



NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Napton Parish Council Monday 6th February 2017 7.30 pm Minutes

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Chris Williams
2. **Minutes of meetings of 9th January:** These were agreed as a true record and duly signed
3. **Comments and Questions from the Public:**
 - There was a query about the function of the new BT cabinet at the bottom of High Street. Clerk to investigate
 - Concern was raised that the village was not being regularly swept. Cllr Clarke explained that we are supposed to get 5 sweeps p.a. The last one was 02.11.16 therefore the next one should be due any time. Cllr Clarke to chase and if no response, JW to make formal complaint.
4. **Reports from District and County Councillors:** Cllr Williams provided a written report (see appendix A). Cllr Appleton reported that WCC has approved its budget for 17-18 which will mean a 3.99% increase in council tax. The Council must make savings of £67m over the next 3 years but is prioritising the adult social care budget.
County Waste – Mr Yates has met with WCC and has been served notice of prosecution for failure to comply with the conditions of his planning application. A number of highways complaints were raised including the poor state of Church Road, the chevrons on the main road, white lines on the roads and the flashing sign at the entrance to the village. Cllr Appleton emphasised that all of these works must go through the Area Surveyor, Patch Byrne. It was agreed that a full list of problems should be compiled and forwarded to Cllr A to follow up.
5. **Planning applications**

Reference: 16/03662/FUL
Proposed: Erection of timber car lodge
At: Pipistrelle, Fleecy Court, Chapel Green, Napton-on-the-Hill Southam
For: Mr Mike Cleary
NPC decision: Cllr Woodcock proposed that the application be supported on the basis that it may help to alleviate potential parking problems in the area. This was seconded by Cllr Alsop. All in favour.

Reference: 17/00148/FUL
Proposed: Demolition and reconstruction of garage side extension
At: 6 Paddock Close, Napton-On-The-Hill, CV47 8JA,
For: Mrs Barbara Farndon

NPC decision: Cllr Veasey proposed that the application be supported on the basis that it was a like for like replacement of existing. This was seconded by Cllr Gooderham. All in favour

6. Correspondence:

- NSA monthly report for information (see appendix B)
- Notification of Fire Service consultation. Cllr Featherstone explained that Warwickshire and West Mercia Fire Services are proposing to merge in order to “stream line services”. A consultation is currently taking place and members of the public can give their views up until 10th March.
<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue>
- Hedge cutting request from residents of Fell’s Lane: It was reported that the Council had been approached by the owners of 3 properties on Fells Lane asking that the Council reduce the height of the hedge which forms the boundary with the sports field. It is anticipated that the work would cost between £750 and £1500 depending on whether the hedge was cut back or laid. Cllrs agreed that the request could not be supported as it would benefit such a small section of the community. Cllr Clarke proposed that the request be refused, seconded by Cllr Featherstone. All in favour
Should the residents wish to fund the work themselves the Council would require the following:-
 - The work must be carried out by a fully qualified individual and all appropriate health and safety measures must be put in place to protect themselves and the public
 - The trees can either be cut back (minimum height 1m) or cut down and laid into a hedge.
 - All debris must be removed from the site.

7. Housing developments (verbal updates from the Clerk)

Godsons Lane/ St Lawrence Close. Work is now underway. Demolition of the block closest to the school should start wk/c 20th Feb. The contractors, United Living, seem very approachable and willing to work with the community.

Ac Lloyd development. Infrastructure works will start in June with construction of the first houses starting in Sept 17. The first properties will be available spring 18. Cllr Clarke & the Clerk are meeting representatives from the company 13.02.17

8. Finance issues:

- The invoices listed in appendix 3 were approved for payment
- Request for funding from Parish Magazine: Cllr Gooderham proposed that the Council make a donation of £250. Seconded by Cllr Veasey. All in favour
- Revised funding request from PCC: A representative of the PCC provided the Council with a revised quote for £745 for the work needed on the retaining wall in the church yard. Cllr Woodcock proposed that the Council fund the work in full. Seconded by Cllr Veasey. All in favour

9. Action log: to report on progress on key items: -

- **Neighbourhood plan:** the meeting on 26th Jan was attended by just over 30 people. Whilst the mood was positive there was a request to find out more about the process by speaking to other Parishes who have had their plans adopted. The clerk was asked to arrange a follow up meeting for either 2nd or 9th March.
- **Risk assessment & review of standing orders;** It was agreed to review these in April ahead of the Annual Parish meeting in March.
- **Pillory Green:** Cllr Veasey explained that he and the Clerk had met with the Council's solicitors, Rollasons. At that meeting it transpired that whilst Crown Green, Pillory Green and The Green are all registered as village greens the Council does not hold title to them. It was therefore proposed that the Council engage Rollasons to undertake the work necessary to both establish possessory title to the 3 parcels of land listed above, plus Granton AND to draw up a lease for the use of the Granton football field by St Lawrence School. Proposed Cllr Woodcock, seconded Cllr Alsop. All in favour. Cllr Veasey agreed to update Mr & Mrs Avery.
- **NSA update:** Cllr Alsop reported that other Councils who had similar arrangements with voluntary sports clubs had been contacted. A possible way forward is beginning to emerge but it was agreed that more specific advice on the financial implications (including VAT) was needed and the Clerk was asked to contact SLCC for help.
- **Allotments:** The Clerk reported that the tenants had had a second very positive meeting and had agreed to hold a working party at the beginning of April to undertake some site clearance and to explore the possibility of bringing the "big shed" back into use. The group also requested that the Parish Council consider varying the tenancy agreement to allow them to erect individual sheds/green houses. Cllrs were concerned that any such structures may be unsightly and that this could have a negative the visual impact on the area. The Clerk was asked to encourage the tenants to look first at the possibility of bringing the "big shed" back into use.

10. Councillor's items

- The Horse Chestnut tree on Crown Green (planted in 1910 to mark the coronation of George V) needs a safety check. The Clerk was instructed to engage an arboriculturalist to undertake an inspection.
- The Council has been approached by VASA asking for a contribution towards the operation of their satellite office in Southam. Other Councils in the area have also been asked to consider making a donation. It was explained that the volunteer driver scheme, which the Council understood had been suspended due to lack of funding, is in fact still operational and is being managed from VASA's office in Stratford. Whilst no formal decision could be made, the mood of the meeting was that the Council would be unlikely to support a large request towards the operation of the Southam office, however it

might, once it's grants policy is formalised in the new FY, consider setting aside some funding to support journeys for Napton residents.

- Clerk's pension: Cllr Alsop reported that she had been in the process of registering the Council with the new Work Place Pension Scheme however it transpires that NPC agreed to join the Local Government Pension Scheme in May 2014 and that the current Clerk is therefore entitled to pension contributions dating back to Dec 15 when she first joined the Council.
- Highways issues: many footpaths around the village are becoming increasingly narrow because of the encroaching grass. There is a large pot hole by the "slow down" sign on the main road which needs repairing. Both to be reported to Patch Byrne
- Following investigation by the allotment tenants the blockage in the overflow pipe at the top of Howcombe Lane has been removed. As a result, water is running again and is overflowing down Howcombe Lane where it freezes. Malcolm Thomas pointed out that some of the water is also flowing from higher up. Cllrs Woodcock & Clarke to investigate to establish whether the drain is blocked or whether the overflow pipe needs replacing. It was suggested that small shovel be placed in the adjacent grit bin.
- Verge posts: it was reported that Cllrs Clarke and Woodcock had met with a representative from Highways to identify where the posts would be installed. Initially they will be along New Street, outside the Post Office and along the top of Memorial Green. The former will be positioned far enough back to allow cars to pass when lorries are delivering at the shop but close enough to the road to avoid further erosion of the verge.
- Cllr Clarke reported that several complaints had been received about cars being parked outside the Arc School. He has met with the Head and explained the danger of parking close to the brow of the hill. The Council has no powers to enforce parking although as a minimum people should not be parking on the yellow zigzag lines. It is hoped that the matter can be resolved by mutual consent.

11. Dates of future meetings

Mon 6th March

Mon 3rd April

Mon 8th May

Appendix A – report from SDC Cllr John Appleton

Budget - The District Council is preparing their budget to be presented on Monday 27th February 2017. The Conservative group at the District Council has a majority administration and it is doubtful that the opposition will prepare an alternative budget. Unlike last year the government will not provide a dispensation for tax rise above 2% and I am fairly confident that the prudent measures taken by the administration over the past few years will lead to a

continuation of a modest budget rise of 1.99%. Should there be any material additions that are of interest and concern to the Parish Council, I will update all decisions at the next Parish Council meeting on 6th March.

Traffic Management – The seminar to discuss the various proposals to improve the traffic in and around Stratford will be held on Thursday 9th February. It is anticipated that further seminars will be held to debate issues other than Stratford. I will update the Parish Council as to when and where these will be held.

Neighbourhood Plan – I thought the recent open meeting to discuss the pros and cons of a Neighbourhood Plan for Napton was worthwhile and a necessary exercise for the Parish Council to conduct. I do hope that the decision is taken to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan for Napton and I will give you total support in the project.

Appendix B – report from NSA

The last full meeting of the NSA Committee took place on the evening of Wednesday, January 18th in the Victory Club. A copy of the Minutes has been forwarded to the NPC Clerk.

The main points of the meeting can be summarised as follows, noting that the Christmas / New Year tends to be a quiet period on the NSA front.

Increased advertising of the sports facility generally has been undertaken with the hope of increasing income from hiring of the pavilion and AWS in particular.

Limited progress has been made over the holiday period on establishing a new NPC / NSA Relationship although some useful information has been collected from organisations in similar positions which have addressed this issue in the past. It is hoped that real progress can now be made over the next few weeks.

Some maintenance work and improvements have been carried out at the site over the Christmas period and a new cleaner for the pavilion has been appointed with good feed back to date.

Annual Fees and Charges are normally discussed at the January meeting but on this occasion such discussions will form part of the debate on the new NPC / NSA Relationship going forward.

The ongoing problem of managing dogs on the site has been raised once again and a programme of increased signage to assist with enforcement is being considered as a first step.

NSA has received a request from a member of the public to cut back the hedges on Fells Lane. Given the question of site ownership, this has been passed on to the NPC Clerk for consideration.

The next full meeting of the NSA Committee will take place on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 8.15p.m. in the Victory Club.

Appendix C - Payments for approval

EON energy - £261.60

TSR Productions (Neighbourhood Watch) - £60

Clerk's salary wk 44 - £433.44