

NEWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Sherwood Room of Newstead Centre on Wednesday 5 April 2017

1. **Present** Cllrs: Mrs P Young (Chairman), Mrs D Adams, Mr C Bicknell, Mr R Butler, Miss H Scott and Ms J Smith. Also present were Ward Cllrs Mr B Andrews and Mr C Powell, County Cllr C Barnfather and 9 members of the public. Apologies were also received from Cllr Mr P Burnham.

2. **Review of the Year by the Chairman.**

The Chairman read her report outlining the work undertaken during for the year, which is attached as an appendix to these minutes. In addition to the report, she also wished to thank the Ward Cllrs Colin Powell and Bruce Andrews for work undertaken in the parish and also County Cllr Chris Barnfather.

3. **Annual Report from County Cllr and Ward Cllrs**

Cllr Barnfather welcomed the addition of the micropub to Newstead village. He was delighted to welcome new trustees onto the Newstead Centre charity, which he had discussed with CISWO along with John Robinson, Chief Executive at Gedling Borough Council and Mark Spencer MP.

With assistance from Gedling Borough Council, there will be training for the new trustees along with work towards a new business plan for the centre. Other issues covered by him included:

- Consultation to reduce the proposed speed limit on Hucknall Road to 50 mph.
- There has been a public inquiry on the Gedling Local plan but in terms of the housing proposed on land off Station Road, Newstead, there is no sign of an expected date when building work is likely to commence.
- Tacking antisocial behaviour from off road bikers, which has caused much damage at the County Park.
- Acted in negotiations between the Borough Council and RCAN in respect of Annual Community Fund.
- Chaired the first meeting of the revised Newstead Locality Group.
- He was pleased to support the continuation of the lengthsman's scheme for 2017/2018.
- Praised the Parish Council for fantastic Christmas tree.

Cllr Powell advised that as one of the Ward Cllrs, he had a remit to cover all villages in Newstead ward including Linby and Pappwick, but had been extremely impressed by the commitment put in by Newstead councillors who were much deserving of thanks from the parish.

Cllr B Andrews also spoke on the work undertaken to get new trustees in place at the Newstead Centre and was pleased to support the micro pub. He also spoke on the church and the Youth Club. He commented that whilst the Youth Club had had a bad year, he was pleased to report they were now making progress in the new venue at St Mary's Church.

3. **Any items that members of the public wished to discuss with Councillors.**

The following items were raised by members of the public

- Lack of information to local residents on various groups within the parish. It subsequently transpired that distribution of the village newsletter had at best been patchy or in some places had not been received at all. Cllr Chris Barnfather offered to pay for distribution of the current edition of the newsletter from his funds.
- Complaints about use of drugs in the village including the alleged sale of drugs outside the school premises.
- Parishioners advised that work carried out by Western Power on Fraser Street to lay new power cables under pavement had begun to subside leaving a 'hollowed' appearance in the pavement.

- A resident was not happy in terms of topple testing carried out in the cemeteries, which she felt was down to use of mechanised mowing by the Council's contractor. Various health and safety documents requested from the Council. She also felt it was the Parish Council's responsibility to pay for the repair. It was agreed by Councillor these documents would be sent to her. The Clerk then explained that failure of concrete between the base of the grave and headstone due to wear and tear generally had caused the majority of the issues and explained that headstones installed from the turn of the century were now fitted with dowels, which prevented the headstone from toppling once the mortar between the joints had failed. It was also explained that headstones remained the responsibility of the families who installed them otherwise the cost of making safe would be borne by all ratepayers in the parish, including those who had chosen not to be buried.
- Residents asked why the Council had asked for the Youth Shelter to be removed from the skate park. Cllr Adams explained this was at the request of children using the park, where this was used by older youths for antisocial behaviour, the taking of drugs and as a 'toilet'.
- Two residents were concerned at the impact of a new planning application to vary the number of horses at Quarry Banks stables to a maximum of 25. It was explained that the route often taken to the stables passed within one metre from their home. This is only a narrow lane with no passing places. The residents concerned had noted an increase in traffic and horse activity generally and had made a complaint to Gedling Borough Council, who had subsequently secured a retrospective planning application, which was now out for comment. It was explained that planning permission was originally granted in 2001, for a maximum of 10 horses managed by the stables themselves. There are currently 18 horses on site at present, with these being managed on a self livery basis. With the current application requesting permission for up to 25 horses, it was explained this could potentially result in over 100 visits to the stables per day, along what are essentially private lanes and would significantly affect the amenity of residents living in properties on route to the stables. The Chairman of the Council also commented that in addition to disturbance by cars, there had also been an increase in noise from horse riders passing close to her property on the same track. The residents asked if the Council would support their objections to this application.
- One resident queried the extent of the parish boundary.
- One resident queried length of time taken for the minutes to appear on the village website. It was noted these were usually sent to the person who updated the website only after they had been approved at the following meeting.

As there was no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Appendix A

Report from the Chairman

2016/17 has been a busy year and one in which we said goodbye to Cllr Beverley Blood who left the area and had served the council for 10 years. We also had a resignation from Cllr Conor Bullivant and welcomed Richard Butler as a new councillor for Newstead Ward. We still have 2 vacancies for the Abbey Ward.

I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work this year not only in meetings but evenings and weekends to make this Parish a better place to live, work and relax. This year has seen a number of changes and challenges.

As a council we have a number of statutory obligations and I won't go into all in detail but suffice to say we have reviewed a number of planning applications, however we do not have the power to determine these.

Cemetery

One of our more important statutory obligations is to maintain the cemetery and it cannot have escaped notice that the old cemetery wall collapsed in high winds in 2016. Whilst the council would have liked to replace the wall we did not have the resources to do so. The wall has been replaced with a fence and hedge, which will in time hide the fence. In response to a complaint about arisings being left near a grave councillors undertook a weekend clean up and tidy of the old cemetery.

In the new cemetery councillors responded to concerns about overhanging trees causing shade but felt that as this is a woodland cemetery we would only carry out essential pruning. Thoughts about starting the cemetery extension with an area of contemplation have been put on hold due to more pressing matters.

In response to concerns about parking in front of the cemetery gates the council installed a parking post.

Unfortunately this was damaged a number of times and had to be reset. A parking sign has also been erected in the cemetery car park and we hope that visitors to the cemetery will use this as there is increased parking space since its renovation.

Newstead Meadow

This has been mowed and harrowed and looks lovely in the summer with wild flowers. We hope that people will take advantage of this and use the picnic tables. We are hoping to have bee hives in place by May this year.

Skateboard Park & Children's Playground

You may have noticed that there is new graffiti artwork including young people's names to gain a sense of ownership. The railings have been painted, the spiders web checked for safety and the old shelter removed. The children's playground has also been repainted.

Maintaining the Village

The council has undertaken to maintain the area of grass around the youth club on behalf of the Newstead Centre as well as cleaning up branches from the village green and maintaining this area. It was agreed not to enter the best kept village last year but to seek engagement with residents to see if this was something that they would like to do. Councillors have continued to have regular litter picks and I would particularly like to thank Richard who does this on his way to work on a daily basis.

The council was disappointed with the floral display produced by Gedling Borough Council last year, particularly as we have taken over responsibility for watering them. Two hanging baskets were stolen. In an attempt to improve things councillors agreed to look after the tiered planters and gave up their time on a Saturday to tidy these up and planted 16 fuchsias. It was very disappointing to see that nearly all these plants were stolen in the first week. We will however continue to plant these for the village.

The PC donated a significant amount of money towards the installation of lights on the MUGA so that young people could use this all year round. There were some initial problems with shading but this has now been rectified.

Newstead Centre

The Parish Council has been instrumental in gaining agreement from CISWO for the appointment of new Trustees to the Newstead Centre. We hope that this will enable the centre to become economically viable. We also hope that the Youth Club building can be made fit for purpose and the youth club can return there should they decide to do so.

Wind Turbine

This has caused concern to a number of parishioners. The community fund that was mentioned in the application was not payable to the Parish Council. We requested that the PC manage this fund but after a number of discussions with RCAN were only able to secure £1500 for each of the Parish Councils. The remainder of £4500 is with RCAN for use on the country park to be decided by the Friends of N&A CP.

War Memorial

We were particularly pleased last year to have obtained funding to highlight the lettering on the War Memorial in silver paint then greatly saddened by the damage to the railings and part of the stone work by a car. Fortunately Northfield Construction has offered to try and repair the railings free of charge as a gesture of good will to the village.

Off Road Bikes

These have continued to be a problem and the Parish Council continues in its discussions with the police. However it is the responsibility of all concerned parishioners to report these incidences.

Xmas Tree

The PC considers the re-siting of the Xmas tree next to the bus stop as one of its best achievements this year. We had many positive comments and this Xmas will endeavour to have the lights on for longer so that people going to work on dark mornings can see it. The tree was delivered but councillors themselves had to supervise the erection and decoration and chock the tree in place and likewise ensure removal. A big thank you to everyone involved in doing that on a couple of very cold days.

Clerk

Finally I would like to thank Jane our clerk for all her hard work, knowledge and enthusiasm.

Pam Young
Chairman of Newstead Parish Council