

NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Monday, 2nd March, 2020 at Church House, Newport.**

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr H. Bowman	(HB)	(Chairman)
	Cllr D. Alexander	(DA)	
	Cllr S. Amos	(SAm)	
	Cllr S. Ayles	(SAy)	
	Cllr C. Barnes	(CB)	
	Cllr R. Benge	(RB)	
	Cllr J. Emanuel	(JE)	
	Cllr A. Gerard	(AG)	
	Cllr S. Naik	(SN)	

In attendance:

Mrs C. Griffin	Parish Clerk
Mrs E. Edwards	Responsible Financial Officer
Dist Cllr N. Hargreaves	(NH)
Cty Cllr R. Gooding	(RG)
13 members of the public	

20/223 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr O. Davies (private commitment)

20/224 To receive any ‘pecuniary’ or ‘non-pecuniary’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

JE in 225, 232, 234, 235, 236; CB in 230, 236; SAy in 234, AG in 234, 237 and member of the UDC Planning Committee; SAm in 237;; HB in 228, 229, 232, 234, 236 and 237; SN in 234.

20/225 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

Residents raised the following matters:

- There are several lights in the village that are not working
The Clerk will report to the PC’s contractor or ECC
- I live next to Rookes House and we have a condition on our house, which was imposed by the Church, stating that we are not allowed to have dog kennels in our garden. This applies to us and anyone who buys the property in the future. Every adjacent neighbour has written an objection and raised some very serious issues. Newport PC has given credit to the supporters of the proposals, We were aware our neighbour was allowed four dogs and we have not complained about dogs barking previously. We all depend on good neighbourliness.
- The proposal at Rookes House is on a scale that is inappropriate in a conservation area. A commercial enterprise will open 24 hours a day which is not appropriate in a residential setting. We expect UDC and Newport PC to protect the conservation area. Many of the people who have responded would

not support this if it was next to their property. There are kennels available in non-residential areas surrounded by open countryside.

- Is there an Environmental Health issue relating to these kennels.
- The properties in Gaces Acre are also affected. UDC has tenants living there.
- Some responses from residents have not been loaded to the website.
- A resident, who is a friend of the family, said he had agreed to attend the meeting and answer any questions and help if possible. The applicant is trying to pursue her business in the confines of her premises. I am not a neighbour and understand the opinions expressed.

No questions were raised.

DA said he sympathises with the views expressed because he has experienced at first hand the problems noisy dogs can cause.

The Chairman advised that the PC have spent a considerable amount of time on this application. We have received a lot of comments, listened to your views and provided a summary of our response. However, we can only reflect what residents feel and there are opposing views. The response we have drafted takes into account all residents views but if you would like to comment on the draft please get back to us.

AG reported that the application has been called in to the UDC Planning Committee if the Officer is minded to approve. The Environmental Health department will be asked to comment.

- There is a lack of affordable housing in the village; does the Parish Council have any input into what is built.

The Chairman advised that Salmon Fields was a very appropriate scheme. We all support small houses which will allow young people to stay in the village. Our district councillors have been driving this type of housing. NH confirmed that the system is being re-evaluated at UDC.

20/226 To receive a report from Special Constable Tom Morement

SC Morement was unable to attend.

20/227 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding reported:

- I have noted the issues concerning the street lights and will liaise with the Clerk.
- I have been in touch with Pelham Structures regarding Whiteditch Lane and there are still some issues outstanding. There is a need to work together in order to get a reasonable solution.
- Today is National Offer Day when youngsters find out whether or not they have gained their first choice of school. It has been confirmed that in Uttlesford 89% will get their first choice and 96% will get their first or second choice.
- The ECC budget for this year is £992 million for the county.

A lot is being done for families who are just about managing and next year extra support will be given to children to assist parents who are working. £500,000 will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner for dealing with drugs and £100,000 for Youth Services for work in local communities.

JE raised the car park at the Primary School following the meeting with Trivselhus. We need to come to an agreement with Highways re the location of the car park at the end next to the bridleway. RG said he is awaiting a formal response on this. With regard to the footbridge at the bottom of School Lane, RG advised that a query has arisen and ECC is looking into whether it was installed by the Environment Agency(EA). I heard that the EA cleared the stream but did not look at the bridge. We are aware that the bridge is structurally sound although not fit for purpose but, if EA did install it, ECC cannot remove it. The situation needs to be resolved.

SAM asked if Essex Highways could put a path round the bend at the bottom of School Lane.

JE said she had approached Castle Oak about clearing the channel and they have offered to provide some funding. A quote will be obtained for undertaking the necessary clearance work.

A resident pointed out that the Care Village is claiming facilities are within walking distance, but it is not possible to get to the facilities in the village using footpaths.

Dist Cllr N. Hargreaves reported:

- The budget and commercial strategy has been approved for 2021. Council Tax will be increased by £5 per year for a Band D property. Council house rents will be increased by 2.7% (average rent is £101 per week)
- Commercial Strategy has been agreed to create investment to fill the funding gap. This will make us independent of government cuts.
- The Corporate Plan covers issues we want to improve.
- Neighbourhood Plan - we have been invited to comment on the UDC Local Plan. Newport has had more development than any other village but no infrastructure and is no longer sustainable.

20/228 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd February, 2020

It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes as approved.

Proposed: CB

Seconded: AG

All agreed

20/229 Chairman's comments

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Sandra Amos for all the work she has done in connection with the Special Constables; we now have two. We attended a ceremony at the Essex Police Headquarters last week and it was so good to see the refreshing and exhilarating attitude.

20/230 To receive the Clerk's Report, circulated prior to the meeting

Duly received.

The Clerk reported that:

- Newport News has now advised that they will include an article on the Trivselhus development in the winter edition.
- I have today received a report that the drain is blocked at the bottom of School Lane which has been reported to ECC.
- The signs for bridleway 16 have now arrived.
- I have today received an application for the 2020 Essex Village of the Year. The PC confirmed that they did not wish to enter this year but will consider at some stage in the future.
- SAm and SN have volunteered to attend the Health and Well Being Conference at EALC on 22nd April and a booking form will be completed.
- The Annual Assembly is usually held in April and I would suggest either Monday 20th or 27th April. Dates to be circulated to all members.

20/231 To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and approve accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to the meeting

Duly received.

The payment schedule showing 14 items, totalling £15,230.11 was approved.

Proposed: SAY

Seconded: CB

All agreed

Legal expenses for 2019/20 amount to £62,324.42

Funding has not changed since last month.

20/232 To receive reports/updates on Infrastructure/Maintenance**232.1 To receive an update on parking north of the Ford (School Lane/Bury Water Lane junction)**

This was covered by Cty Cllr R Gooding earlier in the meeting.

The Clerk will report to Affinity Water the current visibility problems encountered by vehicles coming out of Whiteditch Lane.

232.2 To receive a report on river management/flood mitigation

JE will report back at the next meeting.

232.3 To receive an update on village flower boxes

The Clerk reported that she has chased the contractor but has still not received a quotation for servicing the four wooden flower boxes. NH has offered to fund (from his allowance) two black cast iron planters, with the Council logo. These are smaller but much better quality than the wooden boxes.

It was agreed that two black cast iron flower boxes should be placed at the bus stop in the High Street. Hopefully additional planters of this type can be installed in future.

The Clerk will continue to chase the contractor for a quotation for the four existing boxes.

232.4 To approve a quotation for a new gate on the Common

The Chairman reported that the gate at the entrance to the Common is in a bad state of repair and needs replacing. The approximate cost will be £500.00 and the installation

will be carried out free of charge. It was agreed that the gate should be good quality treated wood. A copy of the quotation will be circulated before ordering, A new fence, padlock and chain will also be required once the new gate is in place.

232.5 To approve a quotation for a new bin on the Common

It was agreed that the Clerk should order a new black litter bin from Glasdon.

20/233 To receive report/updates on Public Relations233.1 To receive a further update on the website

The Clerk reported on events since the last meeting. All the data has now been downloaded from the existing website by a member of her family. An illustration of the new front page was shown although the photograph will need to be changed. It was agreed that the Clerk should make arrangements for the data to be loaded to a new platform, domain name newportsex.org The hosting fee will be in the region of £100.00 per annum, other costs to be advised. The Clerk will liaise with HB and JE regarding the planning section.

233.2 To discuss the next edition of Newport News

The Clerk reported that the deadline for the next edition is the end of March. AG will prepare a first draft. JE will incorporate the new logo into the advertisement.

20/234 To receive reports/updates on Planning234.1 To receive a report on the meeting with Trivselhus

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting including the topics raised have been circulated. The Clerk advised that Trivselhus are considering holding an exhibition in Church House on 30th March, date to be confirmed.

Trivselhus will be asked to send their drainage proposals. AG has advised UDC that Trivselhus will be in touch regarding a pre-application meeting.

AG will contact UDC and ask why Affinity Water is not a statutory consultee.

234.2 To receive a report on the UDC Local Plan

NH advised that consultants have been called in from the LGA. They have asked individual Councillors to submit their opinions on the Inspector's report which is encouraging. If UDC keep the current local plan we can retain the existing housing numbers, but if we decide to pull it and start again the housing numbers will increase.

234.3 To receive an update on Appeals

JE reported that all the responses to the Appeals have been

234.4 To receive a report from the Planning working Group

JE reported on the following applications:

- 1, King Edward Mews has been refused on policies GEN 1 and S7. Enquiries will be made as to whether the hedging has to be replaced.
- Chadam House has been refused on policies S7, S3 and H4.

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- 18 Barnards Close has been approved.
- The new house on land to the rear of the Georgians has been approved.
- With regard to the proposed new property on land to the rear of the Chestnuts, Bishops Way, there have been 21 separate applications. A draft response drawn up by the planning working group will be circulated.

UTT/20/0196/FUL Rookes House, Elephant Green (called in to UDC Planning Committee)

Change of use of existing (domestic) outbuildings to (sui generis) kennels
Draft response to be circulated to members of the PC and residents.

UTT/20/0228/HHF Nolton Cottage, Elephant Green (comments by 2nd March)

Proposed new garden wall
Comments: No objections

UTT/20/0260/LB Palletts Farm, High Street (comments by 3rd March)

Re-roof wing and add insulation layer
Comments: No objections

UTT/20/0268/HHF 1 New Cottages, Shortgrove (comments by 3rd March)

Two storey side and single storey rear extension. External insulation and cladding to existing.
Comments: No objections

UTT/20/0269/HHF 2, New Cottages, Shortgrove (comments by 3rd March)

Two storey side and single storey rear extension. External insulation and cladding to existing.
Comments: No objections

UTT/20/0234/FUL Land adjacent Branksome, Whiteditch Lane (comments by 17th March)

Proposed change of layout to that approved under 19/19/0937/FUL (Retrospective change of use from agricultural land to residential garden space, retention of bunding and landscaping
To be called in by Dist Cllr N. Hargreaves.

The planning working group will review the following and draft responses will be circulated:

UTT/20/0187/HHF 1 Granta Mead Close (comments by 18th March)

Proposed two storey extension

UTT/20/0455/CLE 7 Belmont Hill (comments by 24th March)

Certificate of lawfulness application for existing use of land as residential garden land and residential parking area ancillary to dwelling house

20/235 To receive reports/updates on Green Spaces and Sports

235.1 To receive an update on responsibility for amenity areas in Cherry Garden Lane.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the former Councillor regarding his dealings with Michael Brown at Riga Property Services. Following a conversation

with Michael Brown last month he is not planning to do anything with regard to maintenance of the amenity areas but he is happy for the PC to maintain them. The Clerk will contact him again and say that the PC would like to take these on. If Riga are agreeable a legal agreement would be necessary.

235.2 To discuss the proposed creation of a new Public Right of Way from Whiteditch Lane to Bury Water Lane

JE reported that problems have been caused because the Academy were not consulted by UDC for permission and highways were annoyed when the school said if someone is injured it will be the School's fault.

The Chairman and JE will arrange to meet with the Academy and report back at the next meeting.

20/236 To receive reports/updates on Village Improvements

236.1 To receive an update on Bridleway 16 to the Recreation Ground

CB reported that the new surface has been laid and the white lines need to be finished. JE will obtain some fencing from the School to prevent vehicles parking on the area at the side.

AG will put in a request to UDC for some trees.

The Clerk will send the invoice to UDC to claim the UDC grant.

236.2 To approve a quotation for a height restriction bar at the recreation ground

The Chairman reported that a height restriction bar would prevent high vehicles gaining access to the recreation ground. However, this could be opened if necessary.

It was proposed that an order should be placed for the bar, cost approximately, £800.00. There would be no installation costs as this would be carried out by volunteers.

Four new wooden posts are also required to make the ground secure. It was agreed to accept the quotation for £336.00.

20/237 To receive a report/update on Liaison matters

237.1 To receive a report on the Sports Committee Meeting

The Committee is anxious to work with the PC regarding car parking arrangements and possibly combining the car park for the School with the recreation ground.

237.2 To receive a report on the Unauthorised Encampment Briefing and decide whether to send a response to the latest government consultation.

The Chairman advised that the Unauthorised Encampment Briefing mainly focussed on protecting ourselves and making our property more secure by having chains on gates, height barrier etc.

SN advised that the government is proposing to criminalise encampment when they should be providing more spaces for people who choose that lifestyle and there is an opportunity to reply to the government consultation.

NH advised that no provision has been made for an encampment for travellers in the UDC Local Plan.

237.3 To approve the organisation of a Community Picnic on Gaces Meadow (event to be organised by the Fete Committee on a weekend in July or August, date to be confirmed)

The Fete Committee are planning to have a Community Picnic on Gaces Acre. The idea is to pick a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, late July or August and invite villagers to attend. The Tennis Club will have an open day at the same time. It is not a fund raising event but if any local organisations would like to run stalls that would not be a problem. The Gaces Trust will have to give permission for this but if the Fete is organised by the Parish Council separate public liability insurance will not be required. The Chairman of the Sports Committee is happy to organise the event on behalf of the Parish Council. It will be run by a sub-committee and SAM will be a member.

20/238 Items for next agenda

To receive an update on arrangements for the Annual Assembly

To consider a donation to Newport Parents Association and Friends of Newport Primary School.

20/239 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

239.1 JE said she was concerned about the new shop at the back of the Pharmacy and the danger that could be caused by cars going down to the car park. HB will speak to the owner.

239.2 CB reported holes in the road at the top of Frambury Lane and also broken kerb in Wicken Road. Photos will be sent to the Clerk who will report to ECC.

20/240 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 6th April, 2020, 7.30pm at Church House.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 06.04.20