

**MINUTES OF NEWCASTLE
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2023 7.30 PM**

PRESENT

Cllr. C. Reynolds
Cllr. S. Burge
Cllr. P. Yeoward
Cllr. M. Davies
Cllr. P. Gittins
Cllr. S. Reynolds

APOLOGIES

Cllr. R. Williams

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Gwilym Rippon (clerk)

There was 1 member of the public present

**Agenda
item**

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1. WELCOME

Cllr. Yeoward took the chair and welcomed all present.

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2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

See list above,

Cllr R Williams was unable to attend in person; however, he was able to be present digitally for the Full council decision for the Resolution to Borrow.

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3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made declarations were made.

Name	Item	Personal	Prejudicial

048-
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4. WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A DISPENSATION

All members have an interest in the Crown Inn as a possible purchase of the Public House.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no members of the public present

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5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING (previously circulated)

the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023 were agreed as being a true record of what transpired and were signed by the Chair

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6. HIGHWAY ISSUES

a. Update on outstanding highway issues – There were no reported highway issues

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7. **STREET LIGHTING**

a. To note any streetlights out of order
There was nothing to report.

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8. **PLANNING**

There was nothing to report under this heading

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9. **FINANCES**

- a. To note the bank reconciliation balances
The Bank reconciliation was noted
 - b. To agree the 2023-24 pay rise. (£1.00 per hour)
This was discussed by Council and agreed
 - c. Update on the energy provider.
 - d. To discuss the budget 2024-2025
 - e.
 - f. To agree payment of outstanding Invoices
 - 1. HMR&C £373.36 (S1-7 GPC 2011)
 - 2. G.J. Rippon (clerk's expenses) £158.10p (S1-7 GPC 2011)
- For info
- 3. UTB £18.00 Bank Charges (S1-7 GPC 2011)
 - 4. Opus Energy 133.04 (S1-7 GPC 2011)

The Council agreed to pay all outstanding invoices and to transfer any money left from HSBC account to Unity Bank as previously discussed.

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10. **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND ANY NEW BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chair recommended that the discussion on SPARC be moved to the next meeting.

The motion was agreed.

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11. **UPDATE ON THE CROWN INN: Resolution to Borrow Meeting**

The sale of the Crown was discussed.

Tanya Bowen has agreed to help facilitate the application for buying The Crown, as programme lead for the grant and loan.

Community Meeting October 24th, 2023

Cllr. S Burge reported back about the October 24th Public meeting held recently to explain the plan to buy the Crown. There was a large turnout of 142 people, with 10 people supporting but unable to attend.. The Parish Council presented purchase options and put forward its recommendation. The recommendation was to progress with the purchase of the pub using both a loan and a grant from the government. The timeline would be approximately 15 months. Given this, the Parish Council also recommended that the owners should have the property on the market as the outcome of the grant and loan were not certain.

A show of hands was requested for the Parish Councils full recommendation. The majority of the room raised their hands in support. A few individuals expressed concern that the pub might be purchased on the open market, and the general consensus was for the Parish Council to own the pub and expedite the process if possible.

Update since Public Consultation

It was noted that much progress was made since the overwhelming support of the Community expressed on October 24th. Tanya Bowen presented the updated Budget and the Report to Council/Business Plan.

Both were discussed.

Resolution to Borrow

It was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £120K over the borrowing term of 35 years for the buying of The Crown. The annual loan repayments will come to around £7847.

It is not intended to increase the parish council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

The proposal was put forward by Cllr. Burge and seconded by Cllr. Davies, all members in favour.

The Report to Council/Business Plan written by Mrs Bowen was put forward by Cllr. Burge and seconded by Cllr. Davies, all members in favour.

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12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Approval of Full Council**

22nd November 2023

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm

Chair.....