

North Wootton Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council that was held in the **North Wootton Village Hall** on **Tuesday 10th January 2017** that commenced at **7.30 pm** when the following business was transacted.

PRESENT Cllr Alistair Bovey (Chairman), Cllr A Townend, Cllr M Smith, and Cllr S Shimmin together with the clerk Miss H Brinton

Eight members of the public were present including the Village Agent, Mr John Lapwood
The Chairman opened the meeting formally at 19.30.

- 1. Apologies** – There were apologies received from Cllr M Hoddinott and County Cllr G Noel
- 2. It was unanimously resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th November 2016.**
- 3. Declarations of interest** – Cllr Townend declared an interest in item K, the planning application for the riding arena at The Bark Mill.
- 4. Public participation**

The Chairman invited the Village Agent, Mr John Lapwood to speak. Mr Lapwood outlined his role as Village Agent employed by the Community Council as opposed to the County Council. His role is funded until 2018 by the Big Lottery and he is there to support vulnerable members in the community including being alerted to scams being carried out. He requested any referrals for support for community members to be passed to him which will help the continuance of the role in the future. The Chairman thanked Mr Lapwood for his presentation and would display his contact details on the Village notice board.

The Chairman invited comments and questions from the public; there were none.

The Chairman formally thanked on behalf of the Council and the parishioners, the previous clerk of 42 years, Mr Bill Bartlett, for all of the work he had done on behalf of the parish and presented him with a scroll upon his retirement from the post.

5. Reports

No reports had been received from the District or County Councillors or from the police. It was noted that the clerk had received an email from SALC confirming that the police would not routinely attend parish council meetings due to lack of resource. The Chairman noted that the PCSOs were often in attendance in the village café and could be contacted there.

6. Finance – i) it was unanimously resolved to pay the items presented

- ii) Councillors noted that they were minded to support Mendip Community Transport but needed further information in relation to the extent of the use of the

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facility in the parish. The Chairman will contact them to ask that they come and talk to the community in the village café to better understand their work - a councillor will be present to report back to Council.

- 7. Highways matters** – Cllr Shimmin noted that there was nothing new to report and that he had still not received a response to the issue of the verges. It was further noted by councillors that passing places along Long Drove had recently been repaired so there was recognition by SCC that work did need to be done on verges but that there were places on New Road where they drop off. Cllr Shimmin requested that members of the public continue to report issues to himself and Somerset County Council Highways

Councillors agreed that they would again set up a working party in April to clear the kerbs and pavements along Stocks Lane as they did last year.

It was noted that there is an issue on Pilton Road in respect of parking and that the grass verge had been damaged. Cllr Shimmin will liaise with SCC to see if anything can be done.

- 8. Footpaths matters** – Cllr Hoddinott was not in attendance but the Chairman read a brief report that a stile off Launchery lane into Barrow Hill field is rotten and has partly collapsed. Chris East from Somerset County Council has arranged for it to be replaced. It was reported by a member of the public that a footpath from Dark Lane to the coombe by Little Owl Farm is waterlogged and that the stiles in the vicinity are in a poor state of repair. The Chairman will ask Cllr Hoddinott to report to SCC.
- 9. Moors and Levels** – Cllr Smith reported that new dredging methods were being trialled on the River Parrett.
- 10. Planning – it was resolved that there was no objection from the parish council in relation to Mendip 2016/2908/FUL as it had been confirmed by the applicant that there was no external lighting to be installed.**

It was noted by councillors that Mark Christensen had lodged an appeal in relation to the refused planning application 2016/1937/HSE. The Chairman confirmed that no further submissions can be made by the parish council to the Planning Inspector and that the appeal would run its course taking previous observations into account.

- 11. Speeding tractors** – the Chairman said that he had received a complaint from parishioners in relation to speeding tractors in the village. It was noted by councillors that whilst they had some sympathy with the complainant, tangible information was required to take any action as the complaint was too generic. However, Cllrs Smith and Hoddinott would contact local contractors in the first instance to raise the issue with them.
- 12. Website** – the clerk reported that she had not made much headway with the website currently as she had spent time setting up systems and administration on taking over from the previous clerk but was hoping to have more work on the website done before the next meeting.
- 13. Correspondence** – was noted by councillors. The Chairman would make the Avon and Somerset Police literature available in the café for parishioners. Cllr Smith noted that he would like to publicly thank the café on the impressive amount raised for charity over the last year, £2,500. The Chairman reported that the café owners had also put on a New Year's Day lunch for parishioners and that he would pass on the Council's thanks.

14. Date of next meeting – 14th March 2017

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.20

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