

Minutes of meetings of Newton St Loe Parish Council – 14th September 2023

In attendance: Cllrs Dench, Cook, Hurlow, Brown, Slingo. Also Robin Moss (Clerk) & 7 members of the public.

Ordinary Parish Meeting

- (1) Apologies: Cllr Streatfeild-James (B&NES)
- (2) **Chairman's welcome and introduction**
Cllr Cook welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- (3) **Declarations of interest** – none
- (4) **Minutes of meeting 15th June 2023**
Minutes of the June 2023 meeting agreed & signed as a correct record.
- (4) **Crime Report/Neighbourhood Watch**
There have been no reports of recent crime in the village. Regular newsletters from the PCC are circulated to councillors.
- (5) **Public Forum**
A number of issues were raised, by residents in attendance as well as via email:
A resident wants to restore a wooden bench at the top of Smiths Hill & was not sure if permission was needed ? Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea.
The problem with seagulls being encouraged by some residents feeding them was raised. It was agreed that they should not be encouraged & there was a discussion about how this could be circulated. Clerk to inform the BaNES councillor, also to see what options, such as a newsletter or note, would be possible.
A resident raised some financial issues (1) that while the parish Council received Community Infrastructure Levy monies for building works in the parish, it was not clear if this was the correct figure, also that the majority of CIL money was retained by BaNES & it wasn't clear if this was being spent for the benefit of Newton St Loe residents. (2) He had contacted BaNES about applying for a 'Coronation Grant' from central government, it wasn't clear if that had happened & rural parishes in particular were missing out.
- (6) **Defibrillator location** –
Disappointingly Truespeed have still not been in touch, despite their offer to site the defibrillator, however there has been an offer from a local resident who lives close to Newton Farm, to allow it to be sited on his wall.
- (7) **Councillor items** – matters raised by councillors that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda
 - a. The Village fountain is due for repair work to start early in July.
 - b. The old telephone box is in need of a face lift. It was agreed to seek prices for renovation.
 - c. 'Roberts Bench' at the top of Smiths Hill needs repair. Clerk to contact the Duchy.
 - d. The verges & hedges on Smiths Hill are overgrown, clerk to contact the Duchy about this.
- (8) **District Councillors Report**
Cllr Streatfield-James has given her apologies for the meeting.
- (9) **Playground**
There was a discussion about the potential report into the future of the playground, due to come to the Parish Council meeting in December. In particular there is a need to get quotes for repair costs, if repairs are possible. The inspection, scheduled for November, has been bought forward to late September to help inform the report. It was agreed that no decisions should be made until there was complete background information, also that consultation on options should not begin until there was complete information.

(10) Finance

- a. Financial Report – approved
- b. Exemption from independent audit, as a council with income less than £25,000 pa, was agreed.
- c. Cheques & payments approved:

000959	R.Moss	Salary June, July, Aug, office expenses.	£854.34
000960	HMRC	Tax	£129.23
000961	Zurich Insurance	Insurance Premium	£393.14
000962	Avon Valley Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	£450.00
000963	J.Cook	Reimbursement: paint	£28.00
000964	Duchy Cornwall	rent	£72.00
DD	Information Commission Office	Annual Licence	£35.00

(11) Planning – no applications submitted this month

(12) Date of next meeting Thurs 19th October 2023.

Meeting closed at 8.01pm