

Newnham Parish Council

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Minutes of Newnham Parish Council meeting held at 7.30.pm on 4th January 2021

Due to the coronavirus this meeting was held by video conference.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr T Regan (Chairman)
Mr A Cox
Mr R Harcock
Mr N Shepherd
Mr J Simpson
Mrs S Venner

Clerk Mrs M Money

1.01.21 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor R W Brown.

2.01.21 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

There were none.

3.01.21 To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2020

Subject to an amendment of Item 10.12.20(d) - Administration –it was pointed out by Cllr Simpson that these allowances were agreed by the council back in 2013 and to Item 20.12.20 – altering Penny Alexander to Ken Alexander – It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be approved and signed.

4.01.21 Public Time (3 minutes per speaker)

No members of the public were present.

5.01.21 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Despite the vacancies being published no interest had been shown. Publicity would continue.

6.01.21 Coronavirus (Covid 19)

a.) **Closure of village hall** – This was in limited use. Strict procedures were being followed.

b.) **Lockdown – latest government advice** – being followed.

7.01.21 Update on issues from April 2019 Open Meeting

a) **Telephone Box** – Still requires some glass to be fitted before being fitted out.

b) **Website** - update on Councillor's profiles – Cllrs Cox, Harcock and Shepherd still need to provide profiles. If problems are being experienced with emails Tina Britton at 2Commune is the person to contact.

c) **Traffic calming** – i) update on usage of existing and new Speed Indicator Devices – Cllr Cox and Darron, the handy person, have fitted the new device in School Hill and the old one along Preston Capes Road. There have been numerous suggestions as to where these devices could be fitted. Initially the data needs to be collated before the new device is moved to a different location. Ideally, they need to be sited higher up the post than they are as

cyclists are at present trying to beat the set speed. We do have permission to site devices in different locations, but these must be within the village confines.

The Chairman suggested purchasing another device. Possibly one that could be a permanent fixture along the Weedon Road to warn drivers of cross-roads. Cllr Simpson will contact Highways to ascertain if it is feasible to use an existing post on the Weedon Road, but if not, then installing a post and the cost involved.

ii) future reporting of collected data – Someone able to download and collate the data is require – Cllr Simpson will seek to try and download the data for the time being, but a longer-term nominee to download and collate the data is required.

iii) purchase of new battery - The Clerk was asked to order batteries for both the old and the new devices. An expenditure of £200.00 was approved.

[8.15pm District Councillor J Amos joined the meeting and reported that whilst the planning application for Newnham Turn Farm had been rejected there were several other similar issues (traveller p) requiring his attention in the area. There is little co-operation from the DDC Enforcement Officer. 8.36.pm he left the meeting.]

8.01.21 Correspondence

a) Closure of Newnham Hill – The Clerk advised that there had been many comments about this on Facebook. She had asked District Councillor J Amos who had found out the exact position and she had been able to confirm that the road would be open in time for Christmas (which it was). A letter will nevertheless be sent to NCC Highways pointing out that Poets Way is not a suitable diversionary route

b) Car Parking on the School Playing Field – This had, again, received a lot of attention from residents. The Chairman had been able to re-assure residents that whilst this had been mentioned the Parish Council did not intend to pursue this any further with the school who owned the playing field.

c) Blocked drains/standing water in Badby Road opposite the junction with Bradbury Road – Neither Anglian Water nor NCC Highways were historically willing to take responsibility for this but the problem is under investigation.

d) Churchyard trees overhanging the Village Hall - Cllr Venner reported that some bushes had been cut back and a drainage ditch dug. Ben Allee had been asked to look at what could be done with the trees. The situation will be monitored.

e) To appoint a Police Liaison Representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police – Cllr Venner agreed to take on this role. The Clerk will make the notification.

f) Environmental issues – contact from Daventry DC – It was agreed to leave this in abeyance.

g) Local Code of Conduct – 19/20 Digest from Daventry DC – Cllr Simpson said these highlighted issues which had occurred during the year. A new Local Code of Conduct is likely to be introduced soon.

9.01.21 Financial

a) Bank balance as at 29th December 2020 £33,347.31 and at 31st December £33,329.31 of which £8000.00 is held as a General Reserve

b) On a proposal by the Chairman it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payments of £600.00 towards the previously approved purchase of a second defibrillator and £574.99 to purchase a cabinet for the defibrillator – both payments to the British Heart Foundation – and authorise payment of the December accounts.

	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Total	Stat.Power
B/P	British Heart	Defibrillator	600.00		600.00ec	LGA 72s.Misc

	Foundation					Prov
B/P	British Heart Foundation	Cabinet for Defibrillator	479.16	95.83	574.99e	LGA 72s Misc Prov
B/P	Mrs M Money	Salary/Expenses	420.50		420.50	LGA s72.112
B/P	D Maddock	Handy Person Invoice 003	205.00		205.00	LGA 72s.111
B/P	D Maddock	Handy Person Invoice 004	19.99		19.99	LGA 72s 111
B/P	W S Gardens	Grass cutting	520.00	104.00	624.00	Open Spaces
B/P	The Knightley United Benefice	The Link	420.00		420.00	LG A 72s 111
12th	SLCC	12 th Edition of Arnold Baker	123.00	0.80	123.80	LGA72s.111

c) To finalise the 2021/2022 Budget and the amount of the Precept

Cllr Simpson had circulated a finalised budget document for discussion; after clarification of one or two points the Budget and the level of precept were agreed; it was **RESOLVED** that the Council do precept upon Daventry District Council in the sum of £34,722.00 to be paid in two instalments in April and September 2021. There is no increase in the level of precept from this year.

d) Expenditure Against Budget 3rd Qtr (to 31/11/2020)

Circulated and accepted.

10.01.21 Update on Allotment Renewal Lease

There is still no progress with this. Cllr Simpson reported that the existing Lease expired in 2017 and had been extended to 2022 but the agreement had not yet been signed by the Landlord. An option to purchase had been agreed early in the negotiations but this seems to have been withdrawn. He is now seeking for the lease to be extended to 2027 with the council having the first option to purchase if the landlord wishes to sell the land.

11.01.21 Planning

Issues

a) applications_(None at time of issue of papers)

b) Decisions

DA/2019/1058 – Newnham Turn Farm, Main Road, Dodford – Rejected

12.01.21 Reorganisation Order – DDC have resolved to take part of the parish (land down the A45 after the scrapyard)

Cllr Simpson said his report has still not been finalised due to working on the budget.

13.01.21 Consider DDC proposed review of Conservation Area

Currently this does not affect Newnham but when the review is proposed it will involve a considerable amount of work.

14.01.21 Consider changing electricity supplier

After considering the quote supplied Clear Utility Solutions which should give a saving of £100 per year it was agreed that switching providers should proceed.

te15.01.21 Health and Safety

- a) Burial Ground – Nothing adverse to report
- b) Churchyard – Nothing adverse to report
- c) Play Area – Nothing to report

At this point discussion was held on the condition of the path through the churchyard and up into Mounts Lane. Provision of a handrail was suggested, and it was agreed that Darron the Handy Person should be asked to work out costings for providing a handrail from the lower part of the churchyard and down into the dip and also from Mounts Lane down towards the dip (assuming it was possible to be able to erect a handrail there). The churchyard path needs to be regularly swept and Darron will also be asked to do this.

16.01.21 Pallets on the verge in Coronation Road

Work is still in progress on the property in School Hill and with the lockdown progress on removal of the pallets is going to be slow.

17.01.21 Communications

Parish Council Facebook page – Cllr Shepherd said he would sort this out. The problem appears to be setting up a Parish Council Facebook page which is not linked to a personal account.

18.01.21 Items for discussion at next meeting

No specific items mentioned.

19.01.21 Date of Next Meeting - Monday 1st February at 7.30.p.m. by video conference

Meeting closed 9.00p.m.