

NEWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Sherwood Room of Newstead Centre on Wednesday 4 April 2018 starting at 7pm.

1. **Present** Cllrs: Mrs P Young (Chairman), Mrs D Adams, Mr R Butler, Mr E Hardy and Ms J Smith. Also present were Ward Cllrs Mr B Andrews and Mr C Powell and 6 members of the public. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ms C Harris and Miss H Scott and also from County Cllr Mr C Barnfather.

The Chairman confirmed that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr Mr P Burnham, who had indicated his wish to stand down from the Council, as a result of ill health

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

The Chairman read her report outlining the work undertaken by the Council during for the year, and is attached as an appendix to these minutes. In this report, she particularly expressed her thanks to Cllr Burnham for his contribution to the community, where he had served on the Parish Council for over 12 years.

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

Ward Cllr Mr B Andrews spoke on his role as Chair of the Newstead Youth Club. He confirmed it had been a difficult year for the Youth Club, which had moved on a temporary basis to the church, due to problems with the Youth Centre itself, but had subsequently moved back. During November, a total of 50 youngsters had attended the Youth Club on a regular basis, although numbers were currently down, as a result of a number of disruptive individuals, presently causing problems at the Youth Club. There is currently an issue with flies in the centre, possibly linked to the previous mice problems, and this has been reported to pest control at Gedling Borough Council.

In respect of the recent antisocial behaviour he expressed his thanks to Niki Pekal, Antisocial Behaviour and Troubled Families Coordinator, Gedling Borough Council and confirmed that as a result of a serious situation which occurred during the previous week at the centre, he was pleased to report that the Police had attended promptly and dealt with the situation. Charges were currently being brought against the individual concerned. Finally, he hoped that next year things would be easier.

Ward Cllr Mr C Powell indicated his delight that Lorraine Horrocks of 'The Pit' had won the 'Business in the Community Award' as part of 'the Pride of Gedling Awards'. He advised that the existing Chief Executive of Gedling Borough Council, John Robinson, was leaving the council at the end of July 2018. He commented that he always enjoyed attending Newstead Parish Council meetings and thanked councillors for all the hard work undertaken on behalf of the community.

There was no report from County Cllr Mr C Barnfather, where he was unable to attend this meeting.

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

There were no items raised by members of the public

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm

Report by the Chairman

2017/18 has been a busy year for the council with a number of challenging issues in the village ward. Firstly I would like to thank all councillors for their continued commitment to the parish. Jane and I work collaboratively in between Parish Council meetings and I would like to thank her for all the hard work she contributes both as an employee and going over and above the call of duty.

We are sorry to have lost a number of councillors for personal reasons and would like to thank Chris Bicknell for his contributions to the council over the past two and a half years, in particular his help in erecting the Christmas tree. Beverley Blood had also served the council for 10 years and has moved out of the area. We thank her for all her contributions.

We have also said goodbye to Councillor Philip Burnham who had served as an Abbey ward councilor for 12 years. During that time he has lobbied Nottingham City Council to bring a number of their properties in the Abbey grounds back into use. He has continually raised issues of knotweed and public rights of way in the Abbey grounds. The state of Station Avenue and security of the park have also been high on his agenda. He has also been extremely active on issues in the village ward, being in constant contact with Gedling Homes to improve the maintenance and look of properties in the village and reporting potholes and non-functioning street lights to the council. He has also helped on a number of litter picks. He has campaigned for many years to reduce the speed limit on Hucknall Road from 60mph and although the Parish Council wanted this to be 40mph we were successful in getting this reduced to 50mph. He also campaigned to get 30mph roundells painted on Newstead Road to remind drivers of the speed limit from Derby Road until the 50mph signs. As a wildlife enthusiast he has managed to get Newstead Meadow developed and maintained with picnic tables, wildlife information boards, a birdfeeder and an A frame gate to prevent motorbike access. Phil also instigated the planting of wildflowers in the old cemetery, which was undertaken by Parish Councillors. For a number of years he has tried to get maintenance and refurbishment of Freckland wood and the old stocking yards and this continues to be a challenge for the Parish Council. We would therefore like to thank Phil for all his hard work and dedication over the last 12 years.

We have welcomed Ernest Hardy as an Abbey ward councilor. Although Ernest lives in the village he will be working on behalf of Abbey ward residents. Chelsea Harris has recently joined the council for the village ward and we are also hoping to recruit Sarah Reed as an Abbey ward councillor, which leaves one vacancy to fill in the Abbey ward.

Parish Councils are the first tier of government. All of our councillors have undergone NALC training for councillors and work to 'The Good Councillors Guide' and 'councillors' code of conduct'. We hope that new councillors will also take part in this training to fully understand the role of being a councillor.

The PC has adopted a social media policy and provides information including minutes and agendas on its website. Agendas and notices are also posted on the 3 notice boards in the village and one by the Abbey rear gate. This year we were able to buy new barriers for Xmas tree and wish to thank CAST for erecting these. Also thanks to everyone who helped erect and take down the Xmas tree. Unfortunately the Xmas tree lights were slashed but GBC were able to repair these in time for the lighting ceremony. The PC would again like to express its thanks to the school, children and parents for their contributions towards the repair of the lights.

I would like to thank members of the public for raising issues with us; as a result we have a new A frame at top of Foundry Terrace

Thanks to councillors and the Clerk for planting the planters in the village

Thanks to the Clerk for going the extra mile to secure additional funding for the bonfire. The Council were pleased to be able to provide funding to enable the youth club to return to the YC building
We have been able to support the Newstead Centre by taking over responsibility for strimming and tidying up some of their areas in the village.

We were able to secure £1500 from RCAN's annual community fund from the wind turbine and this will be used for community land maintenance projects.

We have been in discussion with GBC over the children's play park and have committed funding for a new roundabout, which will be installed shortly. Many thanks to Debbie for her support in this and a generous donation to the PC to help with the cost.

We have been in discussion with the YC over development of the skateboard park to improve this facility for young people, although this is not owned by the PC.

We have identified the owner of the land behind Fraser Street and this has now been tidied up.

We have done our best to keep grit bins filled but suppliers run out of supplies in bad weather. Bins have gone walkabout. We will aim to get more stocks at the Newstead Centre for next year.

Recently we have seen a spate of anti-social behavior. If you experience any ASB please contact Niki Pecal or Sarah Anderson the neighbourhood wardens on 01159 013865, or contact the police. If you receive a crime number this will be followed up by the police.

Finally I would like to thank our 3 borough councillors, Bruce Andrews, Colin Powell and Chris Barnfather for their support throughout the year.

Mrs Pam Young

Chairman of Newstead Parish Council