

North Newnton Parish Council Meeting
Monday 23rd January 2023 at 7pm at Seven Stars, Bottlesford

Minutes

Present: Cllr Tony Mulliken (TM) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr David Brisker (DB) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Richard Cook (RiC) and Wiltshire Councillor for Pewsey Vale West Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (PO). In attendance: Parish Clerk Rosie Charnock (RC), Guest speaker David Royle (DR), 14 parishioners.

23/ Matters of the Council

1 Absence, apologies and declaration of interests

Apologies from Councillors: Cllr Andy Gray and Cllr Tom Ellen were unable to attend due to work commitments.

23/ Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5th December 2022 approved and signed by TM.

2 Review of Matters arising:

Action	Person	Progress
Contact Community Heartbeat and check that both TE and DB can access both defibs for checks.	RC	Complete
Communicate with landowners regarding replacement gates	TM	Ongoing
Find out how much the gates would be to put in	RiC	Ongoing
Approve finance for new gates on January agenda	RC	Complete (ongoing to next agenda)
Discuss ideas for King's Coronation on January agenda	RC	Complete (ongoing to next agenda)
Put an insert into the Messenger regarding the two councillor vacancies	DB	Complete
Log on to 'My Wiltshire' and report the blocked gulleys	DB	Complete

23/3

High speed broadband advice: DR:

DR informed the council of a government scheme for rural communities to get fibre broadband to houses. The scheme needs sufficient support, every household that signs up qualifies for a voucher, if enough vouchers are sought to cover the cost then the scheme can go ahead. Household vouchers are worth £1,500, if the property is a registered business then the voucher for that property is worth £3,500. The £3,500 is only allowed for self-employed people, not for those working from home. Some challenges can be getting the right combination of vouchers to fund the infrastructure, it can be a balancing act. There is a lot of online support in the process but if the council were to go ahead then it would need someone to coordinate it. There can also be a barrier as people find it difficult to trust that it will be free, the only rule is that people applying for the vouchers purchase a fibre broadband package, this is slightly more expensive than other broadband packages available, but the cost is minimal. You can go online, put in your address and it will show you what strength broadband you currently get and what you could get if successful with the scheme, properties will only qualify if the difference is big enough.

A parishioner suggested that including Woodborough in the scheme could make it potentially make it work.

TM asked the parishioners present for a show of hands to see who would be interested in this scheme if the parish council could start it, everyone present raised their hand.

DR informed the council that there needs to be a contracted entity and this can be the Parish Council. The council would have to reach the whole community, perhaps with a leaflet drop, so that as many residents as possible could sign up for a voucher. If parishioners email clerk@nnpc.org.uk then communication about the scheme could be organised that way.

DR did offer advice for people to investigate using 4G broadband while the scheme is getting up and running as the process can be a long one. Once the scheme has reached enough residents to be cost effective and has been approved then the works should be completed within six months.

23/ Adjournment: Welcome to the public:

4 A parishioner thanked all the councillors for their hard work, especially with trying to balance finances and focus between three communities. He asked two questions: Does the parish council have a plan for the raised precept now that the money is not going to the North Newnton footpath project? What strategy does the Parish Council have to afford phase 4 and 5 of the footpath?

TM responded that the precept has stayed at £15,000 and that there is £12,500 in the accounts ringfenced for the North Newnton footpath project. The council are not aware of a promise to raise the precept to fund the project.

The parishioner explained that he believed that this was agreed six years ago, but he will check in previous minutes, as there may have been a misunderstanding.

PO responded to the second question that grant and section 106 money will pay for phase 2 of the footpath project, once costings for phase 3 come in, the NNPC will contribute some and there will be more grant money to apply for. There have been site meetings for phase 4, but further discussions will take place after phase 3 is complete. Phase 4 will need discussions as there are two options: one to remove the hedgerow, which will be expensive, the other option would be to have kissing gates to access a path just inside the edge of the field. PO acknowledged that phase 4 is an important part of the project in terms of safety for the residents of the A345. The NNPC will have to make some decisions about this further down the line.

RiC responded that the council supports the footpath project, but it is important to maintain a balance for Bottlesford and Hilcott too.

23/ Update from Pewsey Vale West Wiltshire Councillor Paul Oatway QPM:

5 PO spoke about the new bus scheme that is coming to the area in May after an investment of £2 million. This new service will be on top of any existing bus services and will be similar to the old 'Wiggly Bus' service that used to run in the area. The buses will be transit van size and people will be able to phone or use the app to book a pick up. The buses will link the Vale of Pewsey with both Marlborough and Devizes. A parishioner asked what the hours of service would be. PO responded that the buses will run between 6am and 10pm, the early start should enable people to use the service to catch the early trains to London from Pewsey. DB asked if there was a schedule at all, PO responded that there will not be a schedule, the bus will be a bookable service.

PO had an update on the North Newnton footpath project, and explained that the start of phase 2 construction has been delayed for a week due to the weather conditions.

PO also informed the council that there are some grants available for electric vehicle charging points. The national code of conduct for councils has been approved and parish councils will be encouraged to use this as will provide consistency across all councils.

There have been horse society activists active in the area applying to improve bridle ways or to improve access across farmland. This is concerning some landowners, PO reassured all present that these applications will take a long time to process.

PO updated everyone on the Wiltshire Council budget that is available to view on the Wiltshire council website.

PO also informed the parishioners and councillors that, on his request, there will be some community speedwatch officers active in the area in the next few weeks and months.

23/ Updates from Committees

6 1: Hilcott Village Hall Committee: CW gave an update on progress from the Hilcott Village Hall Committee. The Barnard Meadow clean up will start again shortly, when the weather improves and any volunteers would receive a warm welcome. CW would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped with this project to this point. CW also enquired as to whether there was money assigned to 'parish space' in the parish council budget for 2023/2024.

TM responded that the budget has remained largely the same for the year ahead and thanked CW for all her hard work and dedication to the village hall project.

2: St. James's Church, North Newnton: As a Grade 11* (two star being grade higher than Grade 11) building design drawings/measurements/ permissions and quotes are taking longer than expected. The preference for the WC to be housed in a stone building alongside the North Wall of the church is a difficult planning issue however a change of design should resolve this. Encouragement for the project is widespread especially most recently expressed by Stephen, Bishop of Salisbury. If any councillors have questions please direct them to Jennifer Brisker, Churchwarden.

3: Clerk's Report: RC reported that the online banking is working, and the council will hopefully be able to use it to make payment shortly. The asset register has been updated with the details of the new SIDs, this has been shared with the insurance company and they have updated the policy. PCAP requested information on three key areas that were affecting the community that they could potentially help with. After discussing it with councillors, RC submitted information about speeding, road surfaces and flooding, so it will be interesting to see if this leads to anything.

23/ Update from external meetings:

7 WALC Annual meeting: Wednesday 18th January 2023 – no councillor was able to attend.

PCAP: Thursday 19th January 2023 – no councillor was able to attend.

23/ Extreme weather plans and responsibilities

8 PO informed all present that Wiltshire Council has purchased a new gulley tank to clear the blocked gulleys, so there are now three working across the county. There is also a new drain to be installed near Falkners Cottage, North Newnton in the next few weeks. These measures should help with the flooding problem.

23/
9 **Projects:**

1: SIDs update

TM informed all present that the five new SID devices are ready and awaiting installation. The council are currently arranging for posts to be purchased and installed for these devices. The SID in Broad Street will be put up sooner because there is already a post there. Three of the devices are solar powered and the other two are battery powered.

CW reported that she was delighted to have two in Hilcott, but that maintenance of these devices was a concern.

TM responded that the only regular maintenance is keeping the solar panels clean and explained that the devices come with a two-year warranty for any problems.

2: North Newnton footpath update

Phase two is to start in the next week. Phase three (from the roundabout to the bus stop) will have surveys and costings discussed at the next LHFIG meeting.

3: Progress in changing stiles to footpaths at the back of the Seven Stars, Bottlesford to kissing gates to improve access.

TM to investigate alternative to kissing gates that will improve accessibility. Motion held until the costings of this suggestion are known.

ACTION: RC to put this on the next agenda.

4: King Charles III Celebration Arrangements.

TM suggested that this item be carried onto the next agenda and invited parishioners to email clerk@nnpc.org.uk with any suggestions.

ACTION: RC to put this onto the next agenda.

5: Pewsey Community Area Projects: Pumps and repair stands, Electrical vehicle charging points. RiC expressed concern about how the pumps and repair stands for bicycles would be kept safe and maintained. TM proposed motion to investigate EV charging points, RiC seconded motion, all voted in favour. ACTION: RC to email PCAP to find out more about grants for RV charging points.

23/
10 **Finance:**

1: Bank reconciliations: up to December 2022: Treasury bank account balance 28th December 2022: £13,394.07. Business bank account balance 9th December 2022: £19,944.23 (including £12,500 for North Newnton Footpath Project). Big expenditures in December were Bus Stop Replacement Glass Panels: £538.09, Defibrillator batteries and pads: £295.20 and Clerk pay: £346.56

2: Cheques to be ratified or signed: Cheques to be signed: Clerk Expenses: £50.76, HMRC Clerk Income Tax £276.80, Elancity SIDs £12373.43, Community First Insurance premium increase for new SIDs £37.87, Grass cutting £60.

3: Moving funds to pay for SIDs: TM proposed the motion to transfer £2000 from the Business bank account to the Treasury bank account. DB seconded the motion, all voted in favour. ACTION: RC to make bank transfer ASAP.

23/
11 **External Meetings:**

Pewsey LH&FIG: Wednesday 25th January 2023, 2pm via TEAMS. TE to attend.

Pewsey Area Board: Monday 27th February 2023, 7pm location TBC. TM to attend.

Parish Council Meetings:

23/12 Monday 6th March 2023, 7pm, location TBC

Parish Council Meeting Monday 24th April 2023, 7pm, location TBC

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Arrangements TBC

Annual Parish Meeting, Saturday 27th May 2023, time and location TBC

Completion Date	Action	Person
06/03/2023	Put gates on footpaths at the back of the Seven Stars, Bottlesford on the next agenda.	RC
06/03/2023	Email PCAP to find out more about grants for RV charging points.	RC
06/03/2023	King Charles III Coronation celebrations to be approved on the next agenda.	RC
ASAP	Transfer £2,000 from the Business bank account to the Treasury bank account.	RC

