**MINUTES OF NEWTON SOLNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON**

**10th DECEMBER 2021 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present –** Cllr. D. Smith (Chairlady), Cllr. L. Charles, Cllr. G. Tully, Cllr. S. Vickers and Cllr. K. Haines (felt unwell and left early)

In attendance – R. Parker (Clerk/FRO), Cllr. D. Muller and Cllr. A. Churchill

Cllr. A. Churchill advised that there had been a recent conviction for fly tipping after rubbish was dumped on farmers land in Aston on Trent – fine of £733 and costs. The district council have been successful after external audit in achieving environmental certification for the 12th year running. There has recently been problems with staff vacancies but these are now being improved. He reported the sad loss of Adrian Lowery of the Waste and Cleansing team. He had visited the refugees residing at Newton Park Hotel and exchanged contact details.

Cllr. D. Muller had offered a grant to the Jubilee Orchard fund from his community fund.

He understands that the new residents at the Hotel are settling in satisfactorily. Very few problems appear to have occurred. The refugees are bound by a curfew which restricts them to the hotel between 10.00 pm to 7.00am Various charitable offers have been made.

**Part**  **1 – Non Exempt information**

**1/12/21 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr. G. Plowman and Cllr. A.L. Sedgewick.

**2/12/21 Variation in order of business**

No change deemed necessary

**3/12/21 Declaration of Members Interest**

None

**4/12/21 Planning applications and decisions**

Planning application 1845 – Felling of Sycamore Tree at 22 Main Street (covered by tree preservation order 176)

The tree was perfectly healthy prior to the recent building work and is now reported as dying. Since then the roots have been cut back and builders rubbish has been stored very close to the trunk in an attempt by the builders to kill the tree. The Clerk was instructed to put in an objection to the application and also to contact the senior enforcement officer and detail our disgust that the tree has been purposely subject to an attempt to kill it. The abuse to the tree had apparently been reported to DCC at Matlock whose representative had given instructions to remove the rubbish surrounding the trunk. The tree is considered by parishioners to be an historic and protected part of the village.

Bungalow at Sunnyside – No decision as yet

**5/12/21 To consider various items of the non-exempt minutes of 12th November 2021**

Cllr. G. Tully felt that comments by him were not quite correct. The Chairlady made a written correction on the minutes.

Minutes proposed to be accepted by Cllr. L. Charles and seconded by Cllr. G. Tully. - unanimous

**6/12/21 To determine which items if any of part 1 of the agenda should occur with the public excluded.**

None

**7/12/21 Outstanding matters**

None

**8/12/21 To receive the Clerk’s report**

The nettles that had been obscuring the view over the river had been cut back and the benches had been re-stained. Other items already included in agenda.

**9/12/21 To receive the Chairlady’s report.**

Cllr. D. Smith confirmed that she had thoroughly looked into the current policies and felt that SDDC policies would be correct for our Parish Council. Unanimous approval by Councillors subject to approval by SDDC.

She reminded the Councillors that requests for funding must initially be addressed to the Parish Council for approval.

Enquiries regarding financial matters should be referred to the minutes and financial reports.

**10/12/21 To receive reports from Parish Councillors.**

Cllr. L. Charles has been involved with various charities regarding helping the refugees resident at Newton Park Hotel.

**11/12/21 Grant for Barrier**

The Clerk confirmed that a letter of objection for non-payment of the grant had been sent to SDDC with copies sent to Cllr. D. Muller and Cllr. A. Churchill to keep them informed.

**12/12/21 Paved grass verge – Mill Close**

The Clerk confirmed his is now over two years old and the site is still extremely unsightly and the remains of the slabs are dangerous - due to the lack of attention to the necessary works this will be included on the agenda in future. The current suggestion is that the section of the grass verge is to be replaced by tarmac. It is understood that this may create a drainage problem for surface water draining towards the garages of both this and the adjoining house. As this case has been virtually ignored by DCC for over two years it was suggested that we ask Cllr. D. Muller for his assistance.

**13/12/21 Soft water spring**

It is now understood that the problem is now being dealt with.

**14/12/21 Adoption by Newton Solney Parish Council of SDDC policies**

See 9/12/21 – Chairladies’ report

**15/12/21 Provision of basketball hoop.**

Cllr. G. Tully had hoped for more information to submit to the meeting.

He promised that full details would be available for our next meeting

**16/12/21 To confirm amount of next years precept.**

Cllr. D. Smith advised she was aware that the Clerk might retire in the next few months and we must consider the cost to employ a replacement Clerk. From details of adverts for new Clerks in other parishes it was obvious that there would be a substantial increase in the costs of a new Clerks employment.

We pay the current Clerk annually in the following year whereas a new Clerk will require monthly payments.

There is also a chance that we may not receive a grant for the barrier despite £1500 promised and also the proposed Jubilee celebrations could prove expensive. The amount of £12,000 precept was proposed by Cllr. D. Smith and seconded by Cllr. L. Charles - unanimous

**17/12/21 Risk register**

See Chairladies report – 9-12-21

**18/12/21 Grant application for shed and orchard.**

Cllr. L. Charles advised that she had applied for three grants. The eventual decision as to what is created depends on how much is promised by grants and voluntary contributions. Proposed by Cllr. L. Charles and seconded by Cllr. G. Tully that a storage shed and a useful space shed should be included subject of course to funds promised – Agreed - Unanimous

**19/12/21 Sign outside Newton Park Estate**

The Chairlady had received a comment from a parishioner regarding a sign which was placed on the wall outside the Newton Park estate. The sign stated that is was a private estate and there was no access to non-residents and that there is no access to the hotel. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should take no action.

**20/12/21 Approval of accounts and signing of cheques**

R. Parker Allowable Expenses £19.50

R. Parker Strim bank of river/paint benches £212.39

Toilet Hire Disabled Toilets for jubilee £78

Village Hall Newsletter £168

**Date of next meeting – Friday 14th January 2022**