr Finch requesting ‘enforcement’ for for this to be arranged.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Finch for his report. (*Cllr Finch left the meeting at 9.01 pm.*)

20/126 Welcome Booklet

A short discussion took place concerning updating the Welcome Booklet. The following points were agreed:

- a) A few points about how to navigate the green should be added (in order to make new residents aware of safety owing to the direction taken by golfers on the green);
- b) The golf club to be requested to provide a small map for the Booklet;
- c) The Clerk to ascertain if a ‘Word’ version is available;
- d) Cllr Crawte offered to put together the new booklet when all the information is received;
- e) The New Booklet to be an Agenda item for the April 2020 meeting.

20/127 Questions to the Chairman

None.

20/128 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Newton Parish Council will take place on Wednesday, 11th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

20/129 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the public left the meeting. The Locum Clerk also left at this point.

.Signed:(Chairman)

Date:

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PART TWO

20/130 Appointment of a Permanent Clerk to the Council

RESOLVED: That Newton Parish Council will appoint and employ a part-time Clerk on a permanent basis with effect from 1st April 2020. The position will be advertised in the Parish Newsletter and on the Newton Parish Council website. Salary will be dependent on experience, qualifications and evidence of working to a very high standard. The closing date for applications will be 13th March 2020 and interviews will take place in the week commencing 23rd March 2020.

Signed:(Chairman) Date: