

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2022, 7.15PM

Present: Parish Councillors June James (Chairman), Chris Alliston, Pauline Hedges;
Clerk Susan Turner; Guests PCSO Andy Jones; Ward Cllrs Onnalee Cubitt and Kate Tuck;
Members of the public – 25.

Apologies John Ashworth, Paul Gaskell, Gareth Wilson, County Cllr Elaine Still, Sarah Laird, Sally Baker, Monica Wardrop, Cliff Joliffe

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies.
She thanked PCSO Andy Jones for attending and invited him to present his report.

2 LOCAL POLICING PCSO Andy Jones' Report

Andy introduced himself briefly. He began his working life in security, then worked as a prison officer for 10 years. He joined Hampshire Constabulary 15 years ago, working first in Basingstoke town, then Basingstoke Rural for the past seven years. During that time Rural South Area has been much extended.

Summary Report Rural South and Andy's area covers 49 Parishes not at present including Newnham and Mapledurwell Up Nately. He has been in touch with Basingstoke Town on our behalf and our assigned officers are:

PC Ren PARMAR renu.parmar@hampshire.police.uk

PCSO Lucy OLLERENSHAW lucy.ollerenshaw@hampshire.police.uk

Crime and 'other' reports in Newnham Parish

24 reports received by Hants Constab 2021 -2022 mixture of crimes and 'no crime'

28 reports received by Hants Constab 2020 -2021 mixture of crimes and 'no crimes'.

Reporting

- 101- Andy noted he also has to resort to the 101 system in order to contact another police force or constabulary
- 101 is for non urgent cases – slow time to be followed up next day
- 999 is for Crime happening there and then. And appreciates that even 999 doesn't always work as well as it should.
- Reporting online shouldn't necessarily take precedence over 101, but benefit of reporting online is that can do in own time, no waiting, and can also upload documents and photos for relevance.
- Search via any search engine for Hants Constabulary reporting.

Importance of reporting Important to report any information, to build up narrative, a picture of 'hot spots' which attracts resources. Reporting figures were slightly higher last year, high numbers can be a good thing if it reflects more people reporting, not necessarily more crime and incidents.

Re feedback, yes will only receive the generic email acknowledgement. But the reports will be there for officers when they next search the system; officers will know which ones to go to and progress.

Question: Andy Reid encouraged us to report pedlars, is this something you continue to ask? A Yes, continue to report. May not warrant 999 unless they are being aggressive at the door. If do call 999, may receive advice to call to 101; but much depends on what is happening elsewhere

Question – Hear that we're supposed to be policed from Basingstoke, but not seen a police officer from Basing since they closed the Basingstoke police station. A Have discussed issue of Newnham policing with the Basingstoke Sergeant. Glad to receive a response; had hoped for a better response, but will be a new sergeant in a few months' time. Would always like to do more, but already with a large area, only so much can do.

Noting that Hants PCC Donna Jones has plans for additional officers; can be hopeful for improvement; she is the first PCC that Andy has actually met in 15 years.

Cllr Cubitt said that Andy does a great job; issues with local policing organisation need to be taken up with the PCC (Police & Crime Commissioner) who has said she is committed to combatting rural crime. Send details of issues to Onnalee and she will send on to the PCC.

Final point from the floor that less talk and more action needed; need to see a police presence in Newnham, would be good to see the sergeant out in a police car.

PCSO Andy Jones left the meeting with the thanks of all present.

3 WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES Onnalee Cubitt and Kate Tuck.

3.1 Kate thanked all who voted in the recent local election however they cast their vote. She and Onnalee are here to represent all residents, please get in touch.

Briefly to note we have a huge battle ahead of us regarding proposed housing numbers which are unsustainable. When talking to people on the doorstep they speak of how much they value the countryside. We need to support each other; together can make an impact.

3.2 Onnalee noted the importance of Kate's election as Ward Cllr; she is incredibly knowledgeable on environmental and planning matters.

Onnalee noted that overall the Conservatives lost four seats in this borough council election which will change the dynamics of the council. Councillors haven't yet been assigned to Committees.

3.3 Local Plan and new housing

i The major sites put forward for housing are in the catchment area of the River Loddon – on its aquifer or in its Valley. Basingstoke being sited at the source of the River Loddon should not get any bigger. The Loddon is ultimately part of the Thames Basin Catchment. Big polluters are usually sited further downstream – on larger rivers.

ii Equally, building on the western side of the watershed is no solution, as this is the source aquifer for the Test.

iii Of note that the Water Cycle Study contracted to AECOM has still not been published, apparently 'remodeling' the numbers. The Study remains in Draft form and so not subject to a Freedom of Information requests.

iv Question - is the Environment Agency not now requiring that Water Quality be protected before development can take place? A 'Nutrient neutrality' legislation only applies to certain rivers – in Hampshire, those flowing into the Solent – the Test and Itchen. Larger developers can 'offset' the impact of development under the legislation by funding environmental regeneration projects

v Question – You mentioned a 'battle'. Is there a split between urban and rural councillors with regards to their approach to housing? A It's more complicated than that. If the borough is required to build 18K houses it's about where the power base lies.

vi Question – Is the objection to 'what' building or 'where' building? A Past levels of housebuilding has meant that further large scale house building is now environmentally unsustainable. The objection is to the numbers, the goal is not to have the borough council (Local Planning Authority) accept another 18k houses by 2030.

vii Kate noted that the biggest issue for the whole borough is getting the projected numbers down. As a collective, parishes and all the electors have a strong voice.

Meetings of EPH and Full Council have agreed not to accept the housing numbers, but a legal means must be found to oppose the Government's 'Standard Methodology' for calculation housing numbers.

Whitchurch Planning consultant (QC) advocating the Chelmer model. All parties can support / co-operate to seek to reduce overall housing numbers. No-one argues that affordable housing isn't needed; it is about opposing the overall numbers.

AGREED - Newnham's Parish Assembly in support of reducing overall housing numbers.

3.4 The proposed Moto service station south of J6 remains a big concern. The application continues unresolved, and has the potential to be linked with other development projects.

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4

REVIEW OF PAST YEAR(S)

In 2020 all Parish Assemblies were cancelled due to Covid; in 2021 Parishes were encouraged to hold remote 'Assemblies'. Newnham held a Zoom Assembly (hosted with thanks by Pauline Hedges) attended by Parish Councillors and Clerk, PC Andy Reid and five members of the public. The 2021 Assembly supported proposal to purchase defibrillators. In 2021, the Parish Council continued to meet outdoors and via Zoom. The first in-person Parish Council meeting following Covid was held in the Clubroom in March 2022.

Of note during the year

1. The Old House at Home did their utmost to continue during Covid and picked up two awards in March 2021. Red Oak Taverns posted on their website of 31st March 2021: 'Red Oak pub, the Old House at Home in Newnham Green, operated by Chris and Donna Richards, has received two awards this month. It was given the recognition, Best Family Run Restaurant in Hampshire 2020 by Lux Life Magazine and the award for Leading Purveyors of Hampshire Gins 2020.
'Co-Founder and chief executive of Red Oak, Mark Grunnell said: "We are delighted for Donna and Chris. Since they took over the pub with us, we have worked closely together including a substantial joint investment, so that they could create this fantastic pub that is now central to the community."'
2. Newnham Litterpicks have continued with thanks to Alan Richmond and volunteers.
3. The rebuilt Strings boardwalk was dedicated to Nigel Downes in recognition of his role as Footpaths Warden 2000 to 2019 and his central role in the Community.
4. The Parish Council has held meetings with BDBC Planning Policy Officers and remains opposed to BDBC's proposal for Newnham's as a 'Category 4 settlement with a settlement policy boundary; and so with the potential for future housing allocations.
As advised by Ward Cllr Mark Ruffell, the Clerk presented the case against the settlement policy boundary to the January 2022 EPH committee meeting. The outcome remains unknown but the meeting agreed that the views of Parish Councils should be taken on board rather than just noted.
5. Defibrillators have been purchased with grant funding contributions from County and Ward Cllrs – and installed with thanks to both pubs. Training is organised for Water End.
6. The awaited 'upgrade' to the traffic calming buildout opposite the Clubroom has been completed by HCC (funded by the Parish Council) including new white lines, cats eyes and repositioned signage.
7. Newnham Green
 - Thanks to Manor Farm for its support with the mowing.
 - Thanks to Screder for participating in the Newnham Green Volunteer day – facilitated with thanks by Pauline Hedges and BVA - and supported by the Parish Lengthsman.
 - Metal detectorist working on Newnham Green with the permission of the Malmesbury trust – a coin collector from Sherfield on Loddon. Finds included coins and a large section of an engraved Crotal bell.
8. Pond work and reports by HWARG. Thanks to Peter West and HIWARG volunteer group for their support, advice and working parties on Newnham Green pond.

5

PLANS FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATION ON THE GREEN

Presentation and discussion; offers of help appreciated.

6

OPEN SESSION**6.1 Newnham Community Broadband**

Thanks to Edward Clarkson for initiating and administering this project. Alan Richmond brought the welcome news that the Fibre connections should be delivered by November.

6.2 'Newnham Land' The fields between Newnham Road and Ridge Lane were put up for sale in May this year in lots and purchased by three separate but local buyers.

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A note has been submitted to the Assembly to that the Church Path, Newnham Footpath 3 is to be fenced south side with a stock fence leaving a 2m gap for the path.

'Wild Green Areas' The Greens kindly discussed their plans and vision for the two fields north of FP3 to Ridge Lane now a smallholding / market garden in the making.

- 6.3 Tylney Lane Well** The well on Tylney Investments' land, still hasn't been permanently covered and remains a hazard. It is understood that a concrete cap has been made; request to urge the farmer leasing the land to put this in place.

6.4 'Greening Campaign'

AGREED Newnham's Parish Assembly in principle in support of the Greening Campaign.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

For signature (p4 of 4) Date