**NEWLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Newland Parish Council held in the Library of The Beauchamp Community at 7.30pm, Monday 7th January 2013.

Present: Mrs H Jeavons (chair) Mr T Yapp Mrs O Craze Mr J Jenkins

Mr S Patterson

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr R. Mitchell had tendered his resignation from the parish council. The clerk was requested to inform MHDC and make arrangements for the vacancy to be advertised.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no changes to the Register of Interests or Gifts and Hospitality. The chairman declared an interest in items 6 and 7, and all financial matters.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November 2012 were proposed by Mr Jenkins, seconded by Mr Yapp and accepted by all as a correct record of the proceedings.

At this point, item 7 was brought forward.

7. TO CONSIDER THE POSITION OF GRANT THORNTON AS AUDITORS

The chairman explained that due to the conflict of interest resulting from her position as a partner in the newly appointed external auditors, Grant Thornton, the Parish Council would need to decide if they would like to request the audit commission appoint an alternative auditor, or would prefer to retain Grant Thornton as auditors and ask her to step down from the council.

The chairman left the room at this point whilst the matter was debated.

Following discussion, Mr Jenkins proposed that Mrs Jeavons remain a member of the Parish Council and the Audit Commission be asked to appoint an alternative auditor. Mr Patterson seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

The chairman then re-joined the meeting.

4. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Mr Yapp noted that the new chairman and vice chairman of Malvern Hills Conservators were now in post.

5. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON MATTERS ARISING IN PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. SWDP – The chairman briefly summarised the meeting of MHDC where the decision to accept the SWDP had been taken. It was noted that a consultation would now take place regarding the soundness and legal compliance of the plan and that a letter had been circulated inviting representations from interested parties. Those submitting representations may, at the discretion of the Inspector, have the opportunity to speak at the Examination in Public to be held in the summer.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that a representation should be made. The chairman agreed to draft a response and circulate to other members of the council for approval before submission by 18th February.

1. Greggs – Planning regulations re seating area

The MHDC planning Enforcement Officer had inspected Greggs and took the view that since the seating area is small, it is considered ancillary to the primary use and is not a breach of planning control. This view was questioned, with Mr Patterson noting that there is now a seating area on both sides of the shop and on a recent visit he had been asked if he would be eating in. The clerk was requested to go back to MHDC for further comment.

1. Mobile advertising hoardings – planning consent

The Enforcement Officer had noted that as long as the vehicles concerned were not used principally for the display of advertisements and were not permanently sited, the matter would not come under planning control. He had also informed the clerk that he had spoken with the manager of Hills Ford, explaining the regulations, and that the vehicle had subsequently been removed. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that since the vehicle was in the location most of the time, including early mornings and late evenings, and carried significant boarding suggesting that it could not be used for any other purpose, that the clerk should go back to the Enforcement Officer for further comment.

1. Litter bin for Worcester Road bus shelter

The clerk had obtained a quote of between £90 and £120 from the contractor used by MHDC to install a bin at the location. Mr Jenkins and Mr Yapp offered to carry out the installation. It was proposed by Mrs Craze and agreed unanimously that a maximum budget of £200 for the purchase of the bin and a maximum of £50 for materials be delegated to Mr Jenkins and Mr Yapp to purchase and install the litter bin.

1. Wheelie Bins – Beauchamp Community

Since arrangements for wheelie bins at specific locations are yet to be circulated, it was suggested that a representative from the Beauchamp Community contact MHDC to discuss the most suitable number and location of wheelie bins for the site.

1. Damage to bus shelter – A449 (Malvern – Worcester)

Repairs to the shelter had been carried out by Mr Jenkins, Mr Yapp and Mr Patterson. The chairman thanked them on behalf of the council for their time and effort.

1. Budget and precept 2013/14 – deferred until after item 6.

6. TO CONSIDER GRANTING A DISPENSATION UP UNTIL THE NEXT ORDINARY ELECTION TO ALL PARISH COUNCILLORS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE PARISH TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSION OR VOTE ON ANY MATTER CONCERNING THE SETTING OF THE COUNCIL’S BUDGET AND ANNUAL PRECEPT

The clerk outlined the background to the situation and the advice provided by CALC and the chairman proposed that the above dispensation be granted. Mr Patterson seconded and it was agreed unanimously. All councillors present signed an application for dispensation and handed this to the clerk.

5. g) The budget and precept had been discussed and agreed in principle at the previous meeting. It was noted that confirmation was still awaited from MHDC that they would not be making any changes to their rates resulting from rate changes imposed by central government, which could have a knock on effect on parish council precepts. Following item 6, and in light of this, it was proposed by Mr Jenkins that the precept request of £4500 be accepted on the proviso that the parish council should call an extraordinary meeting if any alteration was required. Mr Patterson seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

8. FINANCE

a) Accounts paid

BGS Lengthsman – November £126.00

BGS Lengthsman – December £111.00

J Barker Clerk – November & December £347.20

Post Office HMRC PAYE 3rd Qtr. 2012/13 £47.60

b) Accounts received

WCC Lengthsman April – September £942.00

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Jenkins reported that a kissing gate by the cricket pitch was broken. He also noted that someone had tried to break into the cricket pavilion and several sheds locally.

The chairman read out an email from Mrs Green, detailing her concerns about traffic speeds and road safety for residents with properties fronting Worcester Road. She had requested that a member of the council meet with her at her home to see the problem first hand. The chairman agreed to contact Mrs Green to arrange a visit.

The issue of speeding on Worcester road was discussed and the clerk was requested to contact the Safer Roads Partnership to bring the concerns of the Parish Council to their attention.

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10. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 4th March at 7.30pm in the Library of The Beauchamp Community.

Signed ............................................... (Chairman) Date ...............................................