

NEWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Linby Suite Newstead Centre on Monday 15th September 2014

- 1. Present:** Cllrs: Mrs. P A Wise (Chairman), Mrs D Adams, Mrs J Booth, Ms H Crouch, and Mr P Burnham.
Also present were Mr P Bateman (Chairman of Future Newstead), Helen Scott and Sharon Herriott (both members of Future Newstead).
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were sent from Cllr Mrs P Young.
- 3. Declarations of Personal & Prejudicial Interest:** Tricia Wise declared as interest in matters relating to the Newstead Centre as a Trustee of the Newstead Centre.
- 4. To Discuss the Report/Update on the Newstead Parish Plan (specifically matters relating to the Newstead Centre)**
It was agreed to defer discussion of this item until later in the meeting to allow time for any further trustees of the Newstead Centre to attend this meeting.
- 5. To Discuss the Remainder of the Report/Update**
For the benefit of Cllrs present Mr P Bateman summarised his Report/Update on the Newstead Parish Plan 2008-2018.

Essentially the remit of Future Newstead had been to implement the aims of the Parish Plan with the support of the Parish Council and residents of Newstead. Since the inception of the Plan some 6 years ago a number of initiatives had been tackled successfully and lots of positive work has been done such as the Facebook page for Newstead. However there have also been some issues which Future Newstead have not been able to influence, nor have any impact and these are coloured coded as red in the plan. Also, the economic climate has changed substantially for the worse since the plan was first written. The question that Future Newstead has raised is whether they spend the next four years sticking to their original remit of trying to address what are now perceived to be unachievable aims in the Parish Plan or evolve into a more independent group to address any new and ongoing issues in the community.

Mr Bateman also acknowledged that funding for the meetings of Future Newstead were paid for by the Parish Council and they were now seeking advice from the Council as to where to go next and what role to assume.

The Chairman noted that many of the objectives listed in the Parish Plan had been achieved and she congratulated FN on their progress to date.

The aims where no progress had been made were then discussed in more detail by Cllrs and members of Future Newstead.

Overall Vision

In terms of preserving the rural environment, it was agreed that this would now be outside the scope of Future Newstead where future development in the areas surrounding Newstead had been determined in the Aligned Core Strategy (i.e. Top Wighay), or had happened already (i.e. Annesley Colliery site)

Communication

Produce Plan of Village - The Clerk advised that although the Council had received details of the plan denoting ownership and responsibility for areas of land in the village, she was continuing to use this as a working document with information to be added to this on an ad hoc basis as and when new details

emerged. In term of the lectern/map for visitors, Cllrs agreed that 'Google earth' now fulfilled the same function and as such this was probably not now required. As a result of the Clerk's disclosure, it was felt that perhaps this point should now be accorded with an 'Amber' status rather than 'Red' at present.

Health - It was agreed that in the current economic climate, there would be little point in pursuing the expansion of health care services.

Community Safety

Establish Police Contact Point - Again with the closure of the existing Police Contact Point in Ravenshead and the well documented closure of several Police stations in larger town centres, the chances of meeting this goal were considered to be negligible.

Establish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Again without volunteers from the Community interested in establishing a neighbourhood watch, it was recognised this scheme will simply not happen.

Environment

To reduce the impact of motor bikes - Problems continued to occur regarding unauthorised use of motorbikes on Newstead and Annesley County Park. Owners of the land, RCAN have struggled to deal with this issue and have had so many locks cropped they no longer put them on the gates. It was recognised that surveillance would only be improved once the visitor centre was occupied on a permanent basis. Cllr Burnham felt the only solution was to keep reporting offenders to the Police.

To Ensure Streets are Clean - Again it was recognised that as much had been done to encourage residents not to drop litter with particular problems still occurring in respect of dog fouling. It was felt that only when offenders are prosecuted would this lead to any improvement. The Clerk to the Council advised the meeting that in respect of any incidents of flytipping details could be passed to her to report the matter to Gedling

Borough Council. Sharon Herriot confirmed she was already on first name terms with the Street Cleansing department at Gedling Borough Council and also regularly reported such incidents.

Transport - The Parish Council could offer no further solutions to address this issue. It was recognised with increasing cuts to local government funding, further movement on traffic lights at the end of Annesley Cutting/A611 would be unlikely. It was agreed the Parish Council would continue to work with Annesley PC to lobby for improvements to this junction

Network Rail - It was considered unlikely that Network Rail would provide a footbridge/ full safety barriers etc. The position regarding a crossing at Bestwood was noted where improvements were put in hand only after the deaths of several individuals whilst crossing the line.

Facilities

Newstead Abbey - It was considered unlikely that unlimited access by car to Newstead Abbey would be granted to residents of the village. On the plus side it was noted that members of the Parish Council were now engaged in regular dialogue with the staff at the Abbey.

Permanent Keep Fit Facility - Mr Bateman advised that a bid submitted to WREN for gym equipment had been turned down, as did a bid for LIS funding. Quotes obtained for the work have now lapsed. In a nutshell following a number of unsuccessful bids for this equipment FN have run out of steam in pursuing this.

Access to Leisure Facilities - Also in terms of providing residents with access to leisure facilities at a discounted rate, it was noted that most of Newstead residents had no means of accessing leisure facilities in Arnold, Carlton Calverton and Redhill. Mr Bateman confirmed that on numerous occasions discussions had been held with Ashfield District Council regarding access by Newstead residents under the 'passport to leisure' scheme. He advised that the matter had been taken up by Deborah Widdowson to no avail. The matter had even been raised at meetings of the Clinical Commissioning Bodies as a

means of promoting better health in Newstead but still no success. Future Newstead had written several times to both Councils (Ashfield and Gedling) to work together to produce a compromise, but that also produced no results.

Residents to Shop Locally - Comments received at the meeting indicated that the range of products available in the shop had got worse, not better. It was felt there was no real attempt to integrate into the community by the shop owner. It was recognised that the store was merely ticking over.

Station Hotel - Finally discussion turned to the present state of Station Hotel where it was agreed this building was of local importance and the possibility of applying for a preservation order on the same. Housing proposals on the land behind the Public House were also discussed where it was confirmed by Cllr Wise that developers have been trying to secure access to the site via the car park to the Newstead Centre. She advised that part of the car park was owned by Network Rail and that the Trustees do not want to sell their part of this land as then they would be unable to provide parking for users of the Newstead Centre.

4. **To Discuss the Report/Update on the Newstead Parish Plan (specifically matters relating to the Newstead Centre)** - *This item has been moved to the confidential section of the minutes*

6. **To Discuss the Future Implementation of the Parish Plan and Remit of Future Newstead in respect of the Above**

Mr Bateman advised the Council that a further meeting of Future Newstead would be held on the 16th Sept when recommendations from this meeting would be fed back to other members and a new chairman of the group would be chosen.

The Vice Chairman of the Council advised that councillors agreed with Future Newstead that many of the remaining goals left in the Parish Plan were unachievable and that to exist solely to fulfil the original remit was a waste in terms of volunteer time and money. In her opinion she did not want to see Future Newstead disbanded as she believed there was still a place for a group who could periodically revisit the Plan in the event that either circumstances or the economic climate changed. She also felt that if Future Newstead wished to continue it should do so free of the original constraints.

The Chairman of the Council advised there was a possibility that another group could be formed. She acknowledged there was a problem re the restrictions on the present constitution of the group and that this felt wrong. She acknowledged that circumstances have changed and that the remit of Future Newstead should also change, for example, to look at the Locality Plan and any other ongoing issues. In summary she felt that Future Newstead should be free to morph into something different.

Paul Bateman confirmed that response from the Council would be fed back to other members of Future Newstead at their next meeting who would now look to redefine their role.

7. **Any Other Business the Chairman Considered Urgent**

No other items were raised.