

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 21st November 2017.

PRESENT Cllr A Bovey (Chairman) Cllr A Townend (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Hoddinott (arrived 19.47), Cllr S Shimmin and Cllr M Smith together with the parish clerk Miss Hazel Brinton.

7 members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.32.

1. **To receive any apologies for absence** – No apologies were received
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting - It was unanimously resolved** to accept the minutes of the meeting on 5th September 2017 as a correct record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
3. **To receive any declarations of interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
4. **To receive comments and questions from members of the public** - There were no questions or comments from the members of the public present.
5. **To receive County, District and police reports.** County Cllr Noel reported on the following matters:
 - The county council is looking at its long term plan with bidding currently underway for next year's budget
 - There is an Ofsted taking place presently in Children's Services
 - There is some concern being voiced by those running and working in the area of Adult's Disability Learning which has been subcontracted to Discovery. This has meant some upheaval in the service but more money is being put into the service, not less
 - The Briefing Sheet recently issued which the clerk would circulate to all councillors

Cllr Shimmin commented that Somerset Highways do not seem to have a long term plan. Cllr Noel replied that health, adult and children's services are the areas that spent the majority of the authority's budget. Highways have a rolling plan which they do follow.

District Cllr Hewitt-Cooper reported on the following matters:

- The Ofsted scrutiny in children's services at county is expected to last a month and there is hope that the service will go from "inadequate" to "needs improvement".

Chairman's signature.....

- Government funding is drying up and there is a feeling that Mendip DC is ahead of SCC in thinking about the coming funding gap. There is a funding gap of £20m at SCC and Adult and Children’s Services take up 70% of the budget.
- There is a consultation taking place to the 1st December on the Early Help aspect of children’s services and the use of a mobile service in rural areas.
- Recycling – more plastic would be recycled and then a waste collection service of three weeks would be implemented as the viability is now possible.
Cllr Shimmin queried the recycling strategy at SCC and commented that he thought there would be a national strategy.
- Mendip DC – the Local Plan consultation would start in January 18
- Fly tipping – one particular road blighted by the problem would be closed to prevent the problem. It is costing £50k a year to clear up after fly-tippers.
Cllr Shimmin felt there should be an easier system of waste disposal so that people could keep to the rules.
- Planning training – there would be planning training to which councillors are invited in January, February and March

The Chairman thanked both councillors who then left the meeting.

6. **Finance matters-**

- Both insurance quotations were considered. Cllr Shimmin asked whether a policy with fewer clauses could be found that may be cheaper but the clerk explained that these were standard insurance policies specifically for town and parish councils. **It was resolved to take up the Zurich option.**
 - The budget and precept setting was deferred to the January meeting.
 - It was resolved that Cllrs Bovey, Townend, Hoddinott and Shimmin and the clerk be signatories on the council’s bank account.**
 - Grant awarding – deferred to the January meeting when the budget and precept would be set.
 - It was unanimously resolved to pay the following items:**
 - Clerk’s expenses of £61.96 for September and October 2017
 - Clerk’s salary for September and October 2017
7. Pension arrangements – the clerk explained that she would not be seeking a pension from the council and **it was resolved to declare that the council had no eligible job holders to the Pensions Regulator.** The clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.
8. **To receive a report from Cllr Shimmin on Highways matters** – Cllr Shimmin reported that there were now corroborating witnesses to the speeding car frequently seen in the village. The car’s registration number had been reported to the police for action. Cllr Shimmin had asked for advice on what to do next if no further action was taken and he requested that any members of the public who see the car speeding to report the matter to 101 and himself.

Cllr Shimmin reported that the roads in North Wootton were due to have surface dressing next spring or summer. The repairs recently carried out are preparatory works for next year and some roads would need a complete rebuild. Cllr Shimmin commented that the contractors appear to have done a much better job.

Cllr Shimmin informed members that he had had a message regarding concern about the road to the tip with visibility issues and a near miss but he felt that the issue was one of improving signage at the junction.

Chairman’s signature.....

Councillors noted the issue of overgrown vegetation in the village and Cllr Townend commented that Somerset CC will cut the areas if made aware of them and charge the householder if they did not do it themselves.

Cllr Hoddinott reported that the reason he was late to the meeting was because he was guiding a lorry that had missed the sign into Bighams and was not able to turn round. He noted that lorries are missing the entrance into the factory because of poor signage which is also not lit at night. The clerk was asked to write to Mr Bigham with a copy to the Cllr Hewitt-Cooper about the need for more substantial signage which is lit at night to prevent lorries ending up in the narrow road of North Wootton and causing safety concerns.

9. **To receive a report from Cllr Hoddinott on Footpaths matters** –there was nothing to report on footpath matters and **council resolved that no further response to Mr Robin Carr was required in respect of the bridleway at Westholme Lane.**
10. **To receive a report from Cllr Smith on Moors and Levels matters** – Cllr Smith advised there was nothing to report this month
11. **Planning matters**
 - I. **Mendip 2017/17090/HSE** – the decision to grant permission was noted by members.

Concern was expressed by members that the Greenacres bungalow was not being built in accordance with the granted permission. Cllr Hoddinott informed members that he understood retrospective planning permission was being sought for the revised design. Council agreed that the Chairman look into the matter and the clerk would liaise with MDC on the revised planning application and the council's desire to have input into the decision.

12. **Correspondence** – the clerk had nothing to report.
The Chairman informed the meeting that Michael Eavis had contributed to the installation of the defibrillator at the Village Hall. He would be present at the official opening on Thursday 23rd November after the café and all were invited to attend. The Chairman expressed the hope that it would never be needed but would be an asset to the village.

The clerk was asked to put another article in the NWN regarding finger posts as no volunteers for the SCC training scheme had come forward. She was also asked to see if she could get indicative costs for the repair and maintenance of the finger posts from other parish councils.

Cllr Smith informed members that the Crossways Inn had been asked to give more notice to residents of firework displays that they have been doing up till now. The clerk said she would post notices on the council's website if she is made aware of them.

13. Date of the next meeting – 16th January 2018 at 19.30

There being no more business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.46.

Chairman's signature.....