

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Annual Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.30pm

In the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle, Stephan Lucks, Graham Smith and Sarah Wilson-Medhurst

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

24/24. Elections

Election of Chair and signing of Acceptance of Office form

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson-Medhurst and seconded by Cllr Smith that Cllr Doyle be Chair. She signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Wilson-Medhurst that Cllr Lucks be Vice Chair.

24/25. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Rapp (work) and District Cllr McHugh (work)

24/26. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Lucks declared an interest in item 24/33 as the owner of Sands House in Moor Lane and direct neighbour of The Little Forge. Cllr Smith declared an interest as a neighbour of the Little Forge.

24/27. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19th March and 23rd April 2024

The minutes were both approved and signed as a true record.

24/28. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

The reported tree at Tink a Tank is being removed by Highways.

24/29. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

No reports were received.

24/30. To discuss a village clean up

This could be done during Spring/Summer and after No Mow May.

Action: The Chair to speak to Toby Harris.

24/31. To discuss a proposal to support dark skies in South Newington

A villager spoke about a proposal to support dark skies in the village. She had seen an article in a North Yorkshire Village about dark skies. It is a huge undertaking to get there and the backing of the Parish Council is a big step forward.

Light pollution and outdoor light levels are human made. They can negatively affect human health. It increases obesity, breast cancer and depression. There is a correlation between light pollution and Alzheimers although this is work in progress.

It does not just impact human beings but animals too. Nocturnal animals breed at night. They try to find food and get protection from predators.

Things that residents can do are:-

Look at the clear purpose of lights and why people have them.

Decorative lighting could be downlights and not uplights.

Some lights could have shields put on.

Lights not to be brighter than necessary. Only use when useful.

Use timers and sensors. Colour is important. Blue is the worst for melatonin suppression.

There are easy changes that people can make. She agreed to forward the detail by email.

The Chair said there has been a lot of interest in this and its all about sharing education. It was all agreed to support this at a medium level.

24/32. To appoint the nominative trustees for the allotments

The current trustees are Susan Robertson and Liam Charles. The appointments were confirmed for another four years.

24/33. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

New

- 24/01301/TCA, T1 x Juniper – Fell poor condition tree at Sands House, Moor Lane. It was agreed to support.
- 24/01269/TCA, T1 - Cedrus libani Crown reduction by thinning up to 3m of the height and up to 2m of the radial crown to improve whole tree safety factor and reduce the risk of branch failure at South Newington Manor. It was agreed to support.
- 24/01027/F, RETROSPECTIVE - Installation of air source heat pump and air condenser within acoustic enclosures along eastern boundary at The Little Forge. Objected with comments.

Determined

- 24/00329/F, Single storey rear extension to main house; conversion of the existing outbuilding to habitable accommodation, installation of solar panels to roof outbuilding, and new glazing and erection of new entrance gates to front elevation, and formation of raised platform to rear of dwelling and associated steps at Dairy Cottage, The Old Farmyard. Granted by CDC.

Other

APP/C3105/D/24/3337036, Retrospective – Single Storey rear extension and loft conversion at 5 St Peters Close. Site visit by Planning Inspectorate made on 22 March 2024. The appeal is dismissed.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

£133.85 to CDC (dog bin emptying)

£160.00 to R Fletcher (internal audit)

£40.00 to Parish Clerk (ICO registration)

£199.20 to N Prickett (grass cutting)

£360.00 to Time Assured (Repair to clock)

£47.00 to OPFA (membership)

£36.00 to Sort It (Website maintenance April)

£654.96 to Zurich Insurance

£475.00 to South Newington Village Hall (donation)

£475.00 to PCC (donation)

£36.00 to Sort It (Website maintenance May)

Correspondence

- Villager, Security Lights at The Little Forge
- Highways, Introduction to Engagement Team

- Emails from villager re blocked drain on Moor Lane
- Email, Retrospective application for change of windows
- AGE UK, Digital Switchover
- Email from villager re precept, dark skies and safety concerns with grass contractor

24/34. AGAR for year ending 31st March 2024

The internal audit has been carried out and the documents listed below were circulated.

a) To agree and sign the Certificate of Exemption

It was agreed to approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption.

b) To agree and sign Section 1

It was agreed to approve and sign Section 1.

c) To agree and sign Section 2

It was agreed to approve and sign Section 2.

Action: The Parish Clerk to submit the information to the External Auditor before 30th June 2024 and place documents on the website/board.

24/35. Councillors Reports

Cllr Smith met the new Highways Engagement Team Officer. They looked at the drains which have been a big problem. The one at the top of Green Lane is blocked and one on the A361. They will be cleared. They will discuss the ongoing water problems at Wom'Il with colleagues.

24/36. Public participation session (*Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of fifteen minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes*)

A villager spoke about a phone call he had received from a Health Authority re an alarm system which could be a scam.

Action: The Chair to send a message on the Cares Whats App group to make people aware.

The vegetation on the footpath next to Old School House is overgrown. Its owned by the Great Tew Estate.

Action: Ownership details will be found.

There is no further news on the underground power lines.

Action: The Chair/Parish Clerk to ask District Cllr A McHugh for further help.

24/37. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting finished at 8.15pm.