

MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2022 - held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, North Wootton

Present: Councillors Marshall-Grint, (Chair), Border, Kilham, Cox, Merry, Simpson, Harper

Also in attendance - Clerk Rachel Curtis, County Cllr Nick Daubney, Bor Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds
4 members of the public

1. To accept any apologies

Cllr Nurse – holiday, Cllr Edwards – holiday, Cllr Lamb – ill health - apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest – None

3. Discussions with Vertex Architecture for the development of the House on the Green site

Jordan Cribb from Vertex Architecture attended the meeting to discuss the next stage of the development at the House on the Green site. Prior to the meeting it was made clear that this is an informal discussion and not a formal consultation and that no plans were available to review. Jordan and the client are keen to submit an application which the PC and the community find acceptable.

There is an appeal in process for the previous application on this site for 7 houses (19/01622/F), with the result of this expected in 6 months and in Jordan's opinion the outcome will be favourable.

In the meantime the owner wishes to submit an application for a new scheme of 5 detached 4 bedroom houses including garages. The proximity of each dwelling to the boundary would be bigger and Jordan confirmed that this would be the preferred option.

The proposed plan for re-opening the existing House on the Green pub and refurbishments to create a 'gastro pub' remain unchanged. The car park and the garden would be as per the last design. It is expected that the condition which states the pub would be refurbished and opened before any units are sold will still stand. Refurbishment of the pub is estimated at £200,000 with the housing development offsetting this. Councillors were concerned that the pub is being left to fall into a dilapidated state when the owner has plans to make a major investment.

Councillors questioned if the number of units could be reduced to 3, Jordan said this would not be viable. Considering the surrounding area it was asked if the units could be reduced to chalet bungalow style to be more sympathetic to the surrounding area. Jordan said that a building of 1 ½ storeys tend to have a larger footprint.

4. Minutes of last meeting - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2022 be accepted.

5. Matters Arising

- It was noted that there are still 2 Councillor vacancies
- The solicitor is still working on the purchase of the land at Priory Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk will investigate how to apply for the land to become a village green.
- After speaking to Highways the Clerk reported that the drain on the corner near the Church will be cleared. However, the Officer said that it is the responsibility of the owner of the trees to clear the leaves and ensure the drains do not get blocked. It would seem that budget cuts now mean that priority will be given to clearing major roads and not smaller roads which responsibility is being delegated to parishioners and the PC.
- The Clerk has received one response from the letters sent to the residents parking on The Green.

6. Law and Order

- Cllr Simpson reported he had attended an online SNAP meeting. One of the speakers offered to attend a PC meeting to talk about drug related issues.

7. Open Forum

A resident responded to the discussions with Jordan, thanked him for his honesty and commented that it is difficult to comment without having plans to look at. He expressed concern about the new development being congruent with the height and symmetry of the local surrounding architectural vernacular.

Jordan Cribb left the meeting at this point and said he would be willing to return to the PC meeting to discuss drawings when a plan has been produced.

Bor Cllr Nockolds reported on the following;

- There is funding available from Arts and Wellbeing to help provide activities for people with dementia and suffering from loneliness. Cllr Marshall-Grint suggested contacting Linda Nash who runs a group offering this kind of help.
- Cllr Nockolds has kindly given £300 to the Wootton Park toddler scheme from her Councillors fund.
- There will be funding available via the Norfolk Community Foundation for events to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.

County Cllr Daubney reported on the following;

- Awaiting a decision on the application for funding for the village gates.
- Cllr Daubey has been appointed a member of the Kings Lynn Town Centre Development Group.
- A Go Digital funding programme is available free to help small to medium sized businesses in Norfolk. More information can be found on the County and Borough Council websites.

8. Correspondence

- A resident contacted the Clerk to highlight the problem of dog fouling at Wootton Park. It is becoming an issue in other areas of the village and also in South Wootton. The PC feels that educating people to be more responsible is key and Cllr Marshall-Grint will contact North Wootton Academy to see if the children can produce some posters. The Clerk will include a piece in the next newsletter. Bor Cllr Nockolds said that if there are areas where the problem persists and there is a pattern of the time of day it happens and where – the information can be reported to the Borough Council who will try and investigate and they have the powers to issue a fine to the dog owner.

9. Finance

BALANCE b/fwd	£46,571.86
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002139	R Curtis – Expenses incl Veolia	115.87
002140	Total Energies – Dec 21	1,349.86
002141	Westcotec – Jan 22	250.48
002142	Jet Reach – Jan 22	50.00
002143	R Curtis – Feb 22 Salary	535.60
002143	R Curtis – Salary – N Plan	82.32
002144	R Curtis – Expenses	13.20
002145	UK Power Networks – Gregory Close	1,656.00
002146	R Curtis – Expenses incl Veolia	151.79
002147	CGM – Verti Draining	114.00
002148	Collective Community Planning	540.00

£4,859.12

Income

BCKLWN – CIL Grant	£10,000.00
Made Up As Follows;	
Saffron Building Society	£14,244.68
Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	£32,267.40
Lloyds Current A/C	£ 5,200.66
	£51,712.74

10. Highways

- Grass is encroaching on the pathway on the corner of Ling Common Road on the opposite side to York House. There was an incident where a pedestrian was clipped by the wing mirror of a car when walking there. Clerk to report to Highways.
- The potholes at the end of Cranmer Ave are getting larger, Clerk to report again.

11. Wootton Park

- In response to the issue of dog fouling around the Park, more stickers will be put up to inform people if they are caught not picking up after their dog they will be fined.
- The verti-drain work has been completed.
- The grass encroaching on the cycle path has been cut back by Sustrans.
- The cycle restrictors are no longer fit for purpose and the rust is getting worse on the bottom. Norfolk County Council and Sustrans have both been contacted for advice. As it has been difficult to find a suitable replacement given the guidance on design and the width of the path, it is thought that the restrictors are best removed and markings put on the ground. Once completed the situation will be monitored.
- Cllr Cox asked what the situation was with the opening of Sandbach Road car park, this is still ongoing with South Wootton Parish Council. Cars are now parking along All Saints Drive even though the car park resurfacing has been completed. Parents are leaving a lot of mud on the pavements as they clean their children's boots before leaving. Cllr Border will let the Football Club know.
- Anita's work is ongoing on the toddler play park, and it is hoped that work will be completed by June.

12. Street Lighting

- Work is ongoing to replace the lamps with LED's.

13. Planning

- Applications considered

21/02120/F - Front Extension to the Village Hall at 46 Priory Lane, PE30 3PT – Support
22/00090/F – Front Extension at 9 Pingles Road, E30 3RW

- Decisions Received

21/01899/F – 18 Wheatly Drive – single storey extension – Approved
21/01937/F – 17 The Howards – extensions - Approved
21/01934/F – Telecom Mast at Wootton Park - Approved

Knights Hill – There are still major concerns about transportation. Detailed correspondence is being drafted by David Goddard and Ben Colson and the PC is supporting SPWC and CRPC with letters being sent to Officers at County and the Borough.

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

Councillors had been sent a copy of the draft survey and Cllr Harper explained that the Steering Group have met to discuss this in detail and will be finalising on the 9th Feb. The consultation period will start on 19th Feb and run for 4 weeks, it is important to encourage people to fill in the survey.

15. Village Hall

- Bookings remain consistent with regular hirers and also parties and functions. Planning application has been submitted to the Borough Council for the porch extension.

16. The Village

- The PC will look to put the Duck Signs up at the end of February to warn drivers to be careful on the roads.
- It was agreed to include a piece in the Contact magazine for the Neighbourhood Plan and dog fouling.

17. Open Forum

There is a dip in the gateway of Cranmer Ave near the gate, it is thought that funding may be available for this, Cllr Border to look into.

18. To confirm any items for the future agenda – Grass Cutting Contract

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

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Date 3rd March 2022