

MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd January 2019 at The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)

 Cllr Jackie Porter (JP)

 Melissa Jennings (MJ)

 Yvonne White (YW)

 Dennis Nye (DN)

 Adam Dyne (AD)

 Belinda Mitchell (BM)

 Rhona Hatchley (RH)

 Frank Warner (FW)

 Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)

Apologies: Margot Power (MP)

The chairman welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Paragraph 4 (B3046): NPC did not send a letter of complaint to “Box-it” but a reduction of speed by the company’s vans has been noticed by residents. NPC will remain focused and act, if required.

YW wrote to HCC (Andy Smith) about the recent accident at the Grange corner in Swarraton and is waiting for a reply. The idea of barriers along the fencing to protect the property at the Grange corner was raised. JP feels this needs treating seriously and offered to support YW, who holds a record of all incidents/accidents at the corner. JP and YW will liaise.

The minutes were proposed by DN, seconded by MJ and signed as a true record by the chairman.

2. Matter arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Northington Hill

JM met and walked Northington Hill with Lucy Williams (LW) and Peter Lamb (PL) on 4th January 2019. Patrick Barber excused himself due to ill health.

LW and PL accept Andy Smith's assessment that physical retarding measures such as bumps and 'tables' are not an option. The subsequent discussion therefore concentrated on visual measures such as roundels on posts and painted on the road. JM said that there was a real animus against painted 30 mph signs on the road surface and noted that Andy Smith had said that HCC's experience was that speed signs painted on the road are not effective without police enforcement. This left the option of deploying signs on posts.

The following has been agreed:

1. There should be the new style black and yellow signs at both ends of the hill, replacing existing red/white/black signs.
2. A single repeater sign to be added to existing sign opposite the defunct BT box.
3. A double repeater sign to be erected opposite the Old Post Office on the North side.
4. Reset the existing sign opposite House Number 72.
5. A double Repeater sign to be erected opposite the white peg.

PL had suggested camera signs at both ends of the hill. JM said that without police endorsement involving a commitment to mount camera patrols, the prospects were poor. JM said that he would test the water at HCC.

There was discussion of stickers on the sides of rubbish bins. JM thought that bins permanently on the road were ugly. LW googled the idea and found that Suffolk CC had found them to be illegal and JP confirmed this and also pointed out that they are not effective.

NPC agreed that permanent speed cameras cannot be installed. However, JP suggested getting in touch with the police and discussing possibility of police speed cameras. JM will investigate with HCC the effectiveness of smaller speed signs and is also mindful of the potentially cluttered appearance, aiming to maintain a rural appearance. JP said that speed signs can sit up to 6ft high.

NPC will send a letter to Andy Smith at HCC setting out modifications that NPC would like to see.

4. WCC's SHELAA LIST (Ref. Site N001)

JM temporarily vacated the Chair the better to address the meeting. YW kindly took the Chair.

JM said that he and his wife are the owners of West Lodge, which lies adjacent to SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment) Site N001.

HISTORY: In mid December 2018, the Hampshire Chronicle published a list of sites that had been placed on the SHELAA List. The Grange Estate has promoted Site N001 as a building site that is

deliverable and developable. The Grange Estate did not mention their plans to the house owners living next to the site.

In early December, the Grange Estate met the neighbours to explain what it has in mind for the site. The plan is to convert the decayed buildings at Home Farm (Grade II listed) into a conference centre with 60 rooms. The Estate needs to raise £7million and plans to sell site NO01 to a developer to raise cash. WCC calculates that the site promoted by The Grange Estate could support 29 dwellings, though the Estate says that currently it plans to build only two high-end houses.

The neighbours drew the Estate's attention to the Grade II* listing of the Grange Park and Garden. Site NO01 sits squarely within its curtilage.

There has been an expectation that Home Farm will be developed but that it would provide much needed housing. This is in concert with Northington Parish's Plan of July 2013, which has been accepted by WCC. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the plan specifically recommend that derelict and unused buildings shall be turned into residential accommodation, while noting some interest in the creation of small business units.

Grange Estate's promoters recognise that MTRA4 imposes a constraint on its application and MTRA3 (infilling) is not an option. In any case, it requires local support.

NEXT STEPS: The neighbours (New Lodge, West Lodge and Flint House) plan to ask WCC's Landscape Department to assess the site in terms of amenity value and thence whether TPOs (tree preservation orders) would be appropriate, particularly in view of the site's history – the woodland follows the lines of woodland depicted in an 1897 map. Councillor Jackie Porter offered the name of the relevant officer. NPC agreed to support this move.

Frank Warner and Rhona Hatchley attended the meeting to register their strong objections to the proposed development. Rhona Hatchley said that the Grange Estate wanted a meeting with Northington residents to explain its plans. The meeting accepted this request and asked JM to agree a date and time with the Grange Estate.

5. Parish Elections 2019

AR will attend a meeting at WCC's offices on Thursday, 24th January 2019 to hear about changes in legislation and format of completing forms for the Parish elections in May 2019.

6. Phone box Northington

AD had called BT about the removal of the phone box in Northington. BT were unable to provide a date but reassured AD that it will be removed by 31st March 2019 and Northington is on a waiting list.

AD subsequently informed BT that the glass in the phone box was broken. BT have replaced the glass but have since informed AD that the removal will not take place as it requires a planning

application. JP will liaise with Steve Lincoln (WCC's Community Planning Manager) and will get back to AR.

7. Clerk's report

AR completed and sent off the precept application form for 2019/20. The precept remains unchanged to the previous, as agreed by all members of NPC and presented the financial figures of Quarter 3 2018/19.

HCC got in touch with AR to provide NPC with the invoice of £200 for the survey carried out on Northington Hill. HCC will send paper invoice.

The planning application received beginning of December 2018 (18/02536, Garage Loft Conversion, Pack House, Totford) has been circulated via email to all council members (except YW). NPC has replied to WCC saying that: "NPC has no comments or objections to this planning application".

NPC needs to provide Countryside Service with a cutting list for our parish. Closing date for comments is 1st February 2019.

NPC received a letter from the Hampshire countryside access forum, a statutory advisory group, about its services. JP explained that they can help with gaining access to footpaths and style replacements for example. Abby Sullivan would be JP's recommended contact person.

Since signing the declarations (disclosable pecuniary interest) at the meeting in November, AR forwarded hard copies as requested to WCC, who informed AR that their website is now updated with NPC's members.

HALC informed all parishes that an accessibility statement needs to be made on every parish website in order to comply with the Accessibility Regulations 2018. AR will update website.

8. Any other business

This years' village spring clean -up will take place on Sunday, 24th March 2019.

AD attended a meeting with our Lengthsman at the end of last year. The Lengthsman comes from Waterlooville and emails AD blank work sheets for completion 2 weeks prior to starting the jobs requested. Should extra materials be required, NPC will be charged but this can be split with other parishes, where work is carried out at same time frame. JP suggested that the Lengthsman should check the drains by the Village Hall as it is prone to flooding.

YW enquired about the fallen down fence opposite the Grange corner, which needs securing. JM will speak to the landowners (La Fontaine Jackson).

AR to chase reinforcement action list as Northington Down Farm on the list.

9. Date of next meeting

The next regular NPC meeting will take place on Tuesday, 19th March 2019 at 19.30 at the private dining room, The Woolpack Inn, Totford, SO24 9TJ.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 14th May 2019 at 19.30 at the Swarraton and Northington Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 21.15.

AR 29/01/2019