

North Wootton Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held in the North Wootton Village Hall on Tuesday 18th July 2017.

PRESENT Cllr A Bovey (Chairman), Cllr M Hoddinott, Cllr S Shimmin Cllr M Smith and Cllr A Townend (Vice Chairman) together with the parish clerk Miss Hazel Brinton.

District Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper and four members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

1. **To receive any apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from County Councillor Mr Graham Noel and the festival representatives, Dick Hamilton and Steve Russell-Yarde
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting - It was unanimously resolved** to accept the minutes of the meeting on 23rd May 2017 as a correct record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
3. **To receive any declarations of interest** - The Chairman declared an interest in item 14 i and ii being a close neighbour of one application (2017/1560/FUL) and involved professionally in the second (2017/1709 HSE).
4. **To receive comments and questions from members of the public** - There were no comments or questions from members of the public present.
5. **To receive County, District and police reports** - Cllr Hewitt-Cooper reported on the following items from Mendip DC and SCC
 - The Local Government Association Peer Challenge had been detailed and very positively viewed
 - The appeal in respect of the application to develop Shepton Mallet prison had been upheld
 - The former Dulcote Quarry continues to be redeveloped with the potential to provide up to 1000 local jobs in the future. Cllr Shimmin asked whether the business owner could be approached by MDC to make the currently unused element of the site available for a Park and Ride scheme for Wells in the interim. Councillors advised of their concern that the development would see increased traffic in the village and expects that MDC would ensure the A361 is used.
 - The support grant from central government continues to be reduced and will be zero by 2020. MDC is facing a £1.8m deficit over the next three years but will make the necessary savings

Chairman's signature.....

- Somerset CC is facing a £21m deficit but there is confidence this will also be met
- Cllr Hewitt-Cooper is a member of the SCC Corporate Parenting Board which is expecting an Ofsted review of children's services later this year.

The Chairman thanks Cllr Hewitt-Cooper for his attendance and report.

- 6. To review Festival arrangements** - Dick Hamilton and Steve Russell-Yarde were not available at the meeting but councillors noted that communications between stewards appeared better this year as did the traffic management of those leaving the site. Problems were experienced with the pink car park which filled up very quickly and there was confusion amongst the stewards as to whether villagers could park in other car parks – there appeared to be no plan B in place. The location of the stewards directing traffic did not seem logical at times.

Cllr Shimmin asked the Chairman for any progress on the repair of the verges by the Festival team. He asked the Chairman whether the fact that the verges were not being repaired in accordance with Highways wishes was the reason the work had stopped. The Chairman confirmed that he was still trying to find out about the repair work and would report back when he had news.

- 7. Finance matters- it was unanimously resolved to pay the following items:**
- a) Clerk's expenses of £61.64 for May and June 2017
 - b) Clerk's salary for May and June.
 - c) British Heart Foundation - £600 contribution to the village defibrillator from the parish council

It was further resolved to ask the clerk to apply to the Transparency Fund for a grant to purchase a laptop and scanner for the clerk.

- 8. To review the adoption of the council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – the clerk explained that a comparison between NALC's model standing orders and the council's had shown that some amendments needed to be made particularly as the council now had a member of staff. She would send a revised set of standing orders out to councillors for their consideration which would be considered at the next meeting along with the Financial Regulations. The clerk explained that both documents could be amended to suit the parish council's purposes but there were some items that were required to be the orders by law.
- 9. To discuss if Public Space Protection Orders were required in the parish** – councillors felt none were required at this juncture but the matter would be kept under review.
- 10. To discuss nominations for the SCC Chairman's Award for Service to the Community** – item was deferred
- 11. To receive a report from Cllr Shimmin on Highways matters** – Cllr Shimmin noted that issues appear to have been dealt with but asked that members of the public continue to report defects to SCC and obtain an incident number which Cllr Shimmin would follow up if it was provided to him. Cllr Shimmin further advised that the number to report issues to SCC was in the NW News. Issues of speeding vehicles were noted in the village and appeared to be caused by a limited number of individuals. It was asked that the offenders were approached with a request that they desist.
- 12. To receive a report from Cllr Hoddinott on Footpaths matters** – Cllr Hoddinott reported that the bridle path at Coombe Lane had been cleared. He had also visited the footpath in the area of Edwicke Farm and Hobhouse Farm but could not see any issue with it. Cllr Hoddinott with speak further with the complainants to ascertain the problem.

The Chairman advised that he had been looking into the issue of the council providing dog bins in the village but it was proving to be an expensive exercise. He will investigate further. Cllr Townend asked whether the dog bins would solve the issue of owners not taking the dog litter home since those offenders who did not do so would probably not use them anyway.

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13. **To receive a report from Cllr Smith on Moors and Levels matters** – Cllr Smith advised there was nothing to report this month

14. **Planning matters – the Chairman left the room and took no part in the debate**

I. **Mendip 2017/1560/FUL** – Cllr Shimmin noted that old documents and photographs that were not representative of the current situation had been used. Cllr Townend explained that a site visit had been made and councillors had noted a number of issues with the application including:

- a) *The inaccuracies within the documentation and on the drawings;*
- b) *the VDS recognises that the village is typified by modest properties in generous gardens and hence an infill development of this nature doesn't reflect the VDS (equally the PC realise that since its adoption a number of properties have been constructed in gardens in a manner that also doesn't reflect the VDS);*
- c) *although the PC would prefer no development on this garden site they do not feel that a planning justification exists to refuse it outright, but do feel that the scale/ mass of the property presented and its positioning could be perhaps better addressed in any re submission;*
- d) *Councillors feel that the proposed car port is very out of character for the village and it should not be sited in front of any new dwelling - a parked car being far preferable and more in keeping with the village street scape;*
- e) *the applicant has stated that the foul drainage as presented on the application form is incorrect and that a new package treatment plant will be installed.*

It was resolved that on the basis of the current application, the council wishes to ask MDC to refuse permission to the application in its current form.

II. **Mendip 2017/1709/HSE** – councillors noted that the application did not seem particularly contentious but they did not know how neighbours felt about it. **It was resolved that Cllr Townend would speak with the neighbouring properties to gauge their feelings on the application. He will then inform councillors if it is necessary to go and see the property.**

The Chairman re-entered the room.

15. **Correspondence** – the clerk advised of correspondence from Somerset Waste Partnership and Seafarers UK. The Chairman said that he wished to bring the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme co-ordinated locally by Marcus Laing to the attention of councillors and villagers. He recommended that the scheme be supported as a good way of passing on information. Interested villagers are asked to get in touch directly with Marcus at amlainq57@gmail.com. The clerk offered to post items on the latest Neighbourhood Watch news on the website if they were sent to her.

16. Date of the next meeting – 19th September 2017 at 19.30.

There being no more business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40.

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