

North Wootton Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish

Hazel Brinton (BA Hons)

60, Worle Moor Road, Weston-s-Mare, North Somerset BS24 7EG

Tel: 07341 977235 Email: northwoottonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of a meeting of **North Wootton Parish Council** held in the **North Wootton Village Hall** on **Tuesday 14th March 2017**

PRESENT Cllr A Bovey (Chairman), Cllr M Hoddinott, Cllr S Shimmin Cllr M Smith and Cllr A Townend. Nine members of the public were also present including two representatives from the organisers of the motocross event and David Hiscox, the applicant for the Lacey Close development.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from District Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper and the Parish Clerk, Miss H Brinton.

2. Village Website

The Chairman drew attention to the recently completed North Wootton Parish Council website at: www.northwoottonparishcouncil.org.uk and thanked the Parish Clerk for her work on it.

In addition to Parish Council matters it will be available for other significant village information. At present the site is in part funded by advertising. The council agreed to pay to have the site made ad-free but also pursue grant funding from the Transparency Grant via SALC.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 10th January and 7th February 2017 and these were duly signed by the chairman.

4. Declarations of interest – Cllr Townend declared an interest in the first two items to be discussed under Planning Matters.

5. Public participation

The Chairman asked if villagers present had any comments or questions. There were none.

6. Disruption as a result of the Motocross Meeting on Sunday 26th February

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Watts and Mr P Williams representing South Somerset Motocross responsible for the event that had taken place at the site adjoining Launcherley Road on Sunday 26th February. They came to respond to complaints from several villagers about inconsiderate and disruptive parking along the nearby roads and a lack of effective marshalling to allow traffic to pass. The Chairman

Chairman's signature.....

noted that these events had been taking place for some years and this was the first time there had been material complaints about parking on the roads.

The organisers of the event apologised for the disruption which had been due to the exceptional weather before the event which had reduced the available on-site parking. With hindsight they recognised that they should perhaps have cancelled the event. They were confident that similar problems would not occur again. They would also ensure that marshalling of parking was more effective in future. The next meeting is planned for Sunday May 14th.

7. Reports

There were no reports from the District and County Councillors, nor from the Police.

8. Finance Matters

It was unanimously resolved to pay the salary and revised expense claim presented by the Parish Clerk.

It was noted that her expenses included a fee for hosting the parish website for which a grant may eventually be obtained.

9. Planning Matters

i) **Mendip 2016/3063/FUL** – Erection of new detached dwelling and garage at Lacey Close, Northtown Lane. Some councillors had attended a site meeting to consider the detailed design proposals for this development with the applicant.

It was noted that there would be two separate sewage treatment plants discharging in to a ditch to the north west of the site. Concern was expressed about the implications of this for surface water drainage in Tanyard Lane. There was a discussion about the appearance of the proposed building and its impact on the village scene, particularly from the south. It was also noted that replacement of the walnut tree removed at an early stage of the project was no longer mentioned. The Chairman agreed to draft a response to MDC covering these matters but otherwise there were no objections to the proposal.

ii) **Mendip 2017/0042/FUL** – Land South of Stocks Lane – associated engineering works.

MDC had provided no further information for consultation on this proposal and hence there was nothing to discuss.

iii) **Mendip 2017/0059/AGB** – Proposed new agricultural building at Sunnyside Farm.

MDC had advised that because this was an agricultural development the proposed building would not require formal planning consent. Councillors reviewed the location plan but had no comments.

iv) **Mendip 2016/1937/HSE** – Extensions and garage, Home Farm House, Stocks Lane.

The chairman advised that the applicant's appeal against the refusal of this application last year had been upheld by the Planning Inspector in respect of the proposed changes to the house but rejected in respect of the proposed new garage and boundary wall and fence.

10. Highways matters – Cllr Shimmin advised that feedback had been received from SCC Highways Department on the various matters raised at the January meeting. Apart from emergency repairs (e.g. to potholes) there would be no funding for new work until the new financial year. The policy on repairs to verges remains as before – i.e. these are not considered a priority unless they constitute an obvious hazard. So called 'patch repairs' (which involve more than just filling in a pothole) were being considered for the stretch near the Green Acres campsite and up Churchill Batch (which is outside NW, but still of interest to villagers).

Funding to resolve the issue of parking on the verge adjacent to the semi-detached houses on Pilton Hill was unlikely to be available unless the Parish Council made a firm proposal. It was noted that there was some risk that pressing SCC on the issue without having a clear objective in view could lead to restrictions

Chairman's signature.....

being imposed which would make matters worse rather than better for residents. It was agreed that residents of these houses would have further discussions amongst themselves about the preferred solution then a meeting could be arranged with SCC. There was also a need to consider a suitable location for the storage of wheelie bins.

As some work has recently been completed by residents it was agreed to defer the organisation of a working party to deal with the pavements along Stocks Lane until the May meeting.

There was a discussion **about flooding in the village and NWPC's approach**. It was noted that there were several inter-related factors leading to flooding affecting village roads and, in some cases, dwellings. It was agreed that the issue in Stocks Lane and Church View is largely due to lack of capacity under the bridge over the River Redlake along Stocks Lane. Issues further upstream are more complex and a solution is not obvious. In some cases improving drainage from the roads could exacerbate the problem in dwellings.

It was resolved and agreed that Cllr Shimmin should approach the SCC Bridges and Structures unit in Taunton to invite them to visit the village to discuss the Stocks Lane bridge and related issues with councillors.

During the discussion the lack of progress with repairs to the listed Batts Lane footbridge adjacent to the ford was raised. The parish Council had received a quote to repair the bridge in 2014 but the matter had then been passed over to SCC as the bridge was listed and owned by them but no progress had been made. The chairman agreed to chase this up with SCC

11. Footpaths matters – Cllr Hoddinott was not aware of any issues.

12. Moors and Levels – Cllr Smith reported that the use of the new pumped dredging method mentioned in January had been extended to the rhynes beside the Long Drove.

13. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence for consideration.

14. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 23rd May 2017

The Parish AGM will be at 7.00pm to be followed by the Parish Council AGM at 7.30 at which election to portfolios and the post of Chairman will take place.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40

Chairman's signature.....