

**NEWTOWN PARISH COUNCIL****Hampshire**

Minutes of a meeting of Newtown Parish Council held on  
Monday 27th March 2023 at 7pm, Newtown Village Hall

**Present:** Meeting Chair: Sean Curry  
Councillors: Bob Ward, Jo Exelby,

**In attendance:** Clerk: Rebecca Cloke  
Cllr Tom Thacker  
Corinne Davis-Cooke

**ACTION****83. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Webb and Cllr Reseigh.  
Cllr Izett was unable to attend the meeting due to the pre-election 'purdah' period.

**84. Declarations of Interest**

None

**85. Community Engagement Ranger – Corinne Davis-Cooke**

The councillors were briefed on the role of the Countryside Access Team and available funding and work force assistance for Countryside Access projects.  
A possible boardwalk on footpath 701b was discussed as this area of the footpath is unpassable due to an underground spring. It was ascertained that this could be a potential project to apply for Countryside Access funding.  
Corinne also briefed the councillors of the Countryside Volunteer Roles including Path Wardens. The Clerk offered to advertise these roles on the PC website and Facebook page.

RC

**OPEN FORUM – none****86. Approval and signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January.**

The minutes were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair. Nominated by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Exelby

**87. Report for “News from the Villages”**

Cllr Curry to prepare article for upcoming edition including the road condition of the B4640.

**88. Report from the Borough and/or County Councillor**

Cllr Izett - absent

Chair .....

Cllr Thacker thanked the Parish Council for the acknowledgement of the Hampshire County Councillor grants awarded for the Village Hall projects and was glad to see the improvements first hand.

Cllr Thacker briefed the councillors that Hampshire County Council had increased their council tax precept by a total of 4.99% (including 2% specifically towards adults' social care). Cllr Thacker stated that even with this increase, the County Council was budgeting a £50.8 million shortfall for this financial year.

Cllr Thacker briefed the councillors on the funding within the budget for road upkeep. He stated that there were two funding streams with maintenance funding for repairs such as potholes and then capital funding for larger scale resurfacing projects. Cllr Thacker confirmed that the B4640 was not included in the planned scheme of works "Operation Resilience" as it was not considered dangerous. Cllr Thacker requested that potholes were continued to be reported and if no action was taken, to escalate (including ticket numbers).

Cllr Thacker briefed the councillors that the Councillor Grant Scheme would be opened early this year (1<sup>st</sup> April-21<sup>st</sup> April) so applications for coronation events could be submitted and considered.

(It was acknowledged that this could be possible funding for waymarkers for the planned "Coronation / Jubilee walk" if prices / route were ascertained in time)

#### 89. Report from the PCSO

The clerk briefed the parish council that she had invited the PCSO to the Parish Council meeting but had received no response.

#### 90. Highways and Traffic issues

Cllr Reseigh absent

#### 91. a) Open Planning

16/02230/FUL	<b>Hill Farm</b>	Erection of 8 dwellings	Withdrawn Returned (unlikely to be det.)
22/01781/LBC	<b>The Swan Inn</b>	Replacement of weathered and worn roof tiles	PC – no comment Awaiting decision
22/03066/HSE	<b>Millets Hill</b>	Erection of a single storey side/rear extension, first floor extension, front porch	PC – no comment Granted
23/0084/HSE	<b>4 Castle Cottages</b>	Alterations to existing outbuilding and erection of carport	PC support Granted
23/00255/FUL	<b>Newtown Court Farm</b>	amendment to planning permission 22/02506/FUL to add additional dwelling	PC opposed Awaiting decision

Chair .....

**92. Newtown Common**

- a) Cllr Curry briefed the councillors on the flailing and clearing work carried out in February and March. He stated that there had still yet to be any payment from the RPA under the new agreement despite significant chasing by the Clerk. Cllr Curry to contact RPA to assist with resolving the reason for non-payment in 2022.

SC

**93. Lengthsman**

- a) Cllr Curry briefed the councillor on the proposed work for the Lengthsman including the B4640 footpaths. Cllr Curry stated that the lengthsman had fixed the Sheepwash track during their last set of allocated hours.
- b) The councillors reviewed, agreed and signed the new contract from St Mary Bourne for the lengthsman hours for 22-23. Proposed by Cllr Exelby, seconded by Cllr Curry.

**94. Jubilee / Elizabeth trail**

Cllr Ward to establish route and bring details to the Parish Council meeting in May for consideration. Cllr Exelby had walked the a proposed route and gave feedback on walking up a section of the road and a couple of obstacles encountered.

BW

**95. Churchyard upkeep grant request**

The letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 23 from Burghclere with Newtown Parochial Church Council requesting a donation was considered. It was proposed by Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr Exelby and carried unanimously that a donation of £800 (as in previous years) be made to the to the PCC. It was noted that this donation be made under the powers granted under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**96. Village Hall**

Cllr Reseigh absent

97. The Clerk briefed the councillors that she had received responses to her pricing and service queries from four providers, including the existing website provider. It had been established that further queries needed to be made as some of the quotes included councillor email provision and some excluded it. Clerk to send out full comparison document once queries resolved.

RC

**98. Finance reports****a) To receive the report on the budget for 2022/23**

The clerk summarised the main variances to budget, year to date, in the income and expenditure and summarised the reserves held. The Chair checked the bank balances to bank statements. Received and approved. It was acknowledged that these were the year end figures but excluded an £80 payment for firewood that had been received after the agenda had been published.

**b) Redecoration of pension regulator compliance submitted**

The Clerk confirmed the redeclaration of pension compliance had been submitted prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> July deadline.

**c) Review and adopt updated Standing Orders**

The document had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been reviewed – adopted. Proposed Cllr Exelby, seconded Cllr Curry

Chair .....

**d) Review and adopt updated Council's Risk Management Register**

The document had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been reviewed – adopted Proposed Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr Curry

**e) Review and adopt updated Financial Regulations and Procedures**

The documents had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been reviewed – adopted Proposed Cllr Exelby, seconded Cllr Ward

**f) Review and adopt Model Publication scheme and Health & Safety Policy**

The documents had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been reviewed – adopted Proposed Cllr Exelby, seconded Cllr Ward

**99. Approval of payments**

To ratify the following payments:

Date	Ref	Payee	Description	Gross
07-Mar	B055	Heathland Management Services	HLS Conservation work	£7,860.00
10-Mar	B056	Newtown Village Hall	Hall hire	£200.00
25-Mar	B057	Rebecca Cloke	Clerk salary - Jan-Mar	£658.28
25-Mar	B058	HMRC	Clerk PAYE Jan-Mar	£164.40
25-Mar	B059	Rebecca Cloke	Expenses mileage	£15.08
25-Mar	B060	Burghclere with Newtown PCC	Churchyard upkeep grant	£800.00

**100. Correspondence**

None.

**101. Parish Assembly date**

22<sup>nd</sup> May

**102. Date of next meetings**

Dates for the next meetings were set for:

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> March

The meeting closed at 8:07pm

Signed .....

Date.....

Chair .....,