

NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Monday, 2nd August, 2021 at Church House**

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr H. Bowman	(HB)	(Chairman)
	Cllr D. Alexander	(DA)	
	Cllr R. Bengé	(RB)	
	Cllr S. Burton	(SB)	
	Cllr J. Emanuel	(JE)	
	Cllr A. Sampson	(AS)	

In attendance:

Mrs C. Griffin	Parish Clerk
Cllr N. Hargreaves	NH
2 members of the public	

21/504 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr S. Ayles (private commitment), Cllr S. Naik (private commitment), Cty Cllr R. Gooding and Mrs. E. Edwards, RFO.

21/505 To receive any 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary' interests relating to items on the Agenda

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

AS in 513; SAm in 508 and 515; HB in 509, 512 and 515; JE in 513 and 514 and member of the UDC Planning Committee.

21/ 506 Chairman's comments

The Chairman advised:

- A Council member is required to take on responsibility for footpaths. SB offered to deal with this. There is also a PC guide on Affordable Housing which takes you through the whole process. AS and RB volunteered to read through the document and report back. AS also offered to look at all the drains on the B1383 and see which ones need clearing.

21/507 Public participation session (To discuss questions sent to the Clerk, by email from members of the public)

A resident, who was present at the meeting, had raised the following points with the Clerk to which she had replied.

- Is there any way that double yellow lines can be placed in Bury Water Lane towards the end where it meets Wicken Lea Estate? There have been many close calls and it is a matter of time until a serious RTC takes place.

The Clerk advised that she has already been in touch with ECC regarding the possibility of double yellow lines outside Willow Vale and asked for these to be included in the safety audit which the Local Highways Panel is undertaking following our request to raise the pedestrian crossing between the school sites. However, the far end of BWL nearest to Wicken Lea is not maintained by ECC so the Clerk will contact the North Essex Parking Partnership for guidance.

- I have not received an answer from a previous question, which was the Wood Factory and it's annoying proximity alarm. Can the PC please see if they can influence the owner to limit the range and volume as it is easily heard on the development and doesn't actually deter anyone! Especially as so many people go up there in the evening to deal drugs on a daily occurrence.

The Clerk advised that she contacted the owner and he said it is an alarm that only goes off if people come too close. The Chairman and Clerk will discuss and decide what further action to take.

- Could the weeds, plants, trees and vegetation be cut back from pavements. It is particularly bad along Bury Water Lane between the bridge and Whiteditch Lane.

The Clerk reported the vegetation overhanging the road to ECC a few weeks ago but will see if the Rangers could help with this.

- The road is covered in silt at the end of Bury Water Lane where it is closed. The contractors don't seem to be cleaning anything.

Dist Cllr Hargreaves will inspect and if necessary speak to the contractor.

21/508 To receive a report from our Community Special Constables

SAM reported;

Our first CSC spent two days in Newport dealing with anti-social behaviour, poor parking and speeding. He issued one speeding ticket to a Newport resident.

Our second CSC reported that the Force Control Room who deal with the phone calls to 101 has been impacted by staff having to self-isolate and caused delay on 101. They hope it will improve after the 16th August when the rules are due to change again. He says delays can be avoided by reporting on the Essex Police website, if possible, as the info' becomes almost instantly available to the relevant force.

They greatly appreciate the information passed to them by local residents.

Both of our CSC's will be coming to the Fete on 14th August, bringing a car and some interesting equipment.

21/509 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th July 2021

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

Proposed: DA

Seconded: SB

All agreed

21/510 To receive the Clerk's report

Duly received. The Clerk circulated the following report prior to the meeting.

Updates at the meeting in bold.

Flower Containers - The flower box in the High Street outside Dorringtons has been cleared and replanted by our Caretakers.

Reynolds Court - Following the meeting at The Grange I have contacted UDC again regarding the possibility of a meeting at Reynolds Court. The two items to raise are (a) Defibrillator (following request from the Tennis Court Committee) and (b) Drop off bay. I have now received a reply advising that they are still not holding face to face meetings unless completely unavoidable and are not inviting anyone into sheltered schemes for reasons other than for the needs of tenants. This is council policy at present because of the continuing high levels of Covid in the community. We can therefore either arrange a meeting by Zoom or leave it until they are prepared to have a face to face meeting. **A meeting will be arranged by Zoom.**

Oil Seepage - I met Simon Short from the Environment Agency and Paul Hanson from Ambipar at the Common on 8th July. A high powered jetting unit was used which made it possible to get from the manhole on the Common through to the garage manhole.

Following the first jet through the pipe line the camera was put in at the village hall end and sent up toward the garage. It was noticed straight away that there was a large volume of silt that was in the pipes and the camera returned covered in oil. The camera was able to get 47 meters upstream before it encountered some very heavy roots. These appear to be aligned to the trees that are along the inside of the fence beyond the village hall. The jetter was then sent up and down again to clear out as much of the oily silt as possible. The camera was sent up again and although it was able to get a metre beyond the first point due to the high pressure jet having been able to clear a path through the initial roots, it again encountered some heavy roots that they were unable to clear.

The jetter was used to jet twice between the village hall and the river and once more from the village hall to the garage. At that point the tank capacity was full so they were unable to carry out any further jetting. The camera was again sent from the village hall towards the garage and again could only get 48 metres before it stopped. Running the camera back from there it did however show that the pipe from this point back to the village hall had all been cleared and was running well. A push camera was put into the drain at the garage end but only got four metres before it hit significant roots. This did show that there was still silt in the pipe which would suggest that there are root issues throughout the pipe from the garage down to the fence near the village hall.

The camera also picked up on numerous damage points in the pipe and the integrity of the pipe would be of concern as a result. The camera also picked up what looks to be another manhole somewhere near the drain pipe from the village hall. Access to this would help any further clearance work but it may be difficult to locate above ground. Due to the high pressure on the jet it couldn't be used from the garage end without the potential to cause damage.

We then received CCTV survey videos from Ambipar which were circulated.

After a very heavy storm I got back in touch with the Environment Agency and they checked the condition of the river and manhole. They were pleased to report that there was only a slight sheen on the water in the manhole and a similar sheen on water near the outfall from the drain into the river. There was no evidence of thicker oil on the water, or any residues on the banks/vegetation that would indicate oil had been flushed out and gone downstream. The Environment Agency also visited the garage and a significant amount of silt had flowed into the manhole in their building but there was little evidence of oil other than a slight sheen again. The excavation outside the garage and manhole still shows some oil is seeping from the wall foundations and they are continuing to remove this.

It appears that once the works have been completed at the garage end the problem will have been resolved. **I think we were very fortunate to have Simon Short from the Environment Agency and Paul Hanson from Ambipar to assist us. They were both extremely helpful. Central Garage were also very co-operative.**

School Lane/Bury Water Lane junction - Following the last meeting I advised ECC that the lines needed repainting at the junction. I contacted the ECC Arboriculturist and she was inspecting the trees and vegetation in the area.

Local Highways Panel - A speed survey was requested following report of speeding through the village. The raising of the pedestrian crossing between the two school sites is going through the normal validation process to assess the viability and if a suitable recommendation is made then funding can be sought.

Sparrows End Bridge - Essex Highways will be undertaking an inspection of Sparrows End Bridge, on Friday 30 July 2021 between the hours of 10:00 & 15:00. Temporary two way traffic signals will be installed on the B1051 Sparrows end Hill whilst the inspection is completed.

Hercules Bridge - it will be necessary to close Hercules Bridge on Debden Road, for investigation works from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August 2021. These works are necessary due to inconsistent findings in relation to the utility apparatus within the carriageway. No vehicles will be able to pass over the structure until the works are complete due to the restricted working area, however pedestrian access will be possible. Appropriate diversion routes will be in place during the road closure, including a separate diversion route for Heavy Goods Vehicles. Access to nearby residential properties will be maintained from either side of the bridge. I informed all residents of Debden Road and Premier garage and a letter should now have been sent to nearby residents/businesses to give them advance warning of the works and the team are in contact with the local fire station to ensure disruption to their services is kept to a minimum.

Resurfacing the B1383 - a number of residents have commented on the work and said that Highways have done a very good job and they were not disturbed by the works during the night. The surface is excellent and very quiet.

ECC - There have been several reports of overgrown paths which have been reported to ECC and one to JFAN which will be cut during the holidays.

Dog fouling - I have received several complaints again this month. I have ordered some more spray. The bin at the back of Frambury Lane has been removed. I am awaiting delivery of a new bin which will be fixed on the concrete post on the footpath.

Litter Bins - A list of litter bins which have not been emptied was sent to Dunmow. At the moment everything is working well.

Salt Bag Scheme - I have registered for the scheme again this year but advised that we do not require any salt.

Local Councils Liaison Forum - UDC have advised that the next forum will be on 14th September at 7.00pm. Awaiting further details.

Memorial Seat at Recreation Ground - The Cricket Club will be placing a memorial bench on the tree line next to the M11. The exact location to be agreed at the next Sports Committee meeting.

Casual Vacancy - Following the resignation of Anthony Gerard the vacancy has been advertised. An election has not been requested so the vacancy can be filled by co-option

2020/21 Audit - Notice of Public Rights - This was advertised for the period 14th June – 23rd July 2021 but I did not receive any requests to inspect the records.

Uttlesford Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting - 13th October, at 7.00pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Blue Plaque Scheme - The local History Group have been approached to participate in a project promoted by The Lord Lieutenant of Essex to Commemorate Inspirational Women of Essex whose accomplishments have not been recognised. This is part of the Essex contribution to the Queen's platinum anniversary in 2022.

The project is run by a central team of historians who offer some support and knowledge (but not Finance!) to any community willing to make a local project. The central idea is to mount blue plaques on buildings associated with these women. The History Group have five women who broadly conform to the selection criteria. The Group has agreed in principle to participating in this project and believe that the property owners will give their permission to allow the plaques. However, four of the five locations are in the conservation zone and heritage planning permission rules will apply. It is envisaged that the overall process will incur significant costs for drawings and fees, will take several weeks to complete and will have to be repeated for each location. The estimated cost for manufacture and supply of plaques is £400 per unit. The History Group will endeavour to raise funds and wondered if the Parish Council have funds which could be made available for this community project.

Saffron Walden Initiative have organised a similar scheme which was funded by UDC and supported by Saffron Walden Town Council. I have been in touch with them and hope to give you an update at the meeting. **As soon as I hear from them I will pass the information to the Local History Group and when they are aware of the total**

cost I will include an item on the agenda in order for the PC to consider a contribution

The Chairman and I have drafted a CCTV policy and this will be circulated and then included on the next agenda for approval.

Other Council policies will be reviewed as soon as possible.

The Chairman will also attend an EALC Chairman's training course later in the year.

Dist Cllr Hargreaves reported:

- There are several consultations at present and in particular green spaces. Areas which should be looked at or areas that can be improved can be put forward. (JE raised the area near the bottom of Frambury Lane, owned by Riga. The Clerk to pass contact details to her, although planning permission was obtained on this site)
- Assessments are being made of the sites put forward but one of the biggest problems is that UDC do not have a five year land supply. Local Councils have been asked to put forward potential sites. (The Chairman said he felt Newport has had its fair share of development)
- I will compare the proposed sites in the Call for Sites with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- I would not vote for a Local Plan which included a lot more houses for Newport.
- The cast iron flower containers need to be ordered. Details will be sent to the Clerk for the order to be placed.

21/511 To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and approve accounts for payment, schedules circulated prior to the meeting

The payment schedule totalling £8,908.68 for 8 items were approved.

Proposed: SAM

Seconded: AS

All agreed

21/512 To review arrangements for grass cutting in the High Street and consider quotation received for clearing up the cuttings in order to prevent them blocking the drains.

The Chairman reported that he has spoken to the PC's contractor and if two extra cuts are undertaken it should alleviate the problem of the cuttings blocking the drains. It was agreed that extra cuts should be carried out. If necessary, this can be reviewed at a later date.

21/513 To receive reports/updates on Planning

513.1 To approve a quotation from our Planning consultant for assistance with the response to the Coach & Horses Appeal. APP/C/1570/W/20/3262290

It was proposed that the estimate of £3,000 received from our Planning Consultant should be approved.

Proposed: AS

Seconded: DA

All agreed

513.2 To receive an update on the Trivselhuis planning application

JE reported that a meeting was held with Trivselhuis and UDC in order to establish the current situation. ECC Public Rights of Way department and Essex Education had been in touch regarding the footpath running along the side of the School site and PROW wanted the path to be 3M's wide and tarmacked, but the Education department were not happy to give 3Ms. The PC felt a hoggin path would suffice. UDC were unhappy with the amount of affordable housing included in the scheme; it has now been increased to 28. The application should be determined at the UDC Planning Committee on 2nd September

Trivselhuis are very unhappy because their application has been dealt with by four different planning officers and has taken such a long time to get to Committee. Some concerns have been expressed because Trivselhuis may decide to sell the site to another developer. If this should happen the village would probably not get such a good scheme and they have included a considerable number of benefits which are very costly. The location of the proposed playground on the Common needs further consideration.

After the meeting JE approached Essex Education department and requested a discussion regarding the 3M wide path, but they refused. NH emphasised that the PC need to make sure that they have the right to use the car park when it is not being used by the School.

With regard to drainage issues, it was felt the PC need to take advice to ensure there are no liabilities or implications for the PC if they allow the pipe to go across Common land. The Clerk will contact the Environment Agency and send the independent report which was prepared by Ardent. The PC will consider whether or not to allow the pipe to go across the Common after the application has been determined.

513.3 To receive a report from the Planning Working Group

JE had circulated an update giving details of decisions prior to the meeting

UTT/21/2039/HHF 53 Frambury Lane (Comments by 27.July)

Proposed front porch.

Comments No objections

UTT/21/2194/LB Waterloo House, High Street (Comments by 5th August)

Installation of an air source heat pump to external rear wall.

Comments: A response had been sent prior to the meeting supporting the application.

UTT/21/2112/HHF Rhodora House, Whiteditch Lane (Comments by 10th August)

Proposed installation of automated swing gate.

Comments: Draft comments will be circulated.

Coach & Horses, Cambridge Road - NH advised that the garden could be registered as an Asset of Community Value if evidence could be obtained of community use. AS will look into this

Conditional approval has been granted for UTT/21/2010/FUL at Debden Grange. A resident who was present at the meeting felt the conditions were very disappointing. JE will take this up with the Interim CEO at UDC.

21/514 To discuss a report on River Management

JE had circulated a report, prepared by a resident of the village, prior to the meeting and spoken to one of the Councillors at UDC. The PC need to know what their responsibilities are and the report has therefore been sent to the Environment Agency. Once we hear back from them it may be possible to put some pressure on Anglian Water as the sewage works have not been improved or upgraded for many years.

SAm pointed out that in the report it states that the vegetation at the bridge in Station Road, near the Common, should not be removed. Planting some additional vegetation in front of where the worst erosion occurs may help.

HB will speak to the Chairman of the Village Hall concerning the area at the end of the car park which has been cleared.

21/515 To receive an update on arrangements for the Village Fete on 14th August.

SAm reported that Mike Hannant is organising the Fete on behalf of the Council. He has put up posters and every house in the village will be getting a leaflet. He has organised several rides, a dog show and car boot sale. Assistance is required on Friday evening (AS could help) and on Saturday(SB offered to help.)

The PC will be having a stall but need members to man it and some posters. The Chairman will speak to Mike Hannant and urged any members that can help to turn up on the day. JE will obtain the 50/50 sheets.

21/516 Items for next agenda

King Edward Mews Footpath.

To approve the replacement of the picnic tables at the Diana Sell playground (DA to provide details)

To approve the CCTV policy

21/517 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

517.1 The PC have received a request to use the Common for a family event on 19th September. The PC agreed to the request providing the family obtain public liability insurance and let the PC have sight of it prior to the event. There will be no charge but it will be suggested that a donation could be made to a local charity.

517.2 A request has been received for a hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan. JE will obtain one printed copy.

517.3 The Clerk reported that someone has taken it upon themselves to trim two trees in the High Street. It has been reported to the ECC Arboriculturist.

517.4 JE reported on the noise problem in Whiteditch Lane. This has been reported to the Police again. Residents should keep a diary and ensure they report to the Police on every occasion. The Clerk will contact UDC Environmental Health and ask if they can install a noise monitor.

21/518 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th September at Church House at 7.30pm. An informal Zoom meeting will be held on Monday 23rd August at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 06.09.21