

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 7.30 pm by Zoom Video-Conference**

**Present:**

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr James Finch (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Lee Parker (Babergh District Council) and Theresa Devine (Locum Clerk)

**20/131 Apologies**

None.

**20/132 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation**

None.

**20/133 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting were agreed by the Council as a true record with the following amendment: **Minute 20/123** final paragraph to read:

**‘Abbey House**

Lee Parker, in his capacity as a member of Newton Trust, was making enquiries about the extent of Trust land outside Abbey House.’

(The Minutes to be altered by hand on the original document.)

**20/134 Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

**Report from Cllr Lee Parker (Babergh District Council)**

A written report from Cllr Parker had been received and read by Councillors. Cllr Parker drew attention to the following points:

a) Babergh District Council is responsible for the **Business Grant Fund**.

Nearly 100% of eligible businesses within the district have applied to receive a grant of £10,000. Applications are being processed within two days. A second tier of grant is available for leisure and retail up to £25,000. Only 30% of eligible businesses have made an application.

b) **Help and support for the needy and vulnerable during COVID-19.**

Sue Calver, a Locality Officer is working alongside Cllr Parker and Cllr Finch to supply help to those in need during COVID-19 restrictions. Up to £2,500 can be given to local communities to cover the cost of volunteers’ expenses such as petrol claims etc. It was considered that some funds might be needed in Newton. Cllr Parker to will contact the Chairman with more information. Any assistance would be put into the Parish Council funds as a holding place.

c) **Recreation Area**

Cllr Parker confirmed that the Council’s application for funding to develop The amenities in the playground had been received. The application will be

checked thoroughly and then be passed to Cabinet in September. Cllr Parker stated that the Trust needs to confirm by a Minute that it agrees to building being erected on Trust land. Cllr Taylor will take action on this matter.

d) **Cabinet Meetings and Full Council Meetings** are taking place by video. The public may join **Full Council Meetings** but questions must be lodged 7 days in advance.

#### **Report by Cllr James Finch (Suffolk County Council)**

Cllr Finch thanked Newton for all the work being done to help people in the community during COVID-19. He confirmed that Sue Calver will be handling the data connected with the help: owing to GDPR neither Cllr Parker or Cllr Finch will see the lists.

The following points were noted from Cllr Finch's report:

- a) **TRIBE** - an update was given on the work done being done by Tribe volunteers. (Cllr Crawte reported that she had experienced difficulties in registering as a volunteer with Tribe as the system could not recognise her address and defaulted to the address of the Golf Club. Cllr Finch offered to take swift action to look into this matter with a view to resolving the issue
- b) **Suffolk Highways** – it is a priority of the Council to keep the Highways operational. However, as a number of staff are in isolation and others are being transferred to other COVID-19 tasks, Highways works will probably be limited to high priority works.
- c) **Food Banks** - £60,000 has been placed into provisions for Food Banks by the County Council. Cllr Finch suggested that some people may wish to make a donation to costs if their need for help was owing to being vulnerable rather than financial.
- d) **Local Bus Services** are facing difficulties as passenger numbers have greatly declined.
- e) **Recycling Centres** are closed.

#### **20/135 Locum Clerk's Report**

The Chairman read out the report received from the Locum Clerk. No action was required on any matter noted.

#### **20/136 Planning**

- a) **No: DC/20/00859 Outline Planning Application – Marks Meadow, Rectory Road, Newton, Sudbury.**

A new application has been submitted for the erection of 3 detached dwellings with garages. The original application had been for one detached and 2 semi-detached dwellings.

A discussion took place. **RESOLVED:** That Newton Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application as the Council wishes to see fewer houses outside the Built Up Area Boundary.

**b) Refusal of Planning Application**

The Chairman had received correspondence from a local resident concerning refusal by Babergh Council of his appeal, following a refusal to grant planning permission. Cllr Parker informed the Council that once a Planning Appeal has been rejected the matter is closed outside of Judicial Review, which is very costly.

**c) DC/20/00755 – Erection of two-storey rear extension and installation of windows and door to south elevation and erection of garage – Brook Farm, Sudbury Road, Newton, Sudbury, CO10 0QS.**

**RESOLVED:** That Newton Parish Council **AGREES** to this application.

**d) DC/20/01139 – Erection of a grain store, construction of concrete pad and alterations to existing field access – Site Fronting the South West Side of A134 (formerly part of Braes Farm), Newton Green, Sudbury.**

**RESOLVED:** That Newton Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application.

*Cllr Lee Parker left the meeting at this point – 8.37 pm.*

**20/137 Financial Report**

a) The Locum Clerk spoke to the Financial Reports previously circulated. A break-down of Earmarked Reserves was also presented. (Copy in Appendix).

b) The Chairman had made arrangements to ensure that cheques can be signed during the COVID-19 restrictions. Forms had also been filled-in by several Councillors to ensure more signatories would be available in the future. It would be necessary for Utility Bills and a Passport be taken to Barclays by those concerned.

**20/138 Hastoe Development**

There was nothing further to report concerning Hastoe. Villagers will be eligible for the new, affordable housing but strict criteria would be applied. COVID-19 had prevented any further progress.

**20/139 Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan was lodged with consultants. A Draft Plan would be produced by Navigus by the end of April. This would then be sent to Babergh District Council but no public consultation could take place owing to the lock down.

**20/140 Village Hall Committee**

No report.

#### **20/141 Newton Trust**

Cllr Taylor reported that the Golf Club had requested a 'rent holiday' and this had been agreed to: Owing to the lock down no one was playing golf or visiting.

#### **20/142 Questions to the Chairman**

##### **a) Rural Housing Partnership**

It is possible there will be affordable housing on land to the south of Airey Close. As the Public Consultation exercise took place in July 2019, Babergh MidSuffolk District Council now require more up-to-date information relating to village need. This matter will be discussed at the next Meeting of Newton Parish Council in May 2020.

##### **b) Parcels**

It was drawn to the Council's attention that no discussion had taken place about supporting the Villages' initiative to provide "feel good" parcels for vulnerable residents. A subsequent discussion took place and it was agreed by a majority vote to follow the lead of both the Village Hall Committee and the Fireside Club by donating £100.

#### **20/143 Annual Parish Assembly- Cancelled owing to COVID-19**

A discussion took place and it was agreed that written comments would be invited and posted on the website, rather than nothing at all being done.

#### **20/144 Recreation Ground (Reported on at the time of Cllr Parker's report)**

The Chairman informed the Council that the CIL 123 Application had been amended by him this week and a Community Grant had also been obtained. Section 106 monies had provided just over £7,000 towards the project, a further £25,000 had been obtained through a Community Grant and, the Parish Council would contribute £20,000 from its' funds. Funding already committed equalled £52,000 and an extra £87,000 was needed for a complete refurbishment of the Recreation Ground. This sum had been requested from the CIL Fund.

#### **20/145 Speed Signs**

Cllr Bower reported that the speed signs had been scheduled to be put up during the current week but had been delayed in arrival (from France) owing to the Coronavirus. The County Council were to erect the posts.

#### **20/146 Newton Charities**

a) The Chairman reported that Sue Presland will be taking over the Chairmanship of the **Newton Charities**.

b) Request for funding from **Kernos Drop-In Centre, Sudbury**

A discussion took place about the request from Kerno for a donation

towards their work. **RESOLVED:** That £100 be donated to Kernos.

**20/147 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30 pm by Zoom video conference.

The Chairman thanked the Locum Clerk for all the work done for the Council and the Clerk left the meeting at this point. (9.15 pm)

Cllr J Finch also left the Meeting.

Signed: Paul Presland  
.....(Chairman)

Date: 13th May 2020.....

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**PART TWO**

**20/148 Appointment of a Permanent Clerk to the Council**

The Council confirmed the appointment of Mr Dave Crimmin as Newton Parish Clerk as from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

In her absence, our Locum Clerk, Miss T Devine was thanked for her excellent Clerking during the past 4 months and the Council wished her the very best for the future.

Signed: Paul Presland.....(Chairman)

Date: 13th May 2020.....