

DRAFT MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Tuesday, 6 June 2017 at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)
Melissa Jennings (MJ)
Simon Walker (SW)
Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)

Apologies: Yvonne White (YW)
Adam Dyne (AD)
Cllr Lisa Griffiths (LG)
Ernie Jeffs (EJ)

The chairman welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Follow up points from AM

3.1) Chipping Depot: At the Annual General Meeting 2017, JM had read out the email to parishioners which NPC had received from WCC about the Chipping Depot . The text of the email can be found in the minutes of the AGM (published on our local website). JM thanked all the councillors and AR for their considerable support in this matter.

SW noted that in the past residents had expressed concern about use of the Chipping depot by, large trucks, delivering chippings and other road materials. Ironically this 'unwelcome activity' had become a key factor in the rejection of the Chipping Depot as a GTTA site.

3.2) JM said that at the AGM he had voiced his unhappiness with the wording of NPC's neutral comment on planning applications. He had therefore followed up this aspect of NPC's business with WCC's planning department. JM had asked the planning department to provide teaching sessions on planning issues for local parishes. WCC had reacted positively to the idea.

4. Removal of BT telephone box next to Northington Farm

SW reported that there is a sticker on the telephone box in Northington stating that the box will be removed. SW noted that the line is no longer working.

5. Improved 4G service within NPC

A couple of villagers had asked SW whether it might be possible to improve mobile phone signals. SW said that our parish mobile phones currently run at 2G. SW explained that O2 is the only provider but that they have promised UK customers that 4G coverage will be available to 98% of them by 2017. The O2 mast within our parish is now also used by Vodafone (through CTIL). SW is happy to pursue the matter and will investigate with CTIL. The installation of fast broadband by BT Openreach has mitigated the urgency of the problem but there is room for improvement. JM asked SW whether input from local councillors would help. SW said he would start investigations without their support. SW will also ask Peter Lamb to see whether the church would agree to a small mast on the rooftop. The PCC could benefit financially from it. SW was aware that this possibility had been visited previously.

6. SSE

YW said that she is now in touch with the current batch of SSE officials. A direct consequence of this progress is the fact that the churchyard path (Millennium Path), which was damaged in the spring by SSE's heavy vehicles, has now been repaired. SSE's subcontractors, who were very helpful, used large amounts of scalping, top soil and grass seed to make good the damage. Thus far, the outcome is satisfactory.

JM thanked YW for her hard work and persistence.

7. Roads within NPC

NPC received an email by Mr Rowe from Hampshire County Highways informing us that they will be visiting parishes to identify issues such as speed, road surfaces, road markings and road signs. JM suggested that NPC should ask Hampshire County Highways to arrange for a joint tour round NST. AR will follow up and set a date.

NPC has been told about disappearing road markings at The Grange's Swarraton Road exit.

AR to notify HCC.

8. Clerks report

AR updated NPC on the recent financial outgoings since April 2017 (insurance and internal audit). NPC received the first half of its annual precept.

Online banking with National Westminster bank is finally available.

The annual return (2016/17) has been submitted on the 24th May 2017 following the internal audit by accountant Mr Paul Clarke. On 6 June NPC was contacted by the external auditors and told of a potential fine of £30 due to misunderstandings in the fixed assets register. AR will challenge their findings because the forms were completed according to guidelines provided in previous financial year.

Lisa Griffiths had emailed her latest report to AR and asked for its publication on our website. After some discussion NPC, decided that no local councillor's reports should appear on our website because they can be found on each councillor's website.

JM congratulated AR on finally arranging for NPC's bank account to be online. It had been a long haul.

9. Any other business

9.1 JM and YW took part in a WCC workshop on Environmental Services at Winchester's town hall on the 24th May. JM reported that they had left the workshop rather underwhelmed. JM's suggestion that a glass bottle collection service would be very welcome to NPC's residents fell on very stony ground.

9.2 JM reported on AD's behalf that a large number of residents had turned out for the village spring clean-up. This was after initial concerns that the numbers committed had appeared to be on the low side.

9.3 TAG Farnborough: JM repeated what he had said at the AGM, namely that, along with a large number of local parishes, NPC had put its name to a letter to Number 10 asking the government to scrutinise TAG4's proposal's for expanding its reach into the airspace south of Farnborough.

10. Date of next meeting

The next regular NPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th September 2017 at 7.15pm in the private dining room at the Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

AR

11/06/2017