NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd September 2026 at Newton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Russell Bower, Louise Evers, Rita Schwenk, Janys Sherwood and Phil Taylor.

Attending: Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor), Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 1 resident.

26/149 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Major.

26/150 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllrs Evers declared a pecuniary interest in Item 26/156a as the proposed area adjoins her property and she left the meeting while the item was discussed. No request for dispensation was received.

26/151 Minutes of Meeting held on 12th August 2026

The councillors approved the meeting minutes and resolved that the chairman should sign them as a correct record.

26/152 Public Participation

Lee Parker updated councillors on grants for heat pumps and the expected publication of preferred developments sites in October 2026. Cllr Sherwood asked Lee to provide the number of dwellings in each of the council tax bands.

26/153 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated there were no issues raised.

26/154 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)

Following a review of the Clerk' Report the councillors agreed that Cllrs Taylor and Bower remove the cage in the MUGA and get it recycled and Cllr Presland co-ordinates a meeting with allotment tenants and councillors in October.

26/155 Development Proposal

Mr Baldwin outlined his proposal for the land behind Blacksmith Close. The Chairman thanked Mr Baldwin for giving the councillors the opportunity to view the application prior to submission to the LPA. If the application is received from the LPA, the councillors will review the application with the polices of the Newton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

26/156 Planning

a. The councillors reviewed further information submitted for **Planning Application DC/26/02608 Land Rear Of Brook Farm, Sudbury Road -** Erection of 1no. self build dwelling and associated outbuilding and unanimously resolved that the previously submitted objections to the application still stood. They also felt that the additional information submitted by the agent should be responded to as follows:

Newton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NNDP)

- All issues raised by NPC in its objections to this application were based on the NNDP adopted by Babergh District Council (BDC) on the 2nd March 2022.
- NPC decided in 2025 to review its NNDP when BDC gave Town and Parish Council's indicative development targets for the period to 2045. NPC is awaiting the final outcome of BDC's Call for Sites and the Emerging Joint Local Plan to understand what the minimum housing numbers that the NNDP will need to accommodate following the review.
- The council has held an initial survey to help residents understand what the revised NNDP will need to consider in relation to development in the village. Once BDC has finalised its

process of identifying the numbers of new dwellings required in Newton, and the sites that it considers viable to produce the dwellings, NPC will consult further with its residents.
- NPC do not consider that the work undertaken to date on reviewing its NNDP, has any bearing on this application.

Agent's comments

- In relation to the newly issued NPPF and BDC's loss of its 5-year housing supply, NPC accepts that when the LPA or Planning Inspectorate review this application, it will need to consider all the relevant planning legislation when coming to its conclusion. The currently adopted NNDP is still part of the relevant planning legislation.
- Neither the applicant or his agent has attended an NPC meeting to discuss this or the previous Planning Application DC/26/00898 with councillors.
- NPC stands by its description of the land used for the application as being "a small section of an existing garden, which delimits the BUAB, and then uses a much larger area of countryside on which to build a dwelling."

b. The council has received no further planning application since the agenda was posted, requiring a response before the next meeting.
c. The councillors reviewed the status of previous applications, appeals and enforcement referrals (Appendix B).

26/157 Finance

a. The councillors authorised all payments made and due for authorisation, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C) and for the payment to the SLCC for £200 in relation to the Clerk's annual membership. They also noted the income received since the last meeting, the bank reconciliation and the actual vs. budget for receipts and payments.
b. The councillors resolved to approve and accept the external audit report produced by PKF Littlejohn for the year ending 31st March 2026. There were no issues raised by the auditor.
c. The councillors reviewed the Asset Register and resolved that it correctly reflected the assets held by NPC.
d. The councillors noted that the renewal information for the insurance has not yet been received from Gallagher. Once received, the Clerk will circulate to councillors in order that the payment can be made by the 1st October 2026 when it becomes due.

26/158 Walking Infrastructure Project

The councillors reviewed the latest status on the project. SCC Highways sought Counsel's advice on the best way forward in using the land on the Village Green to create the proposed footpath between School Land and the road to the Golf Club. Counsel's advice was that the land for the footpath should be deregistered as part of the Village Green and be owned by SCC. In return SCC would need to offer Newton Green Trust substitute land of the same area as the footpath. The cost for this advice was £2,750 + VAT.

After conversations with the Newton Green Trustees, two options of land were presented to SCC that could be substituted:

- Part of the recreation ground
- Land between Valley Road and Perrywoods.

SCC Legal feel that the recreation ground is the best option as it meets a number of requirements that the Secretary of State would be looking for should an application be made for the land substitution.

However, they want further Counsel advice on this option before proceeding with any application. The estimate for the advice has been quoted at £2,000 to £2,500 + VAT.

Unless this advice is obtained, there is no real basis on which the project can move forward with a footpath on the Village Green. Therefore, SCC will be seeking Counsel's advice on the substitute land, and we will await the response.

NPC has committed £20,000 towards the costs of the project, and the costs for Counsel's advice will be paid from this CIL budget.

26/159 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Presland updated councillors that the Working Party was meeting this month to review the existing Neighbourhood Plan against the feedback from the survey and experiences of how the plan has worked since its adoption. Following a meeting with Chris Bowden, the planning consultant on the review, climate resilience and biodiversity will be looked at for inclusion in the document. A letter to the village, updating residents on progress, is planned for October.

26/160 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The councillors reviewed NPC's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and resolved their readoption.

26/161 GDPR Data Map

The councillors reviewed that GDPR Data Map and agreed that it accurately reflected NPC's current responsibilities in terms of data protection.

26/162 Year Plan

The councillors reviewed the 2026 / 2027 Year Plan and agreed that it accurately reflects the status of this year's projects.

26/163 Byelaws Process

The councillors reviewed the Byelaws process for car's parking on the Green and cars for sale being parked on the Green, layby or Saracens car park by the pond, and resolved their readoption.

26/164 Contract of Employment and Recruitment Pack

The councillors reviewed the draft Contract of Employment and the modified Recruitment Pack and agreed their adoption. The Clerk was asked to book the Village Hall for interviews on the 27th and 28th October 2026.

26/165 Walk of the Parish

The councillors raised a loose dog bin in Links View, the lack of work on a number of the allotments, the removal of a tree by the tree warden in Green Lane, the merits and otherwise of CCTV in the village and the rubbish at the triangle at the junction with Valley Road.

26/166 Questions to the Chair

Cllr Taylor gave the Trust report which covered the near completion of the pond maintenance programme following all the hard work by Louise Evers, the plan for maintenance to the wildflower area in the playing field and the ongoing discussion with the Golf Club on the re-alignment of the first hole. The Village Hall committee are meeting next week.

Signed _____ Date

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd September 2026 at Newton Village Hall

26/167 Next meetings

NPC's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th October 2026 in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Appendix A Clerk's Report

Minute		Action	Complete ✓
26/055		New signage for recreation ground has not be ordered to date.	
26/096	b	Cllr Major has been added to the Unity Trust mandate.	✓
26/140		Minutes sent to BRN and updated on website.	✓
26/141		Wrote to resident at property in Church Road. No response or action to date.	
26/143		Responses to planning applications sent to the LPA.	✓
26/144	a	Suppliers paid.	✓
		Clerk's Actions & Delegated Power	
		Councillors' Actions	
		Cllr Taylor - Repair to tennis net and cage.	
		Cllr Presland - Allotment tenants meeting.	
		Clerk Hours	
		1st April to 23rd August 2026 Hours - Paid 252 / Worked 272.25 / Holiday taken 0.	

Appendix B Planning Status

BDC Ref	Application	NPC Ref	NPC Response	BDC Response
DC/26/02320	Otium, Joes Road - Erection of a 2 bay cartlodge	26/127a	Support	Permission 04/08/2026
DC/26/02261	Browns Barn, Boxford Lane - Installation of Solar Panels to north and east roof ranges (retention of).	26/127b	Support	
DC/26/02608	Land Rear Of Brook Farm, Sudbury Road - Erection of 1no. self build dwelling and associated outbuilding.	26/143a	Objected	
DC/26/02703	Plough Cottage, Rectory Road - Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.	26/143b	Support	

Signed _____ Date

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd September 2026 at Newton Village Hall

Appendix C RFO Report

Payments made since last meeting

Purchase Card	Krystal – Website hosting	£ 8.40
Purchase Card	Microsoft – Office 365	£ 10.21
Purchase Card	1p Mobil – Monthly charge	£ 10.00
Purchase Card	Monthly fee July	£ 3.00

Income received since last meeting

NONE

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/07/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026			56,664.75
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2026 - 31/07/2026			38,221.67
				94,886.42
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2026 - 31/07/2026			9,563.93
A	**Cash in Hand 31/07/2026** (per Cash Book)			**85,322.49**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/07/2026	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank - Current Account	31/07/2026	3,187.84	
	Unity Trust Bank - Savings Accoun	31/07/2026	82,134.65	
	Lloyds Corporate Purchasing Card	31/07/2026	0.00	
				85,322.49
	Less unpresented payments			40.58
				85,281.91
	Plus unpresented receipts			40.58
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**85,322.49**
	A = B Checks out OK			

Signed _____ Date

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd September 2026 at Newton Village Hall

Newton Parish Council
Summary of Receipts and Payments
Summary - Cost Centres Only

Cost Centre	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
Administration			0.00 (N/A)	4,287.00	961.49	3,325.51 (77%)	3,325.51
Annual Subscription			0.00 (N/A)	585.00	349.35	235.65 (40%)	235.65
Asset Management			0.00 (N/A)	4,360.00	3,304.84	1,055.16 (24%)	1,055.16
CIL		20,188.60	20,188.60 (201886			0.00 (N/A)	20,188.60
Clerk Salary			0.00 (N/A)	15,722.68	3,518.90	12,203.78 (77%)	12,203.78
Digital			0.00 (N/A)	1,019.00	62.04	956.96 (93%)	956.96
Donations			0.00 (N/A)	800.00	250.00	550.00 (68%)	550.00
Grants	213.00		-213.00 (-100%)			0.00 (N/A)	-213.00
Neighbourhood Plan Review			0.00 (N/A)		261.10	-261.10 (-26110	-261.10
Open Spaces			0.00 (N/A)	4,800.00	112.95	4,687.05 (97%)	4,687.05
Other Income	535.00	332.78	-202.22 (-37%)			0.00 (N/A)	-202.22
Other Payments			0.00 (N/A)			0.00 (N/A)	0.00
Precept	30,381.54	15,190.77	-15,190.77 (-50%)			0.00 (N/A)	-15,190.77
Projects & Events			0.00 (N/A)			0.00 (N/A)	0.00
Recycling	330.00	986.00	656.00 (198%)			0.00 (N/A)	656.00
NET TOTAL	**31,459.54**	**36,698.15**	**5,238.61 (16%)**	**31,573.68**	**8,820.67**	**22,753.01 (72%)**	**27,991.62**

Total for ALL Cost Centres	36,698.15	8,820.67
V.A.T.	1,523.52	743.26
GROSS TOTAL	**38,221.67**	**9,563.93**

Newton Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2026-2027

Reserve	OpeningBalance	Transfers	Spend	Receipts	CurrentBalance
Earmarked					
Election Costs	1,500.00				1,500.00
Legal Fees	1,000.00				1,000.00
Newsletter	2,160.00				2,160.00
CIL	28,274.26		261.10	20,188.60	48,201.76
Asset Replacement	2,000.00	3,000.00	503.51		4,496.49
Total Earmarked	**34,934.26**	**3,000.00**	**764.61**	**20,188.60**	**57,358.25**
TOTAL RESERVE	**34,934.26**	**3,000.00**	**764.61**	**20,188.60**	**57,358.25**
GENERAL FUND					27,964.24
TOTAL FUNDS					85,322.49

Signed _____ Date

Newton Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence on the 17th May 2023

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd September 2026 at Newton Village Hall

Committed Spending						
Meeting Date	**Minute**	**Supplier**	**Cost Net**	**VAT**	**Total**	**Budget**
12/11/25	25/191	LUC	£9,608.81	£1,921.76	£11,530.57	CIL
11/02/26	26/032	Suffolk Highways	£20,000.00	£0.00	£20,000.00	CIL
			£29,608.81	£1,921.76	£31,530.57	

Payments for your authorisation

	Net	**VAT**	**Gross**	**Budget**
PKF Littlejohn	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00	Audit
DF Crimmin	£78.00	£0.00	£78.00	WFHA
DF Crimmin	£2,578.36	£0.00	£2,578.36	Salary July to September 2026
HMRC	£940.54	£0.00	£940.54	Clerk Tax & Employer NI

End of Appendices

Signed _____ Date