

North Newnton Parish Council Meeting
Monday 6th March 2023 at 7pm at Seven Stars, Bottlesford

Minutes

Present: Cllr Tony Mulliken (TM) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr David Brisker (DB) (Vice-Chairman), Tom Ellen (TE), Cllr Andy Gray (AG). In attendance: Parish Clerk Rosie Charnock (RC), 1 parishioners: Jennifer Brisker (JB)

23/ Matters of the Council

13 Absence, apologies and declaration of interests

Apologies from Councillors: Cllr Paul Oatway, who was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 23rd January 2023 approved and signed by TM.

Review of Matters arising:

Completion Date	Action	Outcome
06/03/2023	Put gates on footpaths at the back of the Seven Stars, Bottlesford on the next agenda.	Complete. Materials and fitting being discussed.
06/03/2023	Email PCAP to find out more about grants for EV charging points.	Complete. PCAP replied and will inform when they know more details.
06/03/2023	King Charles III Coronation celebrations to be approved on the next agenda.	Complete
ASAP	Transfer £2,000 from the Business bank account to the Treasury bank account.	Complete

23/14 Adjournment. Questions from parishioners (max 3 mins/question. 15 mins total):

No questions raised.

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

15 Paul Oatway sent his apologies and was unable to attend this meeting.

23/ Updates from Committees

16 1: Hilcott Village Hall Committee: Carolyn Whistler sent in the following update which was read by TM as part of the meeting:

'Now that the weather is kinder we will be starting to clear, tidy and level the ground at Barnard Meadow. A successful site survey has been carried out with an environmental assessment to follow. We shall use the grant funding we obtained from Local Giving for a skip to move the considerable amount of old rubbish from the land, and the matched funding from Pewsey Area Board for erection of fencing and gates on the site. We can then move forward with a plan for a car park and community space. We intend in due course to have benches with commemorative plaques for respected and worthy residents of North Newnton parish.'

2: St. James's Church, North Newnton: JB updated the council on the running costs of the church, totalling thousands of pounds a year. JB explained that St. James is trying to make the church more useful to the community. The running costs will remain covered by the normal church funds. Once the project is complete there will be no further costs. The church has spent £1000 on surveying the building, they have proposed a small addition at the back to hold a toilet near a kitchenette.

TM asked about where the waste from the toilet would go? JB explained that options for this have been discussed, one idea was a compostable toilet, but it has been agreed that it will be a cess pit. Many of the options are not allowed at the church because of the proximity to the river. The toilet will be accessed by exiting the church via the west door. This door is normally used for weddings. JB has approached Wiltshire Council, but no funding has been available so far. Councillors assured JB that the NNPC support the project.

3: Clerk's Report: RC reported that things had been relatively quiet since the last meeting in January 2023. RC had spent some time researching the broadband voucher scheme but all postcodes tried produced the message that this scheme was not available in this area. There was some information on the website that appeared to say that fibre broadband will be coming to the area in October to December 2023, but this was unclear. TM will investigate further to see if any more details can be found.

23/ Update from external meetings:

17 Pewsey LH&FIG: Wednesday 25th January 2023:

TE attended. All is progressing well with the North Newnton Footpath Project, phase 2 was completed early. The estimated cost of phase 3 is £37,000, TE offered the section ringfenced £12,800 from the parish council if required.

TM praised PO for all his hard work and his commitment to this project.

TE also reported that the public should report problems with road markings to be re-done on the Wiltshire website and is not the responsibility of the parish council.

Town & Parishes/Wiltshire Council Meeting: Friday 3rd February 2023 – No councillor could attend.

Operational Flood Working Group Meeting: Wednesday 22nd February 2023

TM attended and reported that the problem of pot holes is widely acknowledged and that the condition of the roads is worsening flood related problems.

Pewsey Area Board: Monday 27th February 2023

DB attended the meeting. DB stated that the discussion concerned physical spaces in the community which would become centre points in communities for if an emergency were to happen. This location will become the primary contact too.

AG acknowledged that this is likely to be a reaction to the Ukraine war and planning for any potential future conflicts. DB informed the council that for now they have been advised to stick with existing flooding and emergency plans.

The other topic of conversation was that Wiltshire require more foster carers in the county.

The fire and rescue service reported low incident numbers. The police reported a slight increase in crime, the new inspector also attended the meeting and introduced himself. The inspector reassured those at the meeting that road safety and speed reductions will be of top priority.

23/18 Planning:

No relevant planning applications to be discussed.

23/19 Projects:

1: SIDs update. The posts are currently being purchased and installation is due to happen when the weather improves.

2: North Newton footpath update. TE gave footpath update as part of feedback from LH&FIG meeting.

3: Progress in changing stiles to footpaths at the back of the Seven Stars, Bottlesford to kissing gates to improve access. This is an ongoing project and there was nothing new to report at the time of the meeting.

4: King Charles III Coronation Arrangements. The parish council supports the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III among the local communities and believes that it is up to individual parishioners & groups to celebrate this marvellous event in the way they so choose. However, the council is not able to organise an event within the time frame available. TM proposed motion to not fund any celebrations especially as no requests for funds had been received, TE seconded, all voted in favour.

23/20 Finance:

1: Bank reconciliations: up to February 2023: Significant expenses in January 2023 were Clerk pay: £346.56 and the transfer of £2000 from the business account to the treasury account to maintain funds after paying for the SIDs.

2: Cheques to be ratified or signed: Cheques to be signed: £300 for North Newton PCC for Hilcott Cemetery upkeep. £4 for January clerk expenses, £44.65 for February clerk expenses.

23/21 External Meetings:

Pewsey LH&FIG: Wednesday 26th April, TE to attend.

Pewsey Area Board: Monday 22nd May 2023, 7pm location TBC. AG to attend.

PCAP: Thursday 20th July 2023, TM to attend.

Parish Council Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting Monday 24th April 2023, 7pm, The Seven Stars, Bottlesford

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 15th May 2023, 7pm. St. James's Church, North Newton

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

Completion Date	Action	Person
24/04/2023	TE, DB, TM to attend defibrillators and replace electrodes and batteries as required.	TE. DB. TM
24/04/2023	Investigate fibre broadband opportunities	TM
24/04/2023	Email Deborah Bourne about whether it is possible for a parish council to have two vice-chairs rather than a chairman.	RC