

**MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.15 P.M.  
NORTH WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Councillors Pulsford-Harris (Chair), Border, Hughes, Marshall-Grint, Edwards, Kilham, Cox, Malik, Merrey, Doak, Marshall-Grint  
In attendance: Mrs R Curtis (Clerk)

10 members of the public were present

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Nurse – (previously scheduled meeting),  
Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Pulsford-Harris and seconded by Cllr Border and unanimously approved.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Hughes - Item 15, correspondence in regard to the placement of a bus shelter at Manor Road

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 be signed as true record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported the following;

- A resident is meeting Lord Howard on 7<sup>th</sup> December on the Wootton Marsh to discuss the rights of way for pedestrian access.
- The Clerk wrote to Highways regarding the work to be done to the drains at Flowers on the Green. Highways stated the January date for the work to be done was mutually agreed with the resident as not to disrupt their pre-Christmas trading.

**5. Law and Order**

- Cllr Malik attend the SNAP meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November and reported that PC Natalie Nunn intends there to be more of a police presence in the area in the future. The vandalism to the noticeboard had been given a crime number, however there are no more enquiries to make and the investigation is now closed. The SNAP meetings will continue on a 3 monthly basis, with the next meeting taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019.
- There is currently a scam taking many forms but reports suggest that the scammers pose as undercover police officers stating there has been a report of fraud on the victim's bank account, or that a family member has been arrested for assistance in an undercover police operation. Victims are taken by taxi to a location to withdraw a large amount of cash, which is later collected by a courier or person involved in the fraud. Cllr Pulsford-Harris urged anyone to notify those who may be particularly vulnerable to this.

The meeting was closed for Open Forum.

**6. Open Forum**

Cllr Pulsford-Harris asked if any members of the public had anything to raise other than the matter of the bus shelter and there was none.

The meeting was re-opened.

**7. Correspondence**

- 6 letters from residents regarding the bus shelter, 5 objections and 1 in support.

- 3 names on a petition to request the PC revisits its decision not to put a bus shelter at the Manor Road stop.

All of the above to be considered in item 15.

## - 8. Finance

BALANCE b/fwd.		57,420.57	
<b>Less: Payments</b>			
<u>Chq No</u>			
001810	CGM - Grounds Maintenance	452.40	
001811	Westcotec - Maintenance November	250.48	
001812	Veolia	53.16	
001813	Royal British Legion	25.00	
001814	BCKLWN - Newsletter Printing	69.35	
001815	CPRE Membership	36.00	
001816	Jet Reach - Repair Noticeboard	50.28	
001816	Jet Reach - Empty Bins	40.00	
001817	Total Gas and Power - November	955.02	
001818	R Curtis - Salary November	462.80	
001819	R Curtis – Expenses	21.97	
001820	SLCC Membership	156.00	
			2,572.46
<b>Add: Income</b>			0.00
			<u><b>54,848.11</b></u>
	<b><u>Made up as follows</u></b>		
	Saffron Building Society	14,170.27	
	Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	40,405.45	
	Lloyds Current A/C	272.39	
			<u><b>54,848.11</b></u>

The above expenditure was approved for payment.

- Cllr Border presented projections for increases in the precept for 19/20 for Councillors to consider. A decision will be made at the January meeting.
- The Clerk explained to Councillors that the PC server which stores her work documents has failed and she is unable to gain access to the disk. The server has been examined by a specialist and they have quoted a cost for the recovery of data - £1,323 (excluding VAT). Cllr Merrey proposed that the Parish Council pays half of this cost and this was seconded by Cllr Cox and all agreed. The Clerk will keep Councillors updated on the work being done.

## 9. Highways

The Clerk explained that the Highways engineer, Sally Bettinson had been in touch to advise that the County Councillor, Simon Eyre has a members fund to distribute within the Parishes he represents. Councillors were keen to progress the idea of a speed sign along Ling Common Road, following on from resident's recent concerns over speeding and discussions with PC Natalie Nunn. Appropriate signage would cost around £3,600, it was agreed that the Clerk apply for 50% of the cost from the Parish Partnership funding scheme run by County and then request £1,000 from the members fund – this would leave around £800 to be funded by the Parish Council. The matter of

speeding along All Saints Drive was also discussed; Clerk to enquire about asking for funding for 2 signs although it was acknowledged that this seemed unlikely.

## **10. Wootton Park**

Cllr Border reported the following;

- After much investigation the defibrillator has been found, it had been used at an incident at the care home, Wyndham House and then incorrectly taken back to the rugby club. It has been used since then again, by a crew attending the care home. SW Parish Clerk has written a letter suggesting that they may find it useful to invest in a unit themselves to have on their premises. It was discussed that the Parish would benefit from having another defibrillator situated at the north end of the village and it was noted that the village hall committee had discussed putting one on their building. Who would bear the cost of this was also considered and Cllr Marshall-Grint proposed that the Parish Council paid for it as a community asset, this was seconded by Cllr Border and unanimously agreed.
- An Architectural Liaison Officer has visited Wootton Park to make suggestions to make the park safer. Lighting of the infant play area was recommended and also lighting along the cycle path. Cllr Border will look into this.
- The signage denoting the cycle path is a shared space has been agreed by the Wootton Park Committee and will be put up in January.
- Cllr Marshal-Grint acknowledged that it was good to see PC Natalie Nunn attending the Wootton Park meeting.

## **11. Street lighting**

- Westcotec have informed the Clerk that the light on Gregory Close on the footpath is uneconomical to repair and suggested replacement with an LED fitting – Councillors agreed to go ahead with this.
- A replacement lamp column for the light which was knocked down on Ling Common Road is £1,585 plus VAT – Councillors agreed to go ahead with this.
- New lamp column on Priory Road – Councillors agreed to retain this and request for it to be linked up and switched on.

## **12. Planning**

### Applications Received

18/01505/F - To build 3 dwellings at land south of the House on the Green.

After considering the amendment to the planning application which now proposes 3 dwellings to be built on the plot instead of 4, the Parish Council still objects. Councillors agreed to re-send the initial objection letter with alterations to be made taking into account amendments to the proposals.

## **13. Village Hall**

Cllr Hughes reported on the following;

- New gravel has been laid at the front of the hall after the drains were cleared and new soakaway dug out.
- The committee are considering new external doors to be fitted.
- The ceiling has been lowered and filled with insulation.
- The Christmas Fayre was successful.
- There is a wedding booked for 21<sup>st</sup> December.
- Pre-Christmas bingo raised more than previous bingo nights.

## **14. The Village**

Some Councillors attended the WI quiz in November and had an enjoyable evening.

## **15. To discuss the proposal of a bus shelter on Manor Road**

The Clerk recapped on events leading up to the discussion taking place tonight. Cllr Cox and Cllr

Merrey had requested a special motion in accordance with Standing Orders to enable the previous resolution which stated the Parish Council would not put up a bus shelter on Manor Road to be revisited. Councillors comments were as follows;

- This proposal would be an opportunity for the Parish to be seen as being pro-active.
- Each bus stop location has different needs and all angles should be considered. Reassurance is needed as to how a shelter would be built and lit.
- Questioning how many people use the shelter and if there is a need for it.
- The previous decision was made by the PC based upon the information it had at that time, there is sympathy for the people who live nearby and whether or not they want a shelter in close proximity to their houses.
- The indicative prices for timber shelters seems very high at £7,000 plus and maybe alternative suppliers could be looked at.
- A decision should be made on value for the investment and whether there is a need for it.

It was noted that after the initial 31 consultation letters were delivered by the Clerk there were 8 objections. A petition was handed to the Clerk at the November meeting with 34 signatures in favour of a shelter. At this meeting a further 3 signatures were added requesting that the PC reconsiders its previous decision, and the Clerk received 5 letters of objection and 1 in favour of the shelter.

After consideration was given Councillors voted 6 in favour of a shelter, 3 against and 1 declaration of interest. Therefore the Clerk will proceed with obtaining quotes for a timber shelter in keeping with the rural character of the setting.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

None

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

..... Chairman ..... Date