

NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Monday 2nd November, 2020 by Zoom**

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr H. Bowman	(HB)	(Chairman)
	Cllr D. Alexander	(DA)	
	Cllr S. Amos	(SAm)	
	Cllr S. Ayles	(SAy)	
	Cllr J. Emanuel	(JE)	
	Cllr A. Gerard	(AG)	
	Cllr S. Naik	(SN)	
	Cllr A. Sampson	(AS)	

In attendance:

Mrs C. Griffin	Parish Clerk
Dist Cllr N. Hargreaves	(NH)
Cty Cllr R. Gooding	(RG) (from 20/371 - 377)
Mr. A. Yarwood	Chairman of the Youth Club(for20/373)
Community Special Constable	
4 members of the public	

20/371 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr S. Burton (on holiday), Cllr R. Bengé (unable to connect to Zoom) and Mrs. E. Edwards, RFO.

20/372 To receive any 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary' interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

AG in 383; SAm in 375, AS in 383; SAy in 383; SN in 373 and 383; DA in 382.2 and 382.4 JE in 382.1, 383 and 384; HB in 377 and 378.

The following pecuniary interest was declared:

AG in 20/383, planning application UTT/20/1985/HHF.

20/373 To receive a report from the Chairman of Newport Youth Club on the Summer Competition.

The Chairman of the Newport Youth Club, Andrew Yarwood, reported on the Summer Competition and gave a presentation on the organisation of the competition and the entries. Thanks were expressed to Bob Goldsmith, Cllr Samantha Naik, Cty Cllr Ray Gooding and particularly the teachers at JFAN, Laura Sharpe and Kirsty Davies. Thirty applications were received from youngsters aged 9 – 17 and the judging was carried out by students at JFAN. The entries will be printed and displayed in the Youth Club and included in the Summer issue of Newport News. Bob Goldsmith said he was thrilled at the entries and the outcome and Cllr Naik thanked everyone involved.

20/374 Public participation session (To discuss questions sent to the Clerk, by email from members of the public)

The Clerk reported that she had been asked to read a response submitted by a resident of Frambury Lane to UTT/20/2632/FUL Land west of London Road. The Council pointed out that planning permission has already been granted and development of this site has been approved in principle but the design is different and we can send a response based on that.

NH confirmed UDC will accept responses by email.

Attention will be drawn to the application on Newport newslines to remind residents and explain this has been approved at Appeal, but is a revised application.

The Clerk will request an extension of one week, until 19th November, from UDC for the PC and residents.

20/375 To receive a report from our Community Special Constables

The Community Special Constable had sent the following report. SAm went through the report and one of our Community Special Constables, who was present, was commented on some issues:

COVID CHECKS

Essex Police have been concentrating on checking that Covid rules are being followed by residents, so our CSC has not done his normal patrols during October.

He has been visiting people who are supposed to be in quarantine and checking the social distancing rules are being followed. He feels that about 99% of the time people are doing what is right. Only one door he knocked on where someone was supposed to be self isolating at home, he was not. During the next month priority will be given to checking that people are complying with lockdown.

TRIAL BIKES

The problem of trial bikes racing round the village covered in mud has abated these last few weeks. Our CSC feels this is because he impounded one bike for several road offences. The owner will get it back eventually. Our CSC will keep an eye on that situation.

Our CSC asks that if anyone sees a bike or 4 x 4 driving around spraying mud on the road, please take a photo, or even better a video. DA and SAy reported that Chalk Farm Lane is being used by 4 x 4's and this is damaging the bridleway.

RG advised that this is a problem but it is very difficult to catch the offenders. In some cases, where byway closures are put in place, the closure provision is ripped out. It is important to gain as much information as possible. It is most important to try and identify the vehicles and report it straight away to 101.

REPORTING OFFENCES

Our CSC reads the Newport Newslines. He has noticed that there are complaints reported on there that he could follow up if they were reported officially. e.g. someone complained about a dog messing right outside her house. This is an offence

and can be followed up. It is extremely important that the complaint is reported straight away.

Can we put some information out on the Newline encouraging people to follow up complaints to 101, www.essex.police.uk or the Parish Clerk. JE will arrange this.

People can report anonymously to 101 or on Crimestoppers. The Police cannot report on issues they see on Facebook..

FOLLOWING UP PAST COMPLAINTS

The cannabis found in Newport played a part in a wider investigation and was very useful to the police. This is ongoing.

Our CSC did attend the collecting of pupils in Gaces Acre one afternoon. Although it was chaotic, there were no traffic offences committed that day. He will follow up again in November when patrols go back to normal. He suggests that we consider yellow lines in Gaces Acre.

NH suggested that signs would be more appropriate saying parents should not park in Gaces Acre, particularly as this is only a temporary arrangement put in place during the construction work. JE will contact JFAN to establish the current situation

If possible, he will include the children's playground on patrol in November.

Bonfire Night

If you see dangerous use of bonfires or fireworks on 5th November please do call 101.

20/376 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding sent the following report:

As I write this report I note that from Thursday of this week we are presented with a further National Lockdown. People have strong views as to the necessity or otherwise of these additional measures but setting that aside the important issues for ECC are around the support of people's wellbeing during the period together with the support of businesses throughout the County.

Over the last week much interest has been placed on the issue of Holiday Hunger with concerns that children from deprived backgrounds would go hungry and without commenting on the details of all this I would confirm that Essex County Council have carried out significant work that goes some way to addressing the issue. Back in the summer ECC provided a 39 of "Holiday camps" across the county, including one here in Newport, that gave families an opportunity to send their children to a controlled environment, get some much needed exercise receive a lunch and very importantly allow the parents an opportunity to return to work as appropriate. In this half term we have replicated that at 33 locations, we have provided food packs that are sufficient to feed a family of four for a week and we have financially supported food banks across the county.

We are currently working on plans to extend this to Christmas, Easter and spring and summer half term holidays next year and the details of this are to be announced shortly. However, it is evident that the targeting of this support is most important if we are to ensure that it reaches those in most need of assistance.

The other concerns that we have is in relation to other vulnerable members of society and this is particularly relevant to adults with Learning Disabilities. The additional support required to ensure that people in this position can survive the additional rigours of lockdown is significant.

Moving to more local issues I have agreed to make a part of my County Council local allowance available for the replacement of the defibrillator within the village and will liaise with the Clerk regarding the details of that.

RG confirmed that the yellow lines outside the Primary School are being chased.

The Clerk and Chairman thanked RG for his help with the funding for the Defibrillator.

Dist Cllr Neil Hargreaves reported on the following:

- The Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan will be going to Cabinet later this month. There is one exception (one of the policies is not clear) and it will go to the Cabinet with that proviso. It will then go to consultation and the results will be looked at by Cllr Evans, Head of the Planning department. The referendum will probably be held in May 2021.

JE thanked Cllr Hargreaves for all his hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman reiterated JE's appreciation and expressed his thanks to Cllr Hargreaves on behalf of the PC. We are extremely grateful for all you have done.

- With regard to the footpath at the side of the JFA land, on 26th March UDC signed a Section 106 variation of conditions with Amherst which relieved the developer of the requirement to pay the £10,000 on the grounds that the work had been done. This was done through Essex Highways, the legal officer at UDC and the UDC Section 106 person. Nigel Brown was unaware of this. This should be claimed from UDC and should be included on the December agenda. Cllr Evans has asked if there is any correspondence between Highways, UDC and the developer. JE said a meeting was held on site a week before the 26th March and an agreement was made, it appears the developer has now wriggled out of the agreement. JE will contact ECC Highways

20/377 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th October, 2020 (by Zoom)

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

Proposed: SAy

Seconded: DA

All agreed

20/378 Chairman's comments

The Chairman commented as follows:

- The Nisa Stores have been contacted by The Grange regarding the possibility of a Post Office facility in the Grange. This will be included on the next agenda.
- Thanks were expressed to a resident who has helped with maintenance of the trees on the Common. Further work is necessary which he will deal with.
- There will be no fireworks this year.
- The informal Friday meetings will continue to be weekly for the time being, but these may be changed to fortnightly at some stage. AG suggested that in view of another lockdown should we consult the Village Stores. JE will contact them.
- Stickers should be put on the notice boards indicating the locations of the Defibrillators.
- It may be necessary to have an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the Budget for 2021/22. Preliminary discussions could be held at one of the Friday meetings.
- There was a Sports Committee meeting last week. Nothing of significance to report; there is no update on the new development and financially they are in good order.
- There appears to be a delay in sending responses to planning applications. If JE is not available other members of the group should assist. To be discussed at the next informal meeting.
- A resident of Frambury Lane has expressed concerns about the footpath next to his house which will provide an entrance to the new Frambury Fields development.
- Residents need to be aware that some suspicious characters have knocked on doors in the village. Everyone needs to be on their guard.

20/379 To receive the Clerk's Report, circulated prior to the meeting

Duly received

Bricketts - As you know Enterprise Property Group who are dealing with the new development at Bricketts asked whether the PC would like to make any suggestions regarding the naming of the development. I have received one suggestion from Don - Ingham Close, which has been supported by a number of other Councillors. I would like to get back to EPD after the meeting and propose this if there are no other suggestions. **The Clerk to propose Ingham Close.**

District Councillor Funding - As we currently have only one District Councillor, UDC have asked if we are aware of any organisations that would benefit from the vacant Councillor's funding allocation. They have sent an application form which would need to be completed and returned to UDC. They have put a £500 cap on any award in order to assist as many projects as possible. They are particularly keen to support organisations who have been affected during the pandemic. This could include

community events supporting older, vulnerable or younger resident to address the emerging issues arising from COVID-19 such as mental health, social isolation, health etc. **The Clerk will ask if this could part fund a Defibrillator which would be located in Station Road. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall to enquire if they would be agreeable to this being fixed to the outside of the Village Hall.**

ECC Funding available - Ray advised that he has some funding available (£6000 on 23rd October when I circulated an email). The only restrictions are that it has to be a capital acquisition rather than revenue, anything that requires ongoing funding would be declined. We need to apply for this fairly quickly. I spoke to Ray yesterday, Wednesday 28th, and he has kindly offered to allocate £1,000 to Newport PC to replace the Defibrillator. **The Chairman thanked RG for his assistance with this.**

The Common - River Cam - I circulated a copy of the 1968 Bye law. I also contacted Essex Legal Services and asked if there could be any liability or legal implications for the Council if a pipe was laid across the Common (which is VG 36) and into the River Cam to dispose of surface water. I am awaiting a reply. We contacted Tees Law our Solicitors, when we were dealing with the Ellis Trust Appeal and asked if ECC, Anglian Water or the Environment would have any compulsory powers as at that time the PC had no intention of allowing an easement over the Common. The solicitor advised that it is a complex and specialist area, but there are rights for utility suppliers to compulsory acquire rights over land for the connection of mains services and compensation is payable to the landowner. **The Clerk will contact ELS again.**

Shortgrove - TPO's - I circulated a copy of the plan I found in the office covering the trees on the Shortgrove Estate. Cllr Hargreaves has informed Ben Smeedon at UDC that we are planning to get photos taken of the trees at Shortgrove and then make an application to UDC to apply TPO's on any suitable trees plus any other specimen trees which are near houses.

UDC Tree Initiative - As requested at the last meeting I spoke to a resident regarding some additional trees on the Common, but additional trees are not considered necessary.

Tree on Elephant Green - I have received a quotation for reducing the crown by 1-2Ms, crown raise to approximately 3M and remove major deadwood, £650, plus VAT.

Cannabis - A resident reported that some cannabis plants have been left on the path from Wicken Water, going west to the M11. These were reported to the Police some time ago. I have raised this with our Community Special Constable and he has advised this is part of a large investigation. **Discussed earlier in the meeting.**

Compass Data base - I spoke to SWTC following the last meeting and they advised that several other councils had expressed an interest. I was then sent the following costs:

Annual subscription net of VAT - £3,960 2011 population (from Wikipedia) %
Proportion for Newport £277. **Clerk to request two logins and confirmation of price.**

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November 2020 - The act of remembrance will be very different this year owing to the pandemic and guidance on social distancing. Members from each organisation will be invited to attend and Howard will be taking part in the act of remembrance and wreath laying at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council. It is suggested that people attending meet by the war memorial in the church grounds. There will then be opening words followed by a 2 minute silence, after which the wreaths will be laid on the war memorial. **Final details to be confirmed with Rev. Neil McLeod.**

Whiteditch Lane - I have received a number of emails from a resident of Whiteditch Lane regarding the clearance of a hedge which gave the resident privacy from the school and footpath 4. Apparently this was done last year and they hoped it would regenerate in the Spring but unfortunately it hasn't. Someone from the Academy advised that the PC had done this. I have informed the resident that it was not the PC. Since the last meeting she has had a meeting with a representative from Moulton-Walker and it appears the damage was caused by a contractor who works for the Academy and ECC.

Another resident of Whiteditch Lane has raised concerns because his children who attend JFA cannot use the path as it is still not open although it was due to open October 2019. He was under the impression it was the PC holding this up but following further conversations with ECC Public Rights of Way they have confirmed that it is JFAN who are preventing the path being opened, **The Chairman said the path should be open. JE said the gates have been closed because residents have walked on to school land when school sports have been taking place. However, the path should be open at the King Edward Mews end. JE will contact JFAN.**

Managing Pavement Parking - UDC informed us that the government is consulting on managing pavement parking. It is likely that the Department of Transport will legislate against footway parking in some form (either by decriminalising obstructive footway parking or banning it entirely). The consultation is seeking views on the Traffic Regulation Order making process, the introduction of a new civil contravention of unnecessary obstruction of the pavement and the introduction of an overall pavement parking ban. The closing date for the consultation is 22nd November 2020 and details can be found at the following link: – <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking>.

Summer Competition - You will have noticed on the agenda that Andrew Yarwood, Chairman of the Youth Club will be reporting on the competition. JFAN students undertook the voting and they awarded ten prizes to three different age groups. The winners were allowed to choose the type of voucher. As soon as all the youngsters have replied I will purchase the vouchers.

The total cost was £278.50 (Prizes £220 printing carried out by JFAN £58.50). Ray allocated £200 from the ECC Locality Fund and I will claim £190 for most of the vouchers. The Youth Club have paid for the printing and the balance of the donation already paid by the PC will be returned.

Fire Pit - Following the last meeting I wrote to the Scouts regarding the bottles and rubbish which had been left in the fire pit and asked them to ensure the area is cleared after use in future and used in accordance with the fact sheet included in the licence. I have not received a reply and the licence has still not been signed by the Scouts so I have contacted them again.

CURAT (Cam Upper Reaches Action Team) - I received a call from a resident of Bridge End concerning the leaflet which was delivered regarding the above scheme. As he does not have internet access I obtained a telephone number and he has now contacted one of the organisers of the scheme. I have included the Parish Council on the mailing list in order to be kept informed.

Bin in Wicken Road - As reported, the bin was completely destroyed by a vehicle and people have been throwing dog poo bags in and around the base. This was cleared up by Martin. I did speak to ECC to see if they had any suggestions, but they felt it was up to the PC to decide on whether a new bin should be installed. **The Chairman confirmed this situation will be discussed at next meeting**

Sign/light on the Railway Bridge - ECC have advised that as the sign is on the bridge it will not be a straightforward replacement. When it was installed ECC had to get Network Rail to issue a licence to enable works on their bridge to take place. In the meantime they are looking into a temporary sign.

Street Lights - As far as I know all the PC street lights are working. With the exception of one on Belmont Hill and another in London Road, all the ECC lights should be working on the main road. We are still waiting for ECC to replace the light in Pond Cross Way that was knocked over by a UDC refuse lorry, but it has been chased.

It was reported that all the lights at Salmon Field were out. I have contacted Hastoe, who are responsible, twice and they have now advised they will be attended to.

New Memorial Seat on the Common - The bases are being laid and the seat should be in place very soon.

Councillor Training - I will try and arrange with EALC a Councillor Training Course one evening, by Zoom

Reports - The Rangers have carried out some repairs on the steps from the High Street to Pond Cross Way. Several more complaints have been received about the trees in the High Street and these have been reported. All other reports have been registered with ECC and I have requested extending the double yellow lines in Bullfields.

Mobile Post Office Van - I have obtained contact details from another village in the area. They have arranged a service with the Post Office starting next week and I will report back when I have some information. **The Clerk will pursue this.**

20/380 To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and approve accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to the meetings

Duly received. The payment schedule, 5 items totalling £1,914.79, was approved.

Proposed: DA

Seconded: SAy

All agreed

20/381 To approve the replacement of the Defibrillator in the High Street.

The Clerk advised that our First Responder reported that the Defibrillator, which is over ten years old, needs replacing. A quotation has been obtained from Community Heartbeat for the most up-to-date model, cost £995.00, plus carriage, plus VAT. Cllr Ray Gooding has kindly offered to set aside £1,000 from his allowance to cover this.

The Chairman thanked RG for his assistance with this.

The Chairman suggested purchasing another Defibrillator for Station Road. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall and enquire as to whether they would be willing to have this on the outside of the Hall. Providing they agree, it was proposed that the Clerk should contact UDC and ask if the £500 District Councillor's allowance could part fund this. The balance to be paid by the PC.

Proposed: HB

Seconded: SAy

All agreed

20/382 To receive reports/updates on Infrastructure/Maintenance**382.1 To receive an update on drainage work on the River Cam adjacent to the Common and on Wicken Water at the bottom of School Lane**

JE confirmed that she will follow this up.

382.2 To receive an update on the new installation and maintenance at the Diana Sell Playground

DA is dealing with this.

382.3 To approve the quotation for pollarding the tree on Elephant Green

It was proposed that the quotation of £650 plus VAT for reducing the crown by 1-2Ms, and crown raise to approximately 3Ms and remove major deadwood should be accepted.

Proposed: SAy

Seconded: JE

All agreed

382.4 To receive an update on the CCTV at the Diana Sell Playground

DA had nothing to report at present.

382.5 To discuss a response to the consultation on pavement parking, details circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk will send a response stating that decisions on this should be made at a local level.

20/383 To receive reports/updates on Planning**383.1 To receive an update on the development at JFAN and the road closures.**

Discussed earlier in the meeting

383.2 To decide whether to join the Compass database following further information received from SWTC.

The Clerk advised that she has kept in touch with SWTC and circulated the latest details, quoting a price of £277 for Newport. The PC confirmed that they would require two logins. The Clerk to advise and request confirmation of price.

Proposed: JE

Seconded: AS

All agreed

383.3. To receive a report from the Planning Working Group

UTT/20/2318/FUL 3 - 7 Pond Cross Farm, High Street, (Comments by 30th October)

Defective septic tank to be made redundant and filled. New Condor sewage treatment plant to be installed along with a new associated effluent pumping station.

Comments: No objections

UTT/20/1985/HHF The Stables, 1 Martins Farm, Bridge End (Comments by 3rd November)

Creation of dormers at rear of house first floor northern elevation.

AG said he would be pleased to answer any questions. The proposed dormer would be overlooking the back garden. The response to the application from Place Services was incorrect. (AG left the meeting)

Mrs. Perry gave further details of the proposal and advised that the Conservation area line is at the back of their house. The neighbours have not objected to the proposal.

(AG re-joined the meeting)

UTT/20/2533/HHF The Pump House, Shortgrove (Comments by 4th November)

Removal of garden shed and erection of Garden Store and Home Office.

Comments: No objections

UTT/20/2278/FUL Shortgrove, Newport (Comments by 11th November) Proposed widening of private way.

Comments: No objections.

UTT/20/2632/FUL Land west of London Road (Comments by 12th November)

Construction of 89 new dwellings, vehicular access from London Road and associated parking, open space and landscaping, including the provision of ball catch netting for the recreation club, a car park and associated access for Newport Primary School including landscaping improvements, an off-site playground, highway improvements to the bridleway and associated development.

The Clerk will contact the UDC Case Officer and request an extension of one week, until 19th November.

UTT/20/2653/FUL The Joyce Frankland Academy Cambridge Road (Comments by 17th November) Application to vary conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9,14, 19, 20 and 22

attached to planning application UTT/18/0738/FUL (approved under appeal APP/C1570/W/19/3229420).

20/384 To receive reports/updates on Green Spaces and Sports

To receive an update on Footpath 4 from Whiteditch Lane to Bury Water Lane

This was raised earlier in the meeting.

20/385 Items for next agenda

To discuss and agree the Budget for 2021/22

To approve a quotation for felling a Chestnut tree at the Allotments

To receive an update on the possibility of a Post Office at the Grange. Bury Water Lane.

To approve the purchase of a Defibrillator and Cabinet, to be installed on the outside of the Village Hall.

20/386 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

386.1 DA reported that a tree at the Allotment needs attention. The Clerk will ask Mercer trees to contact DA.

386.2 The government White Paper “Planning for the Future” was submitted on the 29th November. JE thanked SN for the points she sent and everyone for their contributions.

386.3 HB to contact the Village Hall regarding obtaining water for laying the bases for the seats on the Common

386.4 The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a resident of Whiteditch Lane regarding the condition of the Lane.

20/387 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held by Zoom on Monday, 7th December, 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 07.12.20