

MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18th September 2018 at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)
 Yvonne White (YW)
 Adam Dyne (AD)
 Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)
 Cllr Jackie Porter (JP)

Local Residents Paddy Barber (PB)
 Lucy Williams (LW)

Apologies: Lisa Griffiths (LG)
 Margot Power (MP)
 Melissa Jennings (MJ)
 Dennis Nye (DN)

The chairman welcomed all present and thanked Paddy Barber and Lucy Williams for coming.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes were proposed by AD, seconded by YW and signed by the Chairman as a true record of NPC's last meeting.

2. Matters Arising

Paragraph 4: AD will update on Lengthsman as item 5 on tonight's agenda)

Paragraph 5: AD had arranged for the old phone box to be removed by the end of March 2019. AD is currently struggling to get Royal Mail to move the post box. This is a work in progress.

Paragraph 6: On 5th July 2018, JM and AR had attended an Itchen Abbas Parish Council meeting. The council had invited WCC's affordable rural housing officer to Itchen Abbas. NPC went to seek background information on 'exception housing'. NPC is anticipating a visit from Steve Lincoln at WCC.

Paragraph 7: JP informed NPC that from September 2019, children under the age of 5 years will not qualify for free school bus transport. Parents can appeal but if they are successful, they will still have to pay for the bus ticket and will only be allocated a seat if there is one available. JP will update AR and offered support should it be required.

3. Northington Hill Traffic

Local residents Lucy Williams and Paddy Barber presented the case and provided everyone with hard copies of a power point presentation of the issues arising at Northington Hill. Peter Lamb is also involved but could not be present at the meeting.

PB noted an increase of traffic over the last 7 years, that the demographics of the village have changed and that drivers are ignoring the speed signs. The hill is used by residents, commuters (as a "rat run"), cyclists, pedestrians, churchgoers, dog walkers, rallying cars and bicycles as well as commercial and agricultural traffic.

Signs currently in place are: Northington village only, weight restriction (7,5t), gradient and 30 mph. There is no sign for a width restriction. There is also no pavement, no street lighting and the road is very narrow, barely allowing two vehicles to pass each other.

PB and LW had carried out an amateur survey (no speed measuring device, amateur judging) over 5 days. The vehicle count over 7½ hours was 388. More vehicles were counted between 6-9am and 5-6pm. The school bus appears to be too large for the road. JP suggested installing a laser to check speed and vehicle count correctly.

PB has written to residents around Northington Hill asking for ideas how to limit traffic on the hill. The following ideas have emerged: blocking the top of the hill (cul-de-sac), chicanes, sleeping policemen, solar powered flashing speed sign, slowing ramps (table-tops) and the occasional police speed camera. AD suggested comparing traffic between Northington Hill and Kite Hill. PB would like a meeting with HCC road engineers and for a proper traffic survey. JM noted that NPC had wrestled with this problem before and noted that at the AGM in May 2018, residents had rejected the idea of illuminated signs in the parish, not only on the grounds of cost (£3,000 for 2 months) but also because they are unsightly.

JP commented that children had to walk without a footpath to the bus stop and went on to say that HCC's policy is not make any changes to road layouts unless a fatal incident occurs. JP suggested petitioning local police commissioner Michael Lane. The police

needs to be made aware of public concerns. JP further suggested that NPC could apply for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund table-tops. JM said that he shared PB's and LW's concerns but thought that HCC would resist change. However, if HCC's grounds for no change were lack of funds, PB and LW might care to ask local residents to crowd fund the necessary road-works.

PB endorsed the idea of installing a laser camera without further delay. JP cautioned that all HCC laser cameras are in daily use but offered to support NPC and PB by raising this case with HCC Highways Department.. JP will ask if an illuminated sign could go on trial to see whether NPC could make use of a more permanent one.

JM asked PB and LW for a written summary of their findings for use with HCC and offered to help with the drafting.

PB and LW left the meeting at the end of the discussion of Paragraph 3.

4. Member's Resignation and a New Council Member

Simon Walker had resigned as a Council member in writing on 9th September. He had offered his continued support in the running of the village website. JM had written to Simon accepting his resignation with regrets.

On behalf of NPC and our community and for the minutes, JM thanked Simon. He had been a tower of strength and his considerable work on the website is a lasting testimony to his skills and generosity. NPC welcomed Dennis Nye as a new council member. Unfortunately Dennis was been unable to attend this meeting but he will be welcomed at the next meeting.

5. Lengthsman

AD said that Rob Paliotta is now employed as our new Lengthsman. AD had created a worksheet for Rob and will check on work carried out before signing and returning the forms to Wendy Simson. AD is very impressed with Rob's efficiency so far. There will be a meeting with Wendy and Rob on 11th October 2018 at the Yew Tree in Wield, which Adam will attend and represent NPC.

6. Winchester Local Plan

Winchester City Council is about to start preparation of its Local Plan 2036 and NPC feels that any individual interested should have a chance to comment.

"The Council agreed at its Cabinet on 18 July to launch preparation of a new local plan.

The Council has to prepare a new local plan, following adoption of local plan part 2 last year and in light of changes to National Planning Guidance. The Council therefore seeks your views on the scope and content of the local plan and has set up an on-line consultation at www.winchester.gov.uk/Winchester-lp-launch, this asks some key questions that will help us to shape the new local plan.

Further information can be viewed at <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy>. Or if you wish to contact the Strategic Planning Team then please email planningpolicy@winchester.gov.uk. All comments MUST be received by 12pm, Friday, 21st September 2018."

AR will circulate an explanatory email to residents.

7. Footpath update

NPC had received a complaint about the overgrown Oxdrove bridle path behind the Woolpack Inn. YW reported the problem to HCC, who have acted upon her call. The Oxdrove path is now clear and fully accessible again for walkers, runners and horse riders. NPC thanked YW for sorting out the problem.

8. Rural Housing

This has been covered at Paragraph 1 of tonight's meeting.

9. Clerk's report

AR presented the financial figures for QTR2 of the 2018/19 budget. NPC had received the second half of the precept by WCC.

The internal auditor Paul Clark has not yet submitted his invoice to NPC.

Since the change of external auditors (PKF Littlejohn LLP) this year, NPC was able to apply for an exemption certificate as the annual income is below £25k. This means anyone interested in NPC's accounts can review them but unlike in previous years, there will no longer be a note for the notice board. It will be sufficient to record in the minutes of our meetings that NPC has submitted the audit forms. AR will announce on the website

when the 2018/19 audit has been completed, because not everyone reads the minutes. Due to exemption, NPC has not been charged an auditing fee.

The external auditors pick at random 5% Parishes, who apply for the exemption certificate throughout the country and review their audit. NPC appeared to be amongst those this year.

AR has been asked by local government Councillors why their monthly reports do not appear on our website and why we don't cover councillor reports in our agendas. NPC restated its view that everyone can access town and city websites and read the reports on those websites. Any issues arising within such reports are, in fact, mentioned at our meetings. Councillors attending those meetings may present and share with NPC their latest monthly report.

Royal Mail has alerted NPC about scam mail. Posters will be issued for display on our notice boards. Residents are urged to be vigilant and contact the Royal Mail if they have been affected (scam.mail@royalmail.com, FREEPOST SCAM MAIL or 0800 0113 466)

10. Any other business

No issues arose.

11. Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th November 2018 at the Private Dining Room, Woopack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

The meeting finished at 20.56

AR 25/09/2018