

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Wednesday, 15th January 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Present:

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

In Attendance: Theresa Devine (Locum Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

20/01 Apologies

An apology for absence was sent by Cllr R Schwenk

Cllr L Parker (Babergh District Council) and Cllr James Finch (Suffolk County Council) sent their apologies.

2 members of the public who regularly attend meetings, Penny Beswick and Sue Hornigold also sent their apologies.

20/02 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

None received.

20/03 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th December 2019

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

20/04 Public Participation and Reports from Borough and County Councillors

a) Cllr Finch (Suffolk County Council) had submitted a written report.

The Chairman noted certain points on the report which had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain from Cllr Finch if there had been any progress on the sign for the 14th Century Church.

Thanks were expressed for Cllr Finch's report.

b) Cllr Parker had spoken to the Chairman prior to the Meeting and confirmed that there was no update on the Second Phase of Red House Farm.

A member of the public informed the Council that Babergh District Council were still in negotiation about the way forward with Phase Two of Red House Farm. A decision is awaited.

c) Wheldon Barns – Cllr Parker had informed the Chairman that no further progress had been made. The Enforcement Team will have more powers and will be reorganised to be seen to be more efficient. Wheldon Barns needed to be dealt with as soon as possible. New issues presented to the Enforcement Team will take at least 12 months in advance to be considered but present, ongoing issues will be dealt with as a priority.

- 20/05 Actions agreed from Correspondence Forwarded from the Clerk**
A letter received by Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch requesting a donation of £50 had been received. A discussion took place. It was noted that Newton's own Neighbourhood Watch was not operational.
RESOLVED: To give a donation of £50 to Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch
- 20/06 Clerk's Report and Actions Agreed arising from the Report**
The Clerk's Report had been previously circulated. The following points were noted/agreed.
- a) **Precept**
It was agreed that the Precept application for 2020/21 would be submitted when information about the Council's budget had been received.
- b) **Bank Holiday Celebrations to mark 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day**
It was reported that celebrations are in hand for the forthcoming V.E. Day 75th Anniversary and these will be held in the Jubilee Gardens. A member of the community, currently on holiday, would advise the Council of the details when back. It was noted that this event needed to be advertised.
- c) **Proposers and Seconders**
The need for all motions to have a Proposer and Seconder was noted. Some Councillors expressed that they did not wish their names to be mentioned in relation to proposing or seconding a motion. The Clerk informed the Council that this was acceptable but, if at any time in the future any Councillor called for a 'named vote', this could be done.
- d) **Financial Report**
A Financial Report would be presented at the February meeting of the Council.
- e) **Thanks to the Council**
The Chairman passed the Clerk several cards which had been received thanking the Council for gifts.
Cllr Bower informed the Council that the total collected for the British Legion had been £989.56. This had been received from the village and local businessmen. The British Legion sent their thanks to the Council for their donation of £100.
- 20/07 Planning**
The Chairman presented a summary of the status of current Planning Applications which had been previously circulated to Councillors.

A new application: **DC/20/00019 – Building new dwelling and creation of vehicular access – name – 'Woodean', Links View, Newton, Sudbury** had been received.
A discussion took place about the erection of this property. Two members of the public supplied additional information, one of them being personally

involved in the planning application.

RESOLVED: The Council supports this application.

Two members of the public left after this item had been discussed.

20/08

Finance

a) **Expenditure** to date to be discussed at the February meeting.

b) **Precept**

The Chairman and Clerk would meet some time during the week commencing 20th January 2020 to discuss the Precept figures further prior to discussion again at a Council meeting and submission to Babergh.

c) **Budget**

The new Clerk was informed that the budget figures including money received for work on the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that this money should be separately recorded.

The heading ‘Youth Council’ to be removed from the Budget as it is no longer applicable.

The Clerk’s Salary expenditure would be higher this year because the Council is paying a fee as well as the payment for a Locum Clerk.

d) **Reserves**

The Council took note of the balances in the 3 Council held accounts.

It was agreed that the Current Account should hold an amount of £500 as contingency against bill payments.

The Council had made a bid for £160,000 to Babergh Council for the provision of a sports area and sports equipment for the community. It was possible that the Council would be asked to ‘match fund’ these ventures. A discussion took place and it was noted that the Community Infrastructure Levy might provide some funding. The Chairman informed the Council that he will be meeting with the District Council on 4th February for a site meeting.

f) **Speed Limit Warning Signs**

Clr Bower gave an update on the Speed Limit Warning Signs. These can be powered from street lighting or solar panels: the latter being the better option. He recommended that the Council purchase 2 solar panel kits and one sign. The total cost would be £2,500. The situation could be reviewed in 6 months time. The signs which provide a warning of speed also provide road and traffic data. Bigger posts would be needed of 4.5 metres high to support the solar panels. It was suggested that one sign be placed outside

Manders where the 30 mph limit exists and one opposite Red Farm. Cllr Bower would be willing to put up the signs.

A discussion took place and it was **unanimously AGREED to purchase the Signs at a cost of £2,500.**

g) Cheque signatories

Councillors discussed the need to perhaps change banking arrangements, given the poor service received from Barclays Bank. Mandate Forms need to be completed for Councillors to become eligible to sign cheques.

h) Cheques

There were no cheques to be signed at the meeting.

20/09 Questions to the Chairman

a) Hastoe

The Chairman reported that no further information has been forthcoming. He will pursue the matter.

b) Co-Option of Councillor

The Chairman suggested that the Council would benefit from a Co-opted member. **Agreed:** To advertise for another Councillor via Co-option.

c) Newton Trust

The Chairman informed the Council that the Newton Trust will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 25th January 2020 at 10.00 am in the Village Hall.

20/10 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

20/11 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The remaining member of the public left the meeting at this point.

Signed.....

Date.....

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PART TWO

20/12 To ratify the decision to appoint a Locum Clerk

The Council agreed the decision to appoint a Locum Clerk and a discussion took place concerning the need for the Council to advertise for a permanent Clerk given the high fee cost involved in paying for a Locum Clerk through an agency.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed..... Date.....

