

NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Monday, 3rd February, 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. Bengé	(RB)	
	Cllr J. Emanuel	(JE)	
	Cllr A. Gerard	(AG)	

In attendance:

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

20/200 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr O. Davies (private commitment)

20/201 To receive any ‘pecuniary’ or ‘non-pecuniary’ interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

HB in 205, 206, 211.1; JE in 209, 211, 213, 214; RB in 213; CB in 211 and 213; AG in 204, 211 and member of the UDC Planning Committee; SAy in 211, SAm in 203, DA in 212.

20/202 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

A resident requested to speak on planning application UTT/20/0158/FUL and it was agreed the item should be brought forward on the agenda.

20/203 To receive a report from Special Constable Tom Morement

SC Morement was unable to attend but had asked SAm to give a short report. SAm reported on crime figures in Newport from 1st November 2019 to 30th January, 2020 – vehicle crime 8, aggravated burglary 1, burglary from dwelling 5, burglary from non-dwelling 3, burglary from business 2, attempted burglary 2, criminal damage 7, 3 speed checks, 4 parking tickets for dangerous parking, and 13 hours of high visibility patrols and covert patrols to help tackle burglary.

20/204 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Dist Cllr Hargreaves reported that:

- He had asked BT to clean the telephone box in Station Road which has now been done.
- The Rangers have been asked to collect redundant signs. (RG advised that if these are reported to him he will pass on to the relevant department to try and get them removed but it is difficult to keep on top of this. ECC should deal with “Keep left” signs).
- One of the PC's flower boxes is rotten. It was suggested that black cast iron would be more appropriate (these can be seen in a neighbouring village). I would be prepared to fund at least one cast iron container (AG said he would fund another to replace the railings in front of the bus stop).
- Regarding the recent article in the local newspaper regarding Whiteditch Lane, I have spoken to the resident and explained what the PC had done and advised him to contact Cllr Kevin Bentley at ECC. (RG reported that the newspaper contacted him and a statement was sent explaining what ECC had done and how difficult it has been).
- Commercial waste has been placed in a litter bin in the High Street. (The Chairman said he has spoken to the business involved).
- I look at voluntary service grants and although the Support4sight office is closing in Saffron Walden, they will continue with home visiting. The Citizens Advice Bureau provides a very good service but their workload has increased significantly due to Universal Credit.
- Following the findings of the Inspector on the UDC Local Plan, we now have a choice of either starting again, but it would take six years and would involve considerable costs, or retaining it. It should be noted that “key” village comes from the Local Plan so it needs to be made clear that this no longer stands and every application should be considered on its own merits.. A neighbouring village has just won an appeal on access and landscaping. A copy of the spreadsheet, produced by JE, giving details of development in Newport has been sent to the Inspector,

JE said she felt that to continue building in an area where there is no proper hospital or A & E department is ludicrous; you have to drive out of the district for everything.

AG pointed out that whatever happens to the Local Plan, it will take a minimum of 2/3 years and during that time we will have to cope with developers proposals. Therefore, our Neighbourhood Plan becomes very important and our first challenge is to get this finalised

Cty Cllr Gooding reported that:

- ECC is concerned about the situation regarding the UDC Local Plan because it has created uncertainty. We do not want to go back to a few extra houses in villages in each district and end up bussing school children around the district.
- I had a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner and they are concentrating on cybercrime as there has been a significant increase in this. Therefore this should be noted by the PC.

- I have a meeting with ECC officers later this week regarding the footbridge at the bottom of School Lane and will come back to the PC after the meeting.
- We have a Youth Services Carers Department which cares for children who look after members of their family. This service provides support for child carers. Please promote this service through your Schools as they need support.
- I had a meeting with the Education Select Committee recently. We now have 2,400 children being educated at home and this is growing. The Select Committee are looking into this because in some cases children are being excluded from school and parents are slipping into this by default. RG confirmed that there are 217,000 children in School in Essex.
- ECC is promoting a cycle race on 20th September. 15,000 cycle riders will be taking part.

The Clerk asked RG for an update on the “H” bars. RG advised that he will contact the resident direct.

JE advised that she wrote to ECC concerning the footbridge but has not received a reply. RG advised that he is in touch with this department and will report back after the meeting later this week.

20/205 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th January, 2020

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

Proposed: CB

Seconded: AG

All agreed

20/206 Chairman's comments

The Chairman reported that the Sports Committee is looking at a purpose built building on the recreation ground as discussed previously. The Committee have looked at three options but there is no point in making them available at this stage. DA said that the PC has paid for these drawings and residents would like to have sight of the proposals. The Chairman confirmed that they will be made available as soon as there is something to show and comments will be requested. In the meantime DA was invited to attend the next Sports Committee meeting.

It was agreed that members of the Council would meet for an informal meeting to discuss responsibilities etc., The Clerk will check availability of Church House on 16th March and notify members as soon as possible.

20/207 To receive the Clerk's Report, circulated prior to the meeting

Duly received.

The Clerk reported that:

- She is concerned because the Speedwatch camera has not yet been used. Speedwatch sessions can only take place at designated sites and it was agreed that SAy would contact Community Speedwatch regarding the Bury Water Lane site. The group will also discuss sending a flyer to people in the High Street in an effort to get more volunteers.
- Councils are being encouraged to take part in the British Clean Up. As our Caretaker does a very good job and, in view of other commitments, the PC will not take part this year.

20/211 To receive reports/updates on Planning**211.1 To receive a report on the meeting with Trivselhus**

JE reported that a meeting was held with Toby Allen, Engineering and Design Director, Tom McCartney, Development Director and Steve Bird, Head of Construction at Trivselhus on 10th January.

They advised that they are purchasing the land from the Challengers although the Challengers may retain a strip of land at the top by the School. They are endeavouring to avoid this.

They gave information on the Swedish company, Sodra, who have their own forests near Stockholm and produce eco-friendly contemporary houses. Everything in the properties is built in (pre-loaded) and the houses are assembled on site (takes approximately 21 hours).

A new planning application will be submitted – this will be for a maximum of 88 houses and there will be no commercial building.

A meeting has now been organised for 24th February when they will present their preliminary ideas.. They were a very professional company and the meeting was positive. Hopefully when we see the plans the houses will be more attractive and in keeping with the village.

NH advised that as the site is on a slope they will need to put in an attenuation pond, so it was suggested this could go on the Common if they agreed to give more space to the Primary School.

JE will contact the Primary School to see if it would be possible to hold the meeting in their hall.

211.2 To receive a report on the UDC Local Plan

Covered under item 20/204.

211.3 To receive an update on Appeals

JE advised that responses have been sent to the Inspectorate on 6, Belmont Hill, Bricketts and the wall in Pastures Close.

211.4 To receive a report from the Planning working Group

To discuss the following planning applications and any additional planning applications received after the publication of the agenda, agree responses and any other planning matters

UTT/19/3179/HHF 1 King Edward Mews, (comments by 28th January)

Erection of brick front wall with railings and pillars

Comments: Forwarded on 28th January and available on the UDC website.

UTT/19/3152/HHF 5 Pond Cross Farm, High Street (comments by 4th February)

Proposed loft and garage conversions, porch extension, new bi-fold doors and internal alterations

Comments: No objections

UTT/19/3019/FUL Willows, White Horse Lane (comments by 10th February)
 Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 bedroom replacement dwelling (revised scheme to that approved under UTT/19/2284/FUL)
 Comments: No objections

UTT/20/0066/FUL Barn at Whiteditch Farm, Rookery Lane (comments by 12th February)
 Demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of one new dwelling (following prior approval application UTT/19/0780/PAQ3)
Comments: JE will review and circulate a draft response

UTT/20/0158/FUL Land rear of the Chestnuts, Bishops Way (comments by 21st February) Discussed earlier in the meeting.
 Erection of one detached dwelling with garage and car port

Neighbouring residents outlined the previous applications on this site and expressed the following concerns regarding this application:

- Backland development
- Poor access
- Increased use of the drive
- Elevations (one neighbour has a 9ft high wall with a 6ft fence on top to make her property level with the land)
- Overlooking issues
- Drainage problems
- UDC will not drive up to collect bins from other properties; these have to be wheeled down to the road edge

Comments:
 JE will review and circulate a draft response

Three further applications had been received since the Agenda was issued:
 UTT/29/0124/FUL Land adjacent to Branksome
 UTT/20/0196/FUL Rookes House, Elephant Green (JE reported that complaints had been received from neighbours)
 UTT/20/0228/HHF Nolton Cottage.

The Planning group will review these at the next meeting and respond to UDC accordingly.

20/212 To receive reports/updates on Green Spaces and Sports

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

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Michael Brown at Riga Properties Services in Ipswich. They have various parcels of land on the Cherry Garden Lane development – five amenity areas and two development areas (planning applications were approved on these areas but this has now lapsed). He advised that he did try and work with the PC at the time of the development as the PC wanted to adopt the areas but this was found to be very difficult.

The Clerk presented a plan showing details of the pieces of land and will contact the former Parish Councillor who dealt with this. The Chairman will also take

photographs of the parcels of land which will be sent to him to illustrate that they need attention.

20/213 To receive reports/updates on Village Improvements

To receive an update on Bridleway 16 to the Recreation Ground

CB reported that a meeting has been arranged for tomorrow, 4th February, with JF Knight and work will commence on 17th February. Permission has been obtained from ECC and the School, Olivers Lodge, Sports Committee and the clubs that use the bridleway have been made aware.

The Chairman thanked JE, CB and Mike Hannant, Chairman of the Sports Committee for the time they had spent on this.

After completion of the work, suitable signs will be put up. CB will confirm details to the Clerk.

20/214 To receive a report/update on Liaison matters

214.1 To discuss the village Firework event

The Chairman advised that he is concerned about the noise of the firework event and the distress caused to domestic animals and wild life. A resident of London Road reiterated this. The Chairman proposed that the PC ask the Firework Committee to eliminate the loud bangs from the display. It was suggested that a silent display would be quite unique.

214.2 To consider a donation to Support4Sight, Citizens Advice Bureau, Newport Parents Association and Friends of Newport Primary School

The following donations were agreed:

Support4sight - £200.00

Citizens Advice Bureau - £500.00

Members were asked to consider donations to Newport Parents Association and Friends of Newport Primary School before the next meeting in March.

20/215 Items for next agenda

To discuss and agree arrangements for the Annual Assembly

20/216 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest of the Parish

The Clerk reported that the Chief Executive of EALC is leaving in March after 20 years. A donation of £25 was agreed towards a leaving gift.

20/217 To discuss and approve the co-option of a new Council member

Samantha Naik, who has lived in the village for five and a half years, has attended the last two meetings and confirmed that she would be willing to be co-opted.

It was proposed that Samantha Naik should be co-opted to Newport Parish Council.

Proposed: JE

Seconded: AG

All agreed

20/218 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March 2020, 7.30pm at Church House.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 02.03.20

