

**MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2017 AT 7.15 P.M
AT NORTH WOOTTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Present: Councillors Pulsford-Harris, Border, Marshall-Grint, Edwards, Cox, Merrey, Crome, Nurse, Malik, Duvall, Kilham
In attendance: Mrs R Curtis (Clerk)

There were no members of the public present

A Closed Session took place at 7pm to discuss the letter of appeal from Mr Les Tite requesting that the PC's decision in December not to co-opt him onto the Council be reconsidered.

Cllr Pulsford-Harris explained that Mr Tite had appealed within 14 days of the Parish Councils decision, therefore making it null and void and natural justice requires further consideration and another vote to take place based upon the letter of appeal. The Parish Council discussed and considered each point raised in Mr Tite's letter and each Councillor asked for their thoughts. The Parish Council voted on whether to allow Mr Tite to become a Parish Councillor – 6 votes were in favour, 4 votes were against and there was 1 abstention. Clerk to write to Mr Tite and notify him of the decision and invite him to the February meeting to sign the necessary paperwork.

Councillor Pulsford-Harris suggested that she look at forming an appeals procedure for the PC to adopt, giving guidance for any similar future situations.

As Cllrs Border, Nurse and Crome had to leave the meeting early some agenda items were discussed out of order to enable them to be present and make comments.

1. Apologies – None

2. Declaration of Interest – None

3. Minutes of last meeting

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6th December 2016 be signed as a true record of the meeting with the following amendment; the item raised by Cllr Malik regarding the SNAP meeting should be moved from Matters Arising to item 5. Law and Order.

8. Finance

Precept Setting - Cllr Border presented the impact of a number of suggested percentage increases to the precept. He said that the finances were in good shape and expenditure is within budget. Increases to be aware of for next year are 50% of the cost of the VAS signs and associated maintenance charges if the Parish Partnership is successful in its funding bid. However these costs should be offset by the decrease in the costs associated with Wootton Park maintenance. Cllr Pulsford-Harris reminded the PC that the Local Authority may increase their element of Council Tax by 5-6% to fund social care costs. Both Cllrs Marshall-Grint and Nurse, made the point that increases should be considered to build up reserves for potential future projects such as changing the streetlights to LEDs. Cllr Pulsford-Harris proposed that the precept is increased by 3% for 2017/18, there were 7 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions. Therefore the precept for 2017/18 will be £35,463.

Payments for approval

Bal. b/fwd.

£53,638.99

Less Expenditure:	
DD – EON Charges for November	756.89
Chq 001588 – Glazewing – Wheelie Bin – Nov	27.60
Chq 001589 – Westcotec – December Maintenance	250.48
Chq 001590 – Jet Reach – Empty Bins – Dec	40.00
Chq 001591 – SWPC – Wootton Park – July – Dec 16	439.56
Chq 001592 – R Curtis – Expenses	18.20
Chq 001593 – R Curtis – January Salary	448.93

Add Income:	
03/11/16 – Bank Interest	83.48

	TOTAL	51,740.81
Made up as follows		
Saffron Building Society	13,863.00	
Lloyds Gold deposit a/c (Easy saver)	34,945.29	
Lloyds current a/c	2,932.52	
	51,740.81	

The above expenditure was approved for payment.

10. Wootton Park Association

Nothing to report – the next meeting is Tuesday 24th January 2017.

13. Village Hall

- Cllrs Border and Nurse are leaving the meeting early to attend a meeting at the Rugby Club. They have been invited to look at plans which the club have had drawn up to extend their building to accommodate a community/social area which could be used for bookings as a village hall. They will email Councillors to update and give points for discussion for the next meeting.

- Cllr Kilham presented the Council with an agreement signed by the Village Hall Committee giving consent to NWPC to take over the running and administration of the Village Hall. The Parish Council are still waiting to view the financial accounts.

12. Planning

9 Acre Field, Nursery Lane

The comments submitted to the Borough Council Planning Portal by NWPC were addressed in an email from SWPC to Cllr Pulsford-Harris. The email was discussed and Councillors feel the PC should be consulted on any future development of the piece of land which is between the 2 parishes, and consultation should also be made with WPA. Cllr Pulsford-Harris to respond to the email requesting this.

Land at Gatehouse Lane

This application has gone to appeal following the Borough Council's decision to refuse it. Councillors agreed to let the PC's comment stand which is in favour of the new dwelling.

4. Matters Arising

The Clerk has signed the paperwork from the PCSO's confirming the community resolution as agreed for the girl who vandalised the bus shelter.

5. Law and Order

Cllr Malik reported that the next SNAP meeting is 17th January which he will attend.

The meeting was closed for Open Forum.

6. Open Forum

There were no residents present at the meeting.

7. Correspondence

Mr Les Tite

12/12/16 - Appeal

A letter of appeal against the decision not to co-opt him onto the Parish Council. *Note – this was discussed at a closed session at the beginning of the meeting.*

BCKLWN

13/12/16 – Grounds Maintenance Service

Following on from a survey which invited Parish Councils to express their views on the grass cutting service for 16/17 there will be some changes in 17/18 and in some cases cuts being increased from 6 to 12 per year. If Parish Councils are interested in taking on the grass cutting responsibility then contact the Borough and this could be arranged for the year 18/19

Clerk to contact NCC Highways to ask if their stance on PC's taking over the grounds maintenance responsibility has changed.

The Clerk reported that the grass cutting contract has now expired with CGM and she is now in the process of obtaining 3 quotes for the work. The area of land behind the bus shelter will be requested to be quoted for separately.

9. Highways

- The dip on Priory Lane between the bus stop and the Woottons Surgery has been reported.
- The overgrown tree around the lamppost near the Woottons Surgery has been reported.

11. Street lighting

- Cllr Marshall-Grint reported there is a bulb out on the light near The Priory, Nursery Lane – Clerk to report.

14. The Village

- Cllr Kilham reported that the bricks on the war memorial are sinking and the bench nearby is in need of repair. Clerk to ask Cllr Nurse for contacts to obtain quotes.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Duval said he would be resigning from the PC with immediate effect, to be followed by a written resignation to the Clerk. Cllr Pulsford-Harris thanked him for his work as a Parish Councillor.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

..... Chairman Date