**NEWLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Newland Parish Council held in the Library of The Beauchamp Community at 7.30pm, Monday 5th November 2012.

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

Mr T Roome

10 members of the public

Mr T Wells – District Cllr – Part meeting

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies from Mr R Mitchell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no changes to the Register of Interests or Gifts and Hospitality. The chairman declared an interest in item 9.

The meeting was suspended at this point to allow members of the public present to take part in an open forum regarding the SWDP.

The SWDP preferred option and the alternative plan set out in the report by Cllr Raine were discussed at length. It was noted that the alternative plan, whilst providing the same total number of new homes for Malvern, would feature several smaller developments, dispersed throughout the town and more easily accommodated within the existing road network and infrastructure. The number of new homes earmarked for Newland would reduce from 700 to 250, and whilst the single point of access and egress from the site would still be at the Newland roundabout, the reduced volume of traffic would have less of an impact on the existing congestion.

One of the main arguments for approving the SWDP has been that any new plan would not be finalised before the March 31st 2013 deadline; however, it was noted that the existing plan itself would not be fully in place by that date and hence would not provide protection from speculative development proposals. The view was expressed that the alternative plan, with work, could be in place almost as quickly.

Cllr Wells joined the meeting at this point. Noting that the District Council meeting at which the matter would be debated and voted upon would take place on Tuesday 13th November, he re-iterated the points already made and encouraged all present to write letters to the Malvern Gazette, raising public awareness of the issues at stake and highlighting the importance of making the right long term decision for Malvern.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wells and all members of the public in attendance for their contribution and they all left the meeting at this point.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 17th September 2012 were proposed by Mr Roome, seconded by Mrs Craze, and accepted by all as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Mr Wells had spoken during the open forum

Mr Yapp reported on a well-attended meeting of Malvern Hills Conservators, commending their decision to reject an application for a major building development off the Guarlford straight.

5. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON MATTERS ARISING IN PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) SWDP – The matter had already been discussed in the open forum.

b) Greggs – Planning regulations re seating area

The matter has been referred to the MHDC planning enforcement officer who will inspect and report back in due course. Mrs Craze reported that on a recent visit to Greggs, she had noted that several people were eating-in.

c) Mobile advertising hoardings – planning consent

The matter has been referred to the enforcement officer as per item 5a. It was noted that there is often more than one mobile hoarding located on the verge area outside Greggs. The clerk agreed to bring this to the attention of the enforcement officer.

d) Litter bin for Worcester Road bus shelter

The clerk provided information on costs for suitable bins and these were discussed. Mr Roome asked if the District Council would be prepared to install the bin if the parish council purchased it. The clerk was requested to approach MHDC and report back to the next meeting.

e) Wheelie Bins – Beauchamp Community

MHDC are yet to make a decision on the provision of Wheelie Bins, but are expected to do so within the next few weeks. The issue to be re-visited once a decision has been made.

f) Damage to bus shelter – A449 (Malvern – Worcester)

Mr Yapp had inspected the shelter and confirmed that whilst it was still securely held down it had been dislodged from its plinth. It was agreed that Mr Yapp, Mr Roome and Mr Jenkins would contact Mr Patterson and between them re-secure the shelter on the plinth.

6. PLANNING

a) Applications received - None

b) Decisions received from MHDC – None

7. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2013/14

The clerk had received notification from CALC that due to an oversight in the new nationally agreed code of conduct, parish councillors were now regarded as having a pecuniary interest in the precept of their parish and hence were unable to take part in setting it. CALC had advised that councillors should apply for a dispensation allowing them to take part in such proceedings and were advised to defer any decision on the precept until this was in place. It was therefore agreed that the budget and precept should be considered in principle but that no decision should be taken.

The clerk provided a summary of the results for the financial year 2011/12 and to date expenditure for 2012/13 and the provisional budget for 2013/14 was discussed. The question as to whether rural rate relief at The Swan should still be supported by the parish was discussed. It was agreed that the matter would require further debate but that a sum should be provided in the budget to support such an application should it seem appropriate.

The chairman proposed a provisional precept request of £4,500, as per 2012/13, and all were in favour.

8. FINANCE

a) Accounts paid

BGS Lengthsman – October 2012 ` £198.00

J Barker Clerk – October 2012 £172.66

Clement Keys Audit and annual return 2011/12 £144.00

b) Accounts received – None

9. NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT – EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Confirmation had been received that Grant Thornton had been appointed external auditors for a five-year period commencing 2012/13. The chairman had declared an interest in this matter.

10. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chairman had received reports of bus drivers driving excessively quickly and failing to stop through the village. She had contacted the bus company, who had apologised and confirmed that the driver in question had been spoken to and re-educated.

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11. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 7TH January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Library of The Beauchamp Community.

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