

Newington Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
Held at George's Barn, Newington on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7 pm

Present:

Councillors: Councillor John Neale (Chairman)
 Councillor Kevin Golding (Vice-chair)
 Councillor Sarah Wright
 Councillor Cleo Smith
 Councillor Jill Sage
 KCC Councillor Susan Carey

Clerk: Jonathan Mount

01	Apologies DDC Councillor David Godfrey	
02	To declare any pecuniary interests (DPI) and other significant interests (OSI) relating to items on the agenda. Cllr Sage declared an interest in an item in planning	
03	Agree and sign the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 th November 2022 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Vice Chairman (the Chairman was away at the last meeting).	
04	Matters arising from the previous minutes There were no matters arising	
05	Public participation – adjournment of the meeting There were no members of the public present	
06	Reports Cllr Carey (the report has been received) gave a summary of her report in which she outlined what she had said in her written report. She said that services would not be at the level that would normally be required. She said that we have the largest number of Ukrainians in the area. On the subject of potholes, she informed the Councillors that the Council will fill potholes, but proper patching will have to wait until better weather. The Chairman asked about a problem concerning a layby on the A20; the potholes have not yet been filled, but the layby looks good. The meeting was informed that the improvements to the layby were funded by an insurance company, owing to a large fire that had been reported at the location. Cllr Carey informed the meeting that it is essential to report potholes as soon as possible. The question was asked about what the timeline was for reporting potholes. For large potholes that could be life-threatening, dial 999, others report to Highways Agency. They must be life-threatening to get immediate action. Smaller ones can be reported online. There are over 5000 miles of road within the county, so it is a problem. There was further discussion concerning local potholes. Cllr David Godfrey (a report has been received) Community Warden Gary Harrison PCSO Nicholas Hazell (a report has not been received nor circulated)	
07	Planning To note applications decided and pending since the last meeting held on 14 th November Decided Ref: 22/1629/FH/TCA Old Pound Manor, The Street, Newington Proposal: Work on trees in a conservation area Status: TPO imposed Pending Ref: 22/2167/FH Rivendell, School Lane, Newington Proposal: Maple tree removal of a defective limb Status: Under Consultation Cllr Sage mentioned that she was concerned about the amount of tree felling that is taking	

	<p>place. There does not appear to be a defective limb on the maple tree, and she wondered whether it was really necessary to fell a limb.</p> <p>Ref: 22/2166/FH Proposal: Work on trees in a conservation area Status: Under Consultation</p> <p>Discussion followed concerning pollarding and how it was necessary in some cases. It was also stated that if it was by the tree council tree officer decided that limbs should be removed from a tree, then it was not really something the Parish Council could object to. If there has been a breach of planning, then it should be reported via the planning portal. Discussion took place concerning TPOs and when they are imposed. The Parish Council will object to the Planning Department if they are unhappy about something that has taken place. Cllr Sage reported that she would contact the Council reference the removal of the limb from the maple tree.</p> <p>Ref: 22/0492/FH Land opposite 17, Underhill Cottages Proposal: Construction of footway Status: Validated</p> <p>Ref: 22/1108/FH Coombe Farmhouse, Etchinghill Proposal: Conversion of an outbuilding to residential dwelling Status: Under consultation</p>	Cllr Sage
08	<p>Financial report The bank reconciliation has been circulated under Appendix A To approve payments made since the last meeting as detailed on the financial statement (circulated Appendix B) To review the budgeting monitoring document (circulated Appendix C) To review the budget forecast for 2022-2023 (circulated appendix D) The new bank mandate was duly signed by 2 councillors A single payment to the Clerk was ratified by the Councillors</p>	
09	<p>Policy and procedure review The asset register was reviewed and ratified Discussion took place about the new format of the asset register. It was decided that it was better to use the new format. The financial reserve policy was reviewed and ratified Clerk to write to Edward Denne to chase up the payment of the grant. Copy to go to Cllr Carey. It should be paid in this financial year if at all possible. Phone box...hoping to start work this week. Quote could be obtained for painting the phone box; it is likely to be quite expensive, since BT paint is not cheap. The Standing orders were reviewed and ratified Original date is 2018, has there been an update? Clerk to check.</p>	Clerk Clerk
10	<p>Correspondence Salt bags...It was decided that the Clerk should contact KCC and get it delivered to Cllr Golding's address; West Lodge CT18 8BA Dates for future meetings AGM and Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish meeting will be held on May 15th. Format to be organised at the next PC meeting. Other dates for Parish Council meetings are as follows: Monday 10th July 2023 Monday 11th September 2023 Monday 13th November 2023 Monday 8th January 2024 Monday 11th March 2024</p>	Clerk
11	<p>Any other business Councillor Sage asked if there was any news on what is happening about the tree in the Children's play area? Trees are going to be ordered, but ordering is not possible at the moment. Discussion about a new laptop for the clerk's use, owing to the fact it is running so slowly. Cllr Golding said he would like to look at it first, before a decision is taken. The Clerk will pass the laptop to Cllr Golding for his opinion. Discussion about fly tipping; Cllr Cleo will report the case of fly tipping to the Council.</p>	Cllr Carey
12	<p>Date of next meeting The next parish council meeting will be held on 13th March 2023 in George's Barn</p>	