

North Wootton Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish

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Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held via Zoom on **Tuesday 15th September 2020.**

PRESENT: Cllr S Shimmin (Chairman), Cllr A Bovey (from 19.47), Cllr K Bissett and Cllr M Hoddinott

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

21/20 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith.

22/20 Declarations of interest

There were no declaration of interests.

23/20 Approval of minutes

The minutes from the meeting of August 18th 2020 were approved.

24/20 Public participation

The Chairman noted that a number of members of the public had registered to speak regarding their planning applications later on the agenda. Those registered to speak gave an outline of the details of the applications before each one was discussed by members at minute 27/20.

25/20 County, District and Avon and Somerset Police reports

Nothing had been received from the County or District Councillors. The brief report from PCSO Guy Dury had been forwarded to members by the clerk earlier in the day.

26/20 Matters arising

There were none

27/20 Planning matters

I 2020/1495/FUL: Part Change of Access Use from Agricultural to include Residential/Agricultural at Land South of Stocks Lane North Wootton

Resolved: Councillors agreed to recommend approval of the application to MDC as the proposed change is beneficial since it reduces the number of entrances along this road thus preserving more of the existing hedgerow.

II 2020/1630/LBC and 2020/1629/HSE: Erection of replacement oil tank 1.8m away from original at Westbrook House High Street North Wootton Shepton Mallet BA4 4AD

Resolved: Councillors agreed to recommend approval of this application as this is an essential replacement of the existing failing tank and like-for-like replacement in the current location is not permitted under the current regulations. The applicant has agreed to provide additional screening to minimise the visual impact of the replacement tank from the neighbouring churchyard.

III 2020/1626/LBC: Retrospective consent for internal and external alterations including replacement windows at Sidelands Northtown Lane North Wootton Shepton Mallet BA4 4AF

Resolved: Councillors agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses. Whilst not opposed to the changes that have been implemented, the Parish Council wishes to discourage the use of retrospective applications of this kind and hence did wish to recommend unreserved approval.

IV 2020/1488/FUL: Erection of two storey 4 bedroom dwellinghouse, detached garage and associated works at Land North Of Northtown Lane North Wootton Shepton Mallet.

Resolved: Councillors agreed to recommend that that the decision should be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses. The Parish Council, whilst not opposed to the new application in principle, feels that more could be done to reduce the increase in height over that previously approved. Also, nothing appears to have been done to address a previous condition about dealing with waste water from the site. Both issues have been discussed with the applicant and the council felt approval should be conditional on both being dealt with.

Councillors noted they had received consultation documents from MDC on a further application which would be discussed at a meeting to be held on 29th September to allow time for the applicants and neighbours to register their interest.

28/20 Responses to consultations on:

- **Changes to current planning system and planning for the future White Paper** – councillors agreed to advise St Cuthbert Out Parish Council that the council was broadly supportive of their Chairman's views on the issues raised by the planning consultations though North Wootton have not considered it in the same level of detail as they had. The Chairman would explore the best way of providing simpler feedback stating North Wootton Parish Council's concern about the impact of the proposed changes on small rural parishes like North Wootton. Residents would be informed of the public consultation process via North Wootton News and encouraged to submit a response to this root and branch overhaul of the planning system.
- **Transparency and competition (land control)** – councillors agreed no response was necessary from the parish council.
- **Unitary authority/ies** – It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a response to St Cuthbert Out PC stating North Wootton Parish Council's support for the two unitaries option. Residents would be encouraged to feedback to the consultation also.
- **Somerset Wildlife Trust application to Somerset Climate Emergency Fund** – councillors agreed to support the application.

- **Consultation on footpaths and cycleways** – councillors agreed that a member of the parish council would represent the parish council's views at the consultation albeit the parish did not seem to be directly affected by it. This would be to prevent issues arising about which the parish council had no knowledge and could therefore not respond to in good time.

29/20 Finance Matters

- It was resolved to approve the clerk expenses of £63.08 for August and September 2020 including items paid on behalf of the council
- It was resolved to approve payment of the clerk's salary for August and September 2020
- It was resolved to approve the payment of the invoice to Somerset Forge for £3474 including VAT.

It was agreed that further work on other fingerposts in the village would be re-tendered next year to ensure the parish was getting value for money.

30/20 Future Meeting Formats

The clerk updated members on the temporary legislation in place to allow virtual meetings of the parish council to take place and advised that elections of the Chairman and Vice Chairman which take place at the Annual Parish Council Meeting ordinarily are postponed to May 2021. Councillors agreed to keep the matter under review.

31/20 Highways Report

Cllr Bovey reported that the Chairman had dealt with a flooding issue in the Mead Lane Estate whilst he had been away and thanked him for managing the issue on his behalf.

Cllr Hoddinott asked whether the potholes in Dark Lane had been reported. Those in Launcherley Lane appear to have been dealt with. Cllr Bovey agreed to take the matter up with SCC Highways again as he had previously reported them.

32/20 Footpaths Report

Cllr Hoddinott had nothing to report.

33/20 Moors and Levels Report

Cllr Smith was not present at the meeting.

34/20 Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday 29th September.

There be no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:45.