

MAIDEN NEWTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 4th April 2024

Held in the Village Hall at 6.30pm refreshments were served.

PRESENT:

Cllr Trena Fox (Chairman)

Cllr Lawrie Goff (LG)

Cllr Jeremy Edwards (Vice Chair)

Cllr Paul Valinski (PV)

Cllr Sally Falkingham (SF)

7 members of public

1. Welcome and Chairman's report for the year 2023-24.

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Assembly. Following this meeting we hold the last parish council meeting for Maiden Newton, we would like to invite you all to refreshments at the end of the meeting.

Sadly, we lost Cherry Dyke last year who was a great asset to the PC, especially her work keeping the play area updated and safe, and her support for the other projects in Maiden Newton Parish.

I would like to thank Lawrie and Alan Goff once again for being the flood wardens and all the work they have do in the parish, they have certainly been busy in the last few months in the village.

Thank you also to the "Poo Fairies" who do a marvellous keeping the village tidy of dog mess.

Thank you also to Anthony Alford for attending our meetings and keeping us updated on Dorset Council activities and wish him well in the future.

As many of you know, Sally is retiring from the council, and I would like to thank her for all her hard work with 29 years of commitment and service to the parish council as well as the many projects she became involved with in that time and in the village.

We are also saying goodbye to Paul who has been on the parish council for many years thanking him for his involvement with the youth of the village with Football and Youth clubs, Finally Di who is standing down from the council this year who was key to the coronation events.

And last but not least, I would like to thank Michele our clerk for all her support and commitment to Maiden Newton Parish Council, especially all the work involved with the process of becoming a group Council. I don't know how we would have managed without her support and knowledge on Council procedures, and I would like to thank her personally for the support she has given me over the last year.

2. Finance report for 2023-24.

Beginning Balance (1st April 2023): £39,039.00

Income:

- Precept (Council Tax): £33,000.00
- Other Income: £8,857.63
 - Allotment rents: £1,894.60
 - Grazing rents: £800.00
 - Hire of MUGA and playing field: £615.00
 - VAT reclaims: £642.86.
 - Bank interest: £1,066.11.
 - Grant for installing a hedge in Allotments: £3,000.00 (reserved for Play Area)
 - Donations and other income: £839.06

Total Income: £41,857.63

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2. Funds

- We have a current balance of £5,458.90. A cheque for £679.80, payable to the Maiden Newton youth football team is yet to be deducted from our account.

Additionally, part of the balance includes a £50 donation in Cherri's memory. After accounting for the £679.80 and £50, our adjusted balance is £4,729.10. We are considering changes to our banking arrangements to facilitate easier access, but any decision on this matter has been deferred until the committee structure and roles are fully established and new members have been recruited.

3. Fundraising Success

- A notable success was achieved through a ball fundraising event, raising a total of £2,719.49, which has been distributed to the playpark and three local community groups. There's a pending action for Emma Moore to follow up on potential funding from the community land trust for equipment repairs.

4. Future Fundraising and Plans

- The committee unanimously agreed to focus future efforts on grant applications, particularly for the installation of a sunken trampoline, a feature strongly supported and voted for by the village. Plans are also in place for the repair and replacement of damaged surfaces.

5. Playpark Development for This Year

- Ambitions for the year include the installation of a sunken trampoline, comprehensive repair of damaged surfaces, and the organisation of a community cleanup day. A special tribute to Cherri Dyke is also planned, incorporating a memorial bench and a cherry tree planting.

6. Tribute to Cherri Dyke

- Discussions covered the allocation of funds received in memory of Cherri Dyke. The committee plans to install a memorial bench with a personalised plaque and plant a cherry tree in her honour and to procure the necessary items for the tribute.

Recommendations

- **Committee Expansion:** A renewed focus on member recruitment is imperative to ensure the sustainability of the committee's objectives and fundraising capacity.
- **Banking Arrangements:** Re-evaluation of banking needs post-recruitment to facilitate easier financial transactions.
- **Grant Application Focus:** Prioritise grant applications to secure funding for major projects, ensuring the playpark's development and maintenance.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage the local community more actively in fundraising and playpark development activities, enhancing community spirit and investment in local projects.
- **Cherri Dyke Tribute:** Finalise plans for the tribute to Cherri Dyke, ensuring it serves as a fitting memorial within the playpark, enhancing its communal and emotional value to Maiden Newton residents.

Next Meeting: The date for the next committee meeting will be determined and communicated in due course.

This report provides an overview of the Friends of Maiden Newton Play Area Committee's current status, achievements, and future plans. It underscores the need for support, both in terms of committee membership and funding strategies, to ensure the playpark's successful development and maintenance.

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6. Report from the Allotment Association-

Maiden Newton Allotments Association Report (April 2024)

We have about 70 memberships and 6 associates, which equates to about 140 people in Maiden Newton and neighbouring villages. About 8 allotment holders are not members of the Association. We remain a thriving organization and social group. Membership remains at £5 pa and we fundraise through weekly plant and produce sales in the growing season and at other occasional events when possible. However, as a community association, we are keen to keep our events free so as to include as many local people as possible.

Achievements in 2023/24: We now have 54 miniplots and have about six vacant. We actively promote the vacant plots within the village. We also have 5 raised beds for the disabled and elderly.

We are affiliated to the RHS, largely for insurance purposes but we can also benefit from discounted show entries and other benefits if we wish.

We have 2 polytunnels which are divided up into individual spaces for rent.

We assembled a new equipment shed.

We made another successful discounted Kings Seeds order and organized a wholesale purchase of potatoes, beans and sets.

We are affiliated to Groves Garden Centres and receive a substantial discount.

We held regular mid-week evening working parties during the growing season.

We offered members discounted seeds in the Diggers Inn.

Events/Fundraising: The Saturday morning produce and plant sales continued on a weekly basis through the season including the annual Pumpkin Sale in late October. First plant sale this year is due on 20 April.

Our Village Show was held in the village hall in August with an excellent attendance and improved participation. It is generously sponsored by Amber Hardware, with further kind sponsorships of individual cups by local businesses and shops.

Several summer BBQs were held on the communal orchard.

We have held quiz nights and skittles evenings at the Chalk and Cheese, a harvest lunch in the autumn and a mulled wine lunch at the new year.

The Allotment association also raised some concerns these will be looked into in due course:

- Future relationship with the PC and being included in the decision making of the site.
- Encouraging users to walk or cycle rather than driving to the allotments.
- Maintenance of the Path and track.
- Behaviour of allotment holders.
- The gateway being closed, including Insurance for the site with the gate open.
- Maintenance of Allotment Association plots.

7. Report from Rights of Way officer.

PATH	LOCATION	WALKED 2024?	ACTION REQUIRED	BY WHOM	NEXT ACTIONS (BY WHOM)
FP1	Behind Church running upstream along river bank.	Yes	Wrongly signed at each end.	PC	Ask DC to sign the definitive route.
FP2	FP1 by hatches to Cattistock Road	Yes	None		
FP3	Newton Road /Stanstead Road	Yes	None		
FP5	From Drift near allotments SE to join FP24	Yes	None		
FP6	Top of Drift to New Barn	Yes	None		

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FP7	New Barn to Narn	Yes	None		
BR8	Drift to New Barn and along to A37	Yes	None		
FP9	Fore Hill to Hog Cliff Bottom	Yes	Offline at SE end.	PC	Ask DC to correct and sign.
BR10	Dorchester Road at Lower MN Farm to Yeovil Road at Hog Cliff	Yes	None		
BR11	Loop from BR10 along Hog Cliff Bottom	Yes	None		
BR12	Drift Road/New Road	Yes	Still rutted in places	PC	Ask DC to fix
FP13	A356 furlong S of Coombeside via Cruxton to Chammens Hill	Yes	None		
BR14	A356 near The Plot to railway line	Yes	None		
FP15	Through Crockway House grounds	Yes	None		
FP16	A356 near Crockway W to Notton Road by bridge	Yes	None		
BR17	Southover, Throop, Notton, Notton Hill Barn to crossways at the top	Yes	None		
BR18	E from S end of 17 to Frampton boundary	Yes	Offline and obstructed at east end of first field	PC	Ask DC to correct
FP19	Cruxton SSW to Wynford boundary	Yes	Signed offline at S end	PC	Ask DC to move the sign
FP20	Notton Hill Barn NW to FP19	Yes	Wrongly signed at SE end	PC	Ask DC to correct the route
FP21	Cruxton SW to Greenford Lane	Yes	None		
FP22	Loop to NW of FP21	Yes	None		
BR23	Little Watering Way	Yes	Needs signing and barbed wire fence replaced by a gate.	PC	Ask DC to fix
FP24	Pill Box near station E to New Road	Yes	None		
FP25	Links BRs 14 and 26 across railway line near The Plot, Crockway	Yes	None		
BR26	FP25 to Frampton boundary, thence to Hyde Crook	Yes	None		
BR27	Southover Bottom W to BR17, S of Notton Hill Barn	Yes	None		
FP28	Reenford Lane 600x S of Thistle Farm to FP22	Yes	None		
FP29	A356 opp Coombeside in field next to road to join FP13	Yes	None		
FP30	Pavement in front of the station	Yes	None		
FP31	Pavement by the green at Neil's View	Yes	None		

8. Dorset Councillor report (AA)

1. The UK government has tasked each county in England with preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, to help support its target of protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

A series of events recently attended by 245 people has been an important part of Dorset Council's efforts to create a local nature recovery strategy for Dorset. It heard from local farm businesses, landowners and members of the Dorset Local Nature

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Partnership (LNP) on what they think should be done to make nature bigger, better and more joined up in the county.

2. From January – November 2023, there were 235 motorcycle collisions in Dorset.

Whilst this is a reduction compared to the previous year, there is still more that needs to be done to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads.

In an effort to prevent road deaths, over 2,400 members of the motorcycling community have contributed to the design of new road signs. They have been produced by the charity DocBike together with Dorset Council, with support from Dorset Police and other bodies. These unique road signs have been placed at key locations where many motorcyclists have been injured in Dorset. The first road sign, "THINK BIKE" reminds all road users to take that extra moment to look for a bike, especially at junctions, where the brain finds it difficult to see motorcyclists travelling towards them at speed. The second, "HAVE YOU BEEN SEEN?" reminds bikers they might not have been seen by other road users and that even though they have the right of way, being able to stop if a vehicle pulls out in their path might save their life.

9. Democratic forum – your comments-

It was noted that there was only one candidate for Frome Vauchurch as Councillor, when the new council commences after the Annual PC meeting the vacant seats will be filled by co-option at a future meeting.

The Coronation trees have been planted one on Harvey's green the other at the school, plaques are being ordered.

10. Celebration of the Councillors not standing in 2024

The Councillors had arranged for a small gift for all three Cllrs Sally, Diane and Paul which was presented to them at the meeting, Diane was unable to attend the meeting. The Cllrs were thanked for their service to the community of Maiden Newton specifically Sally and Paul who had been involved with the Parish Council for many years.

Meeting closed for refreshments and the Parish Council meeting followed.