



Newton Flotman Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 11 January 2022, 7.30pm, Newton Flotman Village Hall

Present: David Gibbs (Chairman) Julie King (clerk)
Jeff Billings
Lesley Crump
Bob Kelf
Bob McKelvey
Bruce Turnbull
Paul Weeks

Members of the public: William Ball, Chairman Village Centre Committee

1. Apologies for Absence
None.
2. Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations
Paul Weeks and Jeff Billings declared an interest in item 6, Paul is a trustee and Jeff is a member of the Village Centre Management Committee.
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2021
These were agreed as a true record of proceedings with no amendments.
4. Public Participation
None.
5. Third Quarter Accounts
The accounts had been circulated and were agreed.
6. Newton Flotman Village Centre Grant Application
William Ball explained that the process had allowed the Village Centre Committee to consider the requirements of the amenity not just for the current year but for some time to come.

There were five areas that had been identified as requiring financial assistance.

1 – The ground maintenance as in previous years, quoted cost for 2022 with the current contractor, CGM, £3,004.

2 – Areas of hedge and tree maintenance that were not covered by the CGM contract (trees and hedge at the top of Blundeville Manor and trees between the football pitch and car park). A quote of £2,520 had been received. The Village Centre were looking for a 75% contribution from the Parish Council.

3 – The RoSPA inspection carried out in June 2021 had identified a number of issues with the play equipment that required attention. A quote of £2,187 had been received.

4 – The flat roof over the entrance was in need of replacement. It was estimated that the cost would be around £2,500. The Village Centre were looking for a 75% contribution from the Parish Council.

5 – Three areas of ditch maintenance were required:

- i – The ditch in the north, east corner required clearing at a quoted cost of £480.
 - ii – The ditch that ran along the entrance road was overflowing south west across the access road, around the boundary and down Alan Avenue. Consideration was being given to rerouting the ditch to flow north-west and connecting into the ditch that runs behind the houses on Grove Dale.
 - iii – Drainage of the play area was required to allow the area to be used all year round.
- Funding was being applied for from elsewhere for items ii and iii but the Village Centre Committee may have to come back to the Parish Council depending on how successful they were.

It was agreed to consider each of these under item 9b.

7. Grounds Maintenance Contract

Three quotes had been received for the cutting of King's Green and the path off Joy Avenue. **It was agreed to accept Excite Solutions quote of £15 per occasion and to budget £300 for the year.**

8. Market Research Report

The report had given rise to five recommendations:

1 – Footpath along Flordon Road, although this had been previously been considered, discussion took place whether this should be revisited.

– speed reduction initiatives on Flordon Road, this would be further considered at future meetings.

2 – Lobbying Long Stratton Medical Partnership to increase the opening times for the surgery in Newton Flotman. **It was agreed that a letter be sent from the Chairman of the Parish Council along with a copy of the report to the Practice Manager and Assistant Practice Manager.**

3 – Youth Club – it had been found that YMCA provided a service running youth clubs which was used by other parish councils. **It was agreed that consideration would be given to using the ‘silver’ service at an annual cost of £7,603, subject to budget.**

Further information was being obtained regarding skate parks and BMX tracks.

4 – Volunteering and Community

A quote had been obtained from Breakthrough Communications to set up an e-newsletter using Mailchimp at a cost of £345. **This was agreed subject to budget.**

5 – To regularly survey the residents of the village. A budget would need to be established for the next survey in five years’ time.

9. Budget and Precept

a Reserves Policy

This was reviewed and agreed.

b Budget

A draft budget had been circulated and several items were considered individually including items discussed earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed to support the Village Centre with the following:

- **Grounds maintenance contract, £3,004**
- **Clearance of the ditch in the north, east corner. £440 would be used from the earmarked reserves and £40 was added to the budget**
- **Cutting back of the hedges and trees at the top of Blunderville Manor, £540 (70% of the quoted cost) but not the topping of the trees between the football pitch and the car park**
- **Maintenance work to the play area, £2,187**

In addition, it was agreed to budget for 70% of the cost of the funding required for the youth club, with the intention of applying for funding for the remaining 30% and the establishment of an email database at a cost of £345.

This resulted in a budgetary need of £23,418.49.

c Precept

Whilst concern was voiced regarding raising the precept at this time, it was felt that all the items agreed were necessary and would bring direct and real benefit to the village. It was also noted that whilst the percentage increase appeared high the monetary value of the increase was still relatively low.

It was agreed to set a precept of £23,418 which would result in a band D cost of £51.58, an 89% increase on the previous year which equated to an increase of £24.31 per year for a band D property, four in favour and two against.

10. Items for Next Agenda

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18 January 2022, 7.30pm to consider the parish council's response to planning application 2021/2784 – construction of 31 new dwellings (Class C3) with associated landscaping, drainage and highway works on land south west of Alan Avenue and Tuesday 25 January 2022, 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.