

NEWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Sherwood Room of Newstead Centre on Wednesday 4 January 2017

1. **Present:** Cllrs: Mrs P Young (Chairman), Mrs D Adams, Mr C Bicknell, Mr R Butler, Miss H Scott and Ms J Smith, plus County Cllr Mr C Barnfather and Ward Cllr Mr B Andrews.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Mr P Burnham and Cllr Mr C Powell.
3. **Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**
Cllrs Bicknell and Scott declared an interest in any matters relating to the Newstead Centre as potential Trustees of the Centre.
4. **Approval of the Minutes 7 December 2016**
It was proposed and seconded the minutes be approved as a true record and this was agreed.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - 5.1 **Topple Testing** – Several graves have been taped off and urgent risk assessments of all affected graves is now required to assess whether the loose graves present a risk to the public. The Parish Council has received several queries over the Christmas period and the Clerk is aware that one repair was to be carried out. On further investigation of the burial records, the Clerk advised that there were several graves in the New Cemetery where there was no information on file of the next of kin. A meeting has been arranged for next Tuesday with Anthony Clarke when the risk assessment would be undertaken and it was agreed that in respect of those graves where the relatives were unknown, the Clerk would authorize the necessary action on behalf of the Council albeit repair, lay down or stake out the grave, subject to the limit agreed in the new financial regs for emergency expenditure. Cllr Smith advised she had been approached by her neighbour upset at the way that her son's grave had been taped off. There had also been a complaint regarding leaves in the cemetery but no action was felt necessary where this was seen as an inevitable consequence of opting to be buried in a woodland cemetery.
 - 5.2 **Junction of Fraser Street/Tilford Road** - It was reported that two salt bins had been installed at the end of Chapel Terrace but none at Vicarage Corner. For the present moment, it was agreed that these bins remain in situ where they are currently full. Clerk to discuss with Highways.
 - 5.3 **Matters relating to the Newstead Centre** – Copy of a response to John Robinson from the new Chief Executive has been copied to Cllrs. Cllr Chris Barnfather then spoke on a further meeting held with Donald Brookes. Contrary to what was said previously, he was advised by Donald Brookes, Regional Manager for C.I.S.W.O, there were currently only three trustees of the Newstead Centre as the forms for Anne Halliwell had never been processed. As a result Donald Brookes advised there was no reason why two of the five potential trustees put forward could not be nominated immediately as representatives of CISWO and this will be completed on Thursday 5th January. The appointment of the remaining three would take a little longer as it would be necessary for their nominations to be endorsed by the UDM. Cllr Barnfather also checked with Cllrs Scott and Bicknell as to whether they still wished to be trustees, to which the answer was yes and who would also check with other trustees that this was still the case.
 - 5.4 **Planning/Annual Community Fund** – Item to be discussed later in the meeting under 'Planning'.
 - 5.5 **Vacancy on the Abbey Ward** - No candidates have put themselves forward for this position.
 - 5.6 **West Lodge** (Erection of Gazebo & bridge) – This application has been refused planning permission. It was considered highly likely that this application would now go to appeal as a 'stand alone' application.
 - 5.7 **Newstead Centre Christmas Party** – Feedback on this event was requested but unfortunately no one knew anyone who had attended. The Clerk advised the Council of a conversation which she and the Chairman had with the Co-ordinator for the Newstead Centre, where she advised that details of the event had been given to Newstead Primary School to pass to children. It was agreed that Cllr Bicknell would check in his daughter's school bag for such a notification but nothing had been mentioned specifically by her.

- 5.8 CCTV on Station Road – A new CCTV camera has been installed at this location and looks very similar to the one on Tilford Road.
- 5.9 Vicarage Corner – This has been reported along with further tipping (2 black bags of rubbish), which were noted when the Clerk visited the notice boards last week. Acknowledgement received from Gedling Borough Council.
- 5.10 VIA East Midlands – Letter sent objecting to new speed limit proposed of 50mph on Hucknall Road, also copied to Mark Spencer, Chris Barnfather and Debbie Widdowson (she requested further details on this matter). An acknowledgement had received from VIA that the objection had been received prior to consultation deadline. Cllr Barnfather advised the Council that whilst he had been aware of the objection by the Parish Council to a revised speed limit of 50mph, he felt the Parish Council should accept this new limit on the basis that if a new limit cannot be agreed, the Notts County Council will simply not pursue any speed reduction along this road, especially if this was likely to lead to increased legal fees. The Council agreed that any reduction in the speed limit on this road was better than none at all. It was noted this decision was unlikely to go down well with Cllr Burnham.
- 5.11 Newstead Locality Group – Meeting now deferred until the 27th January
- 5.12 The Old Cemetery – The Probation Trust has strimmed the Old Cemetery and finished planting the hedge. The Parish Council does however need to carry out a survey of trees in the cemetery. Cllr Scott drew attention to a window grill on the Mortuary Chapel which had been pulled away from the window.
- 5.13 Matters Arising (from previous meetings) - An email has been sent to Marlec (suppliers of the MUGU lights) by Debbie Widdowson on behalf of Gedling Borough Council expressing disappointment that the lights are not casting enough light. Copies of the email sent have been forwarded to Cllrs.
- 5.14 Micropub - Cllr Barnfather advised the meeting that planning permission has now been granted on Newstead Sports Pavilion for change of use to include a micropub. All that remains is for Lorraine to agree a lease with Gedling Borough Council on the pavilion.
- 5.15 Newstead Youth Club – The Chairman advised that she had been in receipt of an email from Emma Astill, Youth Leader, who had accused her of gossiping and spreading rumours regarding accusations of her (Emma) being involved with criminal damage at the Youth Club, which had been copied to several councillors and others. The Chairman advised the Council that she wished it to be placed on record that she had not spread or had taken part in any discussions, nor made any allegations whatsoever concerning Emma. Her only comment was to state to former member of the Youth Centre that she felt the best place for the Youth Club was the Youth Centre building (as opposed to the Church), a view which she had already made known at the last council meeting. Cllr Barnfather said in the case of the Youth Centre building, he had spoken to Youth Services who have advised that they themselves see the Youth Centre building as being the best place for the Youth Club and in the best location. Cllr Barnfather has tried to get the Notts County Council to commit some funding towards refurbishment of the Youth Centre building but because the use of the building is not exclusively available for the Youth Club, it was felt that any funding would be contingent on an agreement being reached between the Youth Centre Committee and the Trustees of the Newstead Centre as to whom would have use of the building, responsibility for maintenance, utility bills, etc. This agreement could either be a formal lease agreement or more probably some form of ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ with each party being aware of what they are responsible for.

A separate meeting has been subsequently held with Trish Wise, Trustee and Jane Daniels, Co-ordinator for the Centre, whereby it was agreed to build relationships with the Youth Centre in future. It is also intended to set up regular user group meetings say every 4 to 6 weeks, in which any issues of mutual concern. Ideally these meetings will properly minuted including notes as to action to be taken, by whom and when.

The Clerk asked whether was possible for some of her time to be utilised by helping to write this ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ along with Cllr Barnfather. This was agreed by the Council.

The meeting was then closed to allow the public to participate.

No matters were raised during the public session.

Meeting reopened

6. Accounts

6.1 Receipts and Payments

Receipts

£2.01	Interest on deposit account (October)
£1.36	Interest on deposit account (November)
£1.32	Interest on deposit account (December)

Cheques for Approval

100380	Newstead Centre	£100.00	Donation towards presents for children invited to Christmas party put on for local residents.
100381	Newstead Centre	£45.00	Room hire costs for December Council meeting.
100382	Mrs P Young	£15.00	Chairman's allowance (December)
100383	Mrs J Johnson	£357.90	Clerks wages for December.
100384	Notts County Council	£97.33	Pension Contributions for Clerk (December) plus deficit payment.
100385	Mrs J Johnson	£95.52	Clerk's expenses (includes full set of black and coloured Ink cartridges.
			Postage/Other £79.42
			Tel/Broadband £8.00
			Mobile Calls Nil
			Mileage <u>£8.10</u>
			TOTAL <u>£95.52</u>

These accounts were approved as stated.

7. The Lengthsmans Scheme

In absence of any further jobs put forward, the Clerk had asked the lengthsmen to undertake repair of the fence at Vicarage Corner plus strimming of the overgrowth on the left hand side of the verge from the edge of the sports field to Vicarage Corner within the remaining work time allocated to the Parish Council.

8. Matters concerning Newstead Village

8.1 Barriers for the Christmas Tree – Circulated with the agenda had been an estimate for the supply of barriers to be erected around the Christmas tree in future years. This included cost of installing some permanent leg sockets into which the barrier would be placed. The barriers themselves would be dismantled once the tree was taken down which could be either galvanised or powder coated finished which would cost slightly more. The cost for 3 panels each being 60cm high and 300 cm wide was quoted as £109 plus VAT, or £122 plus VAT for powder coated. The specification for the barriers were discussed with the following agreed:

- The number of barriers to be purchased – 4.
- Finish on barrier – Power Coated in Green
- Style and design of barriers – Cllrs were happy with the design as circulated
- Where stored when not in use – It was agreed to ask the Newstead Centre to store the barrier on behalf of the Council ***NB Failing this they could be stored at the Mortuary Chapel.***
- The sockets would need to be covered when not in use.

In discussing decorating the tree next year, many Cllrs had noted the star fitted on top of the Christmas Tree at Linby and it was agreed to ask Wyn Lewis (Linby Parish Councillor) from where this was obtained.

The Clerk was also asked to retrieve the lights from Gedling Borough Council to be stored at the Chairman's home.

8.2 23 Tilford Road – It was noted that this house was now boarded up and it was assumed the tenant had now moved out

8.3 Boarded Homes on Tilford Road – It was noted that two homes had been boarded up on Tilford Road. It was agreed the Clerk would ascertain whether these homes belonged to Gedling Homes and what was happening,

where these homes were seen as a blight on the street scene. Cllr Bicknell agreed to furnish the exact address i.e. the numbers of the homes concerned.

9. Matters concerning Newstead Abbey Park

None

10. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was specifically discussed

10.1 Police and Parishes Meeting – Cllr Burnham had received notification that the next meeting of the Police and Parishes meeting will take place on 24th February at 6pm in an as yet an unknown location. Along with the notification the Police were trying to identify a venue for the meeting. As yet no location had been agreed but it was advised that when this meeting was previously held in the Newstead Centre, the Parish Council had to foot the bill for the meeting.

10.2 Notts County Council Local Government Pension Scheme - The Clerk advised that the Council had received notification from the Notts County Council that following a recent triennial valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), the fund remained in deficit and it would be necessary to ask for additional contributions from the Council for the next three years which were as follows:

'the employer's contributions will be set at 17.7% of base salary plus a cash deficit contribution of £385 for 2017/2018, £394 for 2018/2019 and £404 for 2019/2020'. The Clerk had calculated that by 2019/2020, total contributions (including that paid by the Clerk) as a percentage of the salary received equated to almost one third of her salary. It was her opinion that continued membership of the LGPS was becoming unaffordable and she wished to explore an alternative pension provider. She asked the Council whether they would have any objection to this.

Members agreed that a pension based on final salary would offer better benefits than any pension that could be provided through a defined benefits scheme and any decision to leave would remain the prerogative of the Clerk, but that there was no objection to her looking at alternative pension providers. It was agreed for the purpose of setting the precept that an assumption be made that the Clerk will remain in the scheme. Cllr Barnfather felt it was in the Clerk's best interest to remain within the LGPS and suggested she attend the pension workshop to be held on the 9th February by the Notts County Council, when this matter could be discussed. Further advice to follow on this matter.

11. Planning

11.1 Annual Community Fund/Wind Turbine - An email had been sent to Cllrs explaining the outcome of the meeting with RCAN to discuss distribution of the Annual Community Fund of £7.5k arising from the wind turbine attended by both the Chairman and Clerk. In short, RCAN are proposing that the Friends of Newstead and Annesley Country Park will agree the constitution for a new advisory panel, which will then be responsible for administering the Annual Community Grant of £7.5k arising from the wind turbine. It is intended this panel will consist of 7 members/organisations. One place on the panel will be accorded to Newstead Parish Council, one to Annesley and Felley Parish Council, one to RCAN, one to Newstead Enterprise and three places for the Friends of Newstead and Annesley Country Park group. This panel will then judge each request for grants according to criteria which has yet to be written but each bid should be no more than £1,000. During the meeting with RCAN, it was made clear that the Chairman and Clerk did not agree with the allocation on the panel, which appears to be biased in favour of the country park. The Chairman felt the Parish Councils should be accorded 4 places on this panel and not just the two places allocated i.e. 2 for Newstead and 2 for Annesley & Felley PC. Whilst the conversation was amicable, both ourselves and RCAN were unable to agree a compromise solution although they did advise that they would reflect on the arguments the Parish Council put forward that the grant should go back into the community and not just the country park, which they argued is also 'for the benefit of community'.

It was then put to the Council to decide whether the Parish Council would wish to challenge these proposals via the planning authority (any scheme underwritten by 'the Friends' has to be approved by planners).

Cllrs felt that it was wrong for organisation already connected to the country park to have so much say in how a fund intended to benefit the community as a whole was distributed. The role of Annesley & Felley Council was discussed, whereby it was noted that most of this parish would not be affected by the wind turbine and that perhaps limits could be placed in terms of proximity to the turbine on where the funds could be spent. It was also noted that in respect of a wind turbine situated in Papplewick Parish, Annual Community Funds from the turbine were paid directly to the Parish Council for them to decide how this is spent.

In light of this information Cllr decided that best approach would be a low key discussion with the planning authority and it was agreed that information on the arrangements by RCAN would be forwarded to Cllr Barnfather as a member of the Planning Committee, who would discuss this matter with planners.

12. Reports from External Meetings

None

13. Cemetery Issues

None except as discussed earlier.

14. Items that the Chairman Considers Urgent

None

15. Date of Next Meeting.

This will be held on Wednesday 18th January, which will be the precept meeting starting at 7.30pm.