

Newton Green Trust

Minutes 9th December 2015

Present: Russ Bower
Fred French
Michael Oliver
Colin Poole

In Attendance: Two residents of the village

1. Apologies: Paul Devlin
Lee Parker

2. Election of Chairman: Mr Poole was elected Chairman. Proposed, Mr Bower seconded, Mr French.

3. Minutes of the last meeting: These were approved as a true record

4. Matters Arising:

The following matters from the meeting held on 16th September 2015 were considered:

- a. Trustee Declarations – These were with Mr Devlin and therefore the item will be held over to the next meeting.
- b. Newton Trust History on Website – Mr Poole confirmed this had been sent through to Mr Crimmin and was now on the Parish Council website.
- c. Quotes for long-term solution to Little Green track – Mr Oliver explained that the two companies previously contacted had not responded to the request for a quote. A more local company, Century Farms, would look at the work in the spring. In the meantime, Olivers Farms had recently bought 20 tonnes of fine tarmac scrapings which bound very well. The cost was £200 and this may be another possibility. The meeting agreed that the key issue was getting a good grade across the lane so that puddles did not form, as these became potholes.
- d. Insurance Register – Mr Poole showed the meeting the outline register. This could be completed once it was possible to fully list all the assets.

5. Work Programme

- a. John Taylor briefing on regular work of the Trust – It was understood that Mr Gardner had arranged for Mr Taylor to attend tonight's meeting, but as Mr Taylor was not present, this matter would be held over to a future meeting.
- b. Ponds – Report from Leonie Washington, Suffolk Wildlife Trust – The meeting welcomed the very informative and full report from Ms Washington. As not all the Trustees were present, and some had not received the report prior to the meeting, it was agreed to hold this matter over to the next meeting.
- c. Cutting back of trees on A134 to improve sightlines – the trees shield the traffic from miss-hit golf balls but interfere with sightlines for traffic emerging from School Lane, pedestrians crossing at that point and passengers awaiting buses at the Sudbury-bound bus stop. Mr Devlin had obtained a quote for £370+VAT for a tree surgeon to carry out these works in the spring. The meeting agreed that all members of the trust should do a site visit to consider what trees need work and which should be left.

Mr Philip Taylor had agreed to cut back the blackthorn adjacent the pond at pond cottage to improve sightlines looking towards Colchester for traffic emerging from School Lane.

- d. Little Green Track – Annual repairs – Mr Poole advised the meeting that he had spoken to Mr George Davey about doing temporary repairs. Mr Davey would inspect the lane and give Mr Poole a quote. The Meeting approved a budget of £250 for this work.

Mr Devlin had written to Mr Poole highlighting that the lane to Potash Cottage also required work. Mr French said that the golf club would look at what might be done.

2. Finance

- a. Current figures were not available. Mr Devlin had dropped off a cheque with Mr Poole for the wayleave payment. This would be passed to Mr Gardner who held the bank details. Mr Bower passed over the receipt for the donation to the Poppy Appeal.

3. Licences

- a. Report back on progress – Mr Poole read Mr Devlin's report to the meeting. He had suggested that the Committee meet on the green in January to view the access points. This was agreed.
- b. Mr Poole confirmed that Mrs Mortlock no longer parked on the green and did not wish to renew her license for doing so.

4. Any Other Business

- a. Mr French advised that a cherry tree on the green had died and needed taking down. It was agreed that the golf club could carry out this work.
- b. Residents had asked for attention to be given to the height of the trees on the A134 side of the playing field adjacent to the entrance to Pond Cottage. There were some dead trees in the hedgerow, they dropped a lot of debris on the road and blocked a great deal of light.

5. Date of Next Meeting

10.00am Saturday 9th January 2015 at the village hall, to carry out an inspection of the trees along A134, the access points for residences and the hedgerow alongside the A134 on the playing field.

The residents present were thanked for their time and contribution to the meeting.

6. Private Trustee discussion on replacement Clerk

The meeting agreed to Mrs Bower taking the notes of the meetings with various members taking on the role of treasurer and secretary, for any correspondence that is needed to be written.