

## **MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Swarraton and Northington Village Hall, Basingstoke Road, Swarraton, Alresford, SO24 9TQ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)  
Simon Walker (SW)  
Yvonne White (YW)  
Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)

Apologies: Adam Dyne (AD)  
Jackie Porter (JP)  
Kim Gottlieb (KG)

The chairman welcomed all present.

### **1. Minutes of last meeting**

The Parish Council confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and the Chairman signed them.

### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising, which were not covered on the agenda.

### **3. Planning applications**

- a) The Old Pump House – no further update
- b) The Woodyard, Totford - Environmental Health did not approve of the planning application and Hampshire Highways have also refused.
- c) Hillside 78 – Proposed use of agricultural land as residential garden: NPC reviewed applications and commented with no objection.

### **4. B3046 update**

JM had written to HCC Councillor Robert Humby the portfolio holder for Highways. The letter set out the case for reducing the current speed limit of 40mph to 30mph including risks, concerns and the history of the B3046. The letter made clear that NPC wished to avail itself of the option of sharing the cost of changing signs.

SW noted new road markings in Old Alresford but none within our Parish.

### **5. New website**

HCC had withdrawn the website service for local Councils so SW had arranged for the creation of a new website service with “one to one”. Currently SW is paying for this service but it was proposed to

split the cost 50/50 between Northington Parish Council and the Village Hall committee. SW will send out bills to both parties.

SW explained that government websites are reserved and therefore we are unable to use the "gov." domain. The new website can be found under "northingtonparishcouncil.uk".

JM thanked SW for his skilled input which had saved NPC money.

SW also provided a brief broadband update. We were supposed to enjoy faster fibre optic broadband by September 2016 but the current update on BT's website remains "connecting phase". AR will investigate this further in order to obtain a more precise update on the progress.

## **6. Councillor vacancy**

JM circulated a draft notice for the vacancy for an unpaid voluntary Councillor. The council has reviewed and agreed the advert. AR has put the advert online on the Northington, Swarraton and Totford website as well as both notice boards.

Closing date for applications is the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and if there is more than one candidate applying, the Council will hold an election.

## **7. Clerk's report**

a) AR presented financial update of Quarter 1 and 2 of FY 2016/17. The second half of the annual precept has been received via BACS. The churchyard upkeep grant (£600) and village hall upkeep grant (£600) have been paid as well as the internal auditor (Paul Clarke, £50). NPC was fined £30 plus £6.00 VAT for not ticking one box on the annual return forms. This has been paid. The Chairman apologised for this oversight.

b) JM and AR attended HCC's workshop "The Future of Local Government in Hampshire" on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Alton and gave their impressions. As yet there are no proposals from HCC, only consultations at first and meetings to obtain views of local parish councils. The idea canvassed was to create "unitary councils" as part of the process, with a view to providing choices and opportunities and a wider range of options. Wiltshire has adopted the model of a unitary council and it was demonstrated how well and effective it works for Wiltshire. More details can be found under [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk).

Several councils at the workshop reported on their successful use of Lengthmen within their Parishes. JM and AR thought that NPC might revisit the use of a Lengthmen within our Parish.

The Council agreed that, in line with her contract, the expense of childcare occasioned by AR in attending the workshop, will be paid by NPC.

c) Elaine Capp has been in communication with AR about her role as the Village Agent for Dummer and the Candover Valley. Elaine was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded her poster which AR uploaded on the local website and posters can be found on the notice boards in the village.

d) Rhona Hatchley contacted AR about the possibility of storage at the Village Hall of 3 boxes containing NPC files. AR will arrange with the VH.

c) Jackie Porter's County Councillor's report for September states that from January 2017 recycling centres will be closed on Thursdays, and will not open until 11am. Closing times will be 4pm in the winter and 6pm in the summer. Charges will be introduced for plasterboard/rubble etc from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

#### **8. Any other business**

a) SW noted that at a recent presentation about the Grange Festival that there was an ambitious program of wider events planned. NPC noted this prospect but at the same time observed that this could mean more activity in the park. NPC will stay in close touch with the Festival organisers to ensure that they work with the village to achieve a satisfactory outcome for everyone.

b) YW asked for an update on the field opposite AD's house and whether WCC have been made aware. JM agreed to check with AD on the progress.

c) The Council discussed marking Fleur Boyce's contribution to the welfare of the Parish. JM to raise with Lord Boyce.

#### **9. Date of the next meeting**

The PC's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7pm in the Private Dining Room, The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

AR 25/09/2016