

MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a regular meeting of Northington Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 14th November 2019 at Swarraton and Northington Village Hall.

Present: John Mitchell (Chairman) (JM)
 Dennis Nye (DN)
 Bill Wykeham (BW)
 Alexandra Risebury (Clerk) (AR)
 Cllr Margot Power (MP)

Apologies: Yvonne White (YW)
 Melissa Jennings (MJ)
 Cllr Jackie Porter (JP)

The chairman welcomed all present including Bill Wykeham our new counsellor, the successor to Adam Dyne. Bill introduced himself by saying that he has lived in Northington for the past 11 years and is devoted to the village. He ran a business in London for 26 years and is now self-employed in the motor sport industry and property market.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes could not be signed for lack of proper signatories. The minutes will be proposed at the next meeting.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Planning Application 19/02076/HOU, Merrivale

NPC submitted comments to WCC and noted that the proposed application shows a 123% increase in size to the existing building and the footprint appears unbounded. The owners have reduced the roof height by 1.4m after planning advice had been taken. NPC is content with the present plans.

4. Comments on planning

DN suggested that NPC should set up a criteria catalogue or matrix, in order to establish cohesive comments on planning applications. JM said that he is reluctant to the use of a matrix for lack of flexibility but DN challenged this, by pointing out the advantages of consistent recording of neighbour's opinions, landscape setting, overall appeal, etc. should be. However, BW questioned the catalogue idea as the list could become endless.

JM had been on a trip with the planners previously and established that NPC is entitled to voice any comments. MP reminded NPC that position and prominence, not just plot size, need to be taken into consideration. Wording is essential, for example – use “noted” instead of “liking” and one needs to remember that subjectivity and the aesthetic of the village have their place. A matrix of criteria doesn't seem appropriate as each application is individual. MP also referred to the Winchester Local Framework, Plan B, which sets out the benchmarks for assessing planning criteria.

5. Departure of Adam Dyne/new council member

JM will write a letter to AD from NPC. Adam has put a lot of effort into his work as a valued member of NPC. JM welcomed BW once again and thanked him for his introduction at the beginning of the meeting.

Adam had liaised with BW about the Lengthsman before his departure. BW needs to identify the next visit of the Lengthsman and to get in touch with Wendy as YW noticed a few blocked “grips” on the roadside, which it is the Lengthsman's role to clear. NPC noted that immediate hazards are the HCC's responsibility. The village clean-up will also become BW's responsibility.

6. Vision for Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry

AR circulated email received from HCC and counsellors are invited to attend the meeting on Thursday, 9th January 2020.

7. Clerk's report

AR circulated pecuniary register of interest forms and requested for those to be completed by the end of November, in order to provide those to WCC and publication on their website.

The precept for 2020/21 has been discussed and it has been decided to increase the budget from £3900 to £4500. The extra money can then be used for more Lengthsman hours (e.g. bus shelter repairs).

The hire of the village hall has been paid.

After 4 years in service, AR will be resigning from her post as Clerk in January 2020 and the search for her replacement will start with a letter on the village via email, before advertising the role in the Oxdrove magazine.

8. Any other business

a) Northington Hill: NPC declined the offer of painted roundels. Lollipop (interval) signs need to be erected; 30mph sign opposite telephone box and at the top of the hill. YW will inform Andy Smith of HCC of these decisions.

b) Grange Corner: HCC will erect bollards and refresh 40mph signs.

c) Bin collection: Late or no bin collection across the parish reported by several residents lately, but except for Lake House, is now running smoothly. Complaints need to go through WCC and MP would like to be informed about the bin collection at Lake House.

d) NPC email account: NPC need their own domain name and for emails to come from the parish website domain. DN and MJ will ask Simon Walker to help us get started.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st January 2020 at 7.30pm at the private dining room, The Woolpack Inn, Totford.

The meeting finished at 20.45

AR 19/11/2019