

## **MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Draft minutes of the Northington Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in the private dining room at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)

Simon Walker (SW)

Yvonne White (YW)

Melissa Jennings (MJ)

Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)

Cllr Jackie Porter (JP)

Cllr Ernie Jeffs (EJ)

Apologies: Adam Dyne (AD)

Cllr Lisa Griffiths (LG)

Cllr Kim Gottlieb (KG)

The chairman welcomed all present.

### **1. Welcome of new Councillor**

JM and the NPC welcomed Melissa Jennings as the new Councillor. Melissa successfully applied for the advertised post as Councillor and the council is delighted to have her on board.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

The Parish Council confirmed the minutes of the last meeting without any objections and the Chairman signed them.

### **3. Matters arising**

There were not matters arising, which were not covered on the agenda.

#### **4. Broadband update**

There continues to be a problem with completing work on the ducting along the B3046. JM had been told by BT, via a parishioner, that the slow progress is directly related to delays in HCC in granting road work permits. JM and JP contacted Mr Jarvis at HCC who explained the procedure for issuing permits. It is cumbersome but there are ways to make it easier. He is now aware of the problem. At the moment another contractor is working on the road who should be finished by mid-November.

#### **5. 3046 update**

JM is waiting for a reply from HCC to his last correspondence. He will ask Matthew Pellereau to follow up.

#### **6. Church upkeep**

The PC agreed to allocate the sum of £200 from its budget as a payment for the war memorial costs. NPC noted that there was £200 available as budgeted for church grounds maintenance but did not wish to commit to the long-term upkeep of the memorial.

#### **7. Speeding Northington Hill**

Following several letters, initiated by Peter Lamb's concerns about traffic volume and speeding on Northington Hill, JP had taken up a request for more road data and enquired with the Highways Department about surveying the number of vehicles and their speed. It will be collected over a 7 day period, though the department will avoid the forthcoming Christmas period because data collected will be atypical.

NPC discussed other possible options of slowing traffic down; however, the Parish Plan had commented positively on the rural look of the village and NPC noted that the village had previously decided against chicanes and speed bumps.

Once data has been collected, NPC will review this matter.

#### **8. Clerk's report**

AR presented financial update of Quarter 2 and 3 of FY2016/17. The cheque for the payment of second half of the Village Hall upkeep grant (£500) has been signed and will be forwarded to Peter Swithinbank.

As agreed in the previous NPC meeting, the childcare cost occurred to AR in order to attend the HCC workshop in September 2016, has been paid by NPC (£27).

AR suggested to closing NPC's Nationwide bank account and transferring the balance to NatWest as NPC no longer receives interest on the Nationwide account. YW and JM authorised signatures and will have to close account.

AR spoke to Rhona Hatchley and confirmed that she has been able to store historic NPC files at the Village Hall.

### **9. Any other business**

a) JP reports: Winchester City Council (WCC) together with other Hampshire Councils recently commissioned a survey for new sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. A possible location is the HCC Chipping Depot at Northington. For those who are unsure of the location of the depot, one leaves the A33 at Lunways and heads due East, the depot is about 1.5 miles past Micheldever Woods on the left hand side.

Closing date for the survey is the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. Although NPC will respond to WCC, the meeting decided that individual households should have the opportunity to comment as well. JM will write to everyone with further details and hold an open meeting to discuss the issue which will be held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

b) JP said that a sales company was approaching rural areas suggesting the use of old phone boxes to house defibrillators. NPC noted that a defibrillator is already sited at the Village Hall and agreed with JP that in an area of notoriously bad mobile reception, the old phone box should be kept in working order to make emergency phone calls.

c) AR received a copy of a letter from Stephen Lugg (Chief Executive of HALC) to Marcus Jones, MP, the minister of local government, with regards to the capping of precepts for parish councils. JM had discussed this letter with Mr Lugg and advised NPC to take no further action.

d) Michael Broderick had approached JM about featuring St. John's Church as a tourist attraction on the Parish website. EJ said that Alresford's website had information about their church. NPC raised no objection to this suggestion. SW suggested that the church should share with NPC and the Village Hall, the running cost of the website. JM will put this proposition to Michael Brodrick.

e) YW felt it might be useful to contact SSE and their resilience centre prior to the winter in order to receive an update and keep Northington on SSE's radar.

f) Lengthsman: The topic came up again and it was agreed that, although the village tidy up is always well attended and a great community gathering, our parish could benefit by membership of the Lengthsman scheme. EJ informed the meeting that Alresford PC has joined the scheme and recommended that AR should get in touch with Itchen Abbas's PC clerk to find out more.

### **10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 7pm, in the private dining room at the Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

AR 21/11/2016