

# Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Minutes of the Newton St Cyres Parish Council meeting held in the Parish Hall Clubroom on Monday 3 March 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

## Members Present:

Cllr D Baker (Chairman)	Cllr J Enright
Cllr K Anstey	Cllr S Parker
Cllr J Baker	Cllr T Sedgwick
Cllr R Cashmore (arrived 7.25pm)	Cllr C Southcott
	Cllr J Walters

## In attendance:

Cllr P Hare-Scott MDDC (left 8.40pm)	J Hole Parish Clerk
Cllr M Squires DCC (arrived 7.45pm)	

Approximately 50 members of the public (6 remained after the Public session which closed at 8.15pm)

## Business to be Transacted Public Participation

(i) Police Report

There was no Police Report

(ii) Public Question Time.

Following the recent flooding around the Smallbrook area, a question was asked about the provision for sand and sandbags. Discussion took place about the culvert running under the road at Smallbrook and whether it is big enough. Cllr D Baker informed the meeting that a representative from the Environment Agency would be attending the April Parish Council meeting to discuss the question of sand and sandbags.

Local Plan Consultation – A long public debate took place with parishioners expressing a range of opinions about the Local Plan which demonstrated a deep sense of concern and worry. Cllr D Baker outlined the background to the Local Plan Consultation. He stated that the Parish Council was working to the Parish Plan dated 2008 which had identified the need for approximately 20 to 25 houses. The current proposals of approximately 144 houses did not meet this Plan. Concern was expressed about the land suggested for development and two of the sites, east and west of Tytheing Close were felt to be inappropriate due to problems of access onto the A377, extending the village too far and potential water run-off. Discussion took place about the school and its possible re-location. Concern was expressed about traffic in Station Road and the entrance to Station Road, should the school relocate and discussion took place on whether the existing school site would be re-developed. Concern was expressed about the A377 and the extra traffic that any additional housing, in Newton St Cyres and further afield, would generate. Cllr P Hare-Scott encouraged parishioners to write to MDDC to express their views and assured parishioners that their views would be taken into consideration. Once agreed the Local Plan would stand until 2033. Cllr D Baker recommended to Council that the local Parish Plan be updated in 2015.

## Formal Business

**1/03/14 Apologies**

None.

**2/03/14 Declaration of Interest**

None

**3/03/14 Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3 February 2014**

Agreed and signed as a true record

**4/03/14 Mid Devon District Council**

4.1 Planning Applications:

None

- 4.2 Planning Decisions:  
None
- 4.3 Report from Cllr P Hare-Scott  
Cllr P Hare-Scott stated that MDDC would not be increasing its share of the Council Tax. Waste collection days would be changing in some areas and a new list will be sent to households towards the end of March. MDDC has met its budget for this year and is considering its budget for next year.
- 4.4 Local Plan Consultation  
Taking into consideration the concerns expressed by the public, Cllrs resolved to re-affirm the Parish Plan for approximately 20 – 25 houses only. The proposed development sites east and west of Tytheing Close were not felt to be suitable for development. The east site would extend the envelope of the village and the west site would lead to problems with run-off water and access issues onto the A377. However, if the school is re-located the existing school site could be re-developed. **Clerk to draft response.** Response to ask if village in-fill could be allowed in Half Moon, (previously requested) and ask that MDDC take into account the impact any development in Newton St Cyres and north of Newton St Cyres will have on traffic levels on the A377. Improvements to the road infrastructure should be considered such as a pedestrian crossing in the village and a safe footpath to the Recreation Ground along Station Road.

#### 5/03/14 Finance

- 5.1 To approve signatures for this month's cheques

Cllr J Walters and Cllr K Anstey

- 5.2 Parish Council payments Current Account

These were agreed as:

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
5.2.1	J Hole	Salary and expenses	239.77
			<b>£239.77</b>

- 5.3 Parish Council receipts

Nil.

- 5.4 Balances:

5.5.a Parish Council Current Account balance – £4,101.00

5.5.b Parish Council Reserve Account balance – £839.52

5.5.c Footpaths Account – £32.90

- 5.5 Financial Statement and Budget Monitor

These were noted.

- 5.6 Newton St Cyres Parish Church - support

Following a public meeting earlier in the month to discuss funding for the church, Cllr D Baker asked the **Clerk to ensure that the Church were aware that the Parish Council grant is for maintenance of the church yard only eg grass cutting.**

#### Break in procedures for signatories to sign cheques for payment

#### 6/03/14 Matters raised by the Chair

- 6.1 Closure of A377

The A377 had been closed for two days for an emergency repair caused by a landslip at the Langford Road junction. Cllr D Baker noted that if the A377 is closed there is no public transport out of the village. He had spoken to Stagecoach to ask if they could run a shuttle bus between Newton St Cyres and Crediton in these circumstances, but they had advised that they would not have spare buses. **Cllr T Sedgwick to ask the Community Support Group to draw up a list of drivers** who would be willing to drive anyone who needed to leave the village in an emergency when the road is closed. **Clerk to put the Crediton Community Bus on the next Agenda and to check their financial position.**

#### 7/03/14 Councillor's Reports

- 7.1 Areas of Responsibility report

Bus Shelter – Cllr S Parker had fixed the village green bus shelter which had come loose in the recent high winds.

Footpaths – Cllr S Parker reported that much of the Footpath from Woodley had been washed away and some maintenance was required. He was hoping to receiving some funding to carry this and other maintenance work out. A meeting had taken place with the Footpath Officer and the land

owner to discuss a possible footpath/cycle path around Newton St Cyres and discussion were continuing.

Recreation Ground – the problem of the leaking sewer was on-going. South West Water and Environmental Health had been informed but no action had been taken. It was resolved to contact Environmental Health again before taking further escalating action.

Raddon Hills – the notes from the last meeting held on 26 February 2014 had been circulated. Cllr R Cashmore had received a further reply from Cllr J Hart regarding outstanding safety issues on the A377. However, this reply still did not answer the questions. **Cllr R Cashmore will reply to Cllr J Hart** requesting a more senior officer to attend the next meeting of the Group to answer the questions. **Cllr K Anstey will collate details on the Smallbrook corner to include number of buses that stop, approximate number of farm vehicles using the turning etc.**

Community speedwatch – more volunteers are required.

Creedy Local Action Group – meetings will now take place quarterly.

Links with School – a meeting with interested parties re the possible school site was scheduled for Friday 14 March.

- 7.2 Surgeries
- 7.2.a Matters raised on 22 February 2014  
Closure of the A377.
- 7.2.b Next Surgery 22 March 2014  
Cllr R Cashmore to attend.

#### **8/03/14 Clerk's Report**

None

#### **9/03/14 Parish Council**

- 9.1 Allotments
- 9.2 Report – Cllr K Anstey and Cllr J Walters  
The broken gate had been repaired. The new tenant had requested permission to put up a shed. Rent is due from 1 April and the Clerk will be sending out invoices shortly. **Clerk to provide an updated list of tenants for the next meeting.**
- 9.3 Vodafone – update  
Due to the bad weather Vodafone had cancelled the launch event planned for the 14 February and another date had yet to be arranged.
- 9.3 To discuss the Invitation to join a Rural Sounding Board  
The details had been circulated and Cllr R Cashmore agreed to act as the Parish Council Representative. **Clerk to advice.**
- 9.4 Flood Plan update and to consider storage facilities for sand bags  
Cllr D Baker informed Council that Lynsey McLean would be attending the next meeting to discuss the siting of sand and sandbags, and the installation of a rain gauge. **Clerk to invite Malcolm Brooks to attend the next meeting. Cllr D Baker will speak to Malcolm Brooks** about the problem of the culvert at Smallbrook and arrange a site meeting, if required, with interested parties.
- 9.5 Annual Parish Meeting  
Cllr D Baker reported that Cllr John Hart, leader of DCC had accepted the invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 30 April. He had been asked to speak about the difficulties facing Devon County Council and how DCC will enable Newton St Cyres Parish Council to take on areas of work that DCC is no longer able to carry out. **Clerk to invite various organisations to the meeting.**

#### **10/03/14 Devon County Council**

- 10.1 Outstanding Highways issues  
Cllr M Squires reported that there are Health and Safety issues with regard to the Parish Council taking on work that is no longer being actioned by DCC. This issue will be put to Cllr J Hart at the Annual Parish Meeting.  
It was resolved to order the Bus Shelter for Half Moon. **Clerk to contact supplier.**  
The hedge trimming on the A377 did not appear to be a problem so could be removed from the list. The flooding at Lilly Lane was being dealt with. Cllr M Squires reported that she had looked at the adverse camber at the bottom of School Hill and will inform Bob King that the wall needs to be extended so that it is not possible to turn left.
- 10.2 New issues for Cllr C Southcott to take to DCC  
Potholes were reported in Court Orchard.

10.3 Report from Cllr M Squires  
DCC will be increasing their proportion of the Council tax by 1.95%. Highways are concentrating on fixing potholes.

**11/03/14 Miscellaneous Correspondence**

None

**12/03/14 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda**

None

**13/03/14 Date of next meeting: Monday 7 April 2014 in the Clubroom, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm**  
**End of Formal Business**

**Public Participation**

A member of the public volunteered to help with speedwatch.

Cllr R Cashmore informed the meeting that he had been co-opted onto Thorverton Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm