

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 Village Hall, North Wootton on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

PRESENT: Cllr S Shimmin (Chairman), Cllr A Bovey, Cllr K Bissett, Cllr M Hoddinott and Cllr M Smith.

10 members of the public were also present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Cllr Noel and PCSO Guy Dury who had both send reports.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 19th November 2019 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Update on Pilton bypass and Public Participation

Standing orders were suspended.

The Chairman gave an update on the matter as follows:

- NWPC had written to Mendip District Council's Chief Executive opposing the proposed schemes as outlined in their slide pack date August 2019.
- The full text is on the Village Hall noticeboard outside and the NWPC website
- The NWPC website has a special section 'Proposed Pilton Bypass' for key documents related to the bypass.
- A brief acknowledgement was received referring us to a Q&A statement that MDC had published following the Cabinet Meeting on 4th November.
- The Q&As do not address any of the requests in our November letter so the clerk contacted MDC asking for an update for tonight's meeting. MDC replied stating that they were not supporting any specific route but that SCC (not MDC) were working on clarifying some queries from DfT and that public consultation might take place in the summer.
- MDC had confirmed to the Chairman that day via email that this is still their position. MDC has been asked explicitly if they are still spending money on anything connected to the roads. No reply as yet has been received.
- Close liaison with neighbouring parish councils particularly Pilton continues. There may be merit in dealing with MDC jointly with Pilton PC.

- The Chairman is also continuing to stay in touch with the group of local landowners and business people who would be amongst those most directly affected by the schemes.
- This group invited both James Heappey and Tessa Munt to meetings in the run up to the December election.
- James Heappey has been particularly firm in his opposition to the schemes and since his re-election has written again to the Minister of Transport encouraging him to decline further funding for the Pilton/Glastonbury scheme. There is a letter from him about this on the NWPC website.
- NWPC will continue to represent the village view that both schemes currently proposed are wholly unacceptable and MDC and SCC need to think again, this time properly consulting local interests.

A member of the public asked whether members had had any experience of consultations and if a consultation means that the principle had been accepted and that the public would just be consulted on details of the principle. There was speculation also on whether a contract had been let by district or county for consultancy work.

Further debate on the proposed scheme with members of the public and councillors continued for some time after which standing orders were reinstated. The clerk was asked to put the MDC presentation on NWPC's website.

- 5. To agree that the parish council make joint approaches make joint approaches with Pilton Parish Council in respect of proposed bypass matters** – it was unanimously agreed that both county and district councillors would be asked to make further investigations on behalf of North Wootton in to any plans and that they would be asked to keep the parish council informed of any findings. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council would collaborate jointly with Pilton Parish Council particularly in respect of joint meetings with MDC.
- 6. Comments and questions from the public** – there were no further comments or questions on any other matters from the public.
- 7. Reports from county and district councillors and the police**
Reports had been received from County Cllr Noel and PCSO Guy Dury and would be sent on to councillors.
- 8. Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 9. Planning Matters**
 - **2019/2997/8/FUL/HSE**
Proposal – Demolition of rear extension and construction of replacement extension at North Wootton Farm, High Street, North Wootton BA4 4AA
Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

The applicants spoke in support of the application citing the following reasons:

- The application sought to keep the feel of a traditional Somerset longhouse
- The application would future proof the use of the house for generations to come
- The design was sympathetic and enabled a better use of the space
- The street scene would not change as a result of the proposal as the extension was at the rear of the property

Standing Orders were reinstated. Councillors debated the application and resolved unanimously to support the application on the grounds given by the applicants.

Chairman's signature.....

Cllr Hoddinott explained to members that he was due to put in an application for changes to his farm business and had brought the proposed plans with him. Councillors viewed the plans and received a detailed explanation from Cllr Hoddinott of the planned changes. The matter would be discussed at a future meeting of the parish council.

The Chairman invited a member of the public to speak in support of his application for the removal of an agricultural tie at Green Acres, Barrow Lane. The applicant made reference to the recent parish council decision to support the removal of the agricultural tie at the Foresters but noted that the council had said that it would consider each case on its own merits and did not foresee the previous support as having set a precedent for any future applications. The applicant presented the reasons for the removal of the tie and confirmed there would be no changes to the house or the campsite. The application sought to regularise a situation that had existed for 25 years during which there had been no farming activity at the property. During that time, the house had been occupied by a non-agricultural worker.

The council agreed to defer the debate on the application until later in the month when it was hoped Cllr Hoddinott's application would also be in for consideration.

10. Finance Matters

- a) The clerk's salary for December 2019 and January 2020 and her expenses of £66.52 for the same period were unanimously approved.
- b) The finance report to 31st December 2019 and bank reconciliation were received and noted by members.

The Chairman asked the clerk to look into the details of the budgeted amount for the second capital project noted during 2019/20.

11. Highways matters

Cllr Bovey reported that no road salt would be issued to parish council this year by SCC. He reported on the disruption caused by the road closure by Bristol Water at road by Foxridge. A list of pot holes at Long Drove and Middles Lane has been sent to SCC Highways for repair.

Cllr Bovey would also report a request for the restitution of verges damaged by Bristol Water to SCC and a broken drain in the High Street. There had been no news on bridge repairs which would be chased up.

- 12. Consideration of obtaining a free Woodland Trust tree pack** – Cllr Bovey reported on the Woodland Trust tree initiative which allowed organisations to obtain different packs of trees free from them to encourage tree planting in communities. Cllr Bovey would report back with more information at the next meeting but in the meantime, parishioners were asked to inform Cllr Bovey of any suitable land for tree planting.

13. Footpath matters

Cllr Hoddinott reported that a footpath matter had been brought to his attention but the footpath was actually in Westholme parish. He had forwarded on the information.

14. Moor and Levels matters

Cllr Smith said there were no matters to report.

- 15. To resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960** – it was so resolved. Members of the public left the meeting.

- 16. To consider the clerk's salary from April 2020 onwards** – members considered the request from the clerk and agreed the new hourly rate.

Chairman's signature.....

17. Date of next Meeting – 28th January 2020

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35

Chairman's signature.....