DRAFT MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 12th September 2017 at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)

Melissa Jennings (MJ)

Yvonne White (YW)

Simon Walker (SW)

Adam Dyne (AD)

Cllr Lisa Griffiths (LG)

Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)

Apologies: Kim Gottlieb (KG)

Ernie Jeffs (EJ)

The chairman welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

1.1 The BT phone box in Northington has not been removed yet but is no longer in working order.

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

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Hampshire Highways visit

JM, YW and AR met 2 representatives, Ray Gardener (engineer) and Giles Vodicka (technician) from Hampshire Highways and drove through the parish on Friday, 1st September 2017.

NPC were hoping for improvements for roads. NPC pointed out damaged verges, roads, road signs and markings. According to Hampshire Highways, verges could be filled with gravel by the

Lengthsman (NPC is not sure about liability). Potholes had to meet criterias for repair (30cms deep and 30cms into highway). AR awaiting detailed report.

The blocked drain and poor state of road repair near the crossroads at Northington Down (near noticeboard) has been noted by Hampshire Highways and will be repaired. Some potholes have also been marked for future repair.

NPC was underwhelmed by the visit and may need to seek support from Jackie Porter. Hampshire Highways can be contacted directly: **01962 847976**.

4. Abbotstone Down

NPC has been informed by Mr Steven Ord (Countryside Ranger, Hampshire County Council) about tree felling works at Abbotstone Down this autumn and winter.

"Abbotstone Down has been in a Higher Level Stewardship agreement agreed with Natural England since 2010 and part of the agreement is to revert the north section of the site into grassland and to further revert the southern section of the site into Wood Pasture (a fairly open mosaic of trees and grassland). The aim of this is to preserve the Hill Fort banks and internal areas as falling trees can uproot the bankside, potentially harming the archaeology underneath. A further aim is to promote the spread of wildlife rich chalk grassland; Abbotstone retains some excellent, wildlife rich chalk grassland on the south side and we anticipate this colonising or re-emerging from the north side over the next few years.

We have approached Wessex Woodland who are interested in undertaking the work. They are experienced contractors and have conducted similar works on other County Council nature reserves. They aim to remove the timber to sell for firewood, potentially making this a cost neutral exercise. They are likely to use the North side car park and the closed south side car park as timber extraction points. The main south side car park will remain open. Posters will be put up onsite to inform visitors about the works once a final agreement has been reached between us and Wessex Woodland."

SW said that only bushes have been cleared so far -no trees but those are likely to be felled soon. NPC appreciated the letter of notifications.

5. 4G update

SW started emailing CITIL to enquire who to contact but only received an automated reply but one week later 4G was in place. SW said he doesn't feel he can take credit for this. A secondary positive result since 4G is available is that Vodafone network users now have mobile phone reception.

6. Planning applications:

a) 17/01299/FUL Saw Mill, Totford:

Environmental Health remains concerned about noise pollution, screening, etc. and a full report is not yet available. Video footage taken of lorries turning with great difficulty will be forwarded to KG.

b) 17/01563/HOU 1Hassock Farm Cottages, Northington Down:

NPC supported the application since no comments have been made by the neighbouring properties. Planning has been granted.

c) 17/01848/HOU New Lodge:

NPC is in support of this planning application, though it would welcome steps to make the new garage sit more harmoniously on the site. NPC has sent a comment to WCC.

7. Resilience Centre:

MJ and YW attended a meeting with Mark and Holly from SSE to discuss the potential for NPC's resilience centre.

An information pack has been provided and NPC could apply for up to £20.000 to set up and maintain a resilience centre.

Several options have been explored and MJ will provide a detailed report which will be available on NPC's website.

The village hall was thought to be the ideal place to set up the resilience centre. NPC concluded that there were serious issues about maintenance, training, insurance and fuel. This ruled out ownership of a generator.

Alternative ideas were to store torches and blankets in the village hall as well as an analogue telephone. JM enquired whether NPC can apply for emergency equipment funding. MJ will investigate.

MJ suggested installation of a landline for an analogue phone in the village hall (monthly line rental £18.99, installation £49.99-£100.00). AD wondered whether, that since the removal of the BT phone box, BT might be able to support NPC as a goodwill gesture.

Overall, the conclusion was that analogue phones should be recommended to every household, as this would be the cheapest way of providing communications.

8. Clerk's report:

AR presented FY 1 and 2 of 2017/18 which showed a slight increase in insurance costs. Other outgoings were for the internal auditor, first half of the Village Hall upkeep and church yard upkeep grant.

AR raised the question of the level of the precept for 2018/19. NPC agreed that no increase in precept required but to apply for £3900 as in the previous financial year.

Online banking with NatWest successful and current balance (04/08/2017) £3157.42.

BDLO external auditors pointed out that the NPC's fixed assets register has not been amended in previous years but this has been rectified this year. AR waiting for return of paperwork in order to commence inspection period.

NPC receives regular email updates by Winchester City Council on whereabouts of Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showmen (GTTS) in and around Winchester. No GTTS have been reported in our parish.

Winchester's planning department is hosting a planning district coach tour on 6th October 2017. The tour starts at 9.30am at the Guildhall Winchester and will return at 17.00. One representative from each council was invited. JM will represent Northington.

9. Any other business:

a) After a complaint by the owner of stock on the water meadows, JM had informed James Smith about a kissing gate on the Millennium Path's not closing properly. It has now been repaired.

b) AD said he was unsure about the sessions our Lenghtsman is performing, as he hasn't seen him in the area. AR will forward Wendy's email correspondence about the Lenghtsman scheme and AD will negotiate with Wendy. YW asked if Totford signs could be cleared and cleaned.

c) LG was only able to attend the first few minutes of tonight's meeting and asked if anyone had any comments to make about her recent councillors report.

JM said that notice of the deadline for the WINnovation fund was very short. LG said that all details can be found on WCC website. Officials will also be in support as to how to pitch the fund and which criteria need to be met. There is usually a 6 week comment time.

The next NPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th November 2017 at 19.15, private dining room, Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

AR/18/09/2017