



# Minutes of the AGM

**Date** Tuesday 18th May 2010 **Venue** Newnham Clubroom **Commencing** 8pm

**Present Chairman** Roger Booth

**Parish Councillors** Jeff Ford, Nigel Bell, Ian Riley, Sue Mann

**Clerk** Susan Turner; **Parishioners** Martyn Glover, Carolyn Peck

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** County Cllr Elaine Still, Ward Cllrs, PC Andy Reid.  
Cllr Bauermeister (delayed at work)

ACTION

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllrs Bell re Insurance 8.3.

**3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

*The Chairman handed the Chair to the Clerk. The Clerk invited nominations for Chairman.*

**3.1 Chairman** Roger Booth nominated by Cllr Ford, seconded Cllr Bell, carried unanimously.  
*The Chair was returned to the Chairman.*

**3.2 Deputy Chairman** Jeff Ford nominated by Chairman, seconded Cllr Riley, carried unanimously.

**3.3 Acceptance of Office** forms were read allowed and signed and dated by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively, and signed and dated by the Clerk as witness.

**3.4 Allocation of duties**

3.4.1	Planning.....	Roger Booth	Incinerator.....	Jeff Ford
	Clubroom.....	Ian Riley	Villager.....	Roger Booth
	Transport.....	Jeff Ford	BDAPTC.....	Roger Booth
	Country Watch.....	Nigel Bell	Hook Liaison.....	Roger Booth
		Sheyne Bauermeister	Community Plan.....	Sue Mann
	NGPA.....	Sue Mann		Sheyne Bauermeister

Footpaths Officer ..... Nigel Downes

3.4.2 Country Watch It was suggested that another Councillor should work alongside Cllr Bell with Country Watch. This role is impractical for a Councillor working full time as all Country Watch meetings are conducted during the working day. Cllr Bell agreed to present the dilemma to Country Watch and suggest Saturday meetings.

CLLR  
BELL

3.4.3 BASP and LSP The Chairman has resigned from the BASP. The LSP Footprint Group would not accept his resignation and insisted he stayed as Chair until the Local Development Framework (LDF) was well advanced.

3.4.4 Hook Liaison: HART SHLAA It was understood that the Hook Action Group would not be resurrected. The Chairman will take on the role of liaison with Hook and Rotherwick Parish Councils on the HART SHLAA; he has already had discussions with Nigel Carpenter, Hook Parish Councillor and Chairman of the Development Strategy Committee.

CHAIR

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** agreed as a true record of the meeting of 11th March 2010; proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Mann, carried unanimously.

**5 PUBLIC SESSION**

**5.1** PC Reid was unable to attend but forwarded his latest reported incident figures.

4th February	Suspicious male selling door to door in Nately Scures
24th February	Theft of heating oil from Fosters Business Park
3rd March	Laptop stolen from car at Country Hotel
8th March	Suspicious male seen in bus shelter on A30.

**5.2** Martyn Glover representing NGPA wished to address the meeting regarding the management of Newnham Green when the Agenda item was discussed. No other issues were raised.

## 6 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION

### 6.1 Highways

**6.1.1 HCC Local Highways Engineer** Liam Houghton has (as a temporary appointment) replaced Colin Piper.

**6.1.2 Newnham Road Ponds** Highways is scheduled to build a new headwall at the Ashmead side of the culvert, jet the culvert and conduct further ditching/jetting down Newnham Road towards Old School Road. The new Highways Engineer, Liam Houghton, is awaiting a report from the old, Colin Hooper; the work was due at the start of this financial year.

CLERK

**6.1.3 Crown Lane Signpost** Now has three arms, Clerk to track down the fourth.

CLERK

**6.1.4 Newnham Lane, Lyde Mill Cottage to Lyde Mill** Background: On 5th March a jetting team was deployed to clear blocked gullies and ditches were also cleared. Surface run-off was back-flowing into the drains of Lyde Mill Cottage, an on-going problem apparently aggravated by poorly maintained ditches and resulting run-off from the field opposite belonging to Manor Farm. Also the hedges were not being kept in good order and overhanging branches were a problem. The Clerk contacted Brian Hills at The Lodge, Manor Farm and left a message but has had no reply to date. Lyde Mill Cottages says that nothing has since been done with the ditches. (For info BDBC Neighbourhood Development Department (Jamie Daley) has a role in cases involving land drainage which have not been solved locally; BDBC can intervene and, following background research to establish a case, require the landowner to undertake the necessary work, and if he does not, carry out the work themselves and charge it to him.) Brian Hills is no longer at Manor Farm, Clerk to contact Colin Lewin.

CLERK

**6.1.5 Lyde Mill Bridge** Report from Andy Norman HCC Engineer Structures 'We carried out trial holes yesterday to investigate the structure because the bridge has tie rods and plates (wrought iron plates and rods which hold the brick elevations in place) which have corrosion and need replacing. We found that the structure has a concrete saddle over and within the road surface installed for the war effort during the 1940's and thus does not require any further work in the road. We will need to change the wrought iron plates on the elevations which we will carry out in due course. This work might require a further road closure for a few days to remove the old plates and install the new ones but disruption should be kept to a minimum.'

**6.2 Grit Bins** Parish request for Grit Bins updated to include a bin at Blackstocks Lane at the motorway bridge.

**6.3 Newnham Footpath 2, Lyde Bridge** A very robust new footbridge was completed in April, timber with steel supports and concrete footings. The Clerk conveyed the Parish Council's thanks to Matthew Beal, Countryside Access, North Hants, and was assured that the ruts in the footpath caused by a vehicle used in the construction would be addressed by the contractor to their best ability considering the wet weather. Comments have been received that the structure and expense of the bridge was excessive but such are the rules of Health and Safety.

**6.4 Newnham Road Pavement** The BDBC budget has been confirmed for the pavement in Newnham Road and Jamie Daley is researching the viability of options for one or other side of the road. According to the present schedule these will be completed by the first week in June, then a Village Consultation including an open Saturday afternoon in the Clubroom will be arranged. It could be very useful to obtain grants eg Environmental Enhancement Grants to add to this scheme, for example a porous pavement surface more in keeping with the conservation area, native hedge planting. The difficulty is that without costings and an approved scheme, applying for grants now is premature, but once a scheme has been approved the project is likely to move forward quickly and it will be too late. The Clerk will investigate grant applications now on the basis that we know a project is definitely going ahead and basic funding is already in place.

CLERK

**6.5 Clubroom** Among the conditions attached to the planning approval is that surfacing for car parking/turning is to be completed before the new Clubroom can be occupied. Submitting grant applications to HCC and BDBC is therefore the next important step following the VEOLIA application. It was noted that the Big Lottery Fund has a new 'Raising Communities' initiatives this year with more money for Village Halls, previous refusal does not preclude a new application; this may be a fallback if expected areas of funding are not forthcoming.

**6.6 Community Plan** The draft Plan should be prepared by September with assistance from BDBC. Hampshire Wildlife Trust has a parish wildlife map/tool kit targeted to Parish Plans.

## 7 NEWNHAM GREEN

ACTION

**7.1 Tylney Lane ditch/pond** A detailed report was prepared and circulated by the Chairman which included ongoing investigation into land ownership and the recommendation that the Parish Council, with the NGPA, include the verge and pond/ditch within the maintenance of the Green. Councillors' agreement was obtained between meetings. The ditch and surrounding overgrowth was cleared from the front driveway to the pond at the rear driveway of Newnham Green Farm by Paul Buckland on Saturday 15th May. The Chairman reported he had done an excellent job. The spoil was disposed of, with prior agreement, at Newnham Green Farm; the Chairman will email Newnham Green Farm to check that there were no problems. Lady Allenby has sent an email expressing her thanks.

CHAIR

**7.2 Mowing** Richard Fouracre is satisfied that grass won't need cutting until the end of the month there has not been much growth due to dry weather – which will give time for the wild flowers to seed. The Chairman noted the Parish Council's appreciation of the work put in by residents adjacent to the Green who kept sections well mown.

**7.3 Verges** Highways have cut their first metre of the the verge but have not done a very tidy job. Clerk to request that Highways cut all the way up to the ditch.

CLERK

**7.4 Future Green Management** There is now an opportunity to devise a future management strategy guided by the Community Plan. The Plan supported cutting the grass two or three times per year and had no issue with the ditches. However the general opinion was that the Green was too untidy (see 7.3 above), and some felt it should be maintained more as an asset for public use.

It was suggested there should be designated areas of the Green, some cut more frequently for recreation and some managed for wildlife (the Green is a SINC). The survey conducted by Marion Stainton clearly maps the areas where important species are growing and identifies when they will be ready to seed.

**Funding** Because the Parish Council's precept is drawn from the wider civil parish, it has been considered not reasonable to ask those beyond Newnham Villager to fund all the Green maintenance. The NGPA, funded by local subscriptions, therefore pays half the maintenance costs, and since 2008 BDBC has provided a grass cutting grant to offset double taxation. If part of the Green was to be managed as a play area for children then grant funding could be applied for. The NGPA will circulate new subscription letters outlining three possible strategies for Green maintenance.

**7.5 Newnham Green Ponds** The complications which had hampered previous plans to clear the pond were outlined, notably legal issues concerning the Great Crested Newts and disposal of the spoil off-site. Work will need to be carried out in conjunction with Hampshire Wildlife Trust, but once they have surveyed the pond at the end of the year to ensure the newts had left for the winter, it may be necessary to employ a digger to undertake partial clearance. A digger would be required in any event to clear a build up of silt adjacent to Newnham Green Farm driveway. NGPA will discuss the issue of spoil disposal with Newnham Green Farm.

**7.6 Newnham Green Tree** There has been no response so far to the *Villager* article on choosing a tree to replace the Horse Chestnut felled last year. From the Parish Assembly comments book the Small Leaved Lime is the favoured choice, with support also for the Indian Horse Chestnut. The May *Villager* gave a deadline for feedback as 31st May. Councillors agreed that, if nothing changes by then, the Clerk will advise James Malmesbury that the Small Leaved Lime is Newnham's choice.

CLERK

The Horse Chestnut it replaces was one of four originally planted c1840s/50s. The Community Plan will consider a future tree planting strategy and available grants.

## 8 FINANCE

### 8.1 Cheques signed at meeting

436	£180.00	– HALC/NALC subscription 2010/11
437	£422.92	– Insurance
438	£322.18	– Clerk's salary x two months

**8.2 Audit** Forms for External Audit were completed, read out and agreed; these must be returned to the External Auditor before 12th July. The accounts will be available to view from 14th June to 9th July and electors' rights to inspect the accounts advertised from 28th May on the Parish Council noticeboards and Website.

CLERK

**8.3 Insurance** Insurance renewal is due on 1st June via Came and Company (Aviva policy, formerly Norwich Union). The personal accident cover automatically covers ages 16-80. Councillors over 80 should write to Came and Company confirming their date of birth and that they are fit and able to fulfill the role of Councillor.

CLERK

## 9 REVIEW OF PARISH ASSEMBLY

ACTION

- 9.1 What is a Parish Assembly?** In response to a Parishioner's question, the Chairman said that the Parish Council must call a Parish Assembly between 1st March and 1st June, to which all members of the community are invited. The Assembly is an opportunity for residents to ask questions or comment on the past year's work and the Council's future strategy, budget and plans. A report on the 2009/10 Parish Assembly was in the April *Villager* and the minutes on the Parish Council Website. The Website would be advertised prominently in the June *Villager* which would also include a feature on What is a Parish Council?
- 9.2 SOLVE Presentation** This was a very good presentation: the decision to allow them to over-run the allotted time was the right one; the presentation was important and pertinent.
- 9.3 Parishioner involvement/attendance** There was notably less participation and fewer questions from residents compared to previous years. There was also only one resident from Nately Scures and none from Water End. The Community Plan identified transport from Water End as an issue but it was Cllr Riley's view that Water End residents had transport and on other occasions had not taken up the opportunity of transport when it was offered. Providing a minibus for next year as a trial was an option, though it was uncertain where the 2011/12 Parish Assembly would be held if the Clubroom rebuild was going ahead as scheduled.
- 9.4 Agenda/Clubroom AGM** This format worked very well: the Assembly ended at 9.30 and the majority kept their seats for a glass of wine and the Clubroom AGM. Cllr Bell complimented the Chairman on a well run meeting and disciplined schedule. The Clerk will request an invoice from the Clubroom committee for the Parish Council contribution to refreshments.

CLERK  
CHAIRMAN  
Action item for  
next Assembly

CLERK

## 10 PLANNING

- 10.1 Local Development Framework Core Strategy 'Key Themes' Consultation** 15th March to 26th April. Newnham's response – in line with the response completed by the Chairman for the Strategic Partnership Footprint Group – was returned on 20th April, and a copy published on the Website. It is the role of the Footprint Group to maintain pressure on the Borough Council to ensure environmental and sustainability issues are taken into account alongside economic development – with some success; environmental issues are being taken more seriously.
- 10.2 Living Landscapes 09/10** Replacement strategy due to be reported to Cabinet on 25th May and published shortly afterwards.
- 10.3 Public Inquiries into South East Water's and Thames' Water's (2008) Draft Water Resource Management Plan (DWRMP)**  
South East Water's DWRMP Inquiry Inquiry began 13th May and will continue until 20th June. Cllr Bell, with the support of Newnham Parish Council, will present the case for the Whitewater Preservation Society, which is a 'main party stakeholder'.  
Thames Water's DWRMP Inquiry WVPS is again a "main party stakeholder"; the Inquiry is scheduled for 15th of June for three weeks.
- 10.4 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** The SHLAA (V4) has been published with some revisions in housing numbers from V3, but no major changes. Manydown does appear with a slightly larger but still minor housing allocation. As Chairman of the Strategic Partnership Footprint Group, the Chairman will have to take a holistic viewpoint concerned with the sustainability of all sites. Councillors agreed that Newnham Parish Council's response would be in line with that of Country Watch and SOLVE and will support fully their submissions.  
Although it is possible that the new Government may not enforce the 945 dwellings per annum (which assumes inward migration) imposed by the South East Plan, BDBC's own assessment of the housing need is 740 dwellings per annum up to 2026 which is still a massive footprint increase for Basingstoke.  
An important argument against the development in the Loddon Valley is that the river valley and areas of ancient woodlands are all SINC's. It is impossible to change the hydrology of the areas around the woodland without changing that of the woodlands themselves.

CHAIR

## 10.5 Parish Planning applications

ACTION

### New applications

BDB/72405 (27th April) Hunters, Newnham Lane, Newnham. Erection of garage, store and stables. Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian and domestic use.

A 'no objection with conditions' return was sent to BDBC and copied to Hunters.

BDB/72260 (19th April) 1 Crown Lane, Newnham. Erection of a timber framed building to form additional bed and breakfast accommodation.

The Parish Council objected to this application, as to the second log cabin, on grounds of overdevelopment of the site. The Clerk to contact Bethan Bramley to inquire how she was minded to decide the case and if she is minded to approve, to contact Cllr Godesen. Cllr Bell noted that there had been significant woodland clearance at the site; the Clerk will also draw this concern to the attention of BDBC and ask the enforcement officer to investigate.

CLERK

### Approved applications

BDB/72165 28th April (reg 17th March) Thursley, Scures Hill. Single storey rear extension

BDB/72002 15th April (reg 18th Feb) Newnham Clubroom. Single storey building for use as Village Hall following demolition of existing, plus additional car parking.

## 11 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

**11.1 Chairman** Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership Board (BASP): Attended Sustainable Communities/Footprint Group meeting on 16th March. Main topic of discussion was the response to the Core Strategy Key Themes Consultation, which was almost identical to the submission from Newnham Parish Council. Next meeting is at 14:30 on Tuesday 18th May. The next Board meeting, the last one the Chariman will attend, is the conference on 27th May.

**11.2 Cllr Ford** Road patching in Newnham Road has not addressed the real problem of the road surface crumbling and will be a very temporary measure. Clerk to contact Highways, also to note the broken section in the road surface opposite Heathmorr.

**11.3 Cllr Riley** Thefts from Water End of garden ornaments, plus the bumper from a Ford Mondeo and second theft from a Ford the night before (Monday 17th May).

CLERK

**11.4 Cllr Bell** Parish Walk Suggestion that Nigel Downes should lead a regular Parish Walk to encourage residents to use the footpaths.

**12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA** Newnham Road Pavement, Community Plan, Newnham Green, SHLAA, Allocation of duties/Country Watch meetings

CLERK

**13 FUTURE MEETINGS** Tuesday 13th July, Thursday 16th September, Tuesday 18th November.

**14 MEETING CLOSED** at 9.45pm.