

MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Signed minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday, 11th June 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)

Margot Power (MP)

Simon Walker (SW)

The chairman welcomed all present and thanked the councillors for their attendance at the Annual Meeting on the 15th May 2018.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Paragraph 3 (Road Repairs): A further large pothole has been noted in Northington, close to West Lodge. YW will inform Hampshire Highways.

Paragraph 7 (Village Spring Clean Up): JM thanked AD for his efforts in arranging this successful event once more. NPC has complied with the new General Data Protection Regulation and circulated notification via email to all residents and updated the NPC's website. None of the residents have objected.

The minutes were signed as a true record by the chairman.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Speed watch

At the Annual Meeting Peter Swithinbank had mentioned the Itchen Stoke speed watch and JM will arrange to meet Peter and David Cooke to explore whether this would be a possibility for our parish.

4. Lengthsman

AD has been notified that our Lengthsman Joe Noades has resigned from his position. AD will check with Wendy how this will affect our parish and whether inserting an advertisement in the Oxdrove magazine is likely to be helpful.

5. Phone box removal/ relocation post box

AD agreed to take on the task of having the old phone box at Northington Farm removed and to see whether the Royal Mail post box can be relocated to the Village Hall. In its current location of the post-box is difficult to use because of deep mud and tricky parking.

AD will get in touch with the Royal Mail.

6. Affordable Housing

NPC has received an invitation by Winchester City Council to attend a meeting discussing affordable housing in rural areas. NPC is considering an individual meeting with Steve Lincoln at WCC.

Margot Power mentioned a forthcoming meeting of Itchen Valley Parish Council with WCC's housing officers. JM and AR agreed to attend the meeting on the 5th July in order to obtain actual facts before meeting Steve Lincoln.

7. School bus transport

In her latest report Jackie Porter informed NPC about cuts in the school transport system. Community leaders have voted to scrap free travel for children when they reach the age of 8.

At the moment, children qualify for free transport if they attend their nearest catchment school and the distance from home is more than 2 miles away for Year R to Year 3 or more than 3 miles for Year 4 to 11.

From September 2019, free transport will no longer be available to children until the child is of compulsory school age (term after 5th birthday) and if distance between home and school is less than 3 miles. Parents are expected to take their child to school.

AR has contacted JP via email to investigate further and how this will affect children in our parish attending Preston Candover Primary School. JM agreed to also follow this up.

8. Clerk's report

Following on from the Annual Meeting, the meeting discussed the possibility how to use the money (£782.54) not spent in FY 2017/18. A contribution to the external lights of the Village

Hall has been suggested but after some consideration, NPC decided not to support this project as NPC already gives £1000 to the Village Hall for its upkeep.

AR presented the financial figures for 2018/19, QTR1 and the annual budget. NPC has received the first half of its annual precept.

NPC decided to take out Local Council Insurance with 'Inspire' as of 1st June 2018, after reviewing several quotes. It has also been agreed, in order to avoid annual insurance increases, to accept a 3 year long term agreement (LTA) with Inspire.

The annual return (2017/18) has been completed and submitted to the newly appointed external auditors 'LittleJohn', on the 31st May 2018. The internal audit has been completed by Mr Paul Clarke (accountant) as in 2017. The certificate for exemption from external auditing has been submitted as NPC's income is less than £25,000 per annum.

AR has received a survey from HCC about fly-tipping in our parish, MJ has kindly offered to complete this survey.

AR has been notified by Philippa Pellereau and Peter Lamb about a broken grit bin near the Village Hall. This has been reported by Peter Lamb and AR offered support should it be required.

Margot Power told AR that WCC's budget has been cut from £19m to £14.7m. Should grass cutting in our parish be required, we are encouraged to use the online system:

www.fixmystreet.com.

9. Any other business

a) The fencing at the Sawmill in Totford has been inspected by WCC and NPC received an extremely poor and dissatisfactory response from WCC. NPC will send a comment.

b) Northington Parish Council's councillors are coming up for re-election in May 2019. New members would be very welcome. AD and JM will explore.

10. Date of next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Private Dining Room at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

AR 18/06/2018