

NEWDIGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes for Full Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Mr William Harmsworth (Chairman) Mr Phill Crutcher (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Neil Austin, Mr Bill Kear, Mrs Sarah MacDonald, Mr Peter Perdue,
Mr Richard Tyson-Davies.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Jackie Tyrrell (Clerk) plus 7 members of the public &
Cllr Lesley Bushnell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Charles Engel

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr William Harmsworth – Planning Application MO/2022/1957

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Council approved the draft minutes from Full Council meeting held on 12 December 2022.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT

Report was received from Neil Austin for period: 12 December – 9 January 2023

NEWDIGATE	PARTRIDGE LN	FORD FOCUS SIDEWAYS ON IN A DITCH
NEWDIGATE	PARTRIDGE LN	CRIME THEFT / REMOVED THE EAR-TAGS FROM ALPACAS
NEWDIGATE	NA	ACCIDENTAL DIAL NO POLICE REQD
NEWDIGATE	NA	TEENAGER MADE OFF FROM PARENT. NO FURTHER CONCERNS FOR POLICE
PARKGATE	PARTRIDGE LN	STRONG SMELL OF CANNABIS REPORTED TO POLICE /AWARE
PARKGATE	NA	CHILD PROTECTION INCIDENT
NEWDIGATE	PARTRIDGE LN	SUS MALES BY VEHICLES IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING / NO FURTHER REPORTS / POLICE ATTENDED
NEWDIGATE	NA	SUS MAN KNOCKED AT DOOR / NO FURTHER REPORTS / DOOR NOT OPENED
NEWDIGATE	HENFOLD LN	SINGLE VEHICLE COLLISION OFF ROAD BUT SLIGHTLY STICKING OUT

6. CLERKS REPORT

- 6.1 Progress has been made regarding submitting a claim with Bookers Insurers Aviva PLC. Confirmation has now been received that the cost of replacing the Parish Noticeboard will be met in full by the Insurance company. An order has been placed with Greenbarnes Ltd and once received will be installed in the centre of the village.
- 6.2 Councillors proposed at the December meeting to bring the start time of the Full Council meetings to an earlier time of 7:30pm. This was to aid residents and Councillors during the cold and often wet winter evenings.
- 6.3 The Clerk invited items for the Parish Magazine – Councillors suggested an item covering the precept figure to be submitted to MVDC. *Actioned 11.1.23*

7. COMMUNICATION & NFORMATION

- 7.1 Councillors approved finance training for the Clerk to attend with Mulberry's.
- 7.2 Council Elections to take place on 4 May 2023 – Information & guidance received from MVDC will be circulated to all Councillors once received.
- 7.3 All Councillors discussed the proposed review of the MVDC Housing Allocation Policy and it was agreed that a response would be submitted opposing the changes. The Clerk will submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council. *Actioned 11.1.23*
- 7.4 The Clerk circulated the proposed dates of forthcoming meetings – these were approved but may be subject to change.
- 7.5 A resident sent an email regarding 'Start Up of a Community Orchard' – Councillors reiterated that as the Parish Council do not own any land the best way forward would be to contact the Community Trust and the Surrey Wildlife Trust. All agreed that the Parish Council would support this initiative and offer support where necessary. *Resident emailed 11.1.23*
- 7.6 Councillor Lesley Bushnell summarised the current proposal regarding a bid to remove all Green Belt sites from the MVDC Local Plan. Any updates will be shared following the Full Council meeting on 16 January 2023 at MVDC.

8.0 FINANCE

- 8.1 The minutes for the Finance meeting held on 3 January 2023 were approved by all.
- 8.2 The bank balance as of 9 January 2023 of £22,869.98 was approved by all present.
- 8.3 Councillors approved the following payments:

Vikings Stationary	Ink Cartridge & A4 Paper	£61.95 plus £12.39 vat
HMRC	December salary	£206.80

- 8.4 The Budget forecast had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration and discussed further at the Full Council meeting. All Councillors present approved the budget figures for period 2023/24.
- 8.5 The Precept requirement figure is to be submitted to MVDC by 13 January 2023. *Actioned 11.1.23*
- For Newdigate PC the local tax base for tax setting purposes for 2023/24 has been calculated as 894. There has been a small reduction due to an increase in claimants

for local tax support and an increase in the number of properties lost due to bad debit. Other changes from last year's figure of 917 may be due to the number of properties in each band, new or demolished properties and discounts relating to exemptions/second homes. All Councillors present approved the Finance Committee's recommendation for the Precept figure to remain the same for the coming year and to request a figure of £16,876.00 to MVDC, which will be paid in two equal instalments.

- 8.6 The Finance Committee recommended to Full Council an increase in the Allotment rents per year to cover other related costs such as water charges. The Full Council approved an increase from £20.00 per annum to £40.00 per annum per plot (8 plots in total). The Clerk will advise all allotment tenants that the increase will be effective from 1 January 2024 as a year's notice is required. *Actioned 11.1.23*

9. PLANNING

- 9.1 Full Council approved the Planning Minutes dated 3 January 2023.
- 9.2 No additional planning applications were received week ending 6 January 2023.
- 9.3 A pause in the Local Plan Process was announced by MVDC on National Planning Reforms, Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill. Neil Austin summarised that the consultation is seeking our views on the proposed updating to the National Policy Framework and National Development Policies. In addition, how to develop policy to support levelling up and how national planning policy is currently accessed by users. Neil Austin encouraged and proposed to all present that a small sub-committee be set up to enable a suitable draft response to Michael Gove prior to the consultation deadline of 2 March 2023. All councillors present agreed to this proposal.

10. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC CALMING

- 10.1 Peter Perdue shared update on the progress of the Speed Watch team. It is having a positive impact on reducing speeding motorists when the team are out on the roadside. Hopefully it will serve in a positive way to educate drivers of the need to reduce their speed on our rural roads. The Parish Council had agreed to support '20's Plenty' campaign to reduce speed on all rural roads around the Country and we have been advised that support for this initiative has grown immensely around the country.
- 10.2 The Full Council approved the purchase of one Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) at an estimated cost of £5,500.00. Peter Perdue confirmed that Mr Peter Harris will loan another to the Parish Council for the village and Helyn Clack Surrey County Councillor will be approached to confirm her offer of purchasing the third VAS sign. The Clerk will contact Helyn Clack to confirm her position. *Email sent 11.1.23*
- 10.3 Mr Peter Perdue met with Mr Peter Harris to discuss various options to improve road safety around the village, including all approach roads that come under the Parish. Mr Peter Harris is fully supportive and is advising on various options to consider – to monitor traffic speed the installation of a black box on Broad Lane is being considered.

- 10.4 Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council are undertaking a joint feasibility study of potential improvements to the A24 Horsham to Dorking corridor. The Clerk will circulate the email received detailing the information and plans for them to consider a response. *Actioned 11.1.23*
- 10.5 The Clerk received confirmation that a HGV Goods Vehicle User Application at Oaklands Farm, Partridge Lane had been submitted and approved for the use of 4 vehicles and 2 trailers by Marks Transport Surrey Ltd.

11. FOOTWAYS/RoW/BRIDLEWAYS

- 11.1 Surrey Wildlife Trust have been in contact with the Parish Council to discuss any support that can be offered/agreed for future plans at the Brickworks. Mr Bill Kear to meet and will feedback to the Full Council in due course.
- 11.2 Trig Street – Mr Richard Tyson-Davies advised that Ibstock had cleared their half of the proposed 200 metre western extension (from the existing path to the Kettle Cottages car park) and the rest is due to be cleared by SCC. The part which has been cut back to widen and clear the path so far is a vast improvement and looks very inviting to any persons who wish to use it. Let us hope that the progress so far continues.

12 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A resident reported their concerns regarding the condition of the road surface on the west edge of Village Street/Laundry Hill.
- A repeater speed sign has been damaged and is laying on the ground as you head up the hill towards the Surry Oaks. The Clerk will report this to Highways. *Actioned 11.1.23*
- The community diary printed in the Parish Magazine is to be re-instated from this month and this will show all the activities in the village.
- Councillor Lesley Bushnell confirmed that she is following up with the Enforcement team regarding the situation at property Cloverleaf, Hogspudding Lane and will keep the Parish Council updated.

Meeting Ended 9:20pm

The next Full Council Meeting is 13 February at 7:30pm

Chairman.....

Dated.....