

NEWTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2019-20 Annual General Meeting

The Chivrick Room of The Exchange

Friday 21st February 2020

	Item	
1	Apologies	Steve Munns and Jackie Cheyney, Kathy and Alan Teasdale, Louise Rycroft, Diana Lewis, Barry and Ann Joplin, Steve and Alison Ramm, Ros Wills, Heather and Jeremy Squire, Mr. and Mrs. Drew, Eve Ayers, Paula Harris, Merv and Sue Rose.
		The meeting was called to order at 6.35
2	Minutes of the 2018-19 AGM and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.</p> <p>Matters arising.</p> <p>Footpath beside the A357 and River Stour. The repair has been unsuccessful and a sink hole has appeared.</p> <p>Clr Jones responded: The repairs previously undertaken have not held and a further sink hole has appeared. This will now require new surveys requiring liaison between DCC, Pitt Rivers Estate and the Environment Agency. This will take some time and, in the meantime, an interim solution of a wooden fence (in place of the plastic hurdles) is being investigated.</p>
3	Chairman's Report Charles Fraser	<p>The Chairman noted that members Flo Obey and Doreen Baggerly had sadly passed away last year.</p> <p>He went on to comment to the membership that the Association now has the benefit of the Leader of Dorset Council, a Dorset Councillor and a Town Councillor among its members and because they will each give a presentation, it made the work of the Chairman very straightforward in welcoming them and the members to the meeting.</p>
4.	Treasurer's Report, Steve Lewis	<p>Steve Lewis advised the group that the bank balance stands at £1,232 at the year end of 31st January 2020. The income grows by between £60 and £100 per year and is made up solely of members' subscriptions. The annual expenses relate mostly to the organisation of the AGM and the Litter Pick. There are some extraordinary expenses this year including retirement gifts for the departing treasurer and auditor.</p> <p>He advised the group that there are 160 households in Newton and membership included only 54 households. A leaflet, with information about membership, was being produced to be delivered alongside Unity to all households.</p> <p>Question from the floor: What is the money used for?</p> <p>The Chairman responded that the association was initially formed to review and comment upon plans for the North Dorset Business Park, but had since provided funds and responses to object to other planning matters affecting Newton</p>

		<p>including the Solar Farm at Rudge Hill Farm. He went on to offer the members the opportunity to suggest uses for the funds by contacting him direct or via the secretary.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Town Council Report, Cllr Martin Jones</p>	<p>Cllr Jones advised the group that the Town Council is currently investigating possible traffic management measures for Station Road. This road has very restricted access, however, up to 75 cars per day, 3000 traffic movements per month have been recorded. He commented that the TC viewed the current signage as an inadequate solution. They are currently investigating other methods available to control vehicle movements, allowing access only to those who have permissions. This investigation requires liaison with DCC and the Highways Authority.</p> <p>Comment from the floor : Other towns are using CCTV cameras as a deterrent. Cllr Jones noted the comment and concern about the use of Police resource to survey and manage this solution.</p> <p>Cllr Jones advised of some recent projects: The appearance of the empty bank buildings has been improved by the use of positive imagery to fill the window voids. He noted this was sponsored by the Community Chest. These are an environmentally friendly temporary solution.</p> <p>The Town Sign has been refurbished and teething problems with the lighting are being resolved.</p> <p>There is, underway, a project to improve the entrance to the Trailway at Station Road Car Park. The initiative will include information boards (one illuminated), seating and benches. There are grant bids outstanding for £16,000 to fund the project.</p> <p>Cllr Jones advised plans to repair Sturminster Bridge are a protracted matter due to the Grade 1 status of the Bridge and the necessary permissions required to undertake the work.</p> <p>He made reference to a previous suggestion to instate 'gates' Newton as a traffic calming measure, and suggested it is worthy of consideration by the Association in the absence of other traffic calming for the approach to Newton.</p> <p>Question from the Floor : What is the future of the Post Office? It has been noted that the working hours of the Post Office Counter have reduced recently. Cllr Jones commented that the number of staff members has reduced. He encouraged the membership to use the Post Office and Cash Machine to increase their viability.</p>

6.	Cllr Carole Jones DCC	<p>Cllr Jones presented to the group (this is from a transcript).</p> <p>Dorset was served by 9 councils prior to last May, we now have 2 unitary authorities, BCP and what we call Dorset Council. 375,000 residents, 28% of whom are 65 and older (England average 18%). We have around 7000 people living with dementia, this number is increasing. We have a low birth rate – this causes a problem in numbers for rural schools.</p> <p>We have many areas of real deprivation – often not seen in what we consider rural idyllic Dorset.</p> <p>95 miles of Coast Dorset & Devon classified as a UNESCO natural world heritage site – the only one in England. Over half of Dorset is designated as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 7% of Dorset is protected as a site of special scientific interest and Dorset has one of the largest areas of protected lowland heath in Europe. Whilst these make Dorset the beautiful county it is, it presents a challenge in terms of available land for delivering housing and employment. We have around 10,000 listed buildings, and one in twenty of all protected ancient monuments in England.</p> <p>20,000 businesses are based in Dorset, 86% are micro firms and less than 1% are large. Dorset’s Economy is worth about £7.1B and provides 143,000 jobs. Earnings are below average and house prices high, in 2017 lower end house prices were more than 10 x lower end earnings.</p> <p>One council – 204 councillors down to 82, we each have around 3500 residents. First year – challenges in reorganising each old council area and their officers into one organisation with one set of aims and ambitions.</p> <p>Real challenges that face the council are based around Adult Social Care and Children’s Services / SEND</p> <p>Political – cross party working</p> <p>Cllr Jones’ committees include Planning, Appeals, Licensing, Adult Placement - Full Council.</p> <p>Areas that Cllr Jones is involved in:</p> <p>Economic Development & Regeneration – Transport / Infrastructure / Roads - Digital Infrastructure, Education – raising employability skills</p> <p>Leisure Development – Dorset has a number of centres, all of which seem to operate in a different way, with a different management structure – 10 sites. Collectively these are subsidised by 1.5M per year.</p> <p>Access to Rural Transport – coverage throughout the whole of Dorset with 50 different Community Care Schemes – GAP – young people. We have met many voluntary bodies offering services, alongside organisations such as the CAB who explained in full the general difficulties being experienced. Dorset Community Transport has 60 mini buses – for group transport at an affordable rate. Plus Bus offers weekday mid morning trips from small Dorset villages to a local destination town.</p> <p>Local Plan – this is the plan which sets out what the council needs to do in terms of housing numbers, identifying sites etc. This plan has to meet targets set by government, but we have to do this in the most sustainable way.</p> <p>Areas I have delved into that have given me cause for concern:</p> <p>Shared Lives Incident – working in silo’s</p>
----	--------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<p>Appeals – Home educating children The number of different voluntary groups that often do the same as others – could they be more effective if they pooled resources? Funding for education – my role as a school Governor Areas that have made my heart soar! Stour Connect / Memory Cafe Cycle without Age / Health Champions – my work with the PPG The Pantry – can we get it off the ground? What have I been working on Alder Close SID's</p> <p>Cllr Jones proposed to the group, a SID (Speed Indicator Device) for Newton Hill. She invited the group</p> <p>Land in Sturminster – how can we make it work better for us – how can Dorset help us to revitalise Sturminster's economy. All sorts of local issues from helping a vulnerable person access more care, helping a family move their elderly relative into another home where she could continue to smoke!</p> <p>Question from the floor: We have a Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan, which is a statutory document. How will this be honoured in forming the Local Plan?</p> <p>Cllr Jones responded that any plan two years and older will carry proportionately less weight.</p>
7.	North Dorset Business Park Cllr Pauline Batstone	<p>Cllr Batstone advised the group that there are a number of parties interested in taking sites on the Business Park.</p> <p>From the Floor: An objection was made to the planning application for Plot 5, including its adherence to the policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that NRA would make a formal response.</p>
8.	Speedwatch Robert Clark	<p>Mr. Clark informed the group that there are six sites monitored within Sturminster Newton, these are Bath Road (at Rabin Hill junction), Newton Hill, Rolls Mill, Manston Road, Bridge Street and Glue Hill. The statistics show the greatest number of speeding incidents occurs at Glue Hill. Of 123 vehicle movements in a one-hour period, 9 were over the speed limit. This is compared to Newton Hill where 525 were recorded in one hour with 4 speeding.</p> <p>At present there are only three Speedwatch Representatives from the Newton area and the Group would welcome any members who would be willing to train. Anyone interested should contact Robert Clark by email at robert2424@hotmail.co.uk.</p>

9	Litter Pick Cllr Batstone	<p>The annual litter-pick will take place on Saturday 21st March, commencing at 10.30am. There will be two starting points. Elvlin, Glue Hill and Rolls Mill (North Dorset) Business Park. Black bags will be provided but those attending should take gloves and a picker, if they have one. On completion refreshments will be provided, courtesy of NRA, at the Bull Tavern.</p> <p>From the Floor: The area around the Bull Tavern is in a particularly poor condition and may be too much work for volunteers. Mr. Fraser agreed to speak to the TC grounds team to enquire whether they can clear some of the rubbish in that area.</p>
10.	AOB	<p>Mrs. Bungay wished to add her comments of concern over the future of the Post Office and stressed its importance to the Town.</p> <p>Mrs. Jo Lewis informed the group of the Woodlands Trust free sapling initiative. She invited the members to consider where new trees might be planted in Newton. Anyone interested should contact Steve Lewis by email lewis704@btinternet.com</p> <p>It was suggested that the Newton BT telephone box could be used to house a defibrillator. Mr. Fraser advised that this telephone box was currently operational. Defibrillators are available at The Exchange and in the telephone box outside the High School.</p>
11.	Election of Officers	<p>The current committee was re-elected. Proposed by Mrs. Fraser and seconded by Mr. Martindale.</p>
12.	Meeting Closed	<p>Mr. Fraser closed the meeting at 8.11 pm</p>