

NEWTON POPPLEFORD AND HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

Annual Parish Meeting

held at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford at 7pm on Monday, 24th April 2023

Present: Cllrs. Burhop (Chair), Carpenter, Dalton, Lipczynski, Morgan, Tillotson, Tribble and Walker
Jacqui Baldwin, Parish Clerk,
Sgt. Matt Beard, Neighbourhood Policing Team
Ted Swan, Hon Footpath Warden
Cllr. Jess Bailey
9 members of the public

Prior to the formal business of the meeting, Chair welcomed Sgt Matt Beards of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Sgt Beards introduced himself as the Neighbourhood Sergeant for rural East Devon, a position he has held for a year. Sgt Beards stated that from April 2022 to the end of March 2023 there had been 85 reported crimes in Newton Poppleford and Harpford (compared to 62 in the preceding 12 months) out of a total of 594 in the whole of rural East Devon (596 in the previous year). The region generally is considered a low crime rate area. Sgt Beards noted that there had been a number of catalytic converter thefts which were thought to have been carried out by an organised gang carrying out thefts in one area and then moving on to another. The recent thefts from the allotment gardens were also part of a pattern of thefts from allotments which had taken place across the region. Unfortunately, there were very few lines of enquiry to be followed up. Sgt Beards encouraged members of the public to be vigilant and to report any concerns or incidents to the police who will always try and assist. This includes incidents of speeding as, the more incidents that are reported, the more likely it is that enforcement action will be taken. Chair thanked Sgt Beard for taking the time to attend whilst on duty.

Chair opened the meeting at 7.10pm, welcoming Councillors, guests and members of the public. Fire and evacuation procedures were outlined.

	Action
<ol style="list-style-type: none">To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs. Bilenkyj and Chapman. Cllr. Hughes apologised in advance for his potential late arrival or absence from the meeting.To consider and, if thought fit, approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2022, as previously circulated: Clerk noted that these Minutes had, in fact, been approved and signed at the June Full Council meeting.Matters Arising from those Minutes: Chair confirmed that any matters arising had been dealt with at the June Council meeting.Report from the Chair of the Parish Council: Cllr. Burhop presented his Annual Report, a copy of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting and published on the parish council website. Hard copies are available from the Clerk on request. There were no questions raised.Finance Report 2022-23: A copy of a report from the RFO had been circulated prior to the meeting and published on line. A member of the public requested confirmation of sums	

expended during 2022-23 on Council's attempt to have the restrictive covenant on the surgery building modified and also asked what provision had been made for further such expenditure in the 2023-24 budget. Chair confirmed that this information would be provided within 7 days. There were no further questions.

6. **Report from DCC Councillor, Jessica Bailey:**

A report from Cllr. Bailey was circulated prior to the meeting and published on the parish council website. Paper copies were provided for those present. Chair thanked Cllr. Bailey for her regular attendance at parish council meetings throughout the year.

7. **Report from EDDC Councillor, Chris Burhop:**

A report from Cllr. Burhop was circulated prior to the meeting and published on the parish council website. Paper copies were provided for those present. There were no questions raised.

8. **Neighbourhood Policing report:**

Dealt with prior to the commencement of the meeting.

9. **Report on Road Safety, Traffic Calming and Community Speed Watch initiatives:**

A report on the Community Speed Watch initiative was circulated prior to the meeting and published on-line. Paper copies were available for those present. Chair commended the work of Gill Cameron-Webb in driving this initiative and the members of the CSW team for volunteering their time. The data being produced by the team is proving invaluable and will help target enforcement in the future. Feedback from residents indicates that speeding is a major issue and the work of the CSW team is appreciated.

10. **Report from Ted Swan, Honorary Parish Footpath Warden:**

A report on parish footpaths was circulated prior to the meeting and published on-line. Paper copies were available for those present. Chair thanked Mr Swan for the hard work and time expended over the past 12 months in keeping the 23 kms of footpaths in good condition.

11. **Report on behalf of the Newton Poppleford Playing Field Foundation:**

Cllr. Dalton reported that bookings for the Pavilion are steadily increasing and there is a planned programme of fundraising events taking place throughout the year. Chair thanked the Management Committee of the Trustee Board for their efforts in managing and maintaining this important parish amenity.

12. **Report from the Climate Change Group:**

A report from the Climate Change Group was circulated prior to the meeting and published on-line. Paper copies were available for those present. Chair congratulated the CCG on a tremendously successful year, particularly with regard to the tree planting that had taken throughout the parish. He pointed out that all the work – applying for grants, earmarking suitable sites, obtaining permissions where needed, planting and maintaining the trees and hedges – was carried out by volunteers. Their hard work would be of great benefit to the parish for years to come.

13. **Coronation Celebrations in the Parish:**

Cllr. Dalton gave a brief overview of the events planned for Monday, 8th May which include a dog show, barbecue, stalls and games to be followed by a quiz in the evening. Chair thanked the Coronation Committee for their efforts in organising this event.

Chair noted how many of the groups, events, projects and initiatives being reported on during the meeting were the result of efforts by volunteers. He asked that residents give consideration to volunteering to support their community – whether through helping at events, supporting clubs or involvement on

committees. Without volunteers giving their precious time none of these activities will continue into the future.

14. **Any other business to be considered as determined by the presiding Chair.**

None so considered.

Cllr. Hughes joined the meeting at 7.20pm

Chair opened the Public Forum at 7.25pm

15. **Open Public Forum:**

Resident expressed concern at the Planning Office delay in publishing a decision on planning application ref 22/2243/FUL. This retrospective application was considered by Council on 24th October and was unanimously opposed. However, to date, no decision has been forthcoming from EDDC. Chair advised that the Planning Office had previously informed Council that the applicants were being encouraged to undertake "certain actions". Chair agreed that Council would follow up with the Planning Office.

There being no further business to consider, Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.