

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY

Wed 28th April 2021, 7pm, Remote meeting via Zoom. Thanks to Pauline Hedges for hosting.

Present: Councillors June James (Chairman) John Ashworth, Paul Gaskell, Pauline Hedges. Clerk Susan Turner; Guests PC Andy Reid; Ward Cllr Paul Gaskell.

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Apologies Chris Alliston, Gareth Wilson, County Cllr Elaine Still.

2 BRIEF REPORTS

- 2.1 PC Reid** reported on crime figures since 2019 as all Parish Assemblies last year were cancelled due to Covid. **APPENDIX I**

The Chairman thanked him for, as always, his dedicated support, and for continuing to attend remote Parish Council meetings.

PC Reid left the meeting with the thanks of all present.

- 2.2 St Swithun's** John Ashworth reported on behalf of the Friends that a successful fundraiser had been held at Greywell Hill with thanks to James Malmesbury. He noted a current issue with the mermaid carving to the left of the door. (The original mermaid was moved inside the church some years ago and at some stage whitewashed over.) The replacement has sustained damage to its nose... (perpetrators unknown!) and the Friends are trying to commission a replacement. This is a complicated process as it has been agreed at Diocesan level... but will happen sometime the Friends hope.

- 2.3 Written reports** Thanks to St Nicholas' (Jeff Ford), Clubroom and Footpaths Warden (Chris Alliston) for written reports submitted to the Assembly (see **APPENDIX II**).

- 2.4 Ward Councillor report** Paul Gaskell declined to comment on Borough matters due to purdah. Cllr Gaskell is standing at this election for the new Candovers and Oakley ward but will continue as Newnham Parish Councillor.

- 2.5 Parish Council Review – last two years** Two years ago we were looking back to the Old House at Home reopening and the Owens Farm Appeal being withdrawn.

1. Gap. Since the withdrawn Appeal for development on Owen's Farm (700+ houses), the 'Gap' has been promoted via the 'Friends of Church Path' with thanks to all involved. Including the Church Path Circular Walk, Church Path as a Heritage Asset (*Hook to Newnham Church Path Report* by Nigel Bell); and the Hook nameplate sign has been moved to the Hook settlement boundary to emphasise the separation (with thanks to Highways' support). Boundary changes to bring St John's Cottages in to Newnham were discussed, and presented to Hook Parish Council for their support. Conclusions that not practicable until a general Boundary Review.
2. The Hart Local and Hook Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted, the Hook Neighbourhood Plan specifically confirming the 'Gap' status. Further planning proposals in the Gap so far have not been supported by Hart, but an application for a retirement Village is pending.
3. The Strings boardwalk has been rebuilt, with thanks to HCC Countryside Services. Dedicated to Nigel Downes, Newnham Parish Footpaths Warden 2009 to 2020.
4. A30 'Hatch to Hogget' project. Thanks to Jo Wright for leading on this and County Cllr Elaine Still for her support. Finally resulted – as part of a wider review of the A30 (HCC Transport etc Decision Day Nov 2019) – in agreement for some speed limit reduction, to 60 through Water End and 50 on Scures Hill. The new signs have just been installed April 2021.
5. Old House at Home Following a very successful start, the business had to contend with Thames Water road closures through Newnham (Newnham Road July 2019 to Christmas, Crown Lane Jan 2020, Newnham Lane Feb 2020) – then Covid just after they had negotiated a new 'free-of-tie' lease. The Parish Council wishes Donna and Chris every success in the coming year.
6. Covid SEEN Community Grant applied for by the Parish Council and awarded to the PPE project running in the Clubroom. (See Clubroom report **APPENDIX II.I**)

For signature

7. Green and Pond Thanks to Manor Farm for taking on the mowing. Majority of the ditches have been cleared. Wayleave request to move telegraph pole by Manor Farm Cottage. The big Willow came down in the main pond; thanks to James Malmesbury for removing. Thanks to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group for working parties – to help remove *Crassula* and remainder of the Willow. Thanks to Robert May's students from Newnham Road from who planted c500 bulbs this Spring (native bluebells, snowdrops, some aconite and anemone) as part of Robert May's half term 'energiser project' to benefit their community.
8. Newnham Village Litterpicks organised with thanks to Alan Richmond and all involved. HiViz jackets and litter pickers purchased by the Parish Council.
9. Water End has a new and repositioned bus shelter (via insurance claim and with thanks to HCC permissions), and raised bed planters.
10. Oak Bench on the Green repaired, the timber forming the back of the bench replaced (English Oak) and the seat refurbished.
11. Barracks New houses built and occupied at Highview. Ditches adjacent to the 'highway' cleared by the Parish Lengthsman. Hedging project for Kingsbridge End boundary.
12. Flooding at Water End winter of 2019/20; thanks to Paul Gaskell for his intervention / support; also flooding at Newnham Road ponds Christmas 2019.
13. TPOs served for trees in Blackstocks Lane.
14. Broadband Fibre brought to properties on Tylney Lane and Ridge Lane as part of Hants Superfast Broadband initiative (2018/19) partnered with Openreach to bring fibre to areas with lowest speeds. Live from Summer 2020. Water End included in this tranche but still awaiting connection. Community funding application submitted to Openreach Feb 2020 for remaining areas around Green without fibre and extending to part of Newnham Road. Thanks to Edward Clarkson for organising.
15. Planning Responded to Government Planning White Paper consultation and BDBC Local Plan Issues & Options and Promoted Sites consultations.

3 DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 3.1 Proposed defibrillators** How would these be obtained and would training be organised? Public Access Defibrillators would be purchased by the Parish Council, some grant funding may be available. Both the Old House at Home and the Y-Knot, now Iron Bull, are supportive of hosting the defibrillators (planning applications needed for business premises). The Parish Council has discussed this at some length, and considered the low occurrence of such units being used, versus the wish to do utmost to safeguard residents. The impetus for providing Defib and CPR training would be a beneficial side effect of purchasing the units. Pauline Hedges noted that she has been leading on plans for the defibrillator at the Y Knot / Iron Bull. Hackwood Business Park have offered their premises for training. Also noted that once activated, the Defibrillator unit 'talks' a user through what to do.

The Assembly was supportive of the proposal: 'an excellent idea'.

3.2 Pubs

Congratulations and appreciation expressed on behalf of Newnham Village and the Parish Council to the Old House at Home – for their award and all their efforts to continue during Covid.

The Chairman noted how tough it had been for Donna and Chris, the first Covid lockdown started just after they had committed to a new phase of their business going Free of Tie (and after suffering the setbacks imposed by the Newnham road closures). The business had effectively been put back to where they started – but they are committed to keeping going.

Best wishes and support on behalf of the Parish, for The Iron Bull, scheduled to open 17th May.

3.3 Traffic calming buildouts in Newnham Road

Discussion:

- The traffic calming buildout by the Clubroom is the most sensible design in requiring traffic from one direction to give way. It would be better if the others were similar.
- Lack of any clear requirement leads to some cars pushing forward to get through first, or even at the same time.

- When HCC installed the traffic calming in 2014, as it is at present was the maximum that could be achieved. At one stage HCC concluded the road was too narrow for any further physical narrowing, it was pressure from the Parish Council via County Cllr Elaine Still which persuaded them to look again.
- Adjacent to the Clubroom was the only location with sufficient width on Newnham Road for this 'give way' design.
- Successive years of funding cuts and a new 'priority' policy in 2016 ensures that HCC will not revisit this in the foreseeable future.
- The buildout posts allow the minimum width for passage by the larger farm vehicles. Plus access has to be ensured for emergency vehicles.
- Cars pulling over in one location leads to excessive damage to the roadside, in particular by Ashmead pond.
- Ditches are needed beside the road for drainage, but impossible to maintain ditches as they are constantly pushed in. When HCC repair the road they tarmac over the damaged areas, effectively widening the road into where the ditches should be.
- Increasing volume, but particularly width of vehicles means there is no real solution to this problem. All rural roads suffer with verges being run over and degraded. This happens in Ridge Lane even where the road is wide enough to take two vehicles.
- Signage by the Clubroom buildout is scheduled to be improved by HCC within the next two months.
- HCC has noted that daytime visibility here is poor but are not proposing any action. They have agreed the Parish Council (Parish Lengthsman) can paint a wide white band around the posts – and consider if any further measures necessary.

The Assembly was supportive of the buildout posts being painted white. Oak posts were installed as being in keeping with a rural location, but obstructions in the road need to be visible.

3.4 A30 speed limit New speed limit signs have been installed, but there is no temporary signage to draw drivers' attention to change in speed limit. Most regular users of the road won't notice. No changes in traffic speeds have been apparent.

3.5 Newnham Green Ponds

- All ponds on Newnham Green need to be considered. Particularly in relation to the pond by Naishes Barn, abundance of invasive Reedmace (Bulrush) can lead to ponds being lost. The vegetation multiplies, dies back, rots, and so in time fills in the pond. Spraying with roundup needs to be considered – and considered by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) – as an alternative to losing the ponds.
- Agreed that the Willow around the Naishes Barn pond needs to be removed / reduced. Missed the opportunity last winter, to be taken down in stages over coming winters.
- HIWWT visited the Green in September last year and provided advice notes for Green and Pond management. An option was included for spraying – though this was in relation to the *Crassula*. Deemed possible but expensive and quite lengthy process involving various permissions and licences. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group would much prefer to avoid this option, saying there is evidence that spraying can affect the long term health of newt populations.
- Thanks due to HIWARG who have invested time and commitment in the Ponds and wider Green as a habitat area, providing information, advice, and working parties.

HIWWT advice note email to be forwarded to Assembly.

3.6 Mapboard Agreed the map, or at least perspex cover, needs replacing as no longer legible.

3.7 Villager – Appreciation and preference for *Villager* as emailed pdf.

3.8 Appreciation expressed to all members of the Parish Council, and to all who give their time to benefit the Parish.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm with thanks to all for attending

For signature Date.....

APPENDIX I**REPORT TO MADAM CHAIR, NEWNHAM & NATELY SCURES PARISH COUNCIL****PARISH ASSEMBLY POLICE REPORT APRIL 28TH 2021**

Crime figures since 2019 due to COVID and no PA held in 2020

2019

NEWNHAM:

Assault With Injury (WI)	2	Both in village, one was a dog bite incident
Assault No injury (NI)	2	1 in village – other road rage
Non Dwelling Burglary	5	Village 1 – Lyde Mill 1 – Tylney Lodge 1 – Manor Farm 1 – Kingsbridge 1
Criminal Damage	3	Manor Farm 1 – Fosters BP 1 – Crown Lane
Theft of vehicle	1	Fosters BP – employee took car and went back to Hungry
Theft from vehicle	1	Y Knot Inn
Public Order	4	Public House 1 – Fosters BP 3
Other Crime	1	Village
Deception / Fraud	1	Fosters BP

NATELY SCURES

Non Dwelling Burglary	4	Village 1 – Blackstocks Lane 3
Theft from vehicle	2	Heather Row Lane
Criminal Damage	1	Country Hotel
Hate Crime	1	Country Hotel
Theft of vehicle	1	Country Hotel
Theft other	1	Blackstocks Lane
Assault WI	1	Country Hotel
Threats to kill (Country Hotel = 4)	1	Village

2020

NEWNHAM

Assault WI	1	Fosters BP
Assault NI	2	Fosters BP
Non Dwelling Burglary	7	Manor Farm 2 – Fosters BP 3 – Railway compound 2
Criminal damage	9	Manor Farm 1 - Furze Platt 2 – Crown Lane 1 – Fields 1 – Fosters BP 4
Theft of vehicle	2	Fosters BP
Theft from vehicle	2	Ridge Lane 1 – Manor Farm 1
Public Order	1	Crown Lane
Assault Police NI	1	Crown Lane
Theft	1	Public House (Cooking Oil)

WATER END

Theft from vehicle	1	Y Knot Inn
Criminal Damage	1	Bus shelter

NATELY SCURES:

Non Dwelling Burglary	1	Blackstocks Lane
Theft from vehicle	1	A30 catalytic converter
Criminal Damage	2	Country Hotel – 1 Blackstocks Lane – 1
Other Crime	1	Country Hotel (Stalking offence)
Theft of vehicle	1	Country Hotel
Theft other	1	Blackstocks Lane
Assault WI	2	Country Hotel – 2
Threats to kill (Country Hotel = 5)	1	Village

2021

NEWNHAM:

Assault WI	1	Village
Other Crime	1	Village

NATELY SCURES:

Assault WI	3	Country Hotel	- all 3 crimes detected
Public Order	1	Country Hotel	- all 1 crime detected
Criminal Damage	1	Country Hotel	- all 1 crime detected.

APPENDIX II.I

CLUBROOM PARISH ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Despite the major backdrop to 2020 being the COVID pandemic we did complete the building and finishing work for the storage area extension in April. This added a further 18m² of floorspace, following on from which we took the opportunity to re-decorate the interior of the hall.

The Clubroom went into lockdown from 23rd March along with the rest of the country. However in April we were approached by two volunteers who, backed by a larger project team, requested to make use of the hall to assemble constituent parts of plastic face shields for use by the NHS, carers and others.

As lockdown eased in early Summer some users were allowed back. To allow this to happen safely we undertook a risk assessment and then published our protocol for its use.

Appropriate signage was implemented with the provision of hand sanitisers and cleaning products. The

QR code was also displayed to assist with track & trace.

During this easement we also formulated a proposal, a cost benefit analysis, and obtained estimates for, the installation of Solar Panels and a battery for storing generated electricity. The 5kW system was implemented on 8th September 2020. We are now looking forward to coming out of the second lockdown on May 17th.

On a personal note, Peter Brown our long standing Treasurer and driving force for many a year has decided to step down from this role. This has been a catalyst for a few changes in the 'management team' of the Clubroom with Alastair Jeffries as the new Treasurer and Chris Alliston as Chairman and Secretary.

APPENDIX II.II

ST NICHOLAS' NEWNHAM 2021 REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY

Church fabric

In the Summer of 2020 severe damage to many of the tiles on the north side of the chancel roof was discovered. Investigation revealed that this was due to frost damage as a result of faulty tile manufacture. They were installed in 2006 and a warranty claim was made on the manufacturer. After some discussion the manufacturer agreed to free issue a replacement set of tiles. An Archdeacon's certificate was obtained for the work which was carried out in April 2021.

Services and events

1. As with all churches, activities in 2020/2021 services were severely affected by the Covid-19 restrictions which resulted in the closure of the church for much of the time. On-line services have been provided by the benefice.
2. The church was closed at Easter 2020 but services with restricted attendance numbers were held for Harvest Festival and Christmas Day. Following the 2021 lockdown the church re-opened in time for an Easter service.
3. A well attended open air Carol Service was held in December 2020 in the adjacent Manor Farm farmyard courtesy of Geoff and Sarah Hawkes.
4. Regular monthly gift aided donations for which we are very grateful are received by the Friends from a number of villagers. In addition a 100 club was launched in December 2021. There is a monthly draw with three prizes each month. This provides further income and our thanks go to Carolyn Peck for running this.

APPENDIX II.III**FOOTPATHS IN THE PARISH – ASSEMBLY REPORT**

In summary, activity during 2020 has been curtailed by the pandemic, however...

One project requested by HCC Countryside Services (CS) was to survey and review the bridges that are along our paths. I have inspected all bar two (Byway 6 Crown Lane to Water End, and FP2 off Lone Barn Lane) and they have all been photographed and deemed sound.

There have been two sites of excessive flooding along Church Path FP3, one near the Green between Naishes Farm and Tithe Barn and one where the path meets the Strings. These are due to be inspected by CS. The access to FP7 (A30 to St Swithun's) is blocked by overgrown hedging and will be addressed later in the year.

Finally, plaques dedicating the boardwalk across the Strings (FP3) to the memory of Nigel Downes, prior Footpath Warden for many years, have been installed.

	Description	Reported issues and notes
FP1	Lone Barn Lane 169/1 [North]	
FP2	Lone Barn Lane 169/2 [West after 200m of FP1]	Way marker
FP3	169/3 From 117/25b + 117/26 over board-walk to Newnham Green, part of Church Path	Drainage between Naishes' and Tithe Farm
FP4	Barracks to A30 169/4	FP blocked / constricted at the Barracks end
FP5	South from A30 adj. Baredown 169/5 into 169/719 then joins 169/717 see below *	Broken stile on FP5 at 169/719
FP6	Track off Crown Lane [West] to Water End	Surface problems
FP7	A30 to St. Swithun's Church, East to Blackstocks Lane	Access at A30 blocked b overgrown hedging
FP717	* Snipes Wood/Hang Wood 169/717, East to Heather Row / West to Blackstocks Lane	
FP8	Andwell Lane South 169/8 twd M3 joins 169/717 on Blackstocks Lane	
FP9	Blackstocks Lane West 169/9 intersects 169/8	
FP11	Heather Row to Hoggett	
FP12	Near Old School Rd to A30 thru Copse 169/12	Discussions on routing by Woodlands