

MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2021 - held at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Nurse (Chaired the meeting), Border, Lamb, Kilham, Simpson, Edwards, Harper, Cox, Merrey

Also in attendance - Clerk Rachel Curtis, County Cllr Nick Daubney and 2 members of the public

- 1. Apologies** – Cllr Marshall-Grint, Cllr Melton – holiday, accepted.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - None
- 3. Minutes of last meeting** - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1st July and Thursday 19th August 2021 be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Item 15 was moved to Matters Arising to allow County Cllr Daubney to participate before he had to leave the meeting. The sale of the triangle of land by County Council is still ongoing. Although the County Council have given the Parish Council the opportunity to purchase the land, the initial valuation is £30,000 which the PC cannot afford. Cllr Daubney reported that he has been lobbying Officers and fellow Councillors at County Hall to put forward the view that the area of land is an asset to the community as a green space which the PC is prepared to maintain, but should obtain for a much reduced amount. The PC discussed this issue at length and to move forward the following was agreed:

- Enquiries should be made at the Borough Council to confirm what type of land this area is registered as.
- Cllr Nurse will contact a land agent to carry out an independent valuation of the land.
- The PC would be happy to take on the area of land at a much reduced amount less the cost of any work to be done to the culvert.

The Clerk will reply to the County Council when a valuation has been obtained.

5. Law and Order

There was a recent fire at Cranmer Ave, where a conifer hedge was destroyed. This follows a fire earlier in the year where the bug hotel was burnt out. Clerk to contact PC Dave Allcock to make him aware of the PC's and residents' concerns.

6. Open Forum

A member of the public said the bench at the top of Manor Road is in a bad state of repair – the Clerk explained that a new one had been delivered and will be put in place soon. It has been donated by a family in the village in memory of their relatives.

7. Correspondence -

- West Norfolk Rugby Club – to inform the PC that they now have a defibrillator installed on site. Clerk to put in the next newsletter to make people aware.

8. Finance

BALANCE b/fwd		£83,138.59
002094	Streetmaster – Bench	910.80
002095	R Curtis – Expenses – Veolia	89.04
002096	R Curtis – Sept Salary	535.60
002097	Jet Reach – July/Aug	60.00
		£1,595.44

Income	£0.00
Made Up As Follows;	
Saffron Building Society	£14,244.68
Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	£62,267.40
Lloyds Current A/C	£ 5,031.07
	£81,543.15

9. Highways

- There has been some discussion on social media regarding the duck signs which have been taken down for the winter. The PC is happy that this was discussed fully at its meeting on 1st July and the signs will be put up again next year to ensure motorists take notice. To be included on the agenda for January to agree exact timing to be re-instated for the Spring.
- Lorries have recently been speeding along All Saints Drive, it is thought they are aggregate lorries working on an Environment Agency project along the riverbank.

10. Wootton Park

- Cllr Border reported that the CIL bid for funding has been successful with £10,000 awarded towards the cost of hard coring and shingling the car park so that it is usable all year round. Due to the cost of the entire project Cllr Border proposed that NWPC contribute £1,500 (which is £500 more than the original amount agreed). Cllr Nurse seconded this and all agreed. The Football Club have also agreed to this increased amount and SWPC will discuss at their September meeting.
- Anita Howard's work is ongoing in applying for funding for the infant play area. She has met with suppliers to obtain visuals and quotes.
- The Community Payback team are aiming to attend the Park twice a week.
- An item of correspondence from a resident regarding the opening of the car park off Sandbach Road was discussed. SWPC are still awaiting legal work to be completed to pass ownership to them, then the car park will be opened. The resident may attend the SWPC meeting to discuss further directly with them.

11. Street Lighting

Cllr Border reported that the CIL bid for funding the change of lamps to LED on all the streetlights was successful with £10,000 being awarded. The total cost of the project is £32,834 with a payback period of 2.5 years taking into account the savings made on electricity and maintenance. The annual cost of electricity on the current lamps is around £10,000 a year, with lighting maintenance costing £2,800 a year. There is a saving of £18 to be made on the cost of each lamp by doing them all at once rather than in stages, which is the figure quoted above. A 13w/1585 lumen lamp will give a comparable light output to that of the existing lamps. The setting can be adjusted to increase the lighting level if required. Based upon the cost saving to the PC and providing a more environmentally friendly form of lighting Cllr Simpson proposed that the PC proceeds with the project, by replacing all the lamps at once on a setting of 13w/1585 lumens. The cost of the project less the £10,000 grant money will be paid for partly by the money in the Saffron Building Society and the rest from reserves. This was seconded by Cllr Merrey and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will include a piece in the next newsletter to inform residents of the project.

12. Planning

- Applications considered - none
- Decisions received from BCKLWN - none

13. Neighbourhood Plan – to hear an update on work relating to this

Clerk is to speak with the consultant to ensure funding is available to cover the cost of this work and begin applying for grants. Cllr Simpson noted it was important that costs are monitored to ensure there is no additional expenditure for the PC.

14. Village Hall

- Bookings are good at the moment with regular hirers returning and some new ones including baby massage and a sugar craft club.
- A part-time cleaner and caretaker has been hired to ensure thorough cleaning is carried out in the Hall with the additional bookings.
- Thanks to Cllr Lamb for his work in organising the VJ Day celebration which was a great success.

15. The Village

To consider the PC's position in relation to the land for sale on Priory Lane

This was discussed in item 4 above.

- There is a caravan parked in a driveway on Cranmer Ave with its tow bar encroaching onto the pavement, it is a hazard to pedestrians – Clerk to enquire if the the owner can be asked to move it.
- The resurfacing of the road along the Green was discussed, it was previously agreed that this was too expensive, therefore the Clerk to contact contractors to request quotes to fill the potholes.
- A resident has contacted the Clerk to ask if the large tree on the green could be cut back as some branches are overhanging the garage roof within his property boundary. Cllr Border will follow this up.

16. Open Forum – None.

17. To confirm any items for the future agenda

- Nothing at present.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm

..... Chairman

Date 7th October 2021