

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 22nd January 2019.

PRESENT Cllr S Shimmin (Chairman), Cllr A Bovey, Cllr M Hoddinott, Cllr M Smith and Cllr A Townend (20.10)

Three members of the public were also present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.34.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Townend had apologised in advance for his late arrival.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings held on Tuesday 20th November and Wednesday 19th December 2018 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation

There were no comments or questions from members of the public present

5. Reports from county and district councillors and the police

District and County Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper reported on the following matters:

- The county council was hoping to raise revenue by being authorised to retain part of the business rates raised in the county but permission for this had been awarded from 19/20 only. The amount raised is likely to be £6.7m of which £1.5m would be retained. The county's revenue budget is £320m so the amount raised is only a small part of that required.
- The grant awarded as part of Public Health Awareness had been reduced to £35 per head where the average in the UK was £56 per head
- County would build a new school in Somerton for 420 pupils opening in September 2020
- At Mendip district council there was now a full complement of planning staff. County has just one planner. There is a national shortage as trained planners are going into private practice or doing agency work. SCC has a two year

backlog of applications which means that investment into the county is being held up. Devon County Council is helping out.

- The traveller site survey is out and an application for a site was refused last week but district is trying to accommodate sites where they can.

The Chairman queried Cllr Hewitt-Cooper on progress on the Crossways planning application. Cllr Hewitt-Cooper replied that an extension had been granted so it was a question of wait and see. The case officer says that there are other changes pending and if they are substantial, there will be a re-consultation. Cllr Hewitt-Cooper has asked that the application come to him and he will refer it to the Planning Board if necessary.

The police had sent a report which had been forwarded on to members.

6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

7. Planning Matters

The Chairman reported that the remaining matters for Stocks Lane would be published in the media. In respect of the Crossways lodges, he had received a reply from the case officer who works on commercial applications. The Chairman said that he was concerned that the application had not been rejected out of hand. He added that he would contact the case officer to say that the parish council would expect the application to be referred to the Planning Board so that the council may speak on the matter again.

8. Somerset Wood

The Chairman explained the background to the request. Members felt that the matter should be deferred until the new council was in situ.

9. Finance Matters

- I. The clerk's salary for December 2018 and January 2019 and her expenses for December 2018 and January 2019 were unanimously approved.
- II. Precept and additional services – members felt that the restoration of the finger posts were the main item that the parish council had agreed to fund and this had been agreed beforehand. The Chairman asked whether members thought anything else should be added. Cllr Smith wondered whether the passing points could be filled in. Cllr Bovey felt that getting contractors in to do the work would be very expensive. Cllr Smith felt that the council could budget £1k for the stone needed as some areas were in a very poor condition.
- III. Budget and precept – members agreed to budget £1.5k for filling in verges to minimise the risk of damage not to create passing places. Cllr Bovey reported that the four worst fingerposts would cost £2.4k; a rolling programme would cover all 12 posts in the village. It was agreed that £2.5k would be budgeted.
It was unanimously resolved that the budget be £4497 for 2019-20 and that a precept of £4500 be requested.

10. Highways matters

Cllr Bovey reported that he had spoken with his contact at SCC Highways regarding new lining and signing to see if they would change their minds on carrying out the work. County Highways had repaired the lines obliterated by the recent tarmacking and had redone other lines. Cllr Bovey agreed to obtain prices for repairing the edging and will talk to Somerset Forge as to when they would be able to do the work on the fingerposts. The clerk suggested that ideally at least one other quotation for the fingerpost work should be obtained to ensure best value for money but if the work was specialised, there may be only one

Chairman's signature.....

contractor in the area that can do the work. Cllr Bovey would report back at the March meeting.

11. Footpath matters

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hoddinott for arranging the repair to the bridge so quickly. The Chairman and Cllr Hoddinott would review the footpath consultation sent by the County Council and report any anomalies.

12. Moor and Levels matters

Cllr Smith had nothing to report other than the issue of fly tipping down Long Drove continues.

13. Parish Council elections – May 2019

The clerk explained the nomination process to members and members of the public present.

14. **Date of next Meeting – 19th March 2019**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00

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