

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 18th June 2025 at Newton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Louise Evers, Rita Schwenk and Jany Sherwood.

Attending: Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor), James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Darren Smith (SCC Highways) and Dave Crimmin (Clerk).

25/106 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Bower (abroad) and Taylor (away) sent their apologies.

25/107 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no request for dispensation was received.

25/108 Minutes of Meeting held on 14th May 2025

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

25/109 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that no application had been received for the councillor vacancy.

25/110 Pedestrian crossing

SCC Highways Engineer Darren Smith, updated councillors on his investigations on the need for a pedestrian crossing in Newton. He explained that whilst the evidence from the traffic survey strongly supported the need for a signalised crossing rather than zebra crossing, the survey of pedestrians actually crossing the road did not support the need. He was aware that the number of pedestrians currently crossing the road was suppressed by the dangers faced in crossing the road. For the suppressed demand to be measured, SCC has asked NPC to survey its residents on the potential use of a crossing should it be installed in the village.

Once the feedback from the survey is analysed by SCC, they will decide if the project should proceed to a design and costing stage. The design would consider the desire line for the crossing, kerbing, electrical supply and the pavement for the Green.

It was agreed that NPC would consult with each household in the village between 1st and 15th July and then forward the responses to SCC Highways.

25/111 Public Participation

The councillors reviewed Lee Parker's and James Finch's previously submitted reports. James Finch updated councillors on solar farms, SEND demand in the county, dementia marketplace and the Suffolk Community Awards. Lee Parker updated councillors on Babergh's Annual Meeting where the Independents are now undertaking the leader role under the shared governance arrangement.

25/112 Emails circulated

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

25/113 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)

Following a review of the Clerk's report there were no further actions requested of the Clerk.

25/114 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application SCC/0073/25/DoR Bramford to Twinstead - The National Grid (Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement) Order 2024: Schedule 3, Requirement 4(1)(c) – Construction Traffic Management Plan - Stage 1** and resolved that they had no comment.

Signed _____

Date

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

Series Page 397
NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 18th June 2025 at Newton Village Hall

- b. A further Planning Application had been received since the agenda was posted. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/25/02375 Land Rear Of Juglans, Sudbury Road** - Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/22/05206 dated 15/12/2022 (and subsequent NMA under DC/24/01677) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) for design changes to Plot 3 only as per submitted plans and documents and resolved that they had no objections.
- c. The councillors reviewed the status of previous applications, appeals and enforcement referrals (Appendix B).

25/115 Finance

- a. The councillors authorised all payments made and due for authorisation, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C) as well as the payment to Wicksteed for £3,490.60 for the roundabout repairs. They also noted the income received since the last meeting, the bank reconciliation and the actuals vs. budget for the receipts and payments.
- b. The authorisation of the application for a Corporate MultiPay Card from Lloyds Bank was deferred to the July meeting.

25/116 Parish Survey

The councillors reviewed a parish survey considering the decision to conduct a pedestrian crossing survey in July. They agreed to delay the parish survey until more is known on the outcome of the pedestrian crossing project, being undertaken by SCC Highways.

25/117 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Evers and Presland updated councillors that they had been discussing the NP Working Party format with local residents. The Clerk updated councillors that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has decided, as a result of the Government's spending review, that there will not be commissioning new planning support services for 2025 onwards for Neighbourhood Plans. This means that there will not be any grant available for Newton to review its NP. For 2024 / 25 the grant for NPC would have been worth £18,000 towards its costs as it is planning to allocate sites within the revised plan.. Allocating sites would necessitate a Strategic Environmental Assessment being undertaken on the allocated sites, which would additionally cost in the region of £25,000.

The Clerk was asked to discuss NPC's options for developing a NP with Babergh and NPC's planning consultant Chris Bowden, in order to show a proposed plan and costing for the project at the August meeting.

25/118 Babergh consultations

The councillors reviewed Babergh's listed building consultation and resolved that they had no comment. The councillors decided they required more information on the Revised Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules.

25/119 Walk of the Parish

There were no issues raised by councillors.

25/120 Replacement of assets

The councillors agreed that the Bylaws notice boards required replacement. Cllr Presland will discuss with a local resident.

25/121 Bus stop improvements

The councillors felt in response to SCC's consultation on bus stops requiring upgrades that:

- The Airey Close bus shelter requires an upgrade / replacement

Signed _____

Date

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

NEWTON PARISH COUNCILMinutes of Meeting held on 18th June 2025 at Newton Village Hall

- A footpath be installed for the bus shelter by Links View to connect with the A134.

25/122 Litter picking initiatives

Deferred to the July meeting.

25/123 Village Hall and Trust updates

Cllr Evers updated councillors that field hire, Trust accounts, pond maintenance and the publishing of the grants available from the Trust were all discussed at its recent meeting. Cllr Schwenk updated councillors that a key safe was being installed at the village hall and an online booking facility was also being installed. The restructuring of the VH committee was underway.

25/124 Questions to the Chair

No questions raised.

25/125 Next Meeting

The councillors noted that the next NPC meeting on **Wednesday, 9th July 2025**, starting at 7.30 pm in Newton Village Hall. Cllr Sherwood gave her apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.36 pm.**Appendix A Clerk's Report**

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
25/081	Updated SALC on Newton's Chairman.	✓
25/085	Minutes sent to BRN and updated on website.	✓
25/087	HR & Standards committee members updated on website.	✓
25/088	Updated SALC, organisations and website with NPC representatives.	✓
25/089	Wrote to Heelis & Lodge regarding their re-appointment as NPC's Internal Auditor.	✓
25/091	Updated website with councillors roles for Walk of the Parish.	✓
25/093	Updated Janet Weavers on NPC's actions.	✓
25/095	Sent NPC's views on planning application to the LPA.	✓
25/096 a	Made payments to suppliers and sent revised mandate to Unity Trust.	✓
25/096 b	Placed order for roundabout repair with Wicksteed.	✓
25/096 c	Made donation to Alston & Plampin charity.	✓
25/096 d	See Item 115b of Agenda.	
25/097	Made arrangements with SCC Highways for survey information and attendance at tonight's meeting.	✓
25/098	Spoke to Chris Bowden regarding review of the Neighbourhood Plan.	✓
25/099	Placed order for allotment gates and grass cutting with Flowers Groundcare.	✓
	Clerk's Actions & Delegated Power	
	None.	
	Clerk Hours	
	1st April to 25th May 2025 - Paid 96 / Worked 91.5 (Holiday Entitlement 67.20)	

Signed _____

Date _____

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

Series Page 399
NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 18th June 2025 at Newton Village Hall

Appendix B Planning Status

BDC Ref	Application	NPC Ref	NPC Response	BDC Response
AP/24/00095	Planning Appeal Land West Of, Blacksmith Close - Reference APP/W3520/W/24/3351995 against refusal of application for the Erection of 9No. Dwellings (1No Affordable)	24/173a	No further comment	Appeal dismissed 06/05/2025
DC/25/00782	Barns East Of Newton Leys, Joes Road - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of 4no. existing agricultural barns on the site to create 10no. 1 and 2-bedroom dwellings (following removal of modern nissen hut) and resolved that they were concerned with the increase in the number of vehicle movements at the site onto a rural C category road.	25/050a	Concerns over increase in traffic.	
DC/25/01858	2 Hills Farm Cottages, Sudbury Road - Application for Listed Building Consent - Application for installation of solar panels, on both sides of the rear pitched roof of the rear wing two-storey extension, erected in 2008.	25/095a	Support	

Appendix C RFO Report

Please see below the payments made since the last meeting and the payments for your authorisation.

Payments made since last meeting

Alston & Plampin Charity	£100.00	Donation
Unity Trust	£ 6.00	Bank Charges

Bank Reconciliation at 31/05/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		37,365.79
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025		15,819.46
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025		53,185.25
A	Cash in Hand 31/05/2025 (per Cash Book)		1,350.59
			51,834.66
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/05/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank - Current Account 31/05/2025	24,938.66	
	Unity Trust Bank - Savings Account 31/05/2025	26,896.00	
			51,834.66
	Less unpresented payments		
	Plus unpresented receipts		51,834.66
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		51,834.66
	A = B Checks out OK		

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Date

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

Series Page 400
NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 18th June 2025 at Newton Village Hall

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

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

Cost Centre	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	
Administration		0.00 (N/A)		3,934.00	232.00	3,702.00 (94%)	3,702.00
Annual Subscription		0.00 (N/A)		550.00	294.59	255.41 (46%)	255.41
Asset Management		0.00 (N/A)		4,510.00	395.00	4,115.00 (91%)	4,115.00
CIL		0.00 (N/A)			0.00 (N/A)		0.00
Clerk Salary		0.00 (N/A)		15,212.85		15,212.85 (100%)	15,212.85
Digital		0.00 (N/A)		860.00		860.00 (100%)	860.00
Donations		0.00 (N/A)		800.00	350.00	450.00 (56%)	450.00
Grants	212.64		-212.64 (-100%)			0.00 (N/A)	-212.64
Open Spaces		0.00 (N/A)		4,565.00		4,565.00 (100%)	4,565.00
Other Income	535.00		-535.00 (-100%)			0.00 (N/A)	-535.00
Other Payments		0.00 (N/A)				0.00 (N/A)	0.00
Precept	26,479.94	13,239.97	-13,239.97 (-50%)			0.00 (N/A)	-13,239.97
Projects & Events		0.00 (N/A)		750.00		750.00 (100%)	750.00
Recycling	425.00		-425.00 (-100%)			0.00 (N/A)	-425.00
NET TOTAL	27,652.58	13,239.97	-14,412.61 (-52%)	31,181.85	1,271.59	29,910.26 (95%)	15,497.65
Total for ALL Cost Centres		13,239.97			1,271.59		
V.A.T.		2,579.49			79.00		
GROSS TOTAL		15,819.46			1,350.59		

Committed Spending						
Meeting Date	Minute	Supplier	Cost Net	VAT	Total	Budget
		Sudbury TC	?	?	?	CIL - Comm Wardens 2024/25
10/07/24	24/114	Newton PCC	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Donations
14/05/25	25/096b	Wicksteed	£2,908.83	£581.77	£3,490.60	CIL
14/05/25	25/099	Flowers & Clerk	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00	CIL
			£3,858.83	£581.77	£4,440.60	

Payments for your authorisation

	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
DF Crimmin	£2,498.52	£0.00	£2,498.52	Clerk Salary
DF Crimmin	£78.00	£0.00	£78.00	Clerk WFHA
HMRC	£905.57	£0.00	£905.57	Clerk Tax & NPC NI

End of appendices.

Signed _____

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