

Long Newton Parish Council

Minutes of the full council meeting held on September 2017

Members

Diane Cronin Chair

Katherine Landale

Richard George

Jill Peacey

In attendance; Andrea Warrington- (Clerk)

Joined the meeting : James Fenton, Long Newton Resident

Apologies Received: Debs Brock Doyle – Vice Chair

2-2017/18	1	Apologies for Absence – Debs Brock Doyle
2-2017/18	2	Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda – None received
2-2017/18	3	To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13 June 2017 – It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held 13 th June 2017 as true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Cronin Seconded Cllr Landale, 2 in favour.
2-2017/18	4	Public questions (if any) None at this time – however Mr Fenton (village resident) joined the meeting alter ans was permitted to ask questions in this instance outside of normal protocols.
2-2017/18	5	<p>Clerk's Report: We heard from Grant Thornton regarding the annual return. Apparently we should have included the gates as a fixed asset in the report. This will be amended on the next annual return and at that time we should also consider how we show the purchase of computer, printer etc. Plant troughs have been planted up with summer bedding plants and are looking good.</p> <p>Note: James Fenton joined the meeting.</p>
2-2017/18	6	<p>Wildlife in village report – Cllr. Richard George: The recent nature walk and Bat evening had been a great success. A small but extremely enthusiastic group of villagers met outside the church at dusk. Glen Norris from Avon Wildlife had set up a game for us to appreciate how bats find their way in the dark which proved a great success (even though there were no children present). The bat detectors were distributed each with a differing frequency to detect different species of bat. We spent an enjoyable couple of hours monitoring the bat activity and as it began to get dark we walked down Green Lane and were rewarded with several species of bat clearly heard and identified by their unique call. It appears that Green Lane is like a motorway for bats and the open fields on each side with the diverse hedging and vegetation bordering the walk makes it a perfect runway for the bats to find their food. Richard reported that we would be trying to arrange a follow up visit possibly talking about owls and other wildlife but the details are yet to be confirmed. We also spent some time in the Churchyard where we had hoped to see a mass of ladybirds which had been identified by Glen on a previous visit. However, the right-hand side of the churchyard had been cut and we were unable to find the Ladybirds. It was wondered if it would be possible to keep a strip of about a metre from the wall uncut until much later in the year to allow these ladybirds to feed. This would not come out further than the graves and shouldn't impact on the tidiness of the Churchyard. We will approach Arthur Witchell to see if this can be arranged in future.</p> <p>It was also suggested that Glen could do a talk about Wildlife in the village at a future pub night. Will need to talk to Andrew Tucker regarding this.</p>
2-2017/18	7	<p>Highways Update on village- Highways had attempted to patch the road from Church Farm to the A433 filling in quite a few of the pot holes in line with the previous agreement with the PC</p> <p>We have received a complaint from Mr Tucker regarding the large lorries who are accessing Melcourt by using Newton Hill from the A433. This problem has been raised with Melcourt and we have details of correspondence between these parties. Melcourt are ensuring that all their known drivers know that this is not an acceptable route. However, it appears that the weight restriction signs on the A433 are missing. Di has been in touch with the highways team and Gill Portlock (Amey)_stated that there should be a blue sign on the A433 in both directions indicating the weight restriction, and she wasn't sure why there wasn't anymore. She is going to look in to this and revert back. Assuming the signs need to be reinstated we asked for a timeline, which she said was normally 6 months, however, she will look at how she can speed this up for us. Di also asked whether the current weight limit was correct, as it seems quite high for the size of the road. Again, she will look into this and revert back. However, if the current limit is correct and we wanted to reduce it, there is a cost of £20k to do this and a lead-time of 2 years!</p> <p>The location for the speed camera posts has been agreed but we may have to wait 6 months for the installation. Di has tried to bring this forward to October as we are being requested to complete the quarterly return for the Police Commissioners Fund which is not possible if the camera isn't installed. It</p>

		has also been confirmed that the camera will just register the speed, time and number of the passing vehicles.
2-2017/18	8	Website – The website is now being updated with relevant information as and when received. Debs is to undergo training to enable her to update the content when necessary as well as Andrea. This is to be arranged. We will shortly receive an invoice to cover the setting up and ongoing running costs which was broadly similar to the original quote.
2-2017/18	9	Broadband Speed – Bean has suggested that residents are encouraged to record their broadband speeds and report back so that we can compile a report. It may be sensible to link in with other nearby villages to lobby for faster broadband speeds. Bean to let Andrea know details of how to check speeds and Andrea will send out an email to village to collate replies.
2-2017/18	10	Finance
	11	To approve payments (if any), Planters purchase and preparation £225.47
	12	To receive most recent income and expenditure figures: Income Nil – Expenditure as above
		Bank Balance at meeting date £9511.24
2-2017/18	13	<p>Planning - To agree the Councils response on the following applications received 17/03318/FUL</p> <p>It should be noted that Mr James Fenton owner of the property in question was present and joined in with the discussions.</p> <p>Debs Brock-Doyle on behalf of The Parish Council spoken to Andrew Moody (CDC planner). He has no issue with the request and has suggested that, once this is agreed, his expectation is that the rest of the hard standing will be removed and the site tidied up, container etc removed. The request is: a thin strip of land which is nominal; where they changed the drive access it has left a small corner where the bins are and it makes sense to incorporate this within the curtilage; and finally the request for a turning circle is really small and also makes sense.</p> <p>Mr Fenton was advised that any new planning application would be reviewed at time of application. And we could not discuss at this meeting. He was also advised that the Parish Councils position was that all of the outstanding actions pertaining to the site needed to be implemented prior to any additional planning being sought.</p> <p>Mr Fenton was also told that his planning had to go through all the correct channels prior to us reviewing it and no new building/site change would be supported without the correct applications made prior to works starting.</p> <p>Some further key points that were discussed:</p> <p><u>Verge mowing</u></p> <p>Mr Fenton stated he is mowing a number of the verges along Church Lane. It was made very clear that The parish Council only have permission to do a narrow strip along the verge, remainder to remain uncut for wildlife. Mr Fenton was advised that if wished to continue to do this it was at his own risk due to H&S issues, and that he could only cut the narrow strip.</p> <p>Mr Fenton stated that he wants to plant trees on the opposite verge to his house. The PC stated very clearly that this was not possible as the land is owned by the Highways Agency, and such activity could be considered as trespassing. All verge management has to be agreed by the Parish Council before any work is undertaken.</p> <p><u>Bridlepath</u></p> <p>Mr Fenton stated that he had been cutting back the overhanging branches on the bridlepath by the Church, and stated he would be willing to re-gravel the path. Again Mr Fenton was told this was a bridle path and had already been resurfaced a few years ago. He was advised that the Parish Council have no accountability for this, and that any actions taken were at his own risk and not supported by the Parish Council.</p>
2-2017/18	14	<p>To consider and agree any responses to correspondence received for reply – CAB request for donation</p> <p>Donation of £100 was agreed proposed by Di Cronin and seconded by Bean Landale two in favour. Clerk to arrange payment. However, we need to know which out of Stroud and Cirencester branches we support before sending. Di was going to find out and let the clerk know. Di please contact Andrea</p>
		Other Matters: None
		Date of next meeting Thursday 7 th December 2017
		Agenda items for next meeting:
		<i>Andrea Warrington Clerk/RFO Long Newnton Parish Council</i>

