

North Newington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2015 at 7.30pm
at Bishop Carpenter School, School lane, North Newington.

Present: Cllrs D Jennings, G Doidge, P Espinasse and M Davison.
Clerk S Davis
Apologises Cllr S Holford
Guests Pound Planning Committee – M Allen, C Hall, Mr and Mrs Cherry, A
Dawson and S Ludden. Cllr Reynolds also attended

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. These were agreed and signed.

2. Declaration of interest

1. There was a Declaration of Interest from M Davison regarding item 3.1 of the agenda.
Cllr Davison was asked to leave the meeting and return to continue later to continue with the PC Agenda

3. Matters Arising

1. **Allotment Gardens Feedback** - Members of the community attended the meeting in order to discuss the appeal towards the planning application at the Allotment Gardens. The planning had been approved by the members of CDC planning committee despite the recommendations of refusal by the Parish Council and a large number of objections from the community. However, there was a clause in the planning that the landowner has to prove that he has the right of access via The Pound. This has been the main point of all objections as the land has previously been a garden for one of the cottages and was no open to The Pound at any point, until this owner purchased it. There are historical references in the information that the pc has on file that the land owner was told to rebuild the wall by the Appeal Committee, but these have no been chased up by the relevant authorities.

The Pound is not common land, there is no common land in North Newington. If the land were found to have an owner then the land would be adoptable, however this is where the circular argument comes in:- there is no registered owner that can be found. This does not mean that there is no owner but as the owner can not be found then the land can not be adopted. OCC does have responsibility for maintaining The Pound to the status of footpath, although they do not own the land. It is illegal to drive over a footpath, unless you have permission to do so in your deeds. As the Allotment gardens were just a garden with no right of way from The Pound, it is very unlikely that there will be details on the deeds giving vehicular access.

So what are the options for the village? Firstly, the information that was received through the Freedom of Information act has to be read and reviewed. Secondly, there has to be a period of time given to see what legal documentation the land owner will present to show their right of access. Thirdly, if NNPC is to consider pursuing the rights of adoption, then it should be for all the unregistered land in North Newington, not just The Pound but that may that leave the PC with challenges in terms of insurance and legal responsibility? Also the Community have been legally advised to write Declarations to be included in the Planning Packets stating that the Pound was never used for vehicular access during living memory until this particular land owner.

They could also show their rights of legal access if necessary. The PC would be happy to contribute with a declaration if required. If matters were to be pursued further with legal input and costs, then as the PC does represent all of the village, the community at large would have to be asked what financial risks they would be comfortable in accepting. SD to organise the information from the Freedom of Information act and feedback to the PC/CDC.

2. **Bus Subsidies Reduction** – There is currently a public consultation on reducing Bus subsidies within the County. Whilst there is a low risk to our local transport services (269 and 270), there is a large risk of losing transport to Chipping Norton and Stratford. These would affect those services currently used by the local community to get to schools and work in these areas. The local parishes are considering putting a joint response in and have been approached by another Parish Council to do so. SD to speak with the clerk involved.

Planning Permission

1. There were no new planning applications this month. However the following applications have been **approved**.
 - 15/00421/F - Agricultural Dwelling at Paradise Fields
 - 15/00119/TCA – Cyprus Hedge Reduction
 - 15/00182/TCA – 5 day Holly Fell at the Hollies
 - 15/00307/F – Single story dwelling at the Roebuck.

5. **Finance**

1. **Audit** – The audit has now been prepared and all relevant documentation has been sent off to BDO. SD to answer any further queries.
2. **Income and Expenditure** – The monthly accounts were reviewed by the financial officer at this meeting. They were found to be a correct and accurate account. Proposed PE, Seconded DJ All agreed.
3. **Bill Payment** – There were no bill payments for this month.

6. **Children's Playground**

1. There are no problems in the normal checks on the playground. DJ to continue with the diary at this present time. The Bench will need to have a coat of varnish and a sand down shortly. The playground inspection will take place this month and any works from that should be done as soon as possible.

7. **Clerks Business**

1. Both candidates from the previous meeting still wish to apply for the position of clerk to North Newington. They have been approached for their CV's and an interview date will be proposed and carried out as soon as possible.

8. **A.O.B**

1. The new signature sheets for the bank account needed to be signed by all members of the Parish Council. This will take into account all the changes that have happened within the recent months. This will bring the Mandates for the Bank Account and payment instruction into line with the current NNPC requirements and in accordance with the Banks procedures.

- The next meeting will be on 8th September 2015 Meeting Closed at 9.10pm