

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 22 JULY 2025, 7PM, NEWNHAM CLUBROOM

Present Parish Councillors: Paul Gaskell (Chairman), Pauline Hedges,
Sue Symons, Nick Walker; Clerk Susan Turner.

- 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES** Apologies: Paul Ghent; Revd Debbie Veel; Matt Morris.
- 2 PUBLIC SESSION** No members of the public present.
- 3 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING** AGM of 20 May, agreed and signed.
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda, note.
- 5 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**
Matt Morris from Tylney Lane has expressed interest in joining the Parish Council; unable to attend this meeting as away on holiday though offered to join remotely.
- AGREED all in favour of Matt joining the Parish Council; concern that unable to discuss face-to-face. August traditionally a quiet month; main focus will be on Newnham 900 where Matt is already playing a key role. The Parish Council will liaise re Newnham 900 and engage re any other Parish Council issues with a view to discussion in September.
New projects to be considered in September include recreating a Parish Emergency Plan. Noted that following HALC meeting the winter before last on Community Resilience, Pauline Hedges set up an Emergency Plan for Water End which is registered with BDBC and uses the Iron Bull as its base / 'operations centre'.
- 6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION CONSULTATIONS**
For everyone to respond to Consultations, both available on BDBC website:
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils
- NOTED Each one of the 15 Councils involved has to submit a proposal – to Government by 26 September - for Unitary Councils for all Hampshire (ie the area within the new Hants & Solent Combined County Authority).
- . 12 COUNCILS ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON A PROPOSAL FOR FOUR MAINLAND UNITARIES WHICH INCLUDES A 'NORTHERN UNITARY' of BDBC, Hart, Rushmoor
- .1 BDBC, Hart and Rushmoor have a joint consultation on Northern Unitary proposals, *Future Changes to North Hampshire Councils*, up to 17 August.
- .2 The group of 12 Councils has a joint consultation on their proposals for all of Hampshire *Our Place our Future*, which is open to 27 July.
This group includes all (websites confirm this) bar Gosport (who have chosen not to engage) and East Hants and the County Council who have their own proposal.
See **APPENDIX I.**
- 7 PLANNING**
- .1 **Planning and tree applications** – Planning update **APPENDIX II.**
- .1A New applications for discussion. Thanks to Sue Symons for visiting the sites.
[T/00325/25/TPO \(Validated 26 June\) T1 - Oak: pruning work, Woodview Hse Blackstocks Ln.](#)
Discussion as below – Parish Council comment according.
- Sympathy with the request; this is a very large tree and close to the house.
 - The house recently been built near the tree with knowledge a TPO served for that reason.
 - The application form says the tree is not diseased and there is no fear that it will fall.
 - The house is well south of the tree so will be little shaded.
 - To request the only work permitted is that which will benefit the health of the tree.
 - Ward Councillor has objected to the application.
- [Note the application subsequently part allowed / part refused.]

[T/00315/25/TPO](#) (Validated 23 June) 12 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Fell x2 mature Scots pine in the rear garden.

Discussion as below – Parish Council comment according.

- Sympathy with the request; trees are close to the house and not very attractive specimens.
- Both the residents and the trees have been there a long time; wondering why the application now. No evidence put forward that the trees are anything but healthy.
- Cutting mature TPO trees is not to be done lightly; Parish Council objects to their removal without good reason.
- Ref discussion at .4 below. Scures Hill has lost much tree cover in recent years. These trees by the roadside make a strong contribution to the street scene and the nature of the locality.

[Note the application subsequently refused.]

[25/01458/FUL](#) (Validated 12 June) Wild Green Acres Farm, Ridge Lane. Change of use of existing agricultural barn to farm shop and cafe (Class E).

Discussion as below – Parish Council comment according.

- No objection to the cafe and farm shop as extension to current provision.
- Newnham Parish Council supports the principle of a business which benefits local food production, the local community and the local environment.
- The question of change in Use Class is important. To request permitted development rights be removed to safeguard against future unforeseen changes.

Noting HCC Highways have requested more info re anticipated numbers and parking provision.

[T/00360/25/TCA](#) (Validated 17 July) Newnham Hill. G1: Removed four Ash Trees with advanced Ash dieback. Elms are being planted to replace.

Discussion as below – No objection, no comment.

- This application follows T/00100/25/TCA approved 18 March to remove and replace 11 Ash Trees. In combination will have a considerable impact.
- Content to leave to expertise of tree officer re Ash dieback.
- Replanting with Elms very positive.

.1B Recent applications of note – *see Planning Update*.

.1C **Appeals** in progress – noted– *see Planning Update*.

- Land at Blackstocks Lane one new house, recently refused.
- Collingwood, Newnham Road, re boundary fence and enclosure of open space.

.2 **CIL funding** – To investigate CIL funding potentially due to the Parish Council.

.3 **Update on Land at Water End Lane** *Update Pauline Hedges*

Land owners initially sold the field (16 May 2025) subject to contract to an investment company based in the Isle of Man. This company immediately sought to re-sell the land in plots in advance of the initial sale completion. The land was advertised via Right Move and put in the hands of Barney Estates and Auctioneers, who sold four plots via their online auction platform.

Since then the landowner has withdrawn from the initial sale – thus making the secondary sales by auction null and void - these purchasers would lose their deposits.

The landlord has now removed the concrete bollards placed along Water End Lane to deter access. (The resale particulars showed the 10 plots along Water End Lane as all having access to the road – which is not the case.)

The land has now been resold but nothing further known.

The Borough Council – Ward Councillor, and Cabinet member for Planning and Infrastructure – were previously advised re potential need for planning enforcement.

.4 **Trees on Scures Hill**

Discussion

- As not a Conservation Area, unless the trees have TPOs they have no protection.
- BDBC will consider TPOs if the trees are valuable in their own right or as part of the street scene, make positive contribution to the area – and if they are evidently under threat.
- The tree cover on Scures Hill is over time being eroded, in part due to development.

AGREED The importance of trees on Scures Hill to the street scene and nature of the area. Photo at **APPENDIX III**.

ACTION To investigate feasibility of a group TPO covering all Scures Hill.

NOTED Reference the preposed SHEELA site Newn004 north of the A30 between Crown Lane and Smokyhouse Copse. This site is wooded apart from a triangle of field to the north.

A TPO was requested for this site, the tree office responded as follows:

'At present, we consider the risk to the trees on this site to be very low. Tree felling would be restricted due to the provisions of the Forestry Act and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. As such, we do not consider it expedient to serve a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) at this time.'

8 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

.1 Accounts to date – **APPENDIX IV** Bank reconciliation at 12 July = £29,124.28

Payments to date this year

1	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25
2	PGGM – Green mow x two (ride-on/flail)	£288.00
3	Clerk – Salary APRIL	£432.00
4	Herpetologic Ltd – Green ecology survey	£321.60
5	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25
6	HALC – HALC & NALC subs	£342.00
7	Zurich – Online Insurance 2025/26	£300.00
8	Clerk – Salary MAY	£432.00
9	900 – Silent Disco UK Ltd +£100 deposit	£292.00
10	900 – Lex Marquees	£421.20
11	900 – Survey Monkey x two for Green event	£150.00
12	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25
13	PGGM – Green mowing (ride on)	£218.70
14	900 – Front Flip-t/a Berro Kitchen – Feast deposit	£475.00
15	Signrite Digital – Fixing bus stop sign to post	£114.00
16	Clerk – Salary JUNE	£172.80
17	HMRC – PAYE-AMJ	£432.00
18	PGGM – Green mow/scarify (flail)	£288.00
19	Old House at Home – Pond working party	£87.95
20	Villager – Annual printing & ed	£854.00
	Colour spread Newnham 900	£45.45
21	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25
22	Peter Brown – Internal audit	£100.00

.2 Budget update – **APPENDIX V**.

.3 Internal audit 2024/25 – Completed, see **APPENDIX VI**. All forms submitted to external auditors BDO LLP and posted to website.

.4 Insurance renewal 2025/26 Confirmed a new policy via Zurich Online from 01 June.

.5 Members' interest forms – reviewed. Any updates for submission to BDBC.

9 NEWNHAM 900 update from Sue Symons

.1 History talks – now concluded. Four talks in all – on Railways; the Normans; the Civil War and the Tudors.

TO RECORD THANKS to Revd Debbie Veel and to Alan Richmond for organising and leading on the history talks.

.2 Church Path walk – This was originally envisaged as a lead up to the Bishop's Newnham 900 visit and service, but proved difficult to schedule into the day's events. The main rationale is now lost, and the September Green event will be very busy it its own right. As such, likely there will be a decision for this not to go ahead.

.3 September event on the Green

- i Work continues apace by the 900 team. The programme drafted for the days' events and the majority of the attractions organised / ordered.
- ii Details for the hog roast (from the Old House), and the evening 'medieval banquet' to be finalised, including tables and seating. Provision for 80 adults and as many children as can come. Clubroom tables and chairs to be borrowed as usual for part of the provision – offer from Nick Walker to transport in his trailer.
- iii Budget updates circulated show expenditure allocated to the Parish Council contribution to be almost exactly at £5K, will some contingency where VAT may be reclaimed.

.4 Newnham history book update. Grant funding achieved by Newnham 900 team from Hampshire Archives Trust.

10 MAINTENANCE / PARISH UPKEEP *update from Su Turner***.1 Newnham Green and Ponds**

- i Maintenance record since last meeting
 - 1. 22 May – strim around buildout on Ridge Lane; 29 May – strim Ridge Lane verge first foot from road; strim verge opposite pub; check all sightlines.
 - 3. Elm tree watering – periodically; also the Crabapple.
 - 4. 17 June – cut & collect (ride-on rotary) main Green, by benches; Ridge Lane triangle.
 - 5. 30 June scarify & collect – main Green, Newnham Corner; Crown Lane; Ridge Lane triangle.
- ii Sat 05 July – Main pond working group – follow up visits this week and next.

TO RECORD thanks to HIWARG volunteers, some 16 in all, for a full morning's work on the pond; the majority there from c8am to 1pm. Request for local volunteer made via *Villager* and whatsapp; one volunteer for part of the morning. A large swathe of the *Crassula* removed to water's edge to achieve an area of clear water for the newts, and to enable other species from the seed bed to germinate. This area of *Crassula* targeted every time so relatively easy to remove, not deeply rooted. Return visits are to check and remove any fragment which immediately re-establish as new plants.

.2 Lengthsman schedule

- 22 July – entrance to Tylney Lane – installing timber gates to rationalise signage.
- 29 July – Green – pulling and disposing of any remaining Ragwort / larger weeds; strimming.
- 29 July – strimming Barracks, triangle, Old School Road, bus shelters.
- Dates tba – ditch crossing point at Church Path (Newnham Lane) and benches. New noticeboard pending grant funding.

11 FURTHER UPDATES / REPORTS**.1 Water End** *update from Pauline Hedges*

- Bus shelter (Andwell Lane). Highways have installed tarmac apron with drop kerb to the front (Fri 18 July).
- Andwell Lane bus shelter in need of wood treating (Parish Lengthsman task).

.2 Government to amend legislation on Parish Council meetings to allow remote and hybrid meetings **APPENDIX VII.****12 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Tuesdays 7pm Clubroom – 16 September, 18 November.

Meeting close 9.30pm – with thanks to all

P4 of 4. For signature Date

APPENDIX I.I LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

1 Consultations available on BDBC website:

Two consultations; one joint from BDBC, Hart & Rushmoor; one from group of 12 councils.

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils

TO NOTE Each one of the 15 Councils involved has to submit a proposal – to Government by 26 September - for Unitary Councils for all Hampshire (ie the area within the new Hants & Solent Combined County authority).

- 12 COUNCILS ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON A PROPOSAL FOR FOUR MAINLAND UNITARIES WHICH INCLUDES A 'NORTHERN UNITARY' of BDBC, Hart, Rushmoor
- BDBC, Hart and Rushmoor are working together on proposals for the Northern Unitary.
 - 1 BDBC, Hart and Rushmoor have a joint consultation
Future Changes to North Hampshire Councils up to 07 August
 - 2 The group of 12 Councils has a joint consultation on their proposals for all of Hampshire.
Our Place our Future up to 27 July
This group includes all bar Gosport (who have chosen not to engage) and E Hants and the County Council who have their own proposal. (Websites confirm this.)

2 Unitary proposals maps – Appendix I.II overleaf.

3 Notes / comments

- i From HCC briefing - N-AK explained their separate proposal by saying
 - HCC has from the beginning considered all options, taken holistic approach. The other areas arrived at the answer of four mainland unitaries as a starting point focusing only on neighbourhood (place-led) perspective.
 - Structure based on existing first tier councils is responsible and cost effective.
 - Setting up a new council without an existing first tier council in place risky and most importantly cost prohibitive – HCC costings show leads to irrecoverable loss rather than cost savings.
- ii From joint BDBC/Hart/Rushmore briefing.
 - ALL 15 councils were initially working together, looking first at 12, then eight options - which included all possible numbers of Unitary Councils. ONLY when focus came to four mainland unitaries as the most efficient did HCC [and presumably E Hants] choose to take their own line (and became evident they had done this from the beginning).
[Presuming above is correct, apparently what HCC is saying isn't so much.]
 - HCC use of data said to be misleading. All other councils continue to work on data – which shows four unitaries cost effective – will release in Sept. Gov, civil servants will work it out.
 - The options for four mainland unitaries seek to balance population and reflect local identity as best possible. Gives all areas proportionate representation to Mayor.
 - Opportunities – partic for the Northern Unity – to create a completely new council – restructuring based on best practice, and following recently proven best practice, not cling to old model which in many cases follows out-of-date practices – and shown to be failing.

APPENDIX I.II OPTIONS FOR LGR

From email circulated by BDAPTC on behalf of BDBC

Backed by 12 councils across
Hampshire

Proposed by Hampshire County Council
and East Hampshire District Council

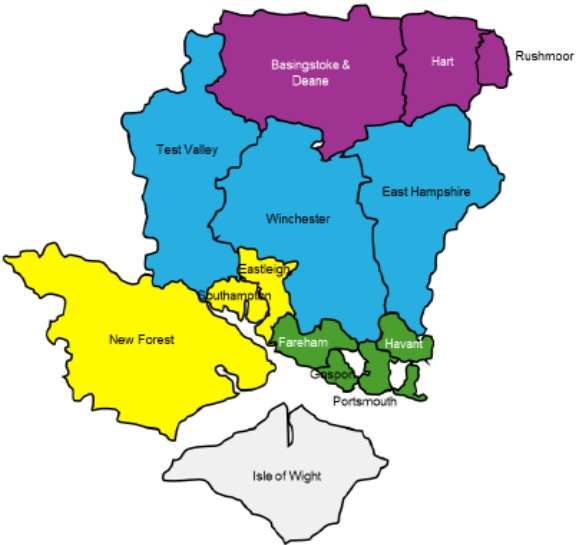
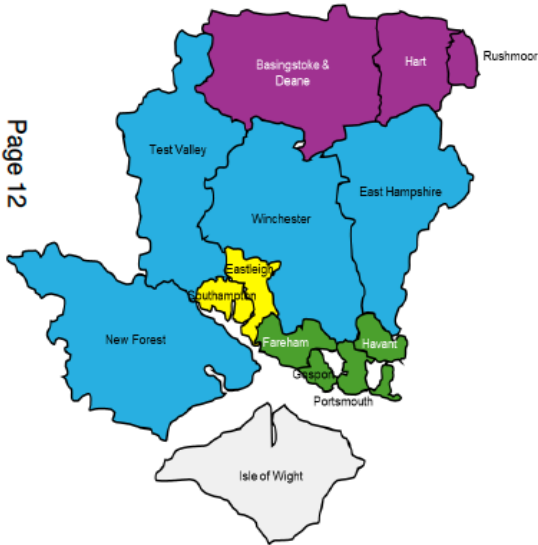


12 COUNCILS' OPTIONS FOR ALL HANTS

**Majority (12 out of 15 councils)
agreed final shortlist to be worked into full
business cases**

Option H

Option I



APPENDIX II PARISH PLANNING UPDATE 19 JULY**APPLICATIONS NEW SINCE LAST MEETING 20 MAY**

T/00325/25/TPO (Validated 26 June) T1 - Oak: pruning work. Woodview Hse Blackstocks Ln.

PC Comments: The application form says the tree is not diseased and there is no fear that it will fall. Reason for the proposed work is shading of a new house and garden that has just been built near the tree. It appears to be a healthy, attractive and well-proportioned Oak which enhances its location. The TPO is in place to protect the tree. The Parish Council objects to any work which will not directly benefit the health and wellbeing of the tree. From the sketch supplied this house is well to the south of the tree and so can't be much shaded.

T/00315/25/TPO (Validated 23 June) 12 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Fell x2 mature Scots pine in the rear garden. Agent comments: Fell x2 mature Scots pine in the rear garden. They run adjacent to A39 and a power line. 1 Scots Pine uprooted 5+ years ago. Client is worried about the amount of movement in stronger winds and the close proximity to the house.

PC Comments: Scures Hill has lost far too much tree cover in recent years. These trees by the roadside make a strong contribution to the street scene and the nature of the locality. Mature Scots Pines are beautiful trees and known for their ability to flex in the wind. Cutting mature TPO trees is not to be done lightly; no evidence is provided that the trees are anything but healthy; they are to the north of house and so not shading. The Parish Council strongly objects to their removal.

25/01458/FUL (Validated 12 June) Wild Green Acres Farm, Ridge Lane. Change of use of existing agricultural barn to farm shop and cafe (Class E)

PC Comments: Newnham Parish Council supports the nature of the Wild Green Acres' rural business in terms of its contribution to local food production, benefit to the local community and environmental benefits. It requests that, should you be minded to approve this application, all permitted development rights be removed (via condition or Article 4 as necessary) so that planning permission is required for any future change of use within Class E.

25/01269/FUL (Validated 02 June) 1 Crown Lane. Change of use from Bed & Breakfast (C1) to residential dwelling (C3). PC no comment, no objection.

APPLICATIONS PENDING / RECENTLY DECIDED

T/00212/25/TPO (Approve 11 June 25 April) Nately Scures House. Fell: G1.2 Maples, 1 Douglas fir, 1 Scots Pine, 3 small holly, 1 small sycamore, 1 small yew.

25/00554/ADV (Pending 19 Mar 2025) Basingstoke Country Hotel. Regularisation of the display of 12 no. signs - comprising 2 no. internally illuminated totem signs, 8 no. Internally illuminated post signs and 2 no. non illuminated post signs. PC Comments: request for illuminated signs to be kept to minimum.

25/00548/FUL (Refuse 06 June, validated 07 Mar) Land adjacent to Blackstocks Lane. Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping.

25/00486/HSE (Grant 18 June, Validated 03 Mar) Tally-Ho, Newnham Road. Demolition in part of rear flat roof aspect, erection of single storey extension with new crown roof to both, exterior sauna, window replacement, pond, landscaping and exterior hot compost system.

24/02978/ROC (Grant 03 June, Validated 20 Dec 2024) Land At Blackstocks Lane. Variation of Condition 1 and discharge of condition 4 of 22/02643/FUL - (Erection of 1 no. dwelling with associated landscape and parking) - Addition of rooflights dormer window, additional rooms in roof, elevational changes and change to site layout (part retrospective).

24/02797/FUL and 24/02798/LBC (Grant both 02 June, Validated 29 Nov 2024) Newnham House, Ridge Lane. The formation of a separate dwelling and extension to the Coach House, with the creation of associated amenity space, car parking and other infrastructure

T/00474/24/TCA (Pending 24 September) Newnham Lodge Tylney Lane. Acacia tree: fell and remove stump.

24/00882/LBC (Pending, Validated 16 Apr 2024) Nightingale Cottage, Heather Row. Demolition of existing south entrance porch, changes to fenestration, and erection of new porch with access ramp in revised position. Alterations to existing conservatory and replacement of glass roof with tiled roof. Various internal and external alterations.

23/02722/FUL (Grant 09 July) Pending 02 Nov 2023) Land East Of Keepers, London Road Nately Scures. The erection of 3no. detached dwellinghouses together with associated new access, car parking, drainage and hard and soft landscaping.

APPEALS

APP/H1705/W/25/3368891 In Progress (Start date 10 July) Land Adjacent To Blackstocks Lane. Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping

APP/H1705/W/25/3366255 In Progress (Start date 23 May) Collingwood Newnham Road. Erection a 1.8m high closeboard fence on the repositioned west boundary and change of use of land to residential.

APPENDIX III SCURES HILL


APPENDIX IV ACCOUNTS TO DATE

NEWHAM PARISH COUNCIL INCOME 2025/26 - 19 July 2025								
Balance brought forward 1st April 2025								£27,356.76
Date	Item	Precept	BDBC Grass cutting grant	Hugo Fox refund???	Vat PC	Vat (LM) 2024/25	Bank Interest	Total Receipts
30/04/2024	Parish Precept 6 months	£6,807.00						£6,807.00
30/04/2024	BDBC Grass Cutting Grant		£351.93					£351.93
				£143.86				£143.86
	VAT reclaim							
2025-26	Bank Interest						£75.63	£75.63
	Total	£6,807.00	£351.93	£143.86	£0.00	£0.00	£75.63	£7,378.42
								£7,378.42
			Interest	April	£14.23			
				May	£17.35			
	RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY							
	Bal brought forward 01 April 2025	£27,356.76		Jun	£24.80			
	Plus income	£7,378.42		Jul	£19.25			
	Minus expenditure	£5,610.90		Aug				
	Balance	£29,124.28		Sept				
	BANK RECONCILIATION							
	Business instant access			Oct				
				Nov				
	Community account	£48.38		Dec				
	95-day notice account	£10,000.00		Jan				
	Minus LM fund remaining	£12,318.00		Feb				
	Plus LM VAT to reclaim 2025/26	£750.00		March				
	Balance	£29,124.28			TOTAL	£75.63		
	LM VAT to reclaim 2024/25	£250.00			Interest on 95-day account Nov to 30 June			£225.15
	LM VAT to reclaim 2025/26	£750.00						
	PC VAT to reclaim 2024/25	£40.50						
	PC VAT to reclaim 2025/26	£301.05						

LLOYDS

Entry Date	Value Date	Description	Transaction Reference	Entries	Balance
24-Jun-25	25-Jun-25	Interest Payment		0.84 CR	10,220.94 CR
25-Jun-25	26-Jun-25	Interest Payment		0.84 CR	10,221.78 CR
26-Jun-25	27-Jun-25	Interest Payment		0.84 CR	10,222.62 CR
27-Jun-25	30-Jun-25	Interest Payment		2.53 CR	10,225.15 CR
30-Jun-25	CLOSING BALANCE				10,225.15 CR

[illegible]

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT	30-90-53	0032059
PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWNHAM		
£ 48.38	Current balance	
<hr/>		
£48.38	Available funds	
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<u>Earn up to 2.87% AER with a business s...</u>		
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NEWNHAM PC – ACCOUNT SUMMARY @ 19 JULY 2025			25/26 BUDGET MAR 2025
NEWNHAM	2025/26 TO DATE	LATEST EST 19 JUL	
INCOME			
Precept	£6,807.00	£13,614.00	£13,614.00
Grant (other)			
Grass cutting grant	£351.93	£351.93	£351.93
County Cllr grant			
Ward Cllr grants			
S106 - benches		£508.00	£508.00
S106-OpenSpace-wildfie		£1,365.17	£1,365.17
Bank interest	£75.63	£550.00	£550.00
Returned funds	£143.86		
LM income for audit			
VAT reclaim (PC)		£341.55	
VAT reclaim (LM) (22-24)		£1,000.00	
Total Income	£7,378.42	£17,730.65	£16,389.10
EXPENDITURE			
Clerk allowance		£324.00	£324.00
Assembly Expenses		£150.00	£150.00
Admin/Governance	£759.00	£1,250.00	£1,250.00
Training		£200.00	£200.00
Salary	£1,296.00	£5,184.00	£5,184.00
	£95.00	£800.00	£800.00
Green Maintenance	£750.20	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Villager	£899.45	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Community		£500.00	£500.00
Precept budget expend	£3,799.65	£11,408.00	£11,408.00
PROJECTS'			
A30/ gateways		£12,500.00	£12,500.00
Event-Newnham 900	£1,242.20	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Pond project-(grant)	£268.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
S106 - benches		£508.00	£508.00
S106-OpenSpace-wildfie		£1,365.17	£1,365.17
VAT	£301.05	£301.05	
Total Expenditure	£5,610.90	£32,082.22	£31,781.17
Precept budget expend			£22,816.00
Project expend			£20,373.17
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£1,767.52	£14,351.57	£15,392.07
BALANCE TO T/O	£29,124.28	£13,005.19	£11,964.69
NEWNHAM	2025/26 TO DATE	LATEST EST	BUDGET MAR

APPENDIX VI

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

www.newnham-pc.info/

During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2024/25 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

18/07/2025

PETER K BROWN

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Date

18/07/2025

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

APPENDIX VII

NALC SECURES MAJOR VICTORY AS THE GOVERNMENT BACKS REMOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS

In a momentous decision, the government has [announced plans](#) to amend legislation, allowing local authorities (including parish and town councils) to hold remote and hybrid meetings. This move is a powerful victory for parish and town councils following our persistent advocacy.

Since the expiration of temporary COVID-19 provisions in May 2021, which permitted virtual council meetings, we have been at the forefront of a national campaign to restore this flexibility. We argued that enabling remote attendance would modernise local democracy, enhance accessibility, and attract a more diverse range of individuals to public service.

The government's consultation, which received 5,844 responses (the vast majority coming from the 3,327 parish and town councils), revealed overwhelming support for remote meeting options. In response, the government acknowledged the need for councils to develop their own remote and hybrid attendance policies tailored to local circumstances.

We welcome the government's announcement, emphasising that the flexibility to hold remote meetings would empower parish and town councils to respond more effectively to their communities' needs. However, in response to the consultation last year, we expressed that the introduction of proxy voting would present significant challenges for parish and town councils, including undermining democratic accountability, weakening deliberative decision-making, and creating procedural and ethical difficulties.

The development marks a significant step forward in modernising local governance and ensuring that parish and town councils can operate effectively and inclusively in the digital age.

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This is a pivotal moment for grassroots democracy. Allowing remote meetings gives parish and town councils the tools to engage more people, particularly those with caring responsibilities, disabilities, or work commitments. It's about making local government truly local and truly accessible.

Cllr Keith Stevens
NALC chair