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Minutes of the meeting of Newstead Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at the Newstead Centre, Tilford Road, Newstead

Present: Cllrs; Emma Astill, Kyle Futers, Ernest Hardy, Tim Moore, Melanie Sherlock and Glynis Williams. Also present was County Cllr Chris Barnfather, Vikki Arkell (Clerk and RFO), Jane Johnson (Locum Clerk) and three members of the public.

24.104 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Borough Cllrs: Stuart Bestwick, Sue Pickering and Martin Smith, where all were attending a meeting at Gedling Borough Council held at the same time.

24.105 Declaration of members' interests for this meeting.

None

24.106 To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors

In referring to the meeting with Via to discuss future maintenance of the footway on Hucknall Road, Cllr Barnfather advised he had met with the District Manager for Highways to discuss the siding out of the pavement along Hucknall Road to the A611. The District Manager felt that the width of the pavement from just past the Old Cemetery to the A611 was sufficient given the perceived lack of footfall on this path. However, it was agreed the District Manager would ask the 'Head of Siding Up' to review the position, with the outcome of this review being fed back to Cllr Barnfather.

24.107 Correspondence Received

The following items were specifically noted:

- Invite to Gedling Parish Conference on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November - No takers
- Notification from Gedling Borough Council of grants of up to £30k towards the cost of disabled modifications required to stay in the home - The Locum Clerk confirmed these details had been put in the notice board, posted on the Council's face book page and also sent to the Newstead Centre for the attention of relevant groups.

24.108 Public session

3 members of the public were present. One of the residents spoke of his objection on the proposed development of housing /employment land at Top Wighay to accommodate over 800 homes, which he had seen on a planning notice on Musters Road. His main objections related to the lack of facilities to service these additional homes, which would place a further strain on already stretched services such as doctors, dentists, local schools, road network, etc. He had complained to both the Notts County Council and Gedling Borough Council and also to the local MP. He wanted to know if the Council was aware of this site and also what it proposed to do. The Clerks and the Cllr Barnfather outlined the history of the site with part of the Top Wighay site having already received planning permission for housing for 763 new homes, and where the proposed extension to the existing site had already been 'approved' for development through various planning documents including the Nottingham Structure Plan in 1996 and the Gedling Local Plan in 2012. Objections had been made by various bodies over a long period. Whilst it was probably too late to object to the development as a whole, nevertheless, the Council felt it was worthwhile for residents to state their concerns to the planning authorities, as this could influence the type of services the developer would be asked to provide once full planning is sought for the remainder of this site.

Another resident asked whether there was any truth in the rumour that the field behind the former Station Hotel was also to be developed. The Clerk was able to advise that although the site had been allocated for housing in the Gedling Local Plan, the site had not proved attractive to developers. It was agreed not to write

to the landowners in this case lest they be reminded this site was available for development. The same resident also expressed her concern against the number of homes proposed on the Top Wighay site.

The resident who spoke earlier also drew attention to a large tree in the garden of one of the properties along Markham Road, which he felt could topple, although it was not clear in which garden this tree was situated. The Clerk advised that the Council could send a letter to the land owner in question requesting them to carry out safety checks on the tree but she emphasised this letter was advisory only as the parish council had no legal powers to ensure any work was undertaken

Cllr Hardy also put forward an observation by his daughter that whilst walking home from the train station the road to the station seemed quite dark. As Station Road is lit by a number of street lights, it was questioned whether these lights were actually working, or were simply in need of a clean.

24.109 Clerks report on outstanding matters

Work on the trees took place on the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> October with external contractors being on site for one week. A number of trees have been cut back and lower branches removed but further work remains outstanding. The Clerk has asked Gedling BC for an update on the matter.

No one to date has contacted the Council over the loss of the bench adjacent to the cemetery car park.

Winter Grit – No delivery as yet.

The service at the memorial took place at 10am with the wreath being laid by Cllr Hardy. Thanks also to Cllr Futers and Cllr Moore for installing lamp post poppies along the route previously agreed by the Council.

Letter sent to Jigsaw requested site meeting with them. This request was refused as not best use of their time. Instead, more specific details requested regarding homes, which it was felt cast a blight on the neighbourhood were requested.

Small Children's Play Area- Link to petition already established by Cllr Futers had been sent to Jane Richardson, Play Officer, Gedling Borough Council and Cllr Stuart Bestwick.

#### Items from previous meetings

Star for Christmas tree – The star which had been made for the tree was brought to the meeting and shown to councillors, who felt this was excellent value for the money paid i.e.£25. Having discussed the means of lighting of the star with Cllr Lewis, Mrs Johnson advised she had spoken to Leisure Lights Ltd, who advised that a string of 100 pea lights would cost £37, plus an additional £10, should a power cable be required. The Council agreed to allocate the sum of £50 towards lighting the star and the Clerk confirmed she would arrange for the appropriate lighting to be added. It was noted that the Christmas tree was set for delivery on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Once installed, it was agreed that the Chairman and her son would decorate the tree.

Some tidying up of the area of shrubbery on Foundry Crescent has been undertaken by CAST with further cutting back of the shrubs to be undertaken shortly.

24.110 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as accurate.

The Council resolved to accept the minutes as accurate.

#### Planning

24.111 Consultation on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan – It was explained by Cllr Barnfather this plan identified future housing/employment needs up to 2041. Cllrs had been sent that part of the plan relating to the Top Wighay farm site where this was identified as strategic site for housing potentially accommodating up to 1,515 homes in total. Mrs Johnson advised that in responding to the proposed extension to the Top Wighay site, she felt the Council should make the following observations

- That a defensible Green Belt boundary is created to the north of the site to ensure that any future development does not encroach the village and avoids the coalescence of settlements.

- Also to ask for a height restriction on any development to be put on the remaining part of the employment site, whereby any development proposed should be subservient to the new head office of the Notts County Council currently being built on the site and also complement the same.

## Finance

24.112 To note/approve the payment of invoices received in October 2024.

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

24.113 To review the financial summary and the budget status up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

The Clerk/RFO advised that in terms of the budget to date, income was better than anticipated as a result of an increase in cemetery fees and also the grant received from Gedling Borough Council whilst expenditure was in line with that expected. In summary the accounts were in a very healthy position.

24.114 To consider the first draft of the 25/26 budget

The Clerk explained that since the first draft of the budget had been sent out with the agenda, a revised draft had been prepared in light of the recent budget, which would result in increased national insurance contributions being paid by the Council. She had also received details from Anthony Clarke on revised grounds maintenance charges for 2025, where prices had been increased to reflect the increase in national insurance costs also being paid by him as an employer.

She then explained that in respect of Income, she proposed to maintain income from the cemetery as the same as last year, where this was impossible to predict. In terms of expenditure, she advised that having taken advice from Acorn Tree services they had identified further tree work as being required in both cemeteries namely removing the remainder of the ash trees with Ash Die back. This included £4k towards the trees during the 25/26, plus £750 towards the removal of ivy growing over the stone wall at the Old Cemetery. It was also agreed to raise the amount to be allocated in respect of 'Events' to £2k.

In summary the Clerk advised that reserves of the Council were also very healthy. She would need to tweak the budget as suggested and would come back to the Council once she had worked out the effect on the precept. She felt it was important to keep the costs as low as possible as due to the changes in the employers NI contribution, this would massively impact the likely amount higher authorities would charge, with the Notts County Council element possibly to be set at 4.99%, the maximum which can be charged without triggering a referendum.

24.115 To note the Local Government Services', Pay Agreement 2024

The Clerk explained that for a Clerk employed full-time basis i.e. 37 hours per week, the agreement reached would result in a pay increase of approx. £1,290 per annum. The costs to the Council would be far less than this based on the number of hours worked each week. An element of back dated pay to reflect the new agreement had been included in her wages for October. The Council noted the agreement.

24.116 To review assets of the Council specifically the office printer and lap top

The Clerk explained that these items were several years old and both were now surplus to requirements as the role of the locum clerk was coming to an end. In terms of the printer, it was agreed by the Council that this would be written off, whilst Cllr Williams would be allocated the laptop for use in her role as a councillor. The ink subscription in respect of the printer would also be cancelled at the end of the month.

## General Matters

24.117 Jobs for the Lengthsman

It was agreed to ask the Lengthsman if it was possible for him to clean the stonework on the War Memorial with the relevant propriety cleaner. Cllr Hardy commented that he had witnessed the Lengthsman blowing leaves from the footway past the side of the MUGA and the village green

24.118 MUGA: Repair of MUGA lights

Mrs Johnson reminded the Council that a quote for repair had been received from Marlec for either £2,300, if the turbine could be repaired, or £2,650 if a replacement was required, whilst an earlier quote had been received from Bramcote Electrical at a cost of £2,500. A further quote had also been sought from the contractor recommended by the Clerk, but these had declined to quote.

CAST had now responded to say they would be prepared to offer the sum of £500 towards the cost of repair. Mrs Johnson suggested the preferred repairer should be Bramcote Electricals simply because these were based locally. She also recounted a conversation with Mick Leivers of CAST, who advised that some of CAST's staff sit on the board of trustees for the Newstead Centre, and the trustees had been successful in obtaining a substantial grant (circa £75K) towards the cost of installing energy saving features at the Newstead Centre. Bramcote Electricals would be the main contractor for this work, where he felt possible savings may be made if the work at the Newstead Centre and the MUGA were undertaken together.

The Council discussed the budget for the repair with £2k suggested. The RFO stated that this amount could be made available and Mrs Johnson asked for permission to proceed with this work on this basis. Cllr Williams questioned whether the repair would be a good value for taxpayers given the frequency of breakdown of the lights in question. The matter was then put to vote whereby three councillors voted in favour of funding the repairs, two abstentions and one against. With the agreement to proceed being carried, it was then agreed to lease with Mick Leivers with a view to securing any discount off the estimate originally provided for repair of the Muga lights. There were however two stipulations to the council's agreement; namely that the work is carried out within a three-month period and also that any discount agreed is used to reduce the contribution required from the taxpayer, rather than the contribution to be received from CAST.

24.119 Tree work on land behind Garden /Chatsworth/Foundry Terrace

No further discussion took place where this item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

20.120 Request to remove tree from village green for reasons of security.

A request to remove a tree on the green for reasons of security was discussed by the Council following a request from Kevin Nealon. Following discussion, it was agreed not to grant permission for the felling of the tree as other means existed of securing transmission of data.

24.121 To discuss arrangements for:

- a. Christmas Lunch event - 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

The following arrangements were agreed by the Council.

- Poster and tickets for the event had been prepared by the Clerk with requests for tickets via either the Clerk or Chairman.
- The Newstead Centre would provide the catering based on a total of 70 persons.
- Numbers to be confirmed by no later than Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November
- There would be a number of raffle prizes with the aim to support local businesses broken down as follows: £25 gift voucher for beauty treatment at 'The Little Village Retreat', £25 towards meal at the Royal Gurka, £25 cash prize, £15 Gift/hamper from Brook Farm, Linby and £10 on chocolates.
- Clerk to provide crackers and mince pies
- Cllr Futers to provide speakers for music
- Transport would be provided by the Council for those unable to attend the event through their own means.
- Cllr Williams, Sherlock and Astill have agreed to act as helpers on the day.
- A quiz would be provided as entertainment during the meal

It was agreed by the Council, that only the Chair/Clerk could allocate tickets for this event. The Council further agreed one place at the lunch would be reserved for the Reverend Hazel Robinson.

24.122 A Christmas Event for Children in Newstead

The Chairman advised she had been approached about the possibility of holding a Xmas event for the children of Newstead, which would involve a disco, visit from Santa, plus a small gift for each child attending, and finally face painting. 'The Pit' had been offered as a place to hold the event. As a result of the grant being

secured from Gedling BC in respect of the Xmas lunch, the Clerk was able to advise there were now unspent funds in the budget for 'Events' and as such the Council could contribute towards the cost of holding this event. Having noted the cost of the Santa, gift and face painting of £310, it was agreed by the Council to instruct 'The Pit' to host this event on the Councils behalf.

24.123 To reiterate drop off and collection arrangements for CAST students coming in taxi'  
The Chairman had asked this item to be put on the agenda, where it had been noted that taxis dropping students off at the Cornerstone house often did so by simply pulling up in the highway outside Cornerstone house and thereby blocking the highway, which also posed a risk the children and other road users. It was agreed a letter would be sent to the companies reminding them to use the designated car park at the rear of the Newstead Centre for the purpose of dropping off and collecting students. The Clerk reminded the Council that a previous letter sent by the Council along the same lines did achieve the desired result for at least a few weeks.

24.124 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:  
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024