

**MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 6th JULY 2023 - held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, North Wootton**

Present: Cllrs Marshall-Grint (Chair), Border, Blood, Lamb, Cox, Edwards, Simpson, Lemmon, Harper, Nurse

Also in attendance - Clerk Rachel Curtis, Dennis Blackmore, Borough Cllr Paul Bland, Borough Cllr Richard Coates and 18 members of the public.

1. To accept any apologies – Cllrs Merrey - apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest – None

3. To co-opt a new Councillor

Dennis Blackmore was the only applicant for the position. His application was considered by Councillors and Cllr Marshall-Grint proposed that Mr Blackmore fill the vacancy and this was unanimously agreed.

4. To hear from Nick Moys (Brown & Co) and Simon Engledow (The Towler Trust) regarding the proposal for an agricultural building on Nursery Lane – 23/00905/AG | Prior Notification: Agricultural storage building, standing of steel storage container and formation of access road | Land Opposite Chrysella 174 Nursery Lane and E of Pond, Nursery Lane This item also included the Open Forum.

Cllr Marshall-Grint welcomed Simon and Nick to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Simon gave some background on the Towler Trust and their thought process behind the application. After the fields behind Nursery Lane have been farmed by a tenant for several years they are now being taken back by the Trust to control and they plan to maintain the land for future use. In terms of the choice of location for siting the barn, consideration has been given to the impact of the character of the setting. It was chosen as being at the least risk of flooding and to be out of the sight of the Church as this area is included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan as being a protected view. It is also thought that this location has good screening to be the least intrusive visually. Norfolk County Council have suggested an alternative point of access which the Trust is looking into.

The Clerk sent a number of questions to Nick prior to the meeting and Councillors and members of the public asked questions which were then answered as follows.

Outstanding issues on the habitat report are being looked at in terms of mitigation works for recreational impacts. The permitted development of the neighbouring campsite which became operational last year is seen as a separate entity as considerations are different for both.

The barn will be for the purpose of storing machinery to farm 60 hectares of land and to provide storage for hay which would fill around a quarter of the building. Sales of the hay would be on a small scale and would not generate much additional traffic and this would be spread out over the course of the year. There would be no services going into the barn, any lighting would be by solar panels and it is not intended to store fuel there, but a fire alarm would be a consideration.

In the open forum section of this item the report from Highways was discussed and Councillors and residents felt it was 'thin' as consideration had not been given to the heavy haulage lorries which use Nursery Lane and Station Road during the harvest season. Any traffic for the use of the barn and hay sales would add to this. It was acknowledged that this is a safety issue as the road is not wide enough for 2 cars to pass in places let alone 2 larger vehicles and pedestrians cannot always be seen by drivers round bends. It was asked if the Trust would move the barn if the access point is moved (as recommended by Highways) and this could be a possibility.

Some residents were also concerned about the cumulative impact of vehicle movements including the neighbouring campsite traffic. The site is operational for 53 days a year with space for 25 tents and 5 motor homes. The campsite is marketed as a back to basics site and caravans are not allowed. It was suggested that the barn could be sited further down Marsh Road which would be further away from Nursery Lane. A Councillor made the point that he would prefer the land to be maintained as farmland and accommodate some traffic movements and a farm building than the alternative which could be a residential development.

- 5. Minutes of last meeting** - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st June 2023 be accepted.
- 6. Matters Arising**
North Wootton Sign Refurbishment – the post and the new sign are due to be installed by the end of July.
Pilgrimage Way – There are some way markers proposed to be installed around the village to mark the route of the Walsingham Way. Further information to follow on this.
SAM 2 Signs – thanks to Cllr Blood for taking on board the work to move the signs and produce the reports from them. It is hoped that the presence of the signs will influence the speed of motorists.
- 7. Law and Order** – nothing to report
- 8. Open Forum** – matters for open forum were addressed in Item 4.
- 9. Correspondence**
 Knights Hill Developers have put in a request for a variation change today, this is being looked at by David Goddard and his team.
- 10. Finance – to agree the payments list presented at the meeting**
To agree responses to Section 1 of the annual external audit form
 Councillors agreed ‘Yes’ to each of the responses
To approve the accounting statements in Section 2 of the annual external audit form
 Councillors approved the closing balance as at 31st March 2023 as £20,505.

Balance Brought Forward	51,060.86
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Less: Payments	
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Chq No:

Online	P Witt – Bins for May 23	70.00
Online	P Witt – Bins for June 23	75.99
Online	SWPC Recharge for Apr – June 23	577.49
Online	Shaun Gurney – Hardstanding W Park	625.00
Online	Total Energies – May 23	2,032.83
Online	E Manning – Audit Work	150.00
Online	Westcotec	250.48
Online	CGM – June 23	814.20
Online	Veolia – June 23	115.10
Online	Veolia – May 23	140.93
Online	R Curtis - Salary	588.03
Online	R Curtis - Expenses	71.94
Online	Cllr Marshall-Grint - Woodstain	78.37
Online	Cllr Border – Plaque for village sign	96.00

4,163.12

45,374.50

Made up as follows

Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	174.00
Lloyds Current A/C	883.85
Lloyds Treasurers Account	44,316.65

45,374.50

The payments above were approved.

11. Highways

There was an issue of vans parked on the corner of meadow Road, but this now seems to be resolved.

12. Wootton Park

The Picnic in the Park event held on 10th June 2023, broke even financially.

The Wootton Park Association had discussed a possible project for the replacement of the gym equipment on the Park. Although grant funding would be available for the project, both North Wootton and South Wootton Parish Councils would have to match fund 10% which would be around £1,500 – £2,000 each. Councillors discussed this and as there has not been a need expressed by residents for the equipment and considering the cost implications of the match funding, ongoing maintenance and repairs if vandalised it was agreed that this is not a priority at present. Therefore to put the project on hold for the time being and possibly revisit later in the year.

13. Street Lighting

The street lighting contract maintenance agreement with Westcotec will finish on 1st Sept 2023. This will be replaced by the guarantee agreement the Parish Council has in place for the new LED lamps.

14. Planning

- 23/00887/F | First floor extension - 45 Hayfield Road – Support

To hear an update re the telemast for Wootton Park

At a recent meeting NW and SW met with Tracey Brooker from the Borough Council to discuss the Heads of Terms. Cornerstone are requesting that the completion of the legalities are done within 8 weeks or the amount they are prepared to cover for these fees will drop by 50%. This amount is only £1,000 each for NWPC and SWPC. Tracey from SWPC is gaining a quote from a solicitor to see if this amount will be enough and also if the work can be done within the timescale. Work is ongoing on this.

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

There were a good number of responses from the public consultation of the draft plan and these have been collated by the consultants and awaiting review from the Steering Group. At present the plan is on hold while the PC waits for the next round of funding from Locality.

16. Village Hall

- The signatories have been successfully updated at the bank.
- Regular bookings are good and popular.
- This year marks the 5 year anniversary of the village market.
- The new windows have been installed.
- There was a maintenance day recently which saw many smaller jobs being completed.
- Long term projects which will be worked on soon are replacement roof tiles and new areas of flooring to be laid.

17. The Village

To consider a suggested bus shelter at the top of Manor Road

Following this being brought up by Bor Cllr Coates at the last meeting, the Parish Council discussed this idea again. The process was set by NCC Highways last time and the work done by the Clerk was to gather evidence of proof of need, best value and agreement from residents. Taking all this into consideration the Parish Council narrowly voted against progressing with the project. It was noted that last time this was considered (about 4 years ago) there were mixed reactions from residents following a public consultation and views from residents who live close to the bus stop. The cost of a timber shelter at that time was around £8,000 and it is thought this would be considerably more now. Grant funding could be obtained, but there will still be a cost to the Parish Council. ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways again and see what work would need to be carried out to bring this to the Parish Council again.

Purchase of the land on Priory Lane

Councillors have considered the draft deed and have no comments to make. ACTON: Clerk to inform Hayes and Storr.

School car park/drop off point

Correspondence has been received from NCC Portfolio Manager re the idea of the potential project of a car park/drop off point being created in the grounds of North Wootton Academy. The project can only be justified under safeguarding of pupils and support needs to be gained from local members, ie our County Councillor. Funding would need to be discussed as the Trust may not be allowed to contribute from educational funds for this type of project, the Parish Council would seek their element from CIL funding. Further discussions to be had with James Grimsby to discuss this, and report back to the Parish Council.

18. Open Forum

A parishioner asked what the PC's view of the proposed barn on Nursery Lane is. Cllr Marshall-Grint said that the PC would comment as a statutory consultee if the application becomes a full application.

19. To confirm any items for the future agenda

Dates of next Meetings

Thursday 7th September, 5th October

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

..... Chairman

Date 7th September 2023