

**NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on  
Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Church House**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Cllr H. Bowman	(HB)	(Chairman)
	Cllr S. Amos	(SAm)	
	Cllr S. Ayles	(SAy)	
	Cllr R. Bengé	(RB)	

**In attendance:**

Mrs C. Griffin	Parish Clerk
Cty Cllr R. Gooding	RG
2 Community Special Constables	
9 Members of the public	

**21/537 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr D. Alexander (unwell), Cllr S. Burton (private commitment), Cllr J. Emanuel (self isolating) Cllr S. Naik (private commitment) and Cllr A. Sampson (private commitment), Dist Cllr N. Hargreaves and Mrs. E. Edwards.

**21/538 To receive any 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary' interests relating to items on the Agenda**

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:  
SAy in 548; SAm in 542; and HB in 544.

**21/539 Chairman's comments**

The Chairman said he was pleased to see residents taking an interest and welcomed everyone to the meeting,

**21/540 Public participation session**

The following matters were raised:

- Could we please have two dropped kerbs outside the Doctor's Surgery in Frambury Lane.

The Chairman said these will be added when we come to that item.

- Will the road to the recreation ground be taken over by ECC and will it be easier to build houses behind existing houses at the top of Frambury Lane.

The Chairman advised that the developers would bring the road to the recreation ground up to highway standard. The Neighbourhood Plan will not make it easier to build houses in that area.

- The Neighbourhood Plan facilitated the 84 houses behind us in Frambury Lane. The District Councillors advised us to vote for the new Neighbourhood

plan because it would stop more houses. The site was not on the old plan but is included on the new plan and now we have got 84 houses.

The Chairman said the Neighbourhood plan has made the village safer.

- There was no planning permission on that field when the application came up at the UDC Planning Committee meeting; the permission had lapsed.

The Chairman said development had been established as it was agreed at Appeal.

- Why did the Parish Council initially go against building on that site and then change and support the application?

The Chairman said the PC opposed building on that site, it then went to Appeal and we lost. However, this did prevent building on other fields in the village. The Chairman said a precedent had been set and the village will get benefits from this development.

- Nobody consulted the residents of Frambury Lane regarding the Planning meeting at UDC. There was no planning permission on that site. I attended the meeting and had to leave while the planners spoke to the developers.

The Chairman said he could not speak for UDC.

- Do you agree the Neighbourhood plan facilitates building in Newport? What benefits will the residents of Frambury Lane get?
- Who is going to maintain the footpath which comes out in Frambury Lane? I have now got solicitors working on it..

The Chairman said he thought this would be the management company

The residents were advised to take these matters up with the District Councillors.

- Could the street light be repaired outside No.2 Frambury Lane?

The Clerk advised that this has been reported to the contractors.

- I am concerned because this large development was not discussed; the residents should have been notified and had a vote.

The Chairman advised that there was a meeting with the developers at the Primary School where the developers set out their proposals. We realised we could not oppose because a precedent had been set. When this went to the Planning Committee, UDC should have informed you.

- Where will the water go?

The Chairman said this will be coming up later in the meeting.

### **21/541 To discuss future plans for Newport Youth Club**

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Yarwood and representatives, Hannah and Alex, from Oliver's Lodge.

Andrew Yarwood who has organised the Youth Club for the last ten years, advised at the last meeting that he would like to step away as soon as possible and wished to give an update.

He reported that he has had discussions with Oliver's Lodge and it has been outlined what needs to be done to make the building sustainable and fit for purpose.

Alex and Hannah from Oliver's Lodge are prepared to take a much more active role in looking after the building which would include looking after the Youth Club.

The representatives from Oliver's Lodge said they would like to create a more usable environment. The funding pot has run out, but we have the ability to apply for another pot of 106 funding which would allow us to develop the building even further and continue the Youth Club. 106 funding is only assessable for creating child care places. The village is expanding, and we need to have facilities for the youth of the village and give them a voice. If we can get the funding we would like to change the building so we have two full floors. Numbers are increasing for Special Educational Needs so we would like to have a STEM room.

The Chairman advised that the PC want to ensure that the Youth Club survives. As Andrew Yarwood has advised us that he would like to leave we will have to find a volunteer or employ someone to run the Youth Club. If you take over the building you would ensure the survival of the Youth Club. If the PC agree to this proposal it will be of benefit to the village. We need to safeguard the Youth Club and ensure it survives. Fees would not be charged at a commercial rate.

RG advised that:

- If support is required for db's checks, these are available at ECC.
- There is a lot of support from Essex Youth Services and it would be worth talking to them.
- Does this comply with the lease?

Andrew Yarwood advised that the original building was built under a grant. It is owned by the Parish Council and is for providing educational recreation.

- Do you need to draw up a legal document for this?

The Chairman advised that if the PC consider this is good idea and wish to pursue it then we would consult our solicitors for advice and ensure that the interests of the PC and the Youth Club are protected and it is a fair arrangement for Oliver's Lodge.

Andrew Yarwood concluded by saying he would like to leave the Youth Club in safe and secure hands. He confirmed that he has no links to the private company.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Yarwood and the representatives from Oliver's Lodge for attending. The Parish Council will consider the proposal as soon as possible.

### **21/542 To receive a report from our Community Special Constables**

The Community Special Constables reported that over the last month they have undertaken:

- High visibility foot patrols around Newport.
- Speed checks on the High Street

- Speed checks in Frambury Lane. Several drivers were stopped and warned. From a total of 64 cars, 45 were speeding. A report was sent to Cty Cllr Ray Gooding.
- Meeting with resident to discuss drug dealing. Police intelligence report raised, and patrols carried out in that area. This will continue.
- High visibility patrol, spoke to residents who were pleased we were patrolling in the village.
- Speed checks in Wicken Road following complaint from a resident. From 100 cars only 5 were speeding. We were thanked by the resident. The drivers that were stopped were told that if they were caught speeding again they would get a ticket.
- Foot patrols visiting shops and businesses.
- Residents of Frambury Lane approached us regarding parking. Have you considered a resident parking scheme?  
The Chairman advised that when a survey was carried out some years ago residents were against it because it does not guarantee a parking place.
- There was a problem with registration plates on a car in Station Road and the car had to be removed.
- We will devise a patrol plan but if you need to contact the Police you should dial 101 or report on Essex Police website. Alternatively, if you have a concern bring it to the PC meeting and we will pass it on.

A question was raised regarding catalytic converters. One of the members had tried to make a booking and the cost was £25. The Police have some equipment and the service should be free.

**21/543 To receive reports from District and County Councillors.**

**Cty Cllr Gooding reported:**

I received the details of the speed checks and have passed these on for a case to be built up. I hope the reports will continue.

I remember the residents parking schemes and Invariably residents do not want parking schemes because paying for the permit does not guarantee a parking space.

- The crossing at the Academy is going through validation.
- Some of the schemes are being held up because of a shortage of engineers.
- There are still some issues about flooding but drains have been cleaned.
- ECC are still trying to contact the owner of the land in Cambridge Road where the water came on to the road earlier in the year.

A question was raised regarding mud on the road from the new development at the end of London Road.

RG advised this should be reported to Highways. He advised that ECC always ask for wheel washing facilities to be included in the conditions but UDC remove it so it is not enforced. This will be raised with the District Councillors.

The Clerk asked RG about the proposed location of the flower containers. RG will send a letter of support.

The Chairman read the following report from **Dist Cllr Hargreaves**:

The council has been refused leave to take the Stansted Airport expansion decision to a judicial review (primarily for giving no weight to the extra CO2 emissions). There is a seven day window to decide if this should be taken on to the High Court. There are internal legal briefings this week and a Council meeting on Wednesday to decide.

Just a reminder that the Saffron Walden council office front desk is open from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The building will remain closed to the public every Wednesday because the car park is used as an NHS drive through and walk-in PCR test centre.

Following theft of the cash boxes from most of the council car parks across the district, with the loss of several thousand pounds, new ticket machines have been installed which are card only. This was intended to be a trial run in a few car parks, but the criminal activity has forced an immediate implementation. The old machines would have cost £1000 each to repair, and still be vulnerable.

**21/544 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

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

Proposed: SAM

Seconded: SAY

All agreed

**21/545 To receive the Clerk's report**

Duly received,

Picnic Tables for the Diana Sell Playground - I have been liaising with Cllr Alexander regarding the coloured picnic tables. A quotation has been obtained from VP Recycled Plastic, total cost for five tables, 1500mm in length, £2355 plus VAT. We purchased the seat for the Common from this company. The tables are available in Blue, Green, Cranberry, Orange and multi colours. I obtained some samples and these will be available at the meeting.

Blue Plaque Scheme - I have been liaising with the History Group. I obtained some advice from the Local Heritage & Boundary Manager at UDC which was helpful. We have both contacted the Saffron Walden Initiative several times but they are very busy at the moment so I have contacted Saffron Walden Town Council.

Neighbourhood Plan - I now have one hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan in the office which UDC kindly printed for me. Cllr Hargreaves has renewed the website subscription for a further two years.

Essex Forest Initiative Briefing - Cllr Amos has been booked on the briefing on Monday 4th October.

New Woodland Planting - I have received another email from the UDC Landscape Officer, asking if there are any potential sites in our control which would be suitable for new woodland planting.

Hedge from Bury Water Lane junction to the railway bridge - This was cut back by the Academy.

Licence for planters - I sent off the application for the licence for the two planters but it has been returned as a street map is required and also a letter of support from our County Councillor. I have contacted Cllr Gooding for this, but I notice on the application that any planters need to be 0.5M back from the edge of the kerb or footway, so I am not sure if a licence would be granted to place these at the top of the steps.

Drain clearance - The drains in the village were cleaned on 23rd September.

Street lights - Several repairs have been carried out this month and I have another in Frambury Lane to report. If you are aware of any others do let me know so they can be repaired at the same time. **A light is not working in Pond Cross Way, the resident will inform the Parish Clerk.**

Gate on to Gaces Meadow near Tenterfields - Our Caretaker has looked at the gate. It opens fully one way but catches on the other side on the wooden edging that was put in when the new surface was laid. He has looked at changing the hinges.

Dog Bins - After the last meeting our Caretaker looked at the path and area in Wicken Road following the report that was made in September. On the day he visited the area there was no rubbish.

Litter Bins - Our Caretakers are still reporting business and household rubbish in the street litter bins. I have asked the Chairman to include a piece in his report for Newport News asking people not to do this as it is illegal.

Footpath 12 - This has been reported to Public Rights of Way.

Sparrows End Hill - A request has been sent for the Rangers to clear the pavements of debris and litter and to cut back the trees to make it safer for pedestrians to walk on the path.

Local Highways Panel - The Highways Liaison Manager is away, but from the information which is available from their last meeting the following schemes are in validation awaiting funding:

- Extension to existing 20mph in the vicinity of the Academy, Bury Water Lane/School Lane.
- Review of the speed limit through Newport to assess for measures to improve the compliance of the 30mph speed limit.
- Investigations into a possible raised table at the crossing that links the two sides of the Joyce Frankland Academy.

As the next LHP is not until 17th January 2022, I have been asked if there is anything we can do in the interim to increase the urgency of the matter. I have spoken to Cllr Gooding and he will speak to him direct. In the meantime, I will report the white lines on the crossing again.

Drainage Pipe across the Common - I emailed Tees Solicitors on 8th September and asked the following questions:

- As the Council owns the Common (registered as Village Green No. 36) should the Planning Inspectorate be approached to ensure this would not contravene any constraints?
- If the Council did agree to this could there be any legal implications or liabilities for the Council?
- Would it be possible to draw up a contract regarding future maintenance to ensure that the developer is responsible and not the Council if any problems were caused further downstream.
- Would you be able to offer us any guidance on compensation as an alternative scheme would significantly increase the developer's costs.

I phoned and emailed our solicitor again last week because I had not received a reply and was informed that because it is a complex matter he was making enquiries as to who may have expertise in this area. I will chase the solicitor again and give you an update at the meeting on Monday.

Phase 2 Planning - I was copied into an email to Cllr Emanuel earlier this week. Trivselhus would like to arrange a meeting regarding Section 106 matters, in particular the playground and the pipe that will cross London Road. Week commencing 4th or 11th October was suggested.

Riga Areas - A resident of the High Street has been endeavouring to arrange a meeting with Mr. Brown at Riga and she was expecting him to visit at the end of September. I asked her to keep me informed as I would like to join her and as she is now away, I have endeavoured to contact him myself. **I am still trying to contact Mr. Brown**

Speeding - A resident of Wicken Road asked if our Community Special Constables could undertake some speed checks in Wicken Road. One of our Community Special Constables is hoping to do some speed checks on Saturday but will get in touch with the team at Saffron Walden to see if they can assist.

Speedwatch volunteers are now able to commence monitoring activities but can only operate in the areas that have been specified by the Police, i.e. near Bowker Close or at the Cambridge Road/Bury Water Lane junction.

**RG confirmed that work on the Sparrows End roundabout should be carried out by ECC not the Rangers.**

**21/546 To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Report and approve accounts for payment, schedules circulated prior to the meeting**

No report this month as the RFO is unwell. A payment schedule will be forwarded as soon as possible.

**21/547 To receive reports/updates on Infrastructure/Maintenance**

**547.1 To receive an update on the new picnic tables for the Diana Sell Playground**

The Clerk reported that she has obtained a quotation and colour samples from VP Recycled Plastic for five picnic tables in blue, green, orange, cranberry and multi colours. It was agreed to defer the item as Cllr Alexander was unable to attend.

A resident who was present at the meeting will supply an alternative quotation.

**547.2 To consider applying for parking restrictions in Bury Water Lane (opposite Willow Vale) and at the Frambury Lane/Cherry Garden Lane junction.**

Following discussion, it was decided not to apply for a parking restriction in Bury Water Lane (opposite Willow Vale) at present. Regarding parking at the Frambury Lane/Cherry Garden Lane junction, the CSC's will be asked to contact the owner of the vehicle who is parking too close to the junction. If Councillors or residents observe people parking illegally, please report to the North Essex Parking Partnership at the time.

**547.3 To consider submitting an application to the Local Highways Panel for a dropped kerb at:**

(a) bottom of School Lane, near the entrance to Tenterfields

(b) at the tee junction at the top of Frambury Lane, near the Primary School.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be undertaking a walkabout and will look at the areas and send a marked plan to the Clerk identifying the exact location in order for an application to be made. Top of School Lane on Wicken Road across to Frambury Lane and near the Doctor's Surgery to be added. Applications to be sent to LHP.

Kerb at the top of School Lane in Wicken Road was reported a long time ago. There is also a drain cover missing in Wicken Road and one manhole cover at the bottom of Frambury Lane was tarmacked over when the new surface was laid in the High Street.

The bridge at the bottom of School Lane is rotten and dangerous. RG will take this up again to ascertain who is responsible.

547.4. Village Walkabout - to discuss issues requiring attention and agree the necessary action.

This item was covered under 547.3.

**21/548 To receive reports/updates on Planning**

548.1. To receive an update on the nomination of the land to the rear of the Coach & Horses public house as an Asset of Community Value.

The Chairman advised that the piece of land behind the Coach & Horses was a very well used place but the owners are trying to build on it. To date we have been successful in preventing this. An application to nominate the land as an Asset of Community Value has been submitted by Cllr Sampson. No further update as he was unable to attend.

548.2. To receive an update on legal advice obtained regarding laying a drainage pipe across the Common.

The Clerk advised that the solicitor has advised that the issue is complex and has been unable to find someone with the necessary expertise to deal with it. A reply has now been received from the solicitor suggesting that we should contact a Surveyor or land agent.

A resident said that it is Common land and the residents should have a vote on this. The developer could go down London Road and Station Road. The PC is giving in to big developers.

The Chairman said we will probably give them permission, but we are concerned because if the discharge causes problems further downstream we want to ensure that we cannot be held responsible. It would be much easier for them to go across the Common. We represent the parishioners and we have discussed this at many public meetings and we are not discussing this any more.

The Clerk reported that the Village Hall have raised some concerns and a copy of the Ardent report will be forwarded to them.

It was agreed that the Clerk should forward the questions sent to the solicitor to Geoff Gardner and enquire as to whether he could assist.

Following several interruptions from a member of the public the meeting was adjourned for a few minutes and then re-convene.

548.4 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/21/2837/FUL Land at the Piggeries, Debden Road (Comments by 13th October)

Proposed erection of dwelling to replace agricultural building converted dwelling under UTT/14/2798/P3MPA

UTT/21/2814/FUL Barn at Shortgrove (former Byfords Farm Services) Newport

(Comments by 14th October) Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of one dwelling.

UTT/21/2893/FUL Shortgrove, Newport (Comments by 25th October)

Proposed agricultural access

SAy advised that a meeting of the Planning Working group would be organised to discuss the above applications and draft comments would be circulated as soon as possible.

**21/549 To receive an update on the King Edward Mews footpath.**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be arranging a meeting with the Academy and a representative from UDC.

**21/550 Items for next agenda**

Report from the Chairman on the Walkabout

Report on the meeting with the Academy

Report on the Essex Forest Initiative

To consider a request to the LHP for a 20mph speed limit for the whole of Cherry Garden Lane and Frambury Lane. (RG said there are some inconsistencies but felt it was worth revisiting)

Arrange a date for a meeting to discuss the Budget for 2022/23

**21/551 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish**

RG advised that funding is available again this year from the ECC Locality Fund.

No further items were raised.

**21/552 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November at Church House at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

**Signed.....(Chairman)**

**Dated: 01.11.21**