Newnham Parish Council & Burial Authority

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Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 6.45 pm in the Armoury Hall, Dean Road, Newnham.

Present: Chair. Cllr F. Bihlmeier, Cllrs N. Assirati, H. Blakeman, D. Harvey, C. Kenny, J. Larkham, M. Penny, M. Smith & N. Swiers Plus County Cllr R Hoyland and the Clerk

There were 7 members of the public present.

1. **Public Consultation**

   RBL representatives - thanked council for permission to install the poppy display at the Clock Tower. A request was then made for silhouettes be installed at the Chains and the Clock Tower on a permanent basis. The Chair confirmed their request would be considered under item 19.

   Rain water culvert Mornington Terrace – A parishioner expressed concerns that storm water ingress into cellars is due to a problem with the culvert under the flagstone pavement. It is unclear who is allowed to conduct investigations and repairs. The Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting with the Highway's Manager to identify a way forward.

2. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

   None

3. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**

   None

4. **To approve minutes of the Parish council meeting of the 30th September 26**

   Minutes of the meeting were duly approved.

5. **To receive a report on activity for items not on the current agenda** – Lead: Clerk

   Insurance policy - renewal complete

   Clock Tower repair work – Planned for 22nd October now complete.

   Poppy display Clock Tower – Installed on the 24th October

6. **To receive an update from Cllr Hoyland regarding Glos CC proposed legal action against the owner of the Victoria Hotel, outstanding for a number of years.**

   County Cllr Hoyland reconfirmed that legal advice supported Highways claim of ownership. However, she was unaware if Highways have taken any further action.

   Cllr Assirati advised that given confirmation of ownership actions to ensure the removal of the Heras fencing can be taken i.e :

   Section 137 creates the offence of Highway Obstruction. (Police can also enforce and prosecute this offence).

   Section 130 specifies the duty of the County Council to remove the obstruction.

   Section 143 gives the County Council power to remove it after notice.

   Section 149 gives the County Council the power to remove obstructions causing immediate danger to road users (with no notice required)

   Given that this issue has been active for in excess of 19 years and is a major issue within the parish, it was **resolved** unanimously that the Clerk should write to the Highways Manager requesting them to take immediate action against the owner to remove the fencing.

7. **To question District & County Councillors on the content of their reports to council, pre issued to all Councillors.**

   No apologies were received from the district councillors and no reports were received.

8. **To receive the Clerk's report**.

   By agenda item.

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Financial

9. **Financial Statement** - Lead: The Clerk
The monthly financial statement for October 26 was received and approved
Monthly payments for October 26 were received and approved.

10. **To consider a quotation from Lydney surfacing for improving drainage and widening the footpath from the Play Park to the entrance of the school to allow two-way traffic and to install a connecting path from the Skate Park to the school path and discussions with Freeman Homes re the increase in footfall from the Unlawater development to the school via the public pathway.** Lead: Cllr Assirati
A quote of £12.5K from Lydney Surfacing was discussed in detail and considered unaffordable given current reserves. The Clerk advised that a second quote is being sought. The need for the pathway improvements was also discussed with differing views. It was agreed that prior to the November meeting Cllrs would visit the area to consider the benefits/cost. The Clerk was also asked to discuss the project with Freeman Homes as the pathway will benefit anyone living in Phase 1 or considering purchasing a house from Phase 2 or 3 that have school age children.

11. **To consider increasing weed killing throughout the village.** Lead: Cllr Assirati
The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Grass contractor and planned to arrange an end of season tour for the current contract and discuss general weed killing in the village. It was agreed that Cllrs Assirati & Swiers would accompany the Clerk.

12. **To consider a complaint that a large branch on a Beech tree (with a TPO) at the Beeches extends over a pedestrian path and potential damages a garage roof.** Lead: The Clerk
It was **resolved** to accept a quotation for £225 to remove the branch on Health & Safety and property damage grounds. Planning permission is required.

13. **To consider the need to crown raise a Cherry tree at the Beeches for H & S reasons.** Lead: The Clerk
It was **resolved** to accept a quotation for £125 to remove the branch on Health & Safety grounds.

14. **To consider the health of a variety of trees and shrubs bordering the current parking spaces at the beeches for future maintenance.** Lead: The Clerk
To be considered at a future meeting following a review in the area, and the possibility of community support (see item 33)

15. **To consider management of trees withing the embankment area hanging over the pathway at Sheens Meadow and a tree leaning across Hyde Lane. Lead: The Clerk**
To consider at a future meeting following a review in the area, and the possibility of community support (see item 33)

16. **To consider the Clerk attending an online course for cemetery management organised by the Institute of Cemetery & Crematoria Management (£120)** Lead: The Clerk
It was **resolved** to support the training of the Clerk

17. **To further consider a 2027/28 draft budget compiled by the Clerk, (Including outlooked spend on the Churchyard following formal closure notice by the PCC)** Lead: The Clerk
It was agreed to hold a further review at the November meeting, after the budget has been updated with latest spend and income outlooks.

Procedural

18. **To receive an update on the updating of Standing Orders to the latest revision and alignment of tender thresholds with Financial regulations.** Lead: The Clerk
The Clerk advised an update is required and will be completed prior to the January meeting.

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Community

19. **To consider a request from the Royal British legion to permanently erect silhouettes at several locations in the village.** Lead: All
Comments made by the RBL in public consultation were considered. Councils reaffirmed its full support for the RBL and remembrance activities. However, it was felt permanent siting would diminish the impact, compared to temporary siting timed with the remembrance activities. It was agreed that the silhouettes would be installed in line with poppy collection dates, starting approximately the third week of October.
20. **To consider a proposal from Matt Bishop (MP) for a railway Station at Elton Corner.** Lead: All
It was agreed that a letter of support should be sent to the MP regarding the proposed station.
21. **To receive an update on the potential downloading of data from the current speed sign from Cllr Swiers.**
Cllr Swiers to pursue this off line and report back to council when potential data download was understood. Remove from the agenda**.**
22. **To receive an update on the Beeches parking project on feedback from interested parties in the agreed funding proposal by Cllr Penny.**
As no reasonable funding proposal has been established it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until such time as a viable proposal is available.
23. **To receive an update related to Highways issues.** – Lead: Highways committee.
24. **To Consider Planning applications received –** Lead: Cllr Bihlmeier
F/26/00511/PRMA The Fifth Vine Ltd, The Farthings High Street – Application for a New premises licence (Web sales only)
It was **resolved** "no objection" to this application.
25. **To receive a report from Cllrs Assirati & Blakeman on the urgency of conducting remedial work on rot found in the crown of some Lime trees in the Chains and Lower High Street and to receive quotations from Abbey Trees and BFG if work is required and discussions with Mr Kerr on the issue and shared costs.** Lead: The Clerk
To be considered at the November meeting.
26. **To further consider the PC taking the freehold of the Roman villa remains in the Unlawater development into community ownership and the response from the developer. –** Lead: Cllr Assirati
The Clerk advised that a response to his approach to Freeman Homes on the transfer of ownership has yet to be received. He committed to obtaining a response prior to the November meeting.
27. **To receive an update from the Clerk regarding the registration of the "The Green" at land registry to the parish council.**
The Land Registry account has been set up. The legal advisor can now proceed with a formal application.
28. **To receive an update from the Clerk regarding treatment with preservative of the sculpture in the Play Park.** Lead: The Clerk
It was **resolved** to support Cllr Assirati's requested for two more tins of preservative**.**
29. **To receive an update re the replacement of the vandalised commemorative tree at the riverbank.** Lead: Cllr Swiers.
The replacement tree is now in place as is a protective steel tree guard.

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30. **To receive an update on additional tree planting in the village.** Lead: Cllr Assirati/ The Clerk
The Clerk advised the County Council are happy to support the request and for any additional trees council may require. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Simon Johnson thanking him for his support of maintenance activities and tree planting in many areas of the village

31. **To Consider how to deal with costs arising from clearance work on poorly maintained allotments.** Lead: Cllr Larkham
Following discussion, it was agreed there is no easy fix for long term empty allotments. One specific allotment causes concern and Cllrs Blakeman & Swiers volunteered to visit the site with Cllr Larkham.

32. **To consider amendments to the allotment tenancy agreement including modifications related to confirmation of GDPR requirements and acceptance of rules and regulations.** Lead: The Clerk
A copy of the draft agreement was circulated to council prior to the meeting; it was felt to be a reasonable proposed contract. It was agreed that Cllr Larkham would share it with the allotment association for their views. Any feedback should be via the association Chair direct to the Clerk.

33. **To consider the use of the "Community payback scheme to complete some works within the village**. Lead: Cllr Harvey
Cllr Harvey advised that applications had to be made on a project-by-project basis. It was agreed that he and the Clerk should investigate further prior to the November meeting.

<u>Other Matters</u>

34. **Matters for the Next Agenda.**
Use of Masons carpark – Next agenda
Pot Holes – Next agenda (can be reported direct to Highways)
Christmas Tree light inspection – Clerk to establish when.

35. **To Confirm date & time of next meeting**
    - Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 25th November 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Sigend……. **Date…….**