

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Shimmin (Chairman), Cllr A Bovey (joined 19:37), Cllr K Bissett, Cllr M Hoddinott (joined 19:40) and Cllr M Smith.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.31.

### **56/20 Apologies for absence**

None.

### **57/20 Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of November 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 were approved.

### **58/20 Declarations of interest**

There were no declaration of interests.

### **59/20 Public participation**

There were no members of the public present or questions asked.

### **60/20 County, District and Avon and Somerset Police reports**

The clerk had previously sent any reports received to members earlier in the month.

It was noted that no report had been received from the county councillor for some time. The clerk and Chairman would make contact with both the district and county councillor to seek their views on how the ongoing arrangement for their engagement in parish council matters could be encouraged.

### **61/20 Matters arising**

The Chairman brought the following matters to members' attention:

- He had attended an online meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December with James Heapey as local MP regarding the "Planning for the Future" consultation and concerns about the number of rural houses expected. The Minister responsible for Communities, Robert Jenrick, has already announced a reduction in the number of additional houses in rural areas after pressure from rural communities such as North Wootton.
- A new initiative to encourage the installation of district heating systems in rural villages without mains gas for which there are loans and government grants available.
- Links sent by the clerk for briefing sessions on utilities costs offered by Western Utilities.

Signed by Chairman.....

16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## 62/20 Planning matters

- i. **Proposal:** Changes to a listed building to include upgrading of existing garage, heating system and extractor to bathroom at Westbrook House High Street North Wootton Shepton Mallet Somerset  
**Resolved:** that the parish council supported the application but noted that the planning authority may wish to consider the location of the discharge of the flue close to a public highway.
- ii. Hobhouse Farm – the owners had suggested a more substantive application would be put in for the agricultural building in due course.  
**Resolved:** to maintain a watching brief.
- iii. Folly Lodge Studio – it was noted the parish council was not consulted as this application was granted under Permitted Development rights by MDC. It was further noted that a possible septic tank would be subject to a separate application.  
**Resolved:** to ask that MDC explicitly state that the studio has been built in accordance with the narrative application and approval given under Permitted Development rights.
- iv. Redlake Farm – approval noted
- v. MDC consultation on planning – noted but no comment from the parish council.

## 63/20 Finance Matters

- i. CAB grant request  
**Resolved:** to refuse as whilst a worthy cause the council did not feel any contribution it could make would make a reasonable difference.
- ii. It was **resolved** to approve the payment of the following items of expenditure
  - o Clerks expenses of £63.15 for December 2020 and January 2021 including any items paid on behalf of council
  - o Clerk's salary for December 2020 and January 2021
- iii. Members discussed the budget as circulated by the clerk in advance and the proposed precept for 2021/22.  
**Resolved:** that the budget as circulated by the clerk for 2021/22 be approved.  
**Resolved:** that a precept of £4,361 be set for 2021/22.

## 64/20 Somerset Waste Partnership complaints.

Members discussed the complaints about the recycling service highlighted to them by residents.

**Resolved:** to keep the situation under review and highlight concerns over non collection and lack of care during collection to District Cllr Hewitt-Cooper.

## 65/20 Tree Planting

Members considered the initiative by the Woodland Trust to support local communities to plant more trees. It was noted that the first step is to find volunteers to offer appropriate land for planting and a piece would be put in

North Wootton News in due course. Cllr Bovey will contact those who had tentatively offered land already.

**66/20 Highways Report**

Cllr Bovey noted that he had reported a number of issues to Somerset County Council Highways for which he had case numbers. He had reported issues at Stocks Lane, Middle's Lane, Tanyard Lane, Dark Lane. The gullies at the top of the High Street and the bottom of Dark Lane have been cleared. He also had case numbers for the potholes along Long Drove.

**67/20 Footpaths Report**

The Chairman noted the report on Batts Bridge had not yet been received.

Cllr Hoddinott had reported the rotted fingerpost at Sidelands to SCC Public Rights of Way but this was still awaiting repair. The collapse of the steps to the pedestrian gate adjacent to Higher Farm would be reported.

It was noted by members that the formal diversion of the footpath at The Forge has not yet taken place but the current owners would chase the matter up with SCC.

**68/20 Moors and Levels Report**

Cllr Smith had nothing to report. The Chairman had reported fly tipping along Long Drove.

**69/20 Date of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:35.