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Minutes of the meeting of Newstead Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at the Newstead Centre, Tilford Road, Newstead

Present: Cllrs; Emma Astill, Kyle Futers, Tim Moore, Melanie Sherlock and Glynis Williams. Also present was Jane Johnson (Locum Clerk).

Borough Cllrs Martin Smith, Sue Pickering and Stuart Bestwick arrived at 8pm having attended another meeting elsewhere.

24.54 To Receive apologies for absence

None received at meeting although belated apologies subsequently received from Cllr Hardy.

24.55 Declaration of members' interests for this meeting.

None.

24.56 To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors

None present for this item but arrived later.

24.57 Public session: Members of the public can take this opportunity to discuss Parish matters with Councillors

There were no members of the public present.

24.58 Clerks report on outstanding matters

24.44 - War Memorial – A further work session took place on Friday 5th July when the last quarter of the planting areas was cleared by Cllr Sherlock and Mrs Johnson. This was acknowledged to be the most difficult section to clear where it was noted that help had been provided by a resident opposite the war memorial who had reduced the height of the bushes beforehand thereby reducing the amount of green waste to be disposed of. A further work session to begin planting has been agreed for Friday 19th July.

24.37 – Work to pollard the tree at the Old Cemetery will take place on 12th July by Acorn Tree Services and is expected to last for one day only. The cemetery will be also closed during this time. Access to the farm track adjacent to the cemetery has been agreed with Hayes Farm, which will make it much easier for Acorn Tree Services to complete the work. Acorn will access the tree from this track, without the need to disturb the grounds of the cemetery, or any of the graves.

Cllr Martin Smith had earlier provided a summary to the Council in terms of the email correspondence between himself and Gedling BC relating to the overhanging trees behind terraces. The tree officer at Gedling Borough Council has now confirmed the work to prune the trees in the banked area between Hazelford Way and Garden/Chatsworth Terrace should be treated as a priority request. Copies of the emails chasing progress of this outstanding work was distributed to Cllrs, where it was noted the original timetable for this work was winter 2023/24, when the affected trees were not in leaf. The Clerk explained that no approach had been made to Via as the highway itself was not obstructed by the trees and therefore they had no reason to act. Cllr Moore advised that this was also his experience as he had made previous enquiries to Highways in regards to a parking area at the end of Foundry Terrace but to no avail. It was agreed the Council would need to put more pressure on Gedling BC to provide a date when work could be expected to start, noting it was likely to take place once the leaves had fallen from the trees.

In order to tidy this verge adjacent to this area and clear the Heras fence of weeds, the Clerk has asked Jonathon Rhodes for an estimate to remove weeds and brambles discussion under agenda item 24.66, but

this had not yet been received. The Clerk has also approached CAST regarding tidying up the shrubbed area overlooking the 'circle', which is situated adjacent the boundary wall surrounding the garden of the house on Tilford Road, which is opposite Cornerstone House. CAST have advised they were willing to tidy this area and following discussions between the Clerk and Cllr Sherlock and Dean from CAST, they have agreed to prune back the bushes and a general tidy up including disposal of a filled 'builders' bag' within the site. They will also remove the weeds along the service road leading to this area.

24.48 – A grant application has been submitted to Gedling BC towards the cost of providing a Xmas lunch and an acknowledgement of the same has now been received. The total amount claimed in this case was £1114. It is not known when a decision on this will be made.

24.49 - The policies approved by the Council have now been added to the Council's website with thanks to Cllr Moore.

24.50 – Written support has been sent to Ravenshead PC for continuation of this scheme and supporting the argument for an increase in funding from Via after March 2025.

24.51 – Amazon vouchers were obtained for the winners of the competition and had been delivered to Cllr Williams in time for the prizewinning ceremony. Bunches also agreed to donate three bunches of flowers to be presented to the winners on the 29th June 2024, which Cllr Williams agreed to collect. Cllr Williams praised the quality of the flowers supplied by Bunches and confirmed that the winners were very happy to receive these.

24.52 – The gates to the Old Cemetery have now been painted and invoice paid.

24.59 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 8th May 2024 as accurate
The Council accepted the minutes as accurate

Cllrs Stuart Bestwick, Sue Pickering and Martin Smith joined the meeting at 8pm having attended an earlier meeting of Papplewick Parish Council. It was agreed by Council to revisit item 24.56

Cllr Bestwick reported comments posted on 'Newstead Born and Bred' web site regarding overgrown hedges and vegetation along Hucknall Road towards the A611, although it was not clear to which side of the Hucknall Road this referred. Cllr Bestwick noted most of the land on the right of Hucknall Road was owned by the Forestry Commission. Cllr Smith confirmed no further news had been received on the lease to be offered to the Allotment Association by the Notts CC for the land adjacent the small children's play park. Complaints had been received on brambles from overgrown blackberry bushes near the gated entrance to the park, although he understood these may have since been cut. The Chairman thought these had been cut back by members of the Association itself but if not, it was agreed to instruct the Lengthsman to cut back these bushes.

Cllr Bestwick noted that a litter pick was to be arranged by the Council, which he advised he would attend if at all possible.

24.60 Correspondence received
None except as mentioned elsewhere.

Planning
None

Finance

24.61 To note/approve the payment of invoices received in Jun 2024 and to authorise the payment of outstanding invoice

Payments and income received during June were noted and approved. The Council also approved the payment in respect of the wages and expenses for the Locum Clerk incurred during June.

24.62 To note the budget and review the financial summary as at the 30th June 2024.

The Clerk drew attention to further amounts received by the Council in respect of cemetery fees. A refund of Statutory Maternity Pay had still not been received from HMRC. The Council noted this position and paperwork confirming reconciliation of the accounts was signed by the Chair.

General Matters

24.62 Jobs for the Lengthsman

It was noted the Lengthsman had recently returned from annual leave and still had some catching up to do but the bench had been returned adjacent the bus stop on junction of Tilford Road/Hucknall Road. Other items discussed included removal of an overhanging branch obstructing the pavement on Hucknall Road between the cemetery car park and the Old Cemetery. As this was outside the 30mph speed limit it wasn't clear as to whether he would be able to undertake this work. Mrs Johnson also reported that the bench on Hucknall Road, which the Lengthsman had previously been asked to stain, was beyond repair and asked whether the Council wished him to dispose of the same. It was agreed the bench was well used and agreed the Clerk would obtain an estimate for its replacement. Also discussed was whether a new bench could be made using seat ends, rescued from the bench previously installed on junction of Fraser Street/Tilford, and currently stored in the Old Chapel. It was agreed that the Chairman would ask her son to look at this possibility. Prior to disposal of the existing bench the presence of a memorial plaque on the bench was noted, which would need to be retained, if possible.

24.64 Web Site and Hosting

A report on the web site and current hosting had been circulated by Cllr Moore to members of the Council prior to the meeting. In this report it explained that both the Council's website and its associated domain have been hosted by him on his personal server and raises the question of what would happen if he left. He reminded the Council it was always planned that the website and its domain should be on a hosting platform managed by the Clerk. The report then outlined three options regarding possible platforms, which could host the Council's website and also the costs involved with each option.

Mrs Johnson advised she had received feedback from the Clerk, who advised she would happily take on responsibility for updating the web site, if the relevant training was provided. Cllr Moore advised he was happy to provide this. He confirmed he was not planning to leave the Council, but had raised this matter in the interest of 'succession planning'.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to opt for Option 2 as recommended by Cllr Moore at a cost of £83.88 for the first year and £143.88pa thereafter.

24.65 Litter Pick for the Village

Cllrs agreed that this was needed as the litter situation in the village at the present time was dire. It was agreed not to hold a joint session with Annesley PC as the worst areas were within the village itself. A date was agreed of Saturday 3rd August, starting at 2pm where it was felt that an afternoon session may attract further volunteers. Cllr Bestwick advised that Gedling BC would supply 'blue bags' for the litter pick, if requested. A discussion ensued whether this would be combined with a 'meet your local councillor' event but it was agreed not to proceed with this, but to concentrate on the litter pick itself. In lieu of this however it was agreed the Councillors would undertake an evening walk about through the village on the 14th August to help establish priorities for the future.

24.66 Strimming of the Verge adjacent Foundry/Chatsworth/Garden Terrace Discussed earlier under item 24.58

24.67 Shrubbed Area off Foundry Terrace. Discussed earlier under item 24.58

24.68 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:

This was agreed for Wednesday 11th September 2024 starting at 7.30pm.

As there would be no meetings for several weeks, it was agreed that the authority to spend money as outlined in the Council's standing orders would be extended to the Acting Clerk during this time. She also drew attention to an area in the Old Cemetery to the left of the main driveway whereby suckers from a collection of trees adjacent the post and rail fence required cutting back. An estimate had been received from Anthony Clarke for the cost of cutting back at a cost of £130. Council deferred any decision on this matter as it was felt this work could be undertaken by members of the Council as it wasn't clear from photos supplied the extent of the work required. Cllr Smith also suggested the Lengthsman could perhaps undertake this work on a private basis where the hourly rate would be significantly higher than that charged in his role as the Lengthsman.