

# Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

**Date** Tuesday 13th July 2010 **Venue** Newnham Clubroom **Commencing** 8pm

**Present Chairman** Roger Booth

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

**Clerk** Susan Turner; **Guests** Ward Cllrs Onnalee Cubitt and Stephen Marks

- 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** PC Andy Reid.
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllrs Bell and Ford re Newnham Road pavement 8.3.
- 3 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** agreed as a true record of the AGM of 18th May 2010; proposed by Chairman, seconded by Cllr Ford, carried unanimously.

ACTION

## 4 PUBLIC SESSION

### 4.1 Ward Cllr Stephen Marks

4.1.1 Cllr Marks is a supporter of SOLVE but has a declared interest re the SHLAA.

4.1.2 Cuts will be a serious issue facing the borough. BDBC supports bus passes and taxi tokens but with regard to tokens may be overruled by HCC and national Government to be brought in line with neighbouring boroughs/districts who do not have this provision.

### 4.2 Ward Cllr Onnalee Cubitt

4.2.1 Blackstocks Lane allotments. Cllr Cubitt is in agreement with the Parish Council's position which is fully supportive of allotments in principle but not in this location. She believes they should be subject to Planning despite assertions from BDBC Officers (including Giorgio Framalico) that planning is not required. Cllr Cubitt has put in a request to Council and has apparently established that planning will be required for parking on site and the water pipes. If cars are parked on the roadside planning would not be required. Cllr Cubitt has made another request to Council regarding the scenario of 20 to 30 cars being parked on Blackstocks Lane. Cllrs Godesen and Marks support the view that the allotments should be subject to Planning. Cllr Marks believes that allotments should be sited in close proximity to the users. However there is a problem of land availability in Hook where developers have options on any apparently suitable sites. Ward Councillors understand that potential sites by the Water End playing fields with adjacent hard standing for parking, and a five-year let on the other side of Hook are not being considered.

4.2.2 SHLAA The portfolio holder has confirmed that the targets of 945 dwellings per annum dictated by Central Government and 740 projected by BDBC have both been scrapped. In their place the portfolio holder is proposing public consultation Ward by Ward. The Core Strategy pre-submission deadline of September 2010 (which would confirm the Strategy irrevocably) has also been cancelled.

However it is the view of BDBC officers that the SHLAA should continue, and the revised Version 5, Schedule 6, Appendix 5, indicates the first greenfield sites to be developed will be in the Loddon Valley. Cllr Cubitt has requested that all housing target deadlines should be removed, and refutes the assertion that this is not possible. A five year land supply is all that is required, not a potential supply up to 2026. She has asked to see the policy document from Central Government requiring schedules beyond five years. Even with a housing requirement of 740 per annum, no greenfield sites will be required in the next five years, and site 121 not needed up to 2023. If the housing projection fell below 600 per annum none of these greenfield sites would be required at all. So Cllr Cubitt argues there is no need to have Loddon Valley sites labeled as suitable, available and achievable now; they are not achievable because the infrastructure requirement cannot be met. Despite argument that S106 payments will fund infrastructure, these cannot cover the costs.

The SHLAA V5 was published on 9th July 2010 with no major changes from V4. Housing numbers for 102 and 103 have been reduced marginally (in total by 700 from both sites). Manydown figures remain unchanged, the major development is still scheduled for East of Basingstoke though the text has been amended to take on board the Environment Agency recommendation that these sites be removed from the SHLAA. BDBC sets the five year plan, but Cllr Cubitt argues that a plan cannot be set without agreed housing targets. The argument that without a SHLAA developers can make opportunistic applications is

not valid. If BDBC states it has identified a housing requirement and adequate land to service it then no developer can step forward.

BDBC statisticians still project a requirement of c740 dwellings per year. They presume that economic growth equates with population growth, that inward migrants with families will require housing and jobs for their children, and the fact that retired people are living longer will increase the local population. But Cllr Cubitt argues that these presumptions can be challenged. Rural and urban populations cannot be modeled in the same way; commuter patterns are diverse, BDBC residents do not necessarily work in the borough and vice versa. Housing requirements in Basingstoke are also affected by housing availability in neighbouring commuter areas.

## 5 MATTERS ARISING

### 5.1 Highways

5.1.1 New Local Highways Engineer Colin Hooper's successor (Liam Houghton was caretaker) is Keith Holdsworth, appointed from 5th July.

5.1.2 Old School Road Gateway Clerk has requested that Highways trim weeds obscuring 30mph signs.

CLERK

5.1.3 Newnham Road Ponds No progress to date. Culvert yet to be cleared and new headwall to be built at the Ashmead side of the culvert as planned by Colin Hooper.

CLERK

5.1.4 Carriageway repairs in Newnham Lane between Blacklands Farm and Webbs Copse were part of 'Project Restoration' following the ice and snow damage. This is a national programme; HCC Highways is not involved. Roads deemed eligible for resurfacing under the scheme were identified and the work due to start from 9th July (began 3rd July in Newnham Lane). Residents were informed as soon as notification of the road closure received from HCC.

5.1.5 Signpost at the top of Crown Lane A new 'Basing' finger has been ordered, Highways will make a site visit and take a photo of the existing sign. New finger likely to be installed in September. Cllr Ford replaced the circle which had fallen of the signpost.

5.1.6 Manor Farm ditches, Newnham Lane, opposite Lyde Mill Cottage. Brian Hills, Manor Farm Manage, will monitor the situation come the next wet weather.

5.1.7 Newnham Green Verges Highways will only cut their first metre, but for sight-lines will send out a 'routine maintenance team' with strimmers. The verges along Newnham Lane and Ridge Lane approaching the Crossroads should qualify. The haphazard patchy verge cutting in June 2010 has been reported.

CLERK  
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**5.2 Parish Guided Walks** Nigel Downes, Footpaths Officer, has agreed to lead Parish walks to encourage use of the footpaths. Nigel to liaise with Cllrs Bell and Bauermeister to arrange a walk and date which will be advertised in the *Villager*.

### 5.3 Newnham Green

#### 5.3.1 Maintenance

5.3.1i NGPA Maintenance Schedule (proposal) for a non-fête year

Grass Cutting budget £240

First cut early June, following wild flower seeding, in time for the Open Gardens

Second cut late July

Third cut September.

Verge Cutting budget £300

First cut late May/early June, to follow the first Highways cut.

Second cut late July

Third cut September following second Highways cut.

Ditch Clearing budget £300 to include Tylney Lane ditch/pond

October, subject to weather/ground conditions.

5.3.1ii Green Verge cutting 2010 Richard Fouracre mowed the Green the week before the Open Gardens (Sunday 13th June). Jim Allen was unable to cut the edges and verges until he put the hedge cutter on his tractor in July. Bob Gregory trimmed the edges around the main section of Green in time for the Open Gardens but at almost the cost to cut all verges with the hedge cutter. Jim Allen will go over all the verges end of July.

5.3.1iii	<u>Discussion:</u> The early cut coincides with Highways verge cutting and ensures the Green is cut in time for the Open Gardens. It was agreed last year to cut earlier to prevent a build up of long grass lying on the Green as it proved not cost effective to have the cut grass collected and removed from site. However, the first cut this year was too early for some areas of wild flowers. Also too early to employ Jim Allen with his hedge cutter and strimming is an expensive alternative. A suggestion from residents has been a resident's rota for mowing the Green but lack of insurance is a problem.	ACTION
5.3.1iv	<p><u>Options:</u>  Leave allocated areas uncut (in front of Well Cottage on the main Green and in front of the main pond at Newnham Green Farm).  Highways has agreed to strim the sightlines following its first verge cut which will help towards the strimming bill.  Or, cut the Green and verges later (first week in July). Clerk to discuss the possibility of the Open Gardens being held later depending on how important the Green being cut is considered to be. Cutting later will leave a larger bulk of material lying on the Green.</p>	CLERK
<b>5.3.2</b>	<b>Newnham Green Pond</b> Clerk to seek quotes for a digger to clear part of the Pond this winter – subject to input from Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Clerk to discuss with HWT the problem of dealing with the invasive Typha Latifolia (Bulrush) in the long term.	CLERK
<b>5.3.3</b>	<b>New Tree</b> The Malmesbury Settlement will purchase a Small Leaved Lime (Tylia Cordata) to be placed in the autumn in place of the Horse Chestnut tree.	
<b>5.3.4</b>	<b>Newnham Corner</b> The Parish Council wrote to Newnham Corner on 24th May 2010 expressing concern about the posts erected alongside the rear access to Newnham Corner and the implied enclose of Common Land, and requesting that the posts be removed. A resident's letter was received on 31st May asking: 'Has this urbanisation been approved by the Parish Council and/or by the Malmesbury Trust?' On 28th June Newnham Corner confirmed in writing to the Parish Council that the Malmesbury Charitable Settlement had been kept informed of all the works on the access to Newnham Corner and had raised no objections to any of that work. The Parish Council replied to the resident's letter to that effect and considers the matter closed. Clerk to request that in future the Malmesbury Trust notifies the Parish Council (as caretakers of the Green) regarding any works affecting the Green.	CLERK
<b>5.3.5</b>	<b>Willow tree/power/BT lines in Tylney Lane</b> The Parish Council confirmed that the Willow was on Malmesbury Settlement land, notified James Malmesbury and contacted Southern Electric (Southern Power distribution (area 20)) who inspected the tree on 15th June and removed branches adjacent to the power lines with minimal damage to the tree. Tylney Lane residents contacted BT Open Reach who trimmed branches away from the phone lines on 9th July.	
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Clubroom</b>	
5.4.1	<u>Closure</u> It had been planned that the Harvest Supper will be held in the Clubroom and it would then be closed pending demolition. However it transpired that Mapledurwell Village Hall Committee planned to close their Village Hall for refurbishment at the same time. So the two Committees are to work out a schedule whereby both hall aren't closed at the same time. Parish Council meetings may be held in the M&UNVH small meeting room, tbc.	CHAIR
5.4.2	<u>Grants</u> Applications completed to to County and Borough Councils. Second estimate is required for car parking area.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>NEWNHAM ROAD PAVEMENT</b> No progress to date. Jamie Daley has advised that his report is likely to be delayed until the end of July.	CLERK
<b>7.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY PLAN</b> To report at next meeting.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Living Landscapes 09/10</b> Final draft approved by Cabinet on 25th May; available at Living Landscapes – Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Natural Environment Strategy (Final Draft) 2010. Illustrated version in preparation.	
<b>8.2</b>	<b>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> took place between 11 May and 16 June 2010. Cllr Bell representing WVPS made a report to Councillors on 6th July. Inspector's report is expected end of September.	

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Thames Water's DWRMP Inquiry Cllr Bell representing Country Watch made a report to Councillors on 6th July. The Inquiry, scheduled to end on 16th July will now continue to 16th August.

Newnham Parish Council fully supports Cllr Bell's representations.

### 8.3 Parish Planning Applications

#### 8.3.1 New Applications

BDB/72566 (14th June) Blackstocks Lane, Up Nately. Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed use of land as allotments with underground water piping, enclosed by 2m high perimeter fence.

The Parish Council responded as follows (our comments have been acknowledged by Claire Cook).

'In principle Newnham Parish Council supports the provision of allotments, but considers that this location is inappropriate due to the impact of the resultant traffic on narrow country lanes which will result from the provision of 37, or possibly more, allotments. Access to the site will be either along Blackstocks Lane from the A30 or through Greywell on Greywell Road. Both are narrow roads and there was a recent fatal accident at the A30 Blackstocks Lane Junction.

'Blackstocks Lane is very narrow adjacent to the site, therefore if the application for a Lawful Development Certificate is approved it should include a condition that no parking should be allowed on Blackstocks Lane adjacent to the site and therefore that adequate on-site parking must be provided.

'Newnham Parish Council feels that an application for and possible approval of a Lawful Development Certificate therefore cannot and should not be granted in isolation. The opinions of Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Highways should be taken in to account when deciding the appropriate level of on site parking.'

BDB/72442 (8th June) Naishes Barn, Newnham Road, Newnham. Garden shed. No objection.

#### 8.3.2 Approved applications

BDB/72405 22nd June (reg 27th April) Hunters, Newnham Lane, Newnham. Erection of garage, store and stables. Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian and domestic use.

#### 8.3.3 Applications refused

BDB/72260 11th June (reg 19th April) 1 Crown Lane, Newnham. Timber framed building for additional bed and breakfast accommodation.

Reasons for refusal: The proposal would provide an extension to an existing tourist facility of an inappropriate scale to this location. Also, given the nature of the proposed accommodation and its distance from the main house, it would be capable of independent habitation and therefore tantamount to the creation of a new dwelling in the countryside.

BDB/72149 29th June (reg 30th March) Land at South of London Road, Scures Hill, Nately Scures. Fencing and gates adjoining Hook common; HWT project. Reasons for refusal: Insufficient arboricultural information to allow a balanced assessment of the potential impact on existing trees; not satisfactorily demonstrated that proposals would provide an adequate stock proof enclosure on Hook Common.

## 9 FINANCE

### 9.1 Cheques signed between meetings

439	£505.25	Paul Buckland, ditching Tylney Lane ditch/pond
440	£25.00	AMT/(HALC) seminar 'Project Funding

### 9.2 Cheques signed at meeting

441	£24.51	Clerk Expenses to Arlesford 'Project Funding'
442	£294.75	Villager printing plus 6 months' honourarium
443	£322.18	Clerk's salary x two months
444	£40.00	Peter Brown (internal audit fee)

**9.3 Audit** Internal audit completed. Forms for External Audit returned to Auditor for 12th July.

**9.4 Insurance** renewed on 1st June via Came and Company (Aviva policy).

## 10 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

**10.1 Chairman Emergency Plan** Received a request from BCBC, as a local Parish with an Emergency Plan, to speak on the issue. The Chairman responded that a larger Parish would be more suited to this task. He also pointed out the limitations of the Emergency Plan in that many residents who may be considered to be vulnerable do not wish to be documented as such, and good community involvement is the answer. Newnham's emergency plan does need updating. Cllr Riley to update for Water End Park.

## 11. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

ACTION

**11.1 Barracks** Litter was again accumulating along the road to the Barracks particularly adjacent to Hook Tyres. The BDBC Street Cleaning team (Darren Clapson) cleared the litter week of 14th June and has agreed to clean the lane in future once every two months.

**11.2 NALC News bulletin** NALC Mailbox inviting response to its survey on DIS (NALC's fortnightly news bulletin) with a view to subscribing. Clerk will respond to survey asking for a free sample email subscription for a couple of months.

CLERK

**11.3 BDBC Members' Weekly Bulletin** from Julie Collins, Committee Administrator, Legal and Democratic Services, BDBC. Question whether this weekly document is really a useful item or whether could be dispensed with to reduce costs.

CLERK

**11.4 National Highways and Transport (NHT)** Public Satisfaction Survey from James Strachan, Assistant Director of Environment, HCC. Inviting Parish Councils to complete the 'Public Representative Survey' a shorter version of the full NHT survey. Criteria too vague to be meaningful.

**11.5 Local Transport Plan 3.** Hampshire County Council is launching a 12-week consultation on a proposed Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) Strategy for the County. The Hampshire LTP 3 will consist of two main parts, a 20-year long-term strategy and a three year Implementation Plan. This consultation covers the proposed long-term Hampshire LTP3 strategy for the period 2011 to 2031. Cllr Ford to respond. Also South Hampshire Joint LTP3 Strategy Consultation (prepared in Partnership with Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils).

CLLR  
FORD

**11.6 Free trees offer** From Robert Thompson Senior Countryside Access Ranger - North, Hampshire County Council. Offer of free tree from Woodland Trust. Forwarded FAO Oppe Garden and Community Plan. Tree planting scheme once mooted for residents' field behind Kingsbridge Copse. Clerk to contact residents. Cllrs Mann and Bauermeister to discuss with Community Plan team.

CLERK

**11.7 Work to Trees in a Conservation area** Query from Linden, Newnham Road, re cutting back three Leylandii. Cllr Ford advised an application to BCBC and took relevant forms.

**12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA** Newnham Road Pavement, Emergency Plan, Clubroom, Newnham Green, Community Plan, SHLAA

**13 FUTURE MEETINGS** Thursday 16th September, Tuesday 18th November, Tuesday 11th January.

**14 MEETING CLOSED** at 9.33pm.