NEWDIGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 10 June 2019 at 8pm at Newdigate Village Hall

Present: Mr Bill Kear (Chairman), Mr Phill Crutcher, Mr William Harmsworth, Mr Nick Procter, Mr Richard Tyson-Davies, Mr John Sage, Mr Robin Gardner

1 Apologies for Absence
Peter Purdue, Sarah MacDonald, Mary Huggins

2 Appointment of Parish Council Committees
It was agreed that the following Councillors will sit on the Finance Committee: Mr Kear, Mr Crutcher, Mr Harmsworth, Mr Gardner.
The Planning Committee was appointed on 13 May: Mr Kear, Mr Crutcher, Mrs MacDonald, Mr Tyson-Davies, Mr Harmsworth, Mr Perdue, Mr Sage.

Areas of Responsibility were agreed as follows:
Footpaths/Village Care: Mr Kear, Mr Proctor, Mr Purdue, Mr Tyson-Davies, Mr Harmsworth
Community Centre: Mr Kear, Mr Crutcher, Mr Harmsworth
Transport/Traffic Calming/2020 Survey: Mr Kear, Mr Purdue, Mr Proctor, Mr Harmsworth, Mr Gardner, Mr Sage
Rural Housing: Mr Kear, Mr Harmsworth, Mr Purdue
Police & Crime: Mr Purdue
Gatwick: Mr Kear, Mr Proctor, Clerk.
Surrey Association of Local Councils: Mr Kear, Mr Purdue
Mole Valley District Council Standards Committee: It was reported that Stuart McLachlan of Capel PC and Debbie Jones of Buckland PC have agreed to represent all Parish Councils in the District on this Committee.

Geographic Areas of Responsibility were agreed as follows:

| Church Lane, Hoggspudding Lane, Woodpecker Lane, The Mulberries | Mr Crutcher |
| Village Street, George Horley Place, Derbyshire Close | Mr Gardner |
| Rusper Road, Dukes Drive | Mrs MacDonald |
| Kingsland, Trig Street, Underhill Road, Henfold Lane | Mr Gardner |
| Partridge Lane, Cudworth Lane, Burnt Oak Lane | Mr Tyson-Davies |
| Broad Lane, Mill Lane, Ewood Lane, Becket Wood | Mr Proctor |
| Winfield Grove, Winfield Court, Northlands | Mr Purdue |
| Blanks Lane, Parkgate Road | Mr Sage |

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2019
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2019 were proposed by Mr Crutcher, seconded by Mr Kear, agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
The Chairman requested the Clerk to produce minutes of all future meetings within 10 days of the meeting being held, to enable Councillors to review them in good time before the next meeting takes place. The Clerk apologised for the delay in producing minutes of the May meeting.
4 Declarations of Interest
Mr Kear, Mr Crutcher, Mr Harmsworth

5 Community Police Report
The crime report for 13 May to 10 June showed the following crimes recorded:
Dog bite to child – 2
Locks to post box forced
Dog attacked sheep
Dog attacked lamb
Domestic incident
Public order – verbal abuse to cyclist
Failing to stop – dangerous driving
The crime report showed the following incidents called in to the Police:
Highway disruption – 3
Road traffic injury damage only – 2
Suspicious circumstances – 2
Domestic incident - 1
Road traffic collision with injury - 1

6 Matters Arising

6.1 Village Noticeboards: Mr Proctor reported that further enquiries had been made following the previous meeting and it was recommended that Steve Fenner be engaged to make and install two new noticeboards in oak at the agreed price of £1,781, as ready-made noticeboards would cost £1,000 more than oak.
Mr Kear proposed, Mr Harmsworth seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Fenner should be engaged to make the new noticeboards.

6.2 Cycling
(i) Dulux cycling event in May. Replies to the Parish Council’s letter of complaint about lack of notice/consultation and concerns about road safety had been received from the Police and Mole Valley District Council.
The reply from Mole Valley’s Chief Executive said that while MVDC may be consulted and/or attend a safety meeting for very large events, it has no role in cycling events. The Council are sometimes informed as a matter of courtesy, but this is not always the case. Surrey County Council is involved where there are road closures. Checking their website for notice of sporting events was suggested.
The reply from the Police states “Any event such as this does not involve the Police. The organisers will notify the council … and MVDC will review it to see if there are any grounds as to why it cannot take place … or needs to be adjusted …”
The reply goes on to say “For an event such as this one the Police would be notified that an event is taking place and we would be asked if we have any issues with it.”
It therefore remains unclear whether the Surrey Constabulary were informed about the Dulux event involving “up to 2000 cyclists” and failed to pass the information on to Surrey County Council/Mole Valley District Council, or whether they were not informed about it at all.
The Clerk was asked to write to the organisers asking if they had advised anyone in authority about their event.
(ii) **8 June Cycle Race.** Again, another cycle race along Newdigate’s roads with no prior notification or consultation from the organisers, this time on the same afternoon as the Village Day. The annual race of Crawley Wheelers involved 60-80 riders doing 8 circuits of the route during Saturday afternoon. The race was properly supervised with marshalls and a representative of the club told the Clerk that they had moved their original centre of operations for the race from Newdigate to Charlwood because of the Village Day. He said that cycle races are usually notified to the Surrey Constabulary but not always passed on to the local authorities.

7 **Correspondence**

7.1 **Surrey Oaks parking complaint:** An event at the pub held over the Bank Holiday weekend had proved so popular that the car park was full and a resident had complained that vehicles were parking along the road, blocking the footpath and forcing walkers into the road. Mr Harmsworth said he had been in discussion with the landlord regarding the need for overflow parking at such events. On the weekend in question the problem was made worse by the breakdown of a bus just outside the pub for several hours. Mr Harmsworth said that plans are in hand with the pub to ensure better management of parking, including overflow parking off-road, at future events.

7.2 **Dog attack at Wellspool:** Reports had been received from residents at two properties near a field at Berry Farm in Blanks Lane. A man had been bitten by a dog running loose and the matter had been reported to the Police. Several dogs had been locked in a cage in the field and had become so distressed that they were barking constantly. The RSPCA were informed and the dogs had now been removed.

7.3 **Re-surfacing Parkgate Road:** A resident was concerned that this road is being re-surfaced again so soon after being re-surfaced previously, especially as the surface now is so quiet compared to other roads in Newdigate. County Councillor Helyn Clack had written to Highways for further information, but had not yet received a full reply. She explained the road repair process and said the current poor weather was delaying the repair programme. A full reply was subsequently received from Surrey Highways:

“Please could you extend my apologies to your residents for any disruption or inconvenience this work may cause. This particular scheme is on the programme because it has had recent work, as referred to in your constituents’ email. It was patched recently and it is good practice (Nationally!) to surface dress following patching, to protect the surface and extend the life. The patching work was carried out under the ‘severe weather programme’ when only the defective areas were addressed. Now we are laying a protective material to prevent the new patches and areas in-between from deteriorating or failing in the future. There has been a time lapse between the two schemes due to the time of year and weather. All of our Surface dressing is completed by one contractor during the summer months, whist the patching was able to be completed earlier in the year. We will only Surface dress the smaller patches within this road, any larger machine laid patches will not be surface dressed. It has also been identified that stretches of this length of road have areas where
the skidding values, measured with the county SCRIM machine, are below what we call 'Investigatory level'. This is not a hazard but a potential hazard so it is better to deal with it sooner rather than later. As far as quiet surfacings are concerned, we do try to lay as quiet surfaces as possible, but noise has to be balanced against safety and technical considerations in choosing the correct surface dressing and aggregate size."

7.4 Reply from Henry Smith MP for Crawley in reply to the Parish Council’s letter to SCC regarding the Horse Hill drilling application. Mr Smith is calling for an independent inquiry on the possible impact of shale gas and oil extraction. An enclosed letter dated 2 April from Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Energy, refers to “a sequence of small earthquakes near Crawley West Sussex between 1 April 2018 and 14 March 2019 .... The BGS concluded that it is unlikely these events are induced and are therefore most likely natural. The report notes that earthquake sequences like this one are relatively common in Great Britain, with a large number of specific incidents widely recorded since as early as the 1700s across the UK...The BGS position reflects the conclusions of a workshop on seismicity at Newdigate hosted by the independent regulator OGA.... on 3 October 2018.”

8 Finance

8.1 Appointment of Internal Auditor. Mr Kear proposed, Mr Crutcher seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mulberry & Co be appointed internal auditor to the Parish Council.
(b) Appointment of cheque signatories. Mr Crutcher and Mr Harmsworth were proposed as new signatories by Mr Kear and seconded by Mr Sage, to replace Mr Austin and Mr Bettesworth. It was resolved that: the Authorised Signatories in the current mandate for the Parish Council’s bank accounts be changed in accordance with the section Authorised Signatories and the current mandate will continue as amended.

8.2 Draft Accounts to 31 March 2019. Draft accounts have been prepared by the previous Clerk and can be completed when the April bank statement is received from NatWest.

8.3 Bank Balances and Payments

Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Account at 31 May 2019</td>
<td>£100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Reserve Account at 31 May</td>
<td>£17,684.70</td>
</tr>
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Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P. Crutcher (Pd Clemsfold for Oak, Inv.0369)</td>
<td>£123.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Kear (Pd MIGS, repair Sign, Inv.1038)</td>
<td>£300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSALC, Good Councillor Guides (2)</td>
<td>£16.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zurich Insurance Annual Renewal 1 June 2019</td>
<td>£351.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerk Salary May</td>
<td>£427.07</td>
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<td>HMRC tax</td>
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<td>Clerk Allowances</td>
<td>£41.67</td>
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Total £1,366.35

Mr Crutcher proposed and Mr Harmsworth seconded that the payments above be approved. This was agreed unanimously and cheques were signed.
9  Planning and Highways

9.1  Applications and Decisions to 31 May 2019
MO/2019/0833 Oak Tree Farm, Partridge Lane. Erection of agricultural barn for storage of hay and machinery. A previous similar application had been refused by MVDC. No comments.
MO/2019/0738 Oak Barn, Rusper Road. Erection of detached garage/store. Mr Crutcher declared an interest and took no part in discussions. There is no garage at the moment. It was considered that the plot is big enough for a 3-bay garage although a 2-bay might be more appropriate. It would be visible from the road but well screened from neighbours and the design is pleasant.
MO/2019/0786 Woodlands, Burnt Oak Lane. Demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage. No comments.
MO/2019/0855 Medlar Court, Church Lane. Removal of horse chestnut tree. Comments: The tree is dead.
MO/2019/0906 Gildings Farm, Partridge Lane, Newdigate. Prior notification for erection of agricultural barn and track. No comments.
MO/2019/0928 Land north east of Woodlands Farm, Rusper Road. Prior notification for change of use of commercial storage building to residential dwellings. The previous application refused by MVDC. Mr Crutcher and Mr Proctor left the meeting for this item. Councillors agreed it was inappropriate to discuss this application. (Standing Orders will be amended to reflect Council policy of not discussing applications made by Councillors following advice from SSALC.)
The following MVDC Decisions were noted:
MO/2019/0711 South Holmwood Brickworks. Erection temporary showcase structure. No objection.
MO/2019/0625 Russley Acres, Partridge Lane. Prior notification change of use from storage/warehouse to residential (1). Granted.
MO/2019/0629 Halesbridge Farm Barn, Blanks Lane. Prior notification change of use from storage/warehouse to residential dwellings (4). Refused.

9.2  Rights of Way/Bridleways: Mr Tyson-Davies said Ibstocks are happy for the upgrade of the Trig Street footpath to take place and will provide several hundred tonnes of hardcore. The project will involve the Parish Council with work as the contracting body and it will cost tens of thousands. Estimates will have to be obtained and funding organised. The Chairman asked Mr Tyson-Davies to come back to the next meeting with a plan of action.

9.3  Newdigate 2030 and Future Mole Valley: Mr Harmsworth said the Parish Council was awaiting some indication of direction as to how to proceed with this. There have been various suggestions as to what to do with Newdigate 2030 and his view was that until hearing anything to the contrary the Parish Council should proceed with the plan.
District Councillor Lesley Bushnell said the Future Mole Valley plan timetable has been postponed.

9.4 Traffic Calming and 2020 Traffic Survey: A joint meeting is being arranged with SCC Highways and 2020 Consultancy where representatives from the parish councils that have commissioned reports from the 2020 Consultancy can meet to discuss traffic calming measures that could be implemented across the four villages of Ockley, Newdigate, Charlwood and Brockham. An email from SCC offering a selection of dates for this meeting has now been received. One councillor and the clerk from each of the four parishes will attend and report back to their councils.

10 Public Comments and Questions
There were comments and questions from residents about several matters including publication of minutes of meetings on the website, notification of road closures, and the latest paper about earthquake causation.

A resident (Penny) suggested it would be a good idea to set a date now for the Autumn litter picking. Mr Crutcher said this could be set for after the grass cutting and suggested this go on the July agenda and in the Parish Magazine for September. Penny suggested signs could be put out to ask people to stop throwing litter. Mr Kear said that Sussex are putting up signs showing the cost of clearing up litter.

Mr Proctor said the noise monitor was installed at Ewood Lane on Wednesday and once up and running he will give the link to monitor it. There are talks about changes to Route 4 in the autumn, but no records of Route 4 noise have been kept. There has been no monitoring of reverse routes. The monitor will be in place for two years.

A resident (Peter) said that he and several other local residents were going door-to-door for signatures with a petition about an application to SCC from Horse Hill Developments (SCC Ref 2018/0152) to retain and extend its existing well site to allow the drilling of 5 new wells. The petition will be delivered to County Hall on 17 June. It was reported that the decision has been delayed because of all the objections received. A copy of a letter dated 21 May from Surrey County Council addressed to Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council had been received by Newdigate Parish Council. It gives details of further information submitted by the applicant and 21 days to reply. Mr Kear said a letter of objection had been sent by Newdigate Parish Council to the original application.

11 Any Other Business: Mr Crutcher said that the Village Day had been a reasonable success given the weather and there had been a good turn out. It was agreed that a Vote of Thanks be given to the organisers, including James Penfold, Tina, Susan, and the whole team who put a lot of effort into organising a successful day.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 8 July 2019 at 8pm in Newdigate Village Hall.