

North Wootton Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish

Hazel Brinton (BA Hons)

60, Worle Moor Road, Weston-s-Mare, North Somerset BS24 7EG

Tel: 07341 977235 Email: northwoottonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held in the North Wootton Village Hall on Tuesday 16th January 2018.

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

Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper and 7 members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30

1. **To receive any apologies for absence** – there were no apologies for absence.
2. **To resolve to approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 21st November 2017** – it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes which were signed as a correct record of the meeting by the Chairman. Cllr Shimmin asked if a “Matters Arising” item could be added to the agenda going forwards.
3. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Cllrs Hoddinott and Smith declared an interest in item 6, planning for Redlake Farm as both know the applicant and did not wish to participate in the decision.
4. **To receive comments and questions from members of the public** – there were no comments or questions from members of the public.
5. **To receive reports from district and county councillors and the police.**
Cllr Hewitt-Cooper informed members of county matters including three new autism centres providing 48 places and that county has not received the business rate retention at it was hoping which has resulted in a £4mn funding gap over 2 years. In terms of the Carillion failure, MDC had no contracts with the company but SCC contractor Gigaclear does have a Carillion subcontractor that it uses. The result of the Ofsted inspection into children’s services is expected 22nd January.

Cllr Hewitt-Cooper reported that 70 people had attended the MDC planning session in January; district is renegotiating the bus service contracts for the area; the Fusion contract for the district’s leisure centre has meant that more money than they promised had been invested in most of the centres apart from Tor Leisure in Glastonbury in which they are reluctant to invest due to the potential village green issue. The MDC homeless scheme in Stratton has been picked up by the press and put forward as an example of best practice nationwide. Cllr Hewitt-Cooper reported that Somerset will not be affected by China’s decision to turn away recycling as Somerset kerb sorts resulting in a better quality of recycling that is processed in the UK for more income. The application for the bridleway at

Chairman’s signature.....

Westholme Lane brought by Sedgemoor Bridleway Association has been approved to be marked on the Definitive Map subject to any appeal.

The Chairman noted that the police had sent a report on recent issues in the area but there was no mention of the speeding driver. Cllr Shimmin reported that the police had been to see the driver of the car reported and given him some advice which appears to have had some positive impact so far.

- 6. To consider planning application – Mendip 2017/3298/FUL erection of dwelling with agricultural tie at Redlake Farm.** Cllrs Smith and Hoddinott left the meeting. Councillors discussed the application at some length and voiced their considerable unease about the way that the application had been submitted and handled by both the applicant and their agent and were united in suggesting that the parish council would not have supported the initial application with the ridge height as is now. Councillors resolved not to suggest that the building should be demolished as they felt that little would be gained from asking this. The further resolved that MDC be informed that the parish council feels it should never have been allowed to have been built with the increased ridge height and to ask that MDC impose a condition that the office is used for a farm office only and not for living accommodation.

Councillors Smith and Hoddinott re-joined the meeting.

7. Finance Matters:

- **To consider the budget and precept for 2018/19 – it was resolved to set the precept and budget at £6,000 for the coming financial year.**
 - **To consider whether any grants should be paid for 2017/18 –** The Chairman suggested that a grant of £1,500 be paid to the Village Hall and £1,000 to the church for the extension of the churchyard. Councillors debated both suggestions and resolved that whilst they were minded to give the grants, the Chairman should in the first instance get more details from the church on the churchyard burial rights and that they would like more detail on the proposed expenditure at the Village hall before deciding on the amount.
 - **To approve the payment of expenditure items – it was unanimously agreed to pay the items of expenditure presented.**
- 8. To receive a report from Cllr Shimmin on Highways matters –** Cllr Shimmin reported that he had carried out a survey and there are 12 fingerposts in the village. One volunteer had put themselves forward for the training given by SCC but there was a requirement for a minimum of two. He further reported on two items that had been sent to SCC Highways; Middle's Lane was not deemed to be a health and safety issue by Highways and neither was Worminster Batch. Drains that ran the wrong way had been reported and Cllr Shimmin was waiting on a reply. SCC had attended the flooding at Church View quickly and they had been asked for a solution to the problem. Further pot holes had been reported including the one at Long Drove and a Bristol Water cover at Sidelands was missing which is proving a hazard for pedestrians rather than traffic.
- 9. To receive a report from Cllr Hoddinott on Footpaths matters –** there was nothing to report
- 10. To receive a report from Cllr Smith on Moors and Levels matters –** Cllr Smith reported that 3 gateways had been done down on Long Drove by the drainage board and that water was now being monitored by satellite in various places with a view to mitigating the flooding at Long Drove.
- 11. Date of next Meeting – 23rd January for a retrospective planning application and thereafter 20th March 2018 at 19.30**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.57.

Chairman's signature.....