

MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Tuesday, 20th March 2018 at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)
 Melissa Jennings (MJ)
 Yvonne White (YW)
 Adam Dyne (AD)
 Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)

Apologies: Lisa Griffiths (LG)
 Jackie Porter (JP)
 Simon Walker (SW)

The chairman welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Paragraph 3 (Planning Applications) contained the wording “not objecting” on 3a) and 3b) which NPC decided to change to “NPC took note off”. AR to amend and the minutes were signed as a true record by the chairman.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Road repairs

AR had sent emails to Hampshire Highways on 14th March 2018, reporting potholes and a missing road sign. YW also followed up the issue with Ray Gardener from Hampshire Highways on 16th March 2018. YW had told him that there were several potholes along the B3046 which still haven't been repaired, despite having been reported twice already. The potholes were repaired today, on 20th March 2018.

Mike Seed (Principal Engineer Hampshire Highways South) replied to AR as follow: “We are aware of the potholes that have been reported through the Hampshire County Council reporting system. There are orders with our contractor to have these repaired. We have had one of these temporarily filled as an emergency, it will still have a permanent repair done at a later date.”

4. Lengthsman

AD had chased Joe Noades (Lengthsman) on several occasions to see if the mounds have been flattened. Although the work has been completed, the paperwork has not been submitted by Joe Noades. AR to clarify with Wendy (Preston Candover), whether Joe is paid without submitting paperwork.

5. Grit bins

AR had reported empty grit bins using Hampshire highways website’s online tool but noticed several grit bins were marked with “no information”. AR has anomaly to Tim Lawton (Head of Highways Operation), who will follow up with the relevant team. The online reporting system is simple to use and all members of the Parish should feel able to report individually and not rely solely on NPC (www.hants.gov.uk/roads). This suggestion will be raised at the AGM.

NPC will send a thank you letter to the operators of snow ploughs, trucks and tractors maintaining our roads over the past few weeks when heavy snowfall impacted the safety of roads.

6. WCC funding for local voluntary organisations

JM said that he had already drawn the PCC’s attention to the possibility of obtaining funds from WCC for the proposed concert podium. He would do so again and restate the PC’s willingness to support the application.

Note: JM did this on 22nd March at the PCC’s AGM.

7. Village Spring Clean Up

This years’ village spring clean -up will be held on Sunday, 25th March 2018 at 10.00. AD announced that several villagers have volunteered and AD will send out email with detailed information of allocated routes, safety tabards and bin bag collection. Bin bags can be left on the side of the road and AD will collect.

8. Clerk's report

AR presented budgeted and actual figures for QTR 4 and the financial annual 2017/2018. The account currently holds enough financial means for improvements within the parish. Suggestions of road safety improvement through radar speed lights or a climbing frame for children at the village hall were possibilities, which need further investigation (c.f. insurance) and will be discussed at the AGM.

AR had also investigated the missing road sign at the B3046 and Spiers Lane junction, which could divert some traffic towards Basingstoke.

Andy Smith (Team Leader, Traffic Management East, Economy, Transport and Environment Department) had replied as follows:

“Further to your enquiry to the Highways team below, I have been asked to contact you regarding the sign at B33046/Spiers Lane.

We have previously checked this matter with our Highways team and they were unaware of a sign at the Spiers Lane junction directing traffic to Basingstoke/Preston Candover. There has been a sign directing traffic along the B3046 for Swarraton, Brown Candover and Chilton Candover, which can be seen on Google street view dating back to 2009 and I believe it is still in place. The Basingstoke/Preston Candover sign is not apparent back to 2009.

I have previously responded to the Parish Council that we would not recommend signing traffic along Spiers Lane rather than the B3046, and I believe Mike Seed has also similarly suggested it would be inappropriate to direct traffic off of the major route.

I am aware there is a finger post sign at the other end of the route directing traffic to Alresford via Spiers Lane, but I'm not aware of the reasons behind this sign which has been in place for some time. Directing traffic on rural routes is often a sensitive issue and I would not be able to justify providing signs directing traffic off the B3046 without particularly good safety related reasons. You may be aware that the on-going funding cuts have necessitated us to prioritise our reduced traffic management resources on casualty reduction measures. Please refer to the following link for information -
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety/makingroadssafer>

I hope this clarifies the position.”

9. Any other business

a) JM and NPC are unhappy about a recent invitation from the Leader of WCC to a meeting to discuss affordable housing. It pinpointed Northington as a Parish with expensive properties but no affordable housing. JM had asked Kim Gottlieb to find out who had authorised this text.

b) On the 25th May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation comes into effect. MJ volunteered to be NPC's focal point for this topic.

c) MJ had scrutinised a request from Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) for comment on the rules governing conduct in public office. She did not think that NPC had any input. AR notes that all NPC's councillors had signed and dated the Code of Conduct for NPC.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM, 15th May 2018 at 7.30pm in Swarraton and Northington Village Hall.

AR 21/03/2018