

# Minutes of the Council Meeting

**Date** 11th March 2010 **Venue** Newnham Clubroom **Commencing** 8pm

**Present Chairman** Roger Booth

**Parish Councillors** Jeff Ford, Nigel Bell, Sue Mann, Sheyne Bauermeister **Clerk** Susan Turner

**Guests** PC Andy Reid **Parishioners** 0

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllr Riley due to Water End meeting; County Cllr Elaine Still. ACTION
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllrs Ford and Bell re Newnham Road pavement 5.3.5.
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** agreed as a true record of the meeting of 12th January 2010; proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Mann, carried unanimously.

**4 PUBLIC SESSION, PC ANDY REID**

- 4.1.** The accident report on the tragic accident at Blackstocks Lane / A30 junction concluded that speed was not an issue.
- 4.2.** PC Reid will follow up issue of Ravenscroft Volvo parking at the Barracks.

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

**5.1 Traffic Calming**

**5.1.1 Gateway** BDBC fencing contractor installed the timber Gateway with speed limit signs in Old School Road on 9th February. Councillors agreed it was an improvement. Clerk has thanked Barry Ford who will source the £150 Parish Council contribution from the BEST fund.

**5.1.2 Road signs** Barry Ford BDBC also provided a new 'crossroads' sign attached to a 30mph repeater post in Newnham Road opposite Oak Cottage and new signs on the approaches to the railway bridge at Crown Lane. Clerk has conveyed Parish Council's thanks. However the Crown Lane warning sign on the Newnham side of the bridge coming down the hill is obscured by trees. Clerk to contact Barry Ford and suggest sign is lowered. CLERK

**5.2 Speed Limit Reminder Sign (SLR)** Figures from the Newnham Road SLR speed recorder (December 09-January 2010) indicate the average mean and 85th%ile respectively:

- Week before SLR activated (commencing 2nd December 2009) (ave 32.63 & 38.68)
- During deployment week 1 (ave 30.48 & 36.10)
- During final week deployment (from 20th January) (ave 30.47 & 35.85)
- Week after deployment (ave 32.03 & 37.70).

The 85th%ile figures indicate the speed 85% of traffic was travelling below. Although the average speed is reasonable, 15% of drivers exceeded the speed limit by least 8.68mph the week before deployment and at least 7.7mph the week after. These figures support data from elsewhere that SLRs reduce traffic speed by approx 2mph during their deployment, then it creeps back up to where it was before.

Councillors agreed unanimously that while the trial SLR had been worthwhile as an experiment in Traffic Calming, the results did not justify expenditure on further deployment. Clerk will advise Adrian Morgan BDBC that Newnham does not require a second rental period. CLERK

**5.3 Highways**

**5.3.1 HCC Local Highways Engineer** Colin Piper will be leaving post on 26th March.

**5.3.2 Crown Lane Signpost** Colin will ensure is in hand before leaving.

**5.3.3 Newnham Lane Lyde Mill Cottage to Lyde Mill** On Friday 5th March a jetting team was deployed to clear blocked gullies. Clerk to follow up. CLERK

**5.3.4 Tydney Lane Ditch from Newnham Green Pond** On Friday 5th March Clerk made a site visit with Colin Hooper to assess the problem of blocked overflowing ditch in Tydney Lane opposite the Old House at Home. The root cause is deemed to be an exceptionally high water table evidenced by the height of the water table in the garden of Newnham Green Farm – just a few inches under the surface — and the height of Newnham Green Pond. CLERK

The Pond overflows into the ditch which leads around the boundary of Newnham Green Farm into Tylney Lane. The ditch was backing up from the Newnham Green Farm rear driveway then spilling over down Tylney Lane. This has apparently been a problem for some time, eroding the highway and causing hazardous conditions in the cold and snowy weather.

A complete solution is not immediately obvious.

Highways will investigate if there is indeed a blocked culvert under the Newnham Green Farm rear entrance drive which is causing the ditch water to back up; if so they will try to clear / reconstruct it to channel the water away. However the ditch leading away down Tylney Lane only continues for some 15 yards, then the water overflows down the road anyway until it reaches a gully and ditch at Woodside.

The situation will be monitored, this will presumably only be a feature of very wet weather / wet ground conditions and if only infrequently recurring will require no further action beyond releasing the backup of ditchwater opposite the Old House at Home. The flow of water into the ditch here may have been increased by some ditch/overgrowth clearance around the Newnham Green Farm boundary.

However if the overflow from the pond here becomes an increasing problem there are two quite expensive and disruptive solutions which could be considered.

i. Lay pipes down Tylney Lane from where the existing ditch ends opposite Newnham Lodge to the ditch at Woodside; however this could cause a problem of too much water arriving in the Woodside ditch.

ii. Taking the water into a soakaway going under the rear drive to Newnham Green Farm and into the field to the right of the tennis courts.

Clerk is awaiting a report on the site visit and conclusions from Colin Piper.

**5.3.5 Newnham Road Ponds** Highways are scheduled to jet the culvert under the road and conduct further ditching/jetting down Newnham Road towards Old School Road. (A channel has been dug away from Water Meadow under The Strings bridge, apparently by the landowner but nothing has been done at the rear of Heathmorr to help the water away.)

**5.4 Grit Bins** Letter received from leader of Hampshire County Council asking Parish Councils for justifiable requests for new grit bins. Clerk to reply as follows:

**5.4.1 Suggestions** in order of priority were for Church Path, Crown Lane and Newnham Lane, Water End Park, Kingsbridge Copse and the Baredown.

**5.4.2 Reasons** Church Path is never gritted, access is required for Church Path residents and to the Church. Newnham Lane and Crown Lane are occasionally gritted but on a steep hill. Water End Park Mobile Home Park has a high concentration of older residents, is not gritted and has, in bad road conditions, a treacherous entrance/exit onto the A30. Kingsbridge Copse and the Baredown are both residential areas, never gritted and impassable in snow.

**5.4.3 Location** Bins could be located: on Church Path; Newnham Lane in the layby part-way down the Hill; Crown Lane just below the entrance to Manor Farm; Water End on the A30 at the entrance to the Park; Kingsbridge Copse / The Baredown – within the housing estate – siting to be discussed with residents, suggestions invited at the Parish Assembly.

**5.5 Newnham Road Footpath** Discussion deferred until funding confirmed by Jamie Daley BDBC. Consultation and Village Meeting then to be arranged, potentially an open afternoon in the Clubroom. Proposed Chairman, seconded Cllr Bell, carried unanimously.

**5.6 Clubroom**

**5.6.1 Planning** See 12.7 below. Chairman has asked Katherine Miles, the case officer, to talk to the Parish Council whenever necessary and discuss any potential problems.

**5.6.2 Funding** The £25,000 grant from BDBC via June Balcombe is no longer available, the budget has been spent. The earliest the Clubroom can re-apply is August 2010. A condition for the VEOLIA application, if asking for in excess of £40,000, is that 10.123% be provided by a third party. A Clubroom sub committee has been formed to progress with the VEOLIA application. It is hoped that June Balcombe will provide a letter (after the elections) from the portfolio holder committing the funding for the next financial year.

**5.7 Community Plan** The Plan Committee received 70 completed returns, a lower response than hoped. It was suggested that the Questionnaire took rather too long to fill in. The lowest returns were from Water End. The results are to be compiled from 15th March. The Parish Council congratulated the Community Plan team on what had been achieved so far.

CLERK

CLERK

CHAIR

CLLR MANN  
CLLR  
BAUER-  
MEISTER

**5.8 Villager** The Parish Council is supportive of efforts being made to raise the readership and profile of the Villager including the increase from four to eight pages which at present is funded by sponsorship and advertising. Feedback will be sought from the readership.

ACTION

CLERK

### 5.9 Newnham Hill

**5.9.1 Complaints** have been made by residents regarding lorries from the site (some directly to Cove homes). However none were supported by sufficient timely or detailed information for the Parish Council to be able to pursue them. Other issues raised by residents concerned mud on the road, the felling of the Oak tree at the site entrance, car parking on land adjacent to the site, and damage to the grass triangle and signpost at the top of Crown Lane.

#### 5.9.2 Parish Council Responses

i. Removal of the Oak at the entrance was a requirement of Highways and in accordance with the application approval of 2006 to give a full view of Crown Lane to exiting traffic. No further notification or consultation with the Parish was officially required.

ii. The owner of the land being used as a car park has given his approval and the contractor has obtained BDBC permission to use the land as a temporary car park area. One of the conditions imposed is that at the end of the contract the fencing should be removed and the land be restored to its original condition. This measure avoids cars being parked all around Newnham Green during the construction period.

iii. Initially the Parish Council was very unhappy about the quantities of mud being deposited on the road. Having spoken to Mr Barwick and the Site Manager, while not ideal the situation has improved considerably.

iv. The only witness who saw a vehicle strike the sign post was too far away to get a registration number or to see whether it entered the site. The sign post had been damaged in a previous incident before site work commenced which caused the loss of two of the arms and a replacement was already in the County Council programme.

v. The Site Manager inspected the damage to the grass triangle and agreed to reinforce existing instructions to drivers leaving the site to be more careful. However it is impossible to monitor every vehicle movement and inevitably there will be some damage to the triangle and verges as well as to the road surface which is not designed to handle the volume of heavy construction traffic. As there are no weight or width restrictions on either Newnham Road or Crown Lane and no alternative route there is no way of stopping vehicular movement.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and will request the responsible authority, Hampshire Council, to make good any damage to the road surface and verges not repaired by Cove Homes.

CLLR  
FORD

**5.9.3 Progress** Much work has been carried out at the site entrance and the sewers are connected. Laying tarmac and storm drains along the entrance road is imminent. A spoil heap is being built on site with contractors coming out to remove the waste one/two days per week

**5.9.4 Communication** The Clerk emailed Richard Barwick asking him to provide advance information on developments at Newnham Hill so they could be reported in the *Villager*.

CLERK

## 6 A30 BLACKSTOCKS LANE/CROWN LANE JUNCTION

**6.1 A30 Road Safety** County Cllr Elaine Still has been in discussion with Highways regarding road safety on the A30. This is part of a County wide scheme to reduce speed limits on A&B roads with probable implementation in 2011. The starting point for discussion is to continue the 40mph limit to where the 50 limit currently ends at the top of Scures Hill and continue the 50 limit to possibly Andwell Lane, but certainly past Blackstocks Lane and Priddy's Yard. Discussion also included reducing the A 30 to single carriageway down Scures Hill before Blackstocks Lane. Following the tragic accident at the Blackstocks Lane / A0 junction a site meeting was arranged on Thursday 24th February by Cllr Still with HCC Highways, BDBC, PC Andy Reid, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt and Mapledurwell and Newnham Parish Councils.

**6.2 Police Report** see 4.2.

**7 BLACKSTOCKS LANE ALLOTMENTS** Hook Parish Council has been working with the Hook Allotment Association to find land for allotments in Hook, but none is available. The Clerk will email to Claire Cooke referring to the Mapledurwell allotment meeting of March 1st and Newnham Parish Council meeting of Thursday 11th March. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council express concern on behalf of Blackstocks Lane residents over the potential increase in traffic in Blackstocks Lane resulting from 100 allotment holders, the majority from Hook, travelling to and from the allotment site. Seconded by Cllr Bell, carried with four votes.

CLERK

	ACTION
<p><b>8 FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Cheques signed at meeting</b>  433 £314.75 – Clerk’s salary x two months  434 £90.00 – Bob Gregory – bus shelter maintenance  435 £110.00 – Clerk’s expenses.</p>	
<p><b>8.2 Accounts</b> Final accounts for 2009/10 agreed. Clerk and Chairman to prepare figures for Audit and Annual Report. Proposed Cllr Bell, Seconded Cllr Mann, carried.</p>	CLERK CHAIRMAN
<p><b>8.3 Budget</b> (2010/11) Agreed unanimously that funding allocated for SLR (see 5.2) be put aside as a contingency fund, potentially for Country Watch and the Community Plan.</p>	CHAIR CLLR FORD ALL CLLRS
<p><b>9 ANNUAL REPORT</b> Councillors agreed should be printed with the colour logo as 2008/09: Chairman to print letterheads and Cllr Ford to print text on laserwriter. Expenses to be submitted in 2010/11. The Report will be delivered by Parish Councillors door-to-door in April as per distribution list.</p>	CHAIR CLLR FORD ALL CLLRS
<p><b>10 PARISH ASSEMBLY</b></p>	
<p><b>10.1 Advertising</b> Flyer to be distributed with the April <i>Villager</i> (also featured in the <i>Villager</i>) to promote Assembly topics of interest (‘hooks’) to encourage residents to attend. The Annual Report will be distributed later in April with a second round of advertising/reminders for the Assembly.</p>	CHAIR CLERK
<p><b>10.2 Candidates standing for re-election</b> will be invited to the Assembly but not invited to speak on current issues which could be construed as electioneering. The Assembly is in large part a review of the past year and Candidates who have been in Office during the year can contribute on that basis. Agreed unanimously. Maria Miller has provisionally agreed to attend; it was suggested, just for the informal discussion prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>10.3 Agenda.</b>  10.3.1a <u>Informal discussion</u> with refreshments.  10.3.1b <u>Information stands/displays</u>: SOLVE/Country Watch, Community Plan, Clubroom, Newnham Road Pavement, Newnham Green tree , Oppé Garden, PC Reid, Newnham Church Bells, Grit Bins, Villager comment book, Literature from OCH and St Michael’s Hospice.  10.3.2 <u>Assembly</u>: Clive Pinder will be invited to give a presentation on the Community Plan; SOLVE and Cllr Godesen to talk on the SHLAA. Assembly to end by 9:30pm.  10.3.3 <u>Short Clubroom AGM</u> to follow the Parish Assembly (preceded by glass of wine).</p>	CLUBROOM COMMITTEE  CLERK  CHAIR
<p><b>11 PLANNING</b></p>	
<p><b>11.1 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)</b> Borough Council Planning Officers are producing an updated SHLAA (version 4) based on the current version for Public Consultation. Karen Brimacombe dubbed the current SHLAA debate a ‘storm in a teacup’ as it is ‘not set in stone’. But if Manydown is to be discounted for the first 15 years and only allocated 300 homes thereafter, there will be little alternative to Lodge and Poors Farms, East of Basingstoke.</p>	
<p><b>11.2 Public Inquiries into South East Water’s and Thames’ Water’s (2008) Draft Water Resource Management Plan (DWRMP)</b>  <u>South East Water’s DWRMP Inquiry</u> Letter received from Brenda Taplin, Persona Associates, dated 18th February advising of pre-Inquiry meeting on 23rd March now to be held in Crawley. Parish Council responded that not formally attending the Pre Inquiry meeting but gave consent to release its previous representations including name and address; these will then become Inquiry documents and made available to the Inspector.  Whitewater Valley Preservation Society (WVPS), of which Cllr Bell is a committee member, is a ‘main party stakeholder’. The Inquiry is scheduled for 11th May, in Crawley, for 10-12 days.  <u>Thames Water’s DWRMP Inquiry</u> WVPS is again a ‘non-main party stakeholder’ The Pre Inquiry meeting is 24th March in Oxford; the Inquiry is scheduled for 15th of June for three weeks.  Newnham Parish Council will not be directly involved in these Inquiries.</p>	
<p><b>11.3 Council Plan 2010-13</b> has not included the Environment as a policy priority. It has been included it a ‘key consideration... integral to planning and service delivery’.</p>	
<p><b>11.4 Local Development Framework Key Themes Consultation</b> The email link to comment open 15 Mar-26th April. Clerk to advertise in <i>April Villager</i> encouraging all residents to respond. Chairman will co-ordinate the Parish Council response.</p>	ALL CLLRS CLERK CHAIRMAN
<p><b>11.5 Living Landscapes 09/10:</b> Revised Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy for BDBC – Public Consultation ended 29th Jan. Await revised version of the Document.</p>	

**11.6 Parish Planning applications**

**New application** BDB/72002 (18th Feb) Newnham Clubroom. Single storey building for use as Village Hall following demolition of existing. Creation of additional car parking spaces.

**Approved applications** BDB/71682 (28th Jan, reg 4th Dec) Crown Lodge, Crown Lane. Single storey extension to west elevation, pitched roofs to three existing flat roofed dormers to north elevation and dormer to south elevation. New pitched roof to porch on north elevation.

BDB/71408 (10th Feb, reg 26th Oct) 7 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Conversion from single to two storey house. A first floor with dormer windows in the front and rear elevations. Single storey front extensions forming car port and front porch.

BDB/71772 (16th Feb, reg 4th Jan) 3 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Single storey side/rear extensions, construction of bay window to rear and erection of a front porch.

BDB/71804 (23rd Feb, reg 4th Jan) Tithe Barn. Listed building consent for wheelchair lift.

**12 FUTURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**12.1 Identifying potential future Parish Councillors** is an ongoing priority. At present the Parish Council can operate with a quorum of three elected Councillors. However when (or if) Section 76 of the The Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act (LGPIH) 2007 is brought into force, five elected Councillors will be required to be quorate:

ALL  
CLLRS

*(Section 76 of LGPIH 2007 relates to Parish and Town (Local councils) and contains specific amendments to the Local Government Act 1972:*

- i. *Appointing councillors onto local councils (in addition to elected and co-opted councillors)*
- ii. *Allowing only elected councillors to become Chairmen and Vice-chairmen*
- iii. *Requiring five elected councillors in order for a council to operate and be quorate.)*

To be eligible, Candidates must reside in the Parish or within three miles of the boundary as crow flies and not be a Council employee. It is up to the Candidate to decide his/her eligibility.

**12.2 Encouraging people to want to become Parish Councillors**

**12.2.1 Rescheduling some Borough Council meetings** or Group/Association meetings such as Country Watch to evenings or weekends would allow working people to become more involved with the business of the community. Those passionate about the community may take this opportunity; equally it is likely that family and home commitments would be given priority. The Chairman will raise the question of Borough Council meetings at the BDATPC. This would involve changing the working hours of Council Officers who may not wish to work evenings and weekend but could be given flexible working hours. BDBC is conducting a major review which will seek to identify savings.

CHAIR

**12.2.2 Raising the profile of the Parish Council** and finding a means to catch the interest of residents are major issues. Robin Howard has mooted a monthly report on Parish Council aims and objectives in the *Villager*. It was suggested something less formal was needed, or that monthly was too frequent for a formal report. A weekly blog could be useful. A (short) message from the Parish Council could be prepared for the *Villager* saying what the Parish Council is and does and why it is important. This could stand alongside a message from Jane Leese on the role of the Church, church councils and committees, and illustrating the distinctions between them. Chairman to discuss with Jane Leese.

CHAIR  
CLERK**13 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**13.1 Chairman** Attended BADTC meeting of 25th February. Interesting presentation by Alex Burn of HCC on services for older people; handouts available/possible topic for the *Villager*. On a discussion on lessons learnt from the snow in December and January, the issue of grit bins was discussed. Julian Jones (Dummer Parish Council) will take over the Chairman's role as BADTC representative on the Area Strategic Partnership Board from 25th May 2010.

CLERK

**13.2 Cllr Mann** Sign boards advertising the sale of logs in Old School Road were becoming too prevalent and intrusive. The Chairman will discuss with Hook Parish Council.

CHAIR

**14 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA** Parish Assembly, Community Plan, Newnham Road Pavement, Clubroom, Newnham Green, SHLAA/Country Watch, Future of Parish Council.

**15 FUTURE MEETINGS** Parish Assembly Thursday 22th April, Tuesday 18th May (AGM) including allocation of responsibilities, Tuesday 13th July.

**16 MEETING CLOSED** at 9.59pm.