

North Wootton Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish

Hazel Brinton

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Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held via Zoom on **Tuesday 16th March 2021**.

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

Also present: Hazel Brinton (Clerk), Tony Najdoski (Truespeed representative)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

70/20 Apologies for absence

None.

71/20 Approval of minutes

The minutes from the meeting of January 19th 2021 were approved.

72/20 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

73/20 Public participation

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

74/20 County, District and Avon and Somerset Police reports

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

The Chairman noted that attendance at virtual meetings of the council by county and district councillors and the police was unlikely to change in the near future.

75/20 Matters arising

- The Chairman noted the ongoing discussions around the reorganisation of local government in Somerset. Both he and Cllr Bovey had attended the Somerset County Council (SCC) presentation the previous evening. The public consultation was now open and would close on 19th April. The parish council had given its comments already but there would almost certainly be a change to one of the two forms of unitary authority being promoted.
- Cllr Bovey reported that new tree planting in the village was still Work in Progress but that he had been in contact with landowners who had offered sites at Slough Lane and near Redlake Farm. He was hoping to obtain land options nearer the centre of the village and would put an item in North Wootton News about this.

Signed by Chairman.....

4th May 2021

76/20 Broadband provision in the village by Truespeed

Tony Najdoski from Truespeed joined the meeting. The Chairman gave the background to the offer from Truespeed which was supplemented by comments from Mr Najdoski. It was agreed that the Chairman would put more details of the proposal in the North Wootton News.

77/20 Planning matters

- i. Artist Studio – Folly Lodge. It was noted that the owners were submitting a new application for the studio and access track.
Resolved: that the parish council would comment when consulted on the new application.
- ii. Hobhouse Farm – the owners have received pre-application advice from Mendip District Council (MDC) regarding a permanent agricultural structure to replace the temporary structure already erected. Concern remained over how effluent from the cattle housed in the temporary structure was being handled.
Resolved: to maintain a watching brief.
- iii. The Forge – it was noted that the request to divert the Public Right of Way was with MDC for consideration. An additional free standing structure erected at the start of the development and that was initially believed to be temporary was also discussed. The Chairman gave the background to the addition to the development at the Forge and explained that the applicants believed it was a temporary structure erected under the Caravan Act for which they did not need planning permission from MDC.
Resolved: to support the footpath diversion proposed as a result of development at The Forge and currently being considered by MDC and
Resolved: that the council would make inquiries with MDC regarding the legal status of the structure at The Forge and request confirmation that it had been constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Caravan Act i.e.
 - a. Whether it passed the required mobility test
 - b. Whether it passed the test that the structure must be demonstrably in two parts particularly now that it had been clad in the same material as the principal dwelling
 - c. Whether it passed the foundation requirements under the Act.
- iv. Phosphate issue – the Chairman noted that information on the phosphate issue was available on MDC’s website. It was affecting all planning applications involving drainage which were being stalled significantly.
- v. MDC consultation on planning – noted but no comment from the parish council.

78/20 Finance Matters

- i. It was **resolved** to approve the payment of the following items of expenditure
 - o Clerks expenses of £83.60 for February and March 2021 including any items paid on behalf of council
 - o Clerk's salary for February and March 2021

79/20 Local Government reorganisation.

Members noted the question from St Cuthbert Out on the services supplied at parish level as a result of the proposed reorganisation of local government services in Somerset but felt that given the size of North Wootton, its budget and the number of councillors that the question was not applicable to North Wootton parish council.

80/20 Response to Local Plan II main modifications including phosphate mitigation

Members felt that there was little of relevance to a small rural parish such as North Wootton and felt the parish council had no particular observations to offer on the modifications.

81/20 Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman explained the background to the clerk's advice to move both meetings to 4th May due to the expiration of the legislation permitting virtual meetings.

Resolved: to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) and Annual Parish Meeting (APM) to 4th May at 19.00 for the APM and 19.30 for the APCM.

82/20 Highways Report

Cllr Bovey had reported a number of minor potholes to Somerset County Council Highways for which he had case numbers. He had reported issues at Slough Lane, Middle's Lane and Pilton Hill. The closure of the A39 and diversion down Long Drove was noted. Cllr Bovey agreed to report the flooding on Dark Lane. Further work would be proposed on the five remaining fingerposts.

83/20 Footpaths Report

Cllr Hoddinott reported that he had a number of issues which he would circulate to other members. Once agreed, the list would be sent to the ProW officer at SCC for resolution in the SCC's new budget year. The issue of replacing stiles with kissing gates to allow better access and non-parish issues and stiles would also be added to the list to be sent to SCC

The matter of who was responsible for ditches and drains along Mead Lane was debated by members. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Smith and Cllr Hoddinott would make further investigations as to who to liaise with to ensure that the ditches were cleared out.

It was noted that that Mead Lane had been blocked by a fixed obstacle at one end but the council agreed not to pursue the matter unless future access was required by landowners.

84/20 Moors and Levels Report

Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

85/20 Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 19.00 for the Annual Parish Meeting and 19.30 for the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:10.