

# Minutes of the Council Meeting

**Date** 10th November 2009 **Venue** Newnham Clubroom **Commencing** 8pm

**Present Chairman** Roger Booth

**Parish Councillors** Nigel Bell, Sue Mann **Clerk** Susan Turner

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

ACTION

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllrs Ford, Riley, Bauermeister, County and Ward Cllrs
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Bell re 6 Newnham Road Pavement
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** agreed as a true record of the meeting of 24th September 2009; proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Bell; carried unanimously.

## **4 PUBLIC SESSION PC Andy Reid**

**4.1 Speed reduction presence** PC Reid made qualitative speed checks on 5th October and observed vehicles speeding in Newnham Road and Old School Road. Despite relevant reports to the Chief Constable there is still no sign of hand held speed guns being issued to traffic officers.

**4.2 Road accidents involving wild animals** In response to a councillor's question on how best to deal with injured animals, PC Reid advised that if the Police were contacted they would send out an authorised firearms officer; if contacted directly he would get a local keeper to the scene. But the law states that any means can be used to prevent animal suffering.

### **4.3 Incident Report**

#### 4.3.i Newnham

13 Oct Report of suspected poachers in Crown Lane (all in order)

15 Oct Report of manhole cover lifted in Newnham Lane

7 Nov Alarm activated at business premises in Old School Road (set off by staff)

#### 4.3.ii Nately Scures

8 Nov Assault reported at Basingstoke Country Hotel (under investigation)

#### 4.3.iii Andwell

29 Sept Injury road traffic accident at A30 The Red Lion

25 Oct Alarm activated at Andwell Mill.

## **5 MATTERS ARISING**

### **5.1 BEST payment and Traffic Calming**

5.1.i Ian Robertson from Basingstoke & Deane Transport Strategy has sent emailed confirmation that the £7,000 BEST payment is allocated specifically to Newnham.

5.1.ii Still awaiting prices from Barry Ford (Principal Engineer (Regeneration and Design) Neighbourhood Development, BDBC) for the suggested four traffic calming features and the drawings supplied. However the implication is that these features were designed to meet the Parish Council's budget from the BEST payment of £7,000.

5.1.iii The 'gateway' feature in Old School Road is eligible for Borough Council funding up to 75% of the cost (up to a maximum of £1,500). Councillors felt that the gateway would have more impact and be more in keeping than the existing signpost and, considering the Borough Council's grant, the Parish Council contribution would be money well spent from the BEST payment.

5.1.iv Upon consideration following the previous meeting, it was felt that the three 'ensign bollard traffic calming features' to be sited in Newnham Road did not represent good value for money. There was no Borough funding available, their long term effectiveness was questioned, they added to street furniture with a negative impact on the street scene and, judging by the feedback received on the SLR, a number of residents would not want them outside their houses.

5.1.v A ground level alternative to the 'ensign bollards' could be road markings to give the effect of narrowing the road: painted semi-circles from the edges of the road with SLOW markings between them – creating visual 'pinch points'. Clerk to discuss with Barry Ford re all the above.

CLERK

	<p>5.1.vi <u>Clubroom Car Parking</u> BEST (Basingstoke Environmental Strategy for Transport) can include Public Transport, Walking, Cycling, Road Safety, Roads and Traffic, Car Parking, Freight movement, Planning and the Environment, Public involvement and Travel Awareness. BEST money left over from the £7,000 after contributing to the Gateway (and potentially to road markings) could be put towards Clubroom car parking and access improvement.</p>	ACTION
5.3	<p><b>Speed limit reminder sign (SLR)</b> The post is in place and the sign will be erected during the second week in December for a four week period. The black box speed recorder will be in place for three weeks, one week before, the first week during, and one week after for comparison. A resident living adjacent to the sign's proposed position was opposed to the sign being positioned outside his house. A similar response has been received regarding the suggestion to use a second SLR deployment in Ridge Lane.</p>	
5.4	<p><b>Water End Bus Shelter – Noticeboard</b> Clerk still to purchase an 'economy' notice board for the bus shelter at Water End which is suffering from notices being stapled into it.</p>	CLERK
5.5	<p><b>Highways</b></p>	
	<p><b>5.5.1 Trees in Crown Lane</b> No further progress with Highways site visit to establish the ownership of the trees bordering the road up the hill to the Green.</p>	
	<p><b>5.5.3 Crown Lane repairs</b> No further information so far regarding the day's road closure to patch Crown Lane at the Newnham Hill entrance; Colin Hooper is also to check Crown Lane for any other work required.</p>	
	<p><b>5.5.2 Newnham Road Pond</b> The Willow in the Ashmead Pond has been removed. There is no money left in the Highways budget to provide a jetter, but Colin Hooper will organise a maintenance team to clear the grids, rod the culvert and build a concreted bag headwall. Clerk to liaise with Colin Hooper re all the above.</p>	CLERK
5.6	<p><b>Graffiti removal</b> Cllr Bauermeister to liaise with Blanche Miles who will provide the DIY graffiti removal course at a time to suit.</p>	CLLR BAUER- MEISTER
5.7	<p><b>Newnham Green</b></p>	
	<p>5.7.1 <u>The Horse Chestnut</u> No decision yet from NGPA on a replacement tree.</p>	CLERK
	<p>5.7.2 <u>Grass cutting</u> No further cuts required this year.</p>	CLLR FORD
	<p>5.7.3 <u>Ditching</u> Paul Buckland made a tidy job of the ditching.</p>	
	<p>5.7.4 <u>Newnham Green Ponds</u> The issue of clearing the pond has now been resolved with Hampshire Wildlife Trust. It is not possible for anyone other than a suitably qualified person to obtain a licence to work on ponds where there are Great Crested Newts. However, provided the work is done between November and January, and provided HWT conduct a survey immediately before the work is carried out to confirm that all newts have left the pond, a small working party can remove up to a fifth of the bullrush overgrowth. The drawback is that if at any stage it is found that newts are in fact still in the pond, the work must stop. HWT does organise working parties for tasks on its own land but a local working party will be the only option here. Martyn Glover has been advised. Clerk to follow up.</p>	CLERK
5.8	<p><b>Clubroom</b> Estimates have been received from White Dog and Lyde-Irvine Construction indicating a final cost of c£90,000. This includes demolition, construction of a timber framed building on the same footprint, with mains sewage connection, plumbing and basic fittings, but excluding any outdoor landscaping or car parking facilities. An additional £25,000 above the identified funding is required. Peter Brown will submit an application to VEOLiA (the landfill fund) and it was suggested that any shortfall could be met by local donations. The submission of a revised planning application is now a matter of urgency and an professional expert will be employed to prepare this along with the required sustainability appraisal. The Parish Council will submit the application to benefit from the 50% reduction in the planning fee allowed for councils. The fee will be deducted from the Parish Council's annual £600 allowance to the Clubroom.</p>	CHAIR CLERK
5.9	<p><b>Community Plan</b> A draft questionnaire has been prepared for trial with selected volunteers. The final version will be available in the New Year.</p>	CLLRs MANN & BAUER- MEISTER
5.10	<p><b>Councillor Training</b> Various level 2 courses for 'effective councillors' and 'effective clerks' are organised by HALC at a cost of £20 - £40. Clerk will forward the 2010 HALC training schedule to Cllrs Mann and Bauermeister as soon as it becomes available.</p>	CLERK

**6 NEWNHAM ROAD FOOTPATH** The Borough Council has responded proactively to residents' request for a footway along Newnham Road. Jamie Daly from Neighbourhood Development has proposed that a pavement be constructed along the south side of the road from Gardenia to Naishes Barn, a section deemed to be the most hazardous and meeting the criteria for Borough Council funding. The estimated cost is £17,050; the Borough Council will provide their maximum allocation of £15,000, and £2,000 is available from Cllr Elaine Still's devolved budget. However the Borough funding will not be confirmed until the new year and issues need to be clarified regarding land ownership, Conservation, construction materials and drainage. According to Jamie Daly the assumption that Highways owns the first metre from the road is not always the case. Peter Eade from Highways indicated that while all hard surface construction was a barrier to drainage, if the pavement was constructed, Highways would make every effort to effect good drainage from the road with large grids and culverts. He also commented that all grids will get blocked with leaves and it would be in residents' own interests to help keep these clear.

ACTION

The Borough Council's proposal for construction and materials is for kerbs (style to match those nearby as best possible) with a 100mm upstand and a path of standard black tarmac, 1.2m wide in order to cater for the disabled. The ditch would remain, albeit the back edging of the path would become the bank of the ditch nearest the road. The hedge / trees would need to be trimmed back to a point level with the back edge of the new path. The question was raised of the appropriateness of these materials in a rural setting; a grass verge area between the road and path, rather than kerbstones, was more in keeping. However the width of verge available is a barrier to this, and the Borough Council favours the use of tarmac as it is low maintenance. There will be a full village consultation in early spring.

CLERK  
ALL CLLRs

**7 VILLAGER** A meeting will be held on November 16th between the *Villager* funding bodies – the three Parish Council Chairmen and Revd Jane Leese representing the VCCs – to discuss the *Villager*'s future. The editor will also attend. The Parish Council agreed unanimously that the *Villager* must continue in some form.

CHAIR

## **8 FINANCE**

### **8.1 Cheques** signed at meeting

10th Nov	421	£135.00	Villager – 6 months editor honourarium
10th Nov	422	£172.50	Richard Fouracre, Green mowing x2
10th Nov	423	£ 75.00	Bob Gregory, bus shelter maintenance
10th Nov	424	£ 12.03	Clerk – back pay covering salary increase
10th Nov	424	£314.74	Clerk's salary x 2 months.

CLERK

**8.2 Parish Grant and Precept 2010/11** Forms were completed and signed for the Parish Grant of £1,100 (no increase from 09/10) and Precept request of £5,200. The increase of £600 on the £4,600 09/10 Precept allows for expected annual increases (bearing in mind there was no increase 08/09 - 09/10) and the £450 donation to St Michael's Hospice. It was agreed that £150 be allocated for Community Plan expenses; this and any further SLR rental will be taken from the surplus (and reserves if necessary). If a decision is taken to contribute to Country Watch's costs in apposing the SHLAA at the LDF Inquiry this contribution may be taken from reserves. The policy of increasing reserves to fund replacement bus shelters has been suspended for a further year due to the economic climate and low rates of interest.

Completed forms to be returned to Gavin Mansbridge, Senior Accounting Technician, Corporate Finance at BDBC (latest date for return 6th January 2010).

CLERK

**9 LOCAL COUNCIL SURVEY FROM HCC** Deferred.

**10 HALC/NALC** Hampshire Association of Local Councils proposes to withdraw from the National Association alleging that it is ineffective. The Parish Council expressed concern at the proposal. The National Association represents local councils at government level. The role of HALC is to support Hampshire councils. Both associations are valuable sources of advice and information. Newnham Parish Council believes that if local associations are unhappy with the way the National Association is performing, then local councils and NALC itself would be best served by addressing the problems and providing support from within rather than withdrawing. Newnham Parish Council does not support the withdrawal of HALC from NALC and will respond to Steven Lugg's survey accordingly.

CLERK

## 11 PLANNING

ACTION

### 11.1 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

- 11.1i An Action Group was formed at the 10th October meeting in Old Basing which includes two representatives from Newnham.
- 11.1ii Cllr Bell reported on the Country Watch meeting of 4th November where it was suggested that relevant Parish Councils should be asked to contribute in the region of £1 per elector to help fund expert representation. Newnham Parish Council supports in principle a contribution from the Parishes though concern was expressed by some that the expert witness did not give value for money at the last LDF Inquiry. Also Country-Watch still holds Newnham Parish Council funds from previous contributions; Clerk to investigate before further contributions are made. A report on the CountryWatch meeting will be included in the *Villager*.
- 11.1iii The Water Cycle Study has now been published but only tells a partial story. There is no correlation between this study and SE Water's and Thames Water's DWRMP.

CLERK

### 11.2 Natural Environment Forum – Living Landscapes Revision 2009/10 Consultation

No update on last minutes. The public consultation on the draft is timetabled from 20th November to 5th January. Once it is announced Cllr Bell will prepare a response and circulate to councillors. The final version will be prepared in March/April 2010 for May Cabinet approval. The Parish Council should ensure that all our Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are included in the maps/text that illustrate the document and consider if there are other sites of importance which need to be drawn to BDBC's attention.

CLLR BELL  
ALL CLLRS  
CLERK

This is also a matter for the attention of the Community Plan Committee.

CLLRs  
MANN &  
BAUER-  
MEISTER

### 11.3 Public Inquiry into South East Water's (2008) draft Water Resource Management Plan

The Clerk received a response from DEFRA on 29th October as follows: 'Thank you for the letter of the 1st October enclosing Newnham Parish Council's further comments on South East Water's Water Resources Management Plan, which is in support of your original response and the Whitewater Valley Preservation Society representation. We will be shortly writing to Parties, informing them of the next steps. There will be a further opportunity for interested Parties to comment on South East Water's Plan and I will copy Newnham Parish Council into this correspondence. As an interested Party, we will ensure that Newnham Parish Council is copied in to future correspondence.'

### 11.4 Public Inquiry into Thames Water's (2008) DWRMP

No update on last minutes: Inspector and Inquiry dates are yet to be appointed.

### 11.5 Parish Planning applications

#### 11.5.1 New applications

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. Following a site visit the Parish Council will respond: *'Although a very large extension, it is our opinion that the development is not out of keeping with its environment.'*

CLERK

#### 11.5.2 Approved application

BDB/71277 8th October (reg 9th September) Newnham Corner, Newnham Green. Erection of replacement garage following demolition of existing (revised application).

BDB/71140 10th October (reg 14th August 2009) Elm Cottage, Ridge Lane, Newnham. Erection of a single storey front and side extension to garage following demolition of flat roof.

## 12 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

**Chairman** Design and Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (CD). Summary and extracts emailed to Councillors. The Chairman believes that the emphasis of the report is moving in the right direction. Cllr Bell said that an important issue in retaining the rural character of villages was to not allow development up to boundaries. This creates an urban feel. The affordability of rural housing was also a consideration.

### 13 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

ACTION

13.1 Consultation on Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Though this currently affects Portsmouth, Southampton and the New Forest, Newnham should remain a consultee. Future concerns would be:

- i The possible siting of a new waste processing plant/incinerator on Hook Common at the Highways depot – being a County Council resource.
- ii Extracting minerals, eg gravel, from along the Whitewater Valley, as was in the original Hook New Town proposal of 1961. The implications would be horrendous for Newnham as it could ultimately mean sacrificing Hook as it is and creating a much bigger community (not necessarily the originally proposed 100,000 inhabitants but many more than the current approx 6,000) and the infrastructure pressures would certainly affect our residents.

13.2 Invitation to Mayor's Parish Assembly and Conference 30th November Chairman to attend plus Cllrs Mann and Bauermeister if they are available.

CHAIR  
CLLRS  
MANN &  
BAUER-  
MEISTER

**14 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA** SHLAA, Parish Assembly, Community Plan, Newnham Road Pavement, BEST Payment and Gateway, Clubroom, SLR.

**15 FUTURE MEETINGS** Tuesday January 12th, Tuesday March 9th (note Cllr Mann unavailable on this date, reassess at Jan meeting); Parish Assembly Tuesday 13th April.

**16 MEETING CLOSED** at 10pm.