

# Minutes of the Council Meeting

**Date** 12th January 2010 **Venue** Newnham Clubroom **Commencing** 8pm

**Present Acting Chairman** Jeff Ford

**Parish Councillors** Nigel Bell, Ian Riley, Sue Mann, Sheyne Bauermeister **Clerk** Susan Turner

**Guests** Cllr Stephen Marks representing Ward Councillors **Parishioners** 0

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Chairman Roger Booth, PC Reid, County Cllr Elaine Still
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** agreed as a true record of the meeting of 10th November 2010; proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Ford, carried unanimously.
- 4 PUBLIC SESSION Ward Councillor Stephen Marks** Cllr Marks has resigned from all Borough planning matters due to a declared interest; his house and farmland is within an area allocated for housing by the SHLAA. He will still be available to advise on individual planning applications.

ACTION

## **5 MATTERS ARISING**

### **5.1 Traffic Calming**

5.1.1 Barry Ford has been advised that Newnham Parish Council wishes to proceed with the 'gateway' in Old School Road. This is eligible for Borough Council funding of up to 75% (to a maximum of £1,500). The actual cost will be in the c £600 and on that basis the Borough Council's contribution would be £450, with £150 to be used from the BEST payment. Clerk to liaise with Barry to get this implemented.

CLERK

5.1.2 Barry Ford has been advised that Newnham Parish Council does not wish to proceed with the three 'ensign bollard traffic calming features' in Newnham Road. No further action.

5.13 In response to the Parish Council's suggestion that painted 'pinch points' on the road in conjunction with 'SLOW' signs might be cost effective in slowing traffic in Newnham Road, Barry Ford has advised that any measures to narrow the road – even road markings to give the effect of narrowing the road – cannot be used near bends. Also 'SLOW' markings in the road cannot be used except in conjunction with a warning sign.

### **5.2 Speed limit reminder sign (SLR)** The initial results from the SLR speed recorder indicate a decrease in speed of 2.15mph (mean) and 2.58mph (85th%ile) following activation of the SLR. These figures are consistent with results from elsewhere in the borough.

Week before deployment: mean average 32.63, 85th%ile 38.68;  
week following deployment: mean average 30.48, 85th%ile 36.10.

The SLR was activated on Tuesday 8th December for a four week period with the final week of speed recording due the week after deployment during the second week of January. However as the snow of the last week has been doing such an effective job of slowing the traffic, it is to stay where it is for the foreseeable future at no extra charge, hopefully until the road conditions are good enough to make a further speed survey meaningful. It will be discussed at the next Parish Council council meeting whether the results justify using the SLR again.

CLERK

### **5.3 Highways**

**5.3.1 Grit Bin** Cllr Marks advised that the allocation of Grit Bins for Basingstoke is trebling from 2,000 to 6,000. Clerk to request one for Newnham possibly for the top of Crown Lane and Church Path; other sites to be considered.

CLERK

**5.3.2 Newnham Road Ponds** Colin Hooper made a site visit on Friday 11th December. Where the willow has been taken out at the mouth of the culvert, he wants to reconstruct the headwall (with a sump chamber beneath) a couple of feet back in line with the back of the verge as at the moment there is an open chamber in the verge with a grid covering it held in place by sandbags. Due to lack of budget this will have to wait until next the financial year as will the jetting. The pipe has been rodded.

CLERK

Colin has seen the pipe from the Heathmorr pond and the outflow from the pipe beyond Heathmorr's garden. He was satisfied with the level of the pipe and amount of flow considering the very slight fall of the land and the time it takes to disperse beyond the pipe. (He did suggest that a double pipe would have been a good thing to help get the water away more quickly.)	ACTION
Drainage from the ponds is functioning adequately except in very heavy rainfall when it is likely to be overwhelmed, so it is important to slow down the progress of water to the pond as much as possible. Colin looked at the Saudian House ditch which helps considerably in soaking away water which would otherwise run into Saudian House and Fir Tree Cottage. He discussed a possibility of opening out the ditches in front of Beach House and Ash Cottages (No 1 Ash Cottage is not happy to do this.) Clerk to pursue all the above in March.	CLERK
<b>5.4 Bus Shelters</b> Clerk has found an old noticeboard: Clerk and Cllr Riley will put it up when the snow has gone. Clerk to check Bob Gregory has fixed the felt on Blackstocks Lane shelter.	CLERK CLLR RILEY
<b>5.5 Newnham Green</b>	
5.5.1 <u>The Horse Chestnut</u> Suggestions so far have been American Horse Chestnut (suggested by Frank Wright); Lime (suggested by James Malmesbury – David Hill suggested a Silver Lime, or Silver Weeping Lime; Hardy Elm (suggested by NGPA – David Hill suggested a species call Princetown); Mulberry. The question has been referred to HWT for its input. With the ground conditions so cold and soon to be waterlogged with the snow melt, planting will be best left until October. This will enable a presentation at the Parish Assembly.	CLERK
5.5.2 <u>Newnham Green Ponds</u> Martyn Glover has advised that clearing the pond can be left with the NGPA. No further action.	
<b>5.6 Clubroom</b> The planning application, all necessary documentation (design and access statement, photos, parking plan etc) and Parish Council cheque to BDBC is with the planning consultant, Ian Lassiter. Arboriculture report is awaited.	
<b>5.7 Community Plan</b> June Balcombe has been contacted regarding the final draft of the questionnaire and asked if she can fund printing and the postage with freeport envelopes. The Questionnaire should be distributed by the end of January and returned in March. There will be a reminder in the February Villager. The Questionnaire is very comprehensive, 12-15 pages which can deter people from replying. Progressive numbering was suggested to trace and chase those not returned.	CLLRS MANN & BAUER- MEISTER
<b>5.8 Villager</b> A meeting was held on November 16th between the <i>Villager</i> funding bodies – the three Parish Council Chairmen and Revd Jane Leese representing the VCCs – to discuss the Villager's future. The editor will also attended. It was agreed that a redesign was needed to make the content clearer and more accessible; also that additional newsgatherers were needed. Robin Howard from Newnham has been very proactive in his support of a Villager re-launch as both reporter and fundraiser. It is hoped that the Villager will be eight pages from the first issue of 2010 which gives greater scope for content, design and clarity. The extra pages will be funded by sponsorship and advertising.	CLERK
<b>6 NEWNHAM ROAD FOOTPATH</b>	
6.1 <u>Funding</u> The Clerk has applied for £2,000 from County Cllr Elaine Still's devolved budget to add to the proposed £15,000 from the Borough Council. The Parish Council will be able to find the £50 shortfall from the estimated cost. Cllr Marks commented that although this latter amount is small, it was important to indicate that the Parish Council was prepared to contribute.	CLERK
6.2 <u>Consultation</u> The Borough Council petition consultation ends on 15th January and responses should be made via the Ward Councillors. The Clerk will forward the Parish Council's response to Cllr Sven Godesen. 'The Parish Council is supportive in principle of a footpath in Newnham Road but would require a full Village consultation on the proposal before implementation.' Full details of the footpath will be discussed in the <i>Villager</i> and at the Parish Assembly.	CLERK
6.3 <u>Concerns</u> were raised about the Borough Council's proposed solution along the south side of Newnham Road: that the proposed footpath was on the wrong side of the road with associated risks to residents crossing and, due to its construction, its adverse impact on drainage and the rural environment.	

## 7 AGENDA FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY

ACTION

- 7.1 Initial informal session with refreshments.
- 7.2 Information stands/displays: SHLAA/Country Watch, Community Plan, Clubroom, Newnham Road Footpath, Newnham Green tree planting, Oppe Garden.
- 7.3 Assembly: Clive Pinder will be invited to give a presentation on the Community Plan; Cllrs Godesen and Cubit to talk on the SHLAA. Assembly to finish by 9:30pm.
- 7.4 Short Clubroom AGM to follow the Parish Assembly (preceded by glass of wine).

## 8 FINANCE

- 8.1 Cheques** signed at meeting
- |              |         |   |
|--------------|---------|---|
| 12th Jan 425 | £265.00 | Annual donation to Clubroom less planning fee |
| 12th Jan 426 | £314.74 | Clerk's salary x 2 months.                    |
- 8.2 Parish Grant and Precept 2010/11** Completed forms were returned to Gavin Mansbridge, Corporate Finance, BDBC: acknowledgement received on 3rd December.

## 9 PLANNING

- 9.1 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment** (SHLAA) and Save our Loddon Valley Environment (SOLVE) Project.

The original Draft SHLAA has been severely amended. The latest proposals effectively remove all the original sites west of the town and projects more sites east of Old Basing. This has not been done with due consideration for proper planning principles but for political reasons. These points will be made by Country Watch and others when the Scrutiny Committee convenes. The Committee was due to meet on 5th January 2010 but postponed due to the snow; no new date has been set. Hartley Wespall Parish Council has written a letter dated 4th January 2010 to the Chief Executive of BDBC. Unanimously decided that Newnham Parish Council will write to the Chief Executive, The Leader and Cabinet, and to all Councillors, strongly supporting Hartley Wespall's letter and asking to be notified of the Borough Council's response. An update will appear in *The Villager* (also *The Basinga* and *Chineham Chat*).

CLERK

The SOLVE Project is an Action Group, chaired by Kate Tuck, set up following a meeting in Old Basing on 29th November 2009. A petition has been prepared and circulated on the Internet and currently has 637 electronic signatures, 18 from Newnham residents in addition to the Parish Council. Petition forms have also been available in shops, pubs etc around Old Basing and the grand total of signatures is now over 1,200.

- 9.2 Vision statement** There is still significant concern that the Vision Statement has too high an emphasis on growth and insufficient emphasis on quality of life for existing residents and improvement in the natural environment. One of the main issues is that the level of house building, hence growth, has been set by central government via the South East Plan.

- 9.3 Public Inquiries** into South East Water's and Thames' Water's (2008) Draft Water Resource Management Plan (DWRMP)

South East Water's DWRMP Inquiry Whitewater Valley Preservation Society (WVPS) of which Cllr Bell is a committee member, is identified as a 'main party stakeholder' in SEW's DWRMP Inquiry and intends to be represented. The Inquiry is scheduled to begin on 11th May 2010 and is expected to last 10-12 working days (often Tuesday to Friday lunchtime each week). Presently the venue is Ashford, Kent, but WVPS has requested this site should be reconsidered, at least for those parts of the Inquiry in which we are concerned. There will be a pre-Inquiry meeting on 23rd March also at Ashford.

CLLR  
BELL

Thames Water's DWRMP Inquiry WVPS has been identified as a 'non-main party stakeholder' for the Thames Water Inquiry. The Inquiry is due to be held during 7th June to 8th July 2010, but the actual dates have not been announced. The pre-Inquiry meeting is likely to be about the last week in March.

CLLR  
BELL

Newnham Parish Council will not be directly involved in these inquiries.

- 9.4 Living Landscapes 09/10** Revised Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy for BDBC – Public consultation on the draft; deadline for comment Friday 29th January. Cllr Bell has written a critique of the 50 page document and will draft and circulate a response.

CLLR  
BELL  
CLERK

## 9.5 Parish Planning applications

**9.5.1 New application** BDB/71682 (4th December 2009) Crown Lodge, Crown Lane, Newnham. Erection of a single storey extension to west elevation, construction of pitched roofs to three existing flat roofed dormers to north elevation and dormer to south elevation. Construction of a new pitched roof to porch on north elevation. *Parish Council Comment: No objection – Changing the flat roofs of the dormers and the change to the porch would significantly improve the attractiveness of the building. The proposed modest addition of a single storey utility room is fully in keeping.*

**9.5.2 Application withdrawn** BDB/71632 (8th January 2010, date registered 19th November 2009) Hunters, Newnham Lane, Newnham. Erection of garage and agricultural store. *Parish Council Comment – We have given careful consideration to Planning Application No BDB/71632. We would draw your attention to drawings Nos 09/10/214/SP and 09/10/214/LP. These drawings omit to show that part of the space occupied by the house is agricultural land and not domestic curtilage. This means that at least 75% of the proposed new garage will be located on agricultural land. The part shown as paddock is a new acquisition and does not include the original agricultural land within its limits. We would also point out that this application is very similar to that made in BDB/62516 in December 2005 and which was rejected. If the Council is minded to approve the new application we would appreciate an explanation of the change of policy with regard to agricultural land.*

**9.5.3 Current application** BDB/71408 Conversion from single to two storey house (26th October 2009) 7 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Construction of a first floor with dormer windows in the front and rear elevations. Erection of single storey front extensions forming car port and front porch. *Parish Council Comment: No objection – Although a very large extension, it is our opinion that the development is not out of keeping with its environment. Due to local objections this case will go before the Planning Control Committee on 13th January 2010.*

## 10 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

**10.1 Chairman** The Chairman has advised BDAPTC and the Board of the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership that he will be standing down as LSP representative on the Board. He will continue with the Sustainability Footprint Group until the footprint has been published.

**10.2 Acting Chairman** Cllr Ford noted the problem with mud on the road at the Newnham Hill site entrance when work started. Action was taken and this is greatly improved but he will monitor the situation.

**10.3 Cllr Bell** Re Newnham footpath 2 closed in May 2009 due to the broken footbridge over the Lyde. Following a six months' closure, a further closure of 12 months from 1st November 2009 is now advertised. Clerk has forwarded a letter written by Cllr Bell to the Rights of Way team and requested an explanation and that the bridge be mended without further delay. The Clerk will follow this up with the relevant officer, Rob Thompson, and also contact Colin Piper.

**10.4 Cllr Bauermeister** Re Future of the Parish Council. As several Councillors plan to step down in the 2012 elections, what does the future hold for the Parish Council, what action can be taken now and what is the worst case scenario? Three elected councillors are needed to hold a Parish Council meeting. Without sufficient elected councillors, the Borough Council would take over the running of the Parish and the Parish Council would become a Parish Meeting. The most effective way of gaining new Parish Councillors was to identify and approach suitable individuals; people tended not to volunteer. Community action and involvement would be more accessible to working people if bodies such as Country Watch held evening meetings.

CLLR  
FORD

CLERK

**14 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA** SLR, Parish Assembly, Community Plan, Newnham Road Pavement, Clubroom, Future of Parish Council, SHLAA,

**15 FUTURE MEETINGS** Thursday March 11th tbc, Parish Assembly Thursday 22th April tbc, May tbc, note May local elections, suggest Tues 18th May.

**16 MEETING CLOSED** at 9.40pm.