

# NEWTON POPPLEFORD AND HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

## Annual Parish Meeting

held at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford at 7pm on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Present:** Cllrs. Carpenter, Compton, Dalton, Lipczynski, Malawana, Tillotson, Tribble and Walker  
Jacqui Baldwin, Parish Clerk,  
PC Tom Driver, Neighbourhood Policing Team  
County Cllr. Jess Bailey  
District Cllr. Chris Burhop  
Ted Swan, Hon Footpath Warden  
6 members of the public

Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm, welcoming Councillors, guests and members of the public. Fire and evacuation procedures were outlined.

Prior to the formal business of the meeting, Chair introduced PC Tom Driver of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. PC Driver advised that the number of crimes reported in the parish since February 2023 show a reduction of 28% on the previous 12-month period with crimes of violence and sexual offences significantly reduced. Crime statistics by area can be viewed on the Devon and Cornwall Police website. PC Driver was asked what specific action the police are taking regarding traffic offences and traffic calming in the parish. PC Driver said road safety is a high priority for the police. The designation of the A3052 as a "high harm" route has attracted additional funding enabling officers to carry out extra operations and support the Community Speed Watch team. Cllr. Bailey asked whether it would be possible for the Vision Zero van to visit Newton Poppleford. It was noted that the Community Speed Watch team can only operate during daylight hours and much of the speeding through the village takes place at night. PC Driver confirmed that the police do have infrared speed cameras and suggested that Council advise him of some priority time frames when a targeted operation could be carried out. PC Driver encouraged members of the public to be vigilant and to report any concerns or incidents, including speeding, to the police. Chair thanked PC Driver for taking the time to attend whilst on duty. PC Driver then left the meeting.

	Action
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence:</b> Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs. Bisseker, Harrison and Hughes and from Gill Cameron-Webb of the Climate Change Group and Community Speed Watch Team.</li><li><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, as previously circulated:</b> Clerk noted that these Minutes had been approved and signed at the June 2023 Full Council meeting.</li><li><b>Matters Arising from those Minutes:</b> Chair confirmed that any matters arising had been dealt with at the June Council meeting.</li><li><b>Report from the Chair of the Parish Council:</b></li></ol>	

Cllr. Tribble presented her 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. In her report the Chair thanked members of Council, the Ward and County Councillors and Climate Change Group, Community Speed Watch, Footpath and Flag volunteers for their hard work and support throughout the past year. There were no questions raised.

5. **Finance Report 2023-24:**

A copy of a report from the RFO had been circulated prior to the meeting and published on line. Paper copies were provided for those present. There were no questions raised.

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.

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.

In addition, Mr Swan reported that the parish had gained an extra public right of way resulting in path number 39 being created. This path is still to be fully signed but is open for public use and is from the Venn Ottery Road between Southerton and Venn Ottery, close to where footpath 17 ends and goes west from there to join the existing track between those two hamlets.

The path that goes from the A3052 by the side of the church to the village car park has also been considered for PRoW status and was tentatively agreed by the Rights of Way Committee. The committee was however undecided on the line of the proposed new right of way through the car park to School Lane and, to date, this has still not been agreed. Cllr. Bailey offered to follow this up with Tom Green. Cllr. Carpenter asked for an update on the footbridge on footpath 6 which had been washed away last May. Mr Swan confirmed that the original bridge had been located downstream but now needs to be retrieved and replaced.

Finally, Mr Swan provided a synopsis of a letter sent to Simon Jupp MP by the Environment Agency in response to his concerns about the state of the footpaths around Red Bridge. It was noted that the DCC application for a permit to carry out flood defence works has been submitted to the Environment Agency.

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

A report was circulated prior to the meeting and published on-line. Paper copies were available for those present.

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.

13. **Report from the MUGA Working Party**

There was no representation from the MUGA Working Party. Chair thanked all those who had volunteered to assist with the maintenance and management of the Multi-Use Games Area since it re-opened. This is much appreciated by the whole community.

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

None so considered.

15. **Open Public Forum:**

Mr Swan noted that an item in the children’s playground appeared to require repair. Clerk confirmed that RoSPA inspection had recently taken place and the report details items that need attention. All repairs will be carried out over the next few weeks, either by the Parish Maintenance Contractor or a specialist play maintenance contractor.

Mr Swan advised that one of the life belts in Webbers Meadow had disappeared. Clerk to organise a replacement.

There being no further business to consider, Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting above

..... Chair

..... Date