

NEWTON POPPLEFORD & HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Monthly Ordinary meeting on
Monday 20th January 2020 in Newton Poppleford Village Hall at 20.00hrs

ACTION by:

	<p>Present: Cllrs. Burhop (Chair), Dalton (Vice-Chair), Bilenkyj, Carpenter, Chapman, Lee, Lipczynski, Tillotson and Walker (Quorate) Clerk, Paul Hayward. EDDC Cllr. Val Ranger (Newton Poppleford & Harpford Ward) Police representative. Hon. Footpath Warden. 2 members of the public.</p>	
	<p>Chair outlined fire regulations and highlighted emergency exits to public and members of Council.</p>	
	<p>Public Forum:</p> <p>Chair read a short statement regarding recent fire at Pearce's Yard and extended Council's condolences to family at this time.</p> <p>a) Police Representative. December crime report discussed. PC Lee also read out statement on recent fire but was unable to answer any further questions as case was "Sub judice". Clerk was provided with a copy.</p> <p>b) County Councillor Report Cllr. Wright was not in attendance but had provided a brief report.</p> <p>c) District Councillor Report Written copy provided and published online. Questions from Public.</p> <p>d) P3 / Hon. Footpath Warden Mr. Swan presented a comprehensive report. He also confirmed P3 annual survey was complete. Chair thanked Mr. Swan for all of his hard work. Clerk was asked to chase Richard Spurway at DCC (Public Rights of Way Officer) to seek answers to outstanding matters as raised previously by Council. <i>Clerk: Please note and action accordingly.</i></p> <p>e) Public Representations No questions or representations put forward.. Therefore, Chair closed the public forum.</p>	
20/001	<p>Apologies for absence: Cllr. Jeffries & Lipczynski (conflicting engagements) Noted and approved. Cllr. Claire Wright (DCC)</p>	
20/002	<p>Declarations of Interest made / Dispensation Requests:</p> <p>All members present are, by definition, members of the NPPFF Trustee Board and declare a personal interest in that capacity. Cllr. Tillotson was afforded a dispensation * to discuss and vote upon matters pertaining to parish allotments at the Ordinary meeting held 22/7/19. This dispensation applies until May 2023 (unless rescinded prior to that date) and is afforded in respect of her personal and disclosable pecuniary interests as Allotment Manager. * <i>Localism Act 2011 (s.33)</i></p> <p>Other declarations made: None made</p>	

20/003	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve minutes of previous Ordinary meeting held Monday 23rd December 2019:</p> <p>Chair proposed approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 23rd December 2019. Seconded Cllr. Bilenkyj. Resolved unanimously and therefore approved.</p> <p>Chair signed the minutes as a true record of that meeting</p> <p><i>Matters arising from these minutes:</i> None.</p>	
20/004	<p>To consider and review minutes of previous Finance Committee meeting held Monday 16th January 2020:</p> <p>Recommendations noted and reviewed.</p> <p><i>Matters arising from these minutes:</i> CIL / S.106 report re: potential spend for play and sports recreation.</p>	
20/005	<p>Chair's Announcements / Matters of Urgency:</p> <p>Chair advised that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was complete after several revisions and sought members views as to whether they wished to hold an extraordinary meeting to ratify the draft prior to submission to EDDC or whether to include as an agenda item in February. Councillor Ranger was invited to speak by Chair and outlined the key revisions made, especially with regards to s.106 Play and Sports spending as suggested by EDDC themselves. Consensus of opinion was for this matter to be further considered in February at the next Ordinary meeting.</p> <p><i>Clerk: Please note and add to agenda accordingly.</i></p> <p>Cllr Bilenkyj raised the issue of the tree stump (left from the tree felling) in the Back Lane car park. Chair agreed to discuss the matter with the Clerk as a matter of urgency and deal with this under his delegated powers.</p>	
20/006	<p>To consider co-option of Councillor for Venn Ottery ward: (Sections 83 to 91 incl. of the Local Government Act 1972 apply)</p> <p>As previously mentioned, no notice had been received by the District Council to fill this vacancy and therefore it was available to be filled by the process of co-option. One application had been received, and Clerk confirmed that applicant was eligible as per the relevant legislation and that a copy of the agenda summons had been previously served upon him.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Bilenkyj, seconded by Cllr Tillotson, that Howard Hughes be co-opted as a member of the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council with immediate effect to represent Venn Ottery ward. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Clerk asked Cllr Hughes to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was then witnessed and countersigned by the Clerk. Chair thanked Cllr Hughes for applying for the vacancy and welcomed him to Council. Cllr. Hughes joined Council at the table.</p>	

20/007	<p>Planning Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) Applications received for consideration; Application 19/2840/FUL had been withdrawn so consideration of this matter was not required.</p> <p>b) Tree (Planning) Matters; None advised</p> <p>c) Determinations/Decisions; As per published agenda and detailed on website.</p> <p>d) Appeal Matters; 19/0078/NONDET – Land south of King Alfred Way, NP. <i>Appeal against planning refusal by EDDC had been upheld on the grounds of non-determination (with costs awarded against EDDC)</i></p> <p>e) Planning Correspondence: None received.</p>	
20/008	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a) To consider and review Financial Reports for January 2020. Noted and reviewed. Chair outlined highlights.</p> <p>b) Questions from members to RFO on these reports. No questions.</p> <p>c) To consider and, if thought fit, to approve payments for January 2020. <i>It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Lee that payments in the sum of £2827.32 (as published online on the Council's website) be approved for payment. Resolved unanimously.</i> <i>RFO: Please arrange for these payments to be processed and duly authorised.</i></p> <p>d) To consider expenditure under delegated authority. <i>None to be considered.</i></p>	
	<p>Business to be considered:</p>	
20/009a)	<p>a) To consider update on Council's nascent Tree Policy / Tree survey: Clerk advised that Mr. Davis had been unwell hence the delay but that receipt was expected in early February. Matter was deferred until next Ordinary meeting. <i>Clerk: Please add this to February agenda.</i></p>	
20/009b)	<p>b) To consider proposal that Council declare a Climate Change Emergency in the parish and to discuss practical actions to mitigate accordingly: Chair outlined reason for considering this proposal. Members debated the subject thoroughly. <i>Chair proposed suspension of Standing Orders to allow Cllr Ranger to contribute with the EDDC perspective. Resolved.</i> Cllr Ranger suggested Council concentrate on the policy of publicity, promotion and education around this topic. <i>Chair proposed resumption of Standing Orders. Resolved</i></p> <p><i>Chair proposed that the Parish Council sign the Declaration. Seconded by Cllr Bilenkyj. Resolved 6/0/3 abstentions.</i> Chair signed the Declaration. <i>Clerk: Please publicise this on Council's social media and website.</i></p>	

20/009c)	<p>c) To consider establishment of a parish “clean-up” day in the coming months:</p> <p>Chair had circulated examples of this kind of event held elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>Proposal was well supported by Councillors but there were reservations regarding litter picking etc next to busy roads and the consequential issue of arranging collection of any waste collected. The main issue is the parish did not appear to be litter but rather weeds and foliage and overgrown areas which made the village look untidy.</p> <p>Chair proposed suspension of Standing Orders to allow the public in attendance to contribute their thoughts. Resolved.</p> <p>Representations received re: DCC activity and co-operation and the problems with dog mess (especially on footpaths).</p> <p>Chair thanked members of the public for their comments.</p> <p>Chair proposed resumption of Standing Orders. Resolved</p> <p>Chair felt that the overall consensus was that members were in favour of organising such an event and then sought comments as to when, where and for how long the event should be.</p> <p>After further discussion, Chair proposed that the inaugural event should be scheduled for the 28th March 2020 from 10am until 2pm and offered to make refreshments available from Council’s s.137 budget if required. Seconded by Cllr Walker. Resolved 7/0/2 (Cllrs. Dalton and Tillotson abstaining).</p> <p>It was suggested that the matter be further considered at February’s Ordinary meeting to finalise arrangements and discuss plans for publicity and co-operation with local groups, DCC, EDDC etc.</p> <p>Clerk: Please note and add to FEB agenda accordingly.</p>	
20/009d)	<p>d) To consider matters relating to parking and pedestrian safety in the parish:</p> <p>Members of the public had raised repeated concerns about this subject in the past. DCC had advocated more double yellow lines on parish roads but it was felt that this could be counter-productive as inconsiderate parking could shift elsewhere and compound or even worsen the problems. The issue of footpath access via FP1 and FP3 was raised, together with the lack of pedestrian crossings on the western sections of the A3052 beyond Church Green.</p> <p>Chair stated that, sadly, only further incidents or accidents would cause the higher authorities to act and install more safety measures as remedial action was based solely on traffic risk and historic events. The proposed speed limit reductions on Four Elms Hill were welcomed as a means to slow traffic before it entered the village from the east but it was felt that this alone was not sufficient.</p> <p>The VAS data would hopefully yield some positive data.</p> <p>Clerk: Please download and circulate data / reports to members asap.</p> <p>Chair proposed that this matter be kept at the forefront of Councillors minds and that both the EDDC and DCC Councillors be asked to promote road safety and speed awareness & education as a matter of course on Council’s behalf.</p> <p>No further action proposed at the present time.</p>	

20/009e)	<p>To consider Council's nomination to NALC/DALC * Royal Garden Party (27/05/2020): Nominations were received for former Councillors Woodley and Jeffery. By 5 votes to 2 (with 2 abstentions), the nomination for Hazel Jeffery (and partner) was resolved. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Please contact parties concerned to arrange necessary paperwork as per DALC rules.</p> <p>* NALC – National Assoc. of Local Councils DALC – Devon Assoc. of Local Councils</p>	
20/010	<p>Correspondence received, not already circulated to members: Councillors discussed participation in the Devon and Cornwall Police Councillor Advocate Scheme. It was felt that Council was fortunate to have a police representative at (almost) every meeting and that Parish Council was well served in that respect. Chair felt that another layer of internal bureaucracy and protocol was unhelpful and an inefficient use of scant police resources but sought nominations for Councillor participation if they felt otherwise. No nominations proposed. Clerk: Please note that no further action necessary.</p>	
20/011	<p>Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting of council will be on Monday 24th February 2020, at 8.00pm at the Newton Poppleford Village Hall, this being an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.</p>	
20/012	<p>It was proposed that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Walker. Resolved unanimously. <i>All members of the public left the room at this point.</i></p>	
20/013	<p>Matters to be considered in committee:</p> <p>a) Employment Matters Clerk outlined a matter relating to his terms and conditions of employment. Noted. No further action required by Council.</p>	
	<p><i>With no further business to discuss, Chair closed council meeting at 9.20pm.</i></p>	

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Signed as a true record of the meeting above:

Chair: _____ Date: _____