

**NEWNHAM ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL  
AND  
BURIAL AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the meeting of Newnham on Severn Parish Council  
at The Armoury Hall on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr Felix Bihlmeier – Chairman, Councillors: Diana Edwards, Wendy Anderson, Jacqueline Baber, Trevor Firman, Joy Larkham, Robert Mann, Graham Murray together with the Clerk Ms V Roberts, Mrs Jan Cordon and a number of members of the public

Mr Bihlmeier welcomed Cllr Joy Larkham to her first meeting and also Mrs Jan Cordon

**1. Apologies**

**Resolved** to accept apologies from Cllr Jackie Chapman, District Councillor Norman Stephens and Lena Maller of FoDDC

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Public Consultation**

None

**4. To Approve Minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Resolved** to approve with minor alterations to clarify the fruit tree location and that dates are set for the Newnham Trail for 2011 and 2012

**5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

- **Library** Mr Penny advised that GCC are in process of issuing legal documents. A public meeting is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm to show an initial draft business plan, if there is sufficient interest a committee will be formed. It is hoped that £10,000 per annum for 4 years will be received from GCC. Peter Hood, the Village Agent, seeking solutions and resources, fair rate to be charged, diversity essential as is sustainability of income. A paid member of staff will be needed. Cllr Edwards and Cllr Firman to attend as representatives of the Parish Council
- **Tennis Courts** no update available, Mr Leigh has made suggestions but is now away for 5 weeks thus no further progress
- **Village Hall** Cllr Baber advised that Mr O'Hara had resigned
- **Parking at The Beeches** Plan provided by Mr S Bowles to be circulated to all. Currently no mandate from parishioners to proceed. Mrs Cordon suggested that the benefit must be commensurate with the expenditure planned. Before further discussion the power to spend on this project needs to be assessed – November Agenda
- **Trees at Station Road, The Green and Playing Fields** Due to confusion over trees a "walkabout" arranged (8<sup>th</sup> November, 10am at The Green) results of visit to November Agenda
- **S106 money** Cllr Edwards confirmed that sum of £20,813.16 was for offsite recreation, £7,492.31 for work on the embankment and £63,381.63 for adult/youth recreation. Fencing and trees will require attention. Confirmation required from Mr Martin Hillier needed as to time limitation. Cllr Edwards, Cllr Baber and Cllr Mann to look at site and requirements
- **Bollards A48, Notice Board and Handrail** Defer subject of bollards to November meeting for firm details and quotations. Notice board – quotation provided by Ms Roberts for a board 59" by 47" at £245.94 plus delivery. The handrail outside Red Lion House is in hands of Highways, Councillors to consider any additional costs in due course
- **Employment/Finance Committee** A Task and Finish Working Party of Mrs Edwards, Mrs Anderson and Mr Firman appointed

**County Councillor Stephen McMillan** was welcomed by Mr Bihlmeier and asked to address the meeting. Cllr McMillan advised of matters being dealt with at the County Council as follows: pressure on cost reduction, including staffing costs; the Wilderness Centre situation is currently in limbo and subject to legal challenge; Glos Care Services has been hit by legal issues; Police Authority news that elected police and crime commissioner will arise in due course; pressure is on child and adult care but will continue to

fund from a stationary budget. Cllr McMillan was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting

**New Matters and Correspondence:**

1. **FOD District Report:** Update on District matters from Cllr Edwards was received. Points included Health & Safety training; the Localism Bill which has huge implications for all Councils; a further Parish Plan Forum is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> December; Gypsy & Traveller sites being actively sought; abolition of the Standards Committee in 2012; waste discussions are ongoing; parking charges in the towns agreed in principal but with Scrutiny currently
2. Discuss treatment of benches at the Cliff and the Green, overhanging branches at the Beeches and removal of stones and debris within the Chains – Mr Maycroft to cut back growth on trees within The Chains. Some 13 benches require re-varnishing, stones in The Chains to be cleared. Cllr Baber to provide names of possible contractors to the Clerk
3. Email from Mr O'Hara re Council Tax charges – discussions on budgets for 2012/13 are ongoing
4. Letter from Mr Wayman re ramp – Ms Roberts dealt with this item prior to meeting
5. Letter from Dr Bellamy re Daffodils – letter to Dr Bellamy advising that his comments will be brought to the attention of Mr Holder
6. Play Area repairs (as per information in circulation bag) - noted

**Planning:**

To formally receive the following Planning applications and minute objections/comments:

P2117/11/TCA Coppice Plum and crown reduction maximum 3m off lowering cherry tree – No Objection raised. Mrs Cordon asked why none of the recent 12 applications had comments from the Parish – are these required – answer most certainly

**Financial Matters:**

1. Ms Roberts explained Income and Expenditure since the last meeting; cheques signed where relevant
2. Ms Roberts asked to offer Forestry Operations the sum of £25 for the cancellation of a contract
3. Ms Roberts provided printed copies of the current Accounts up to date
4. Mrs Cordon asked Council to approve a half yearly internal audit arrangements and appointment of auditor. Resolved to proceed and appoint Mr Richard Crighton as auditor
5. In answer to Mrs Cordon both Cllr Bihlmeier and Cllr Firman will work on the 2012/13 budget and present this at the November meeting

**For information:** Highways have been advised of subsidence in Church Road.

**Mr Bihlmeier** introduced Jan Cordon and advised Council that three Councillors had met with her earlier and asked for a resolution for Mrs Cordon to take on the role of Acting Clerk for a three month period. **Resolved** unanimously

**Mrs Cordon** introduced herself and explained the role she would undertake – a training session for Councillors will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at the Armoury Hall

**Matters Brought by Cllrs:**

Cllr Murray advised that Mr Haigh has done cleaning within the churchyard and that the gate is catching on the ground – both for November Agenda

**Council Resolved to Close the Meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to discuss confidential employment issues. The Minutes are exempt from publication**

Formal Closure of Meeting at 10.20pm

Date .....

Signature .....