

Clerk:  
Mrs G Bailey

Chestnut Cottage, Hackwell Street, Napton  
on the Hill, Southam, Warwicks., CV47 8LY

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## **Minutes for the Meeting of Napton Parish Council 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**

### **Present:**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Linda Gooderham</b>	<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>John Veasey</b>
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Paul Bayley</b>	<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Frank Allen</b>
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Gordon Clarke</b>	<b>Clerk:</b>	<b>Gill Bailey</b>
<b>County Cllr:</b>	<b>John Appleton</b>	<b>District Cllr:</b>	<b>Steve Kittendorf</b>
<b>Public:</b>	<b>11</b>		

Photographing, reporting, recording, filming or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting may occur and therefore all persons participating in the meeting should be aware that such recording, reporting or filming may take place. Members of the public attending the meeting (but are not participating in the meeting) who do not wish to be filmed or photographed in the meeting must state this at the start of the meeting.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Alison Watson.

### **2 Declaration of Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests –**

*Councillors are minded that they must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families, a friend or close associate*

To Receive any written Requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Dispensations.

### **3 Comments and Questions from the Public:**

- Mr Graham Smith said that the Neighbourhood Watch Team had purchased UV pens for each house in Napton and would distribute them shortly.
- Mr Richard Woodcock said that he felt that the closure of The Crown Pub should be the subject of a public consultation. Cllr Gooderham responded by saying that this item would be discussed later in the meeting but there had been a For Sale sign there for over a year.
- Mr Arthur Alsop advised that water was flooding into his field in Poplar Road from the Allotment well again. He requested NPC to look into this issue. Cllr Clarke responded by saying that a contractor had dug out and exposed the drain and he had uncovered the overflow pipe which had been buried and this should alleviate the issue once the works were completed. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the contractor and request a meeting. Cllr's Allen and Clarke would attend as well as Mr Alsop.
- Mr Malcolm Thomas clarified the position that under the finance section (Appendix 1) that the Neighbourhood Watch Team had paid for the printing of leaflets and not NPC.
- Mr Pete Gladwin noted that NPC had raised the precept to contribute towards the provision of extra burial space in the Village and he said that he felt that the public may not wish to do this. Cllr Gooderham advised that NPC had a moral obligation to provide extra burial space as it was required, but NPC were in the early stages of looking into the feasibility of the project.

### **4 To approve & sign the Minutes of the Planning & Ordinary Meetings of 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

The Minutes of the above PC Meetings, having been read, were approved and it was unanimously agreed by Councillor's who attended the meetings that they were a true record and may be signed as such by the Chair.

### **5 Reports from District Councillor Kittendorf and County Councillor Appleton**

- Cllr Kittendorf reported that SDC had spent over £1m on legal expenditure, defending Appeals over the last year and £17,000 on the Godsons Lane Appeal.
- Cllr Kittendorf reported that the Core Strategy was going through the Enquiry in Public phase and the main points have been covered, although the outcome is yet to be determined. Cllr Veasey asked whether Cllr Kittendorf could clarify whether the

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numbers provided by SDC were sufficient for the provision of a five year land supply. Cllr Kittendorf responded by saying that the numbers were dependent on whether SDC needed to provide a 5% or 20% supply and this was still a subjective number. However, he went on to say that a Neighbourhood Development Plan would add weight to any more proposed development in the Village.

- Cllr Appleton reported that he was looking into the provision of Superfast broadband in the Village and said that there was more than one provider in the Village. He suggested that if parishioners were concerned about their individual speeds then they should take the matter up with their provider in the first instance. Mr Graham Smith responded by saying that slow broadband speeds could be because of a bad copper connection.
- Cllr Appleton advised that he had received a document on the Safer Routes to Schools. The Clerk responded by saying that members of NPC had had a meeting with a Traffic Engineer at WCC and this subject had been covered. Cllr Veasey went on to say that he felt that the 40 mph buffer zone on the approach into the Village on the A425 from Shuckburgh did not seem to have made much difference to speeding vehicles. Cllr Veasey advised that he had attended the Community Forum and had reported this issue to the Police. Cllr Kittendorf advised that Claverdon NHW had purchased some speed guns and may be willing to hire them out to other NHW Schemes in the area.

## **6 Highways/General Issues affecting the Parish:**

1. Clerk to report on any issues which are affecting the Parish  
The Clerk had nothing new to report.
2. To discuss a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Napton – Update  
The Clerk reported that she had approached a prospective chair to lead the NDP project and that he had declined. Following a discussion, Cllr Gooderham requested the Clerk to put a further article in the Parish magazine asking for volunteers and to put a deadline for the response. Mr Richard Woodcock said that based on his experience with the Parish Plan, he felt that the number of volunteers required would be at least 10.
3. To discuss existing Gritting routes in and out of the Village  
The Clerk reported that she had requested that an additional route of Priors Marston Road and Dog Lane be added to the gritting schedule and WCC had declined. She went on to say that there had been a near miss accident involving primary school children and she had requested that the gritting route be changed – again WCC had declined to add an additional route. Cllr Appleton reported that several parishioners had requested an alternative route for gritting in the Village and that he would be taking the suggestion up with WCC himself. Mrs Rosie Coombe suggested that the problem was exacerbated by the large amount of surface water and the blocked drains on Dog Lane. The Clerk was requested to report this issue to the Highways Department.
4. To consider the erosion of the verges in New Street and Hackwell Bank  
Cllr Gooderham reported that NPC had received a request from a parishioner to install bollards to protect the erosion of the verges in New Street. Following a discussion, additional areas in the Village could also benefit from the erection of bollards. The Clerk was requested to contact Highways to ascertain whether they would be prepared to install the bollards if NPC were to supply them.
5. To discuss the replacement of the pole bracket & lantern of the street light at the junction of Hillside and 2 Butt Hill  
The Clerk advised that she had received a quotation for the replacement light in the above location. Following a brief discussion, the Clerk was requested to find out some more information and report back to NPC.

## **7 Sports Field:**

1. To discuss the status of the Pavilion and other matters relating to NSA

The Clerk advised that as Cllr Watson was instrumental in the preparation of the questions which needed to be asked of the Solicitor and she was absent from the meeting, there was no update available.

**8 Correspondence:** To note correspondence listed in the log  
Cllr Gooderham advised that the Correspondence Log was available for inspection.

### **9 Monthly Financial Report – See Appendix**

1. To approve the accounts  
Councillors unanimously approved receipts and payments as stated in Appendix 1.
2. To discuss purchase of extra burial space – Update  
The Clerk reported that she had had met with a contractor who had dug some bore holes on the piece of land which had been identified. The bore holes were between 1.5 and 2 metres in depth. The Clerk confirmed that she had taken some soil samples and photographs of the holes and the site.
3. To discuss Napton First Responders – update  
The Clerk confirmed that Ufton Parish was in the process of setting up a First Responders Scheme in the area and the defibrillator had been lent to the Group. Following a discussion, the Clerk was requested to make further enquiries regarding the provision of wall mounted defibrillators in the Village and whether anyone wished to buy the defibrillator currently on loan.

### **10 Councillors Items**

- **Cllr Clarke** reported that the kerb stone had fallen on top of the drain outside The Trees in Butt Hill.
- **Cllr Gooderham** reported that the drain outside The Crown had been raised and was protruding dangerously.
- **Cllr Veasey** reported that the buses travelling along Priors Marston Road were eroded the verges by the field at Manor Farm. He went on to say that the buses were damaging the verge at the bottom of Butt Hill.
- **Cllr Bayley** reported that there was a dangerous amount of mud and filth on the Brickyard Road. Cllr Veasey confirmed that he had reported this issue at the Community Forum.
- **The Clerk agreed to report all of these issues to Highways.**

### **11 Matters Arising**

1. To discuss the Crown Public House
  - Cllr Gooderham advised that as she was a near neighbour of The Crown that she would not Chair the discussion and Cllr Veasey agreed to take on this role.
  - Mr Richard Woodcock said that The Crown was an important and historic building in the Village and a focal point and if it were to close it would be a great shame. He suggested that perhaps parishioners should be given the opportunity to make their views known. Cllr Veasey responded by saying that The Crown had been closed for at least six weeks. Cllr Clarke went on to say that Cllr Allen had sent a document from CAMRA which focussed on what communities can do to preserve an asset such as a public house.
  - Mr Pete Gladwin said that he agreed with Mr Woodcock and that he felt that parishioners were not aware about the closure of The Crown and they should be given the opportunity to prove that they would support preserving The Crown as a community asset. He went on to say that planning permission for a change of use had not yet been received.
  - Mr Arthur Alsop said that he had records going back to the 1800's of meetings that were held at The Crown and it was the centre of the Village at one time.
  - Mr Ian Robinson said that he endorsed all of the above comments and that The Crown was an asset of community value. He went on to say that 21 signatures were required to register The Crown as a Community Asset.

- Cllr Kittendorf said that The Dog in Harbury had been through the same process and was now run as a Nursery and The Barley Mow in Stockton had closed recently. He went on to say that it was his understanding that a public house needed to generate at least £4,000 a week to remain a viable operation. He questioned whether The Crown could generate that amount of revenue required and whether enough parishioners were interested in keeping the pub open. He said that a PC could register The Crown as a Community Asset and that would ensure that the PC would be offered it first. However, even if The Crown were to be registered as a Community Asset, it doesn't mean that the owners have to accept the offer.
  - Cllr Allen said that there was an economic argument and the building was run down and not viable at present but that did not mean that enough revenue could not be generated in the future.
  - Cllr Veasey said that NPC would not like to see a derelict building in the Village.
  - Cllr Gooderham advised that she had been approached by the proposed purchasers of The Crown and had declined to contact them. Cllr Kittendorf confirmed that he had also received an approach and he understood that they had received pre-planning advice. He went on to say that it is easier to apply for change of use under the NPPF.
  - It was suggested that perhaps shares could be offered to parishioners and a higher bid to Punch Taverns (the owners of The Crown) could be made.
  - Cllr Clarke said that the prospective owners had approached NPC but had not put forward a clear or structured plan of their proposals.
  - Following a robust discussion, it was agreed that if anyone would like to take the purchase of The Crown forward, it would need a great deal of community involvement.
2. To discuss progress at the Allotments  
 Cllr Gooderham said that this item had been covered earlier and that Cllr's Clarke, Allen and Bayley would meet with the contractor. Cllr Clarke said that some items needed to be progressed in the Spring.

## 12 Playing Field

1. To discuss the requirement for two Cllr's to sit on the Playing Field Committee  
 Cllr Veasey requested sight of a copy of the Constitution.

## 13 Business considered Urgent by the Chairman

There was no business considered urgent by the Chair.

## 14 Dates of Forthcoming Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 – Parish Council Finance Meeting

## Financial Statement

### To note and approve Receipts:

Stratford District Council – Grasscutting Contribution: £1,607.24

### To note and approve payments

		<b>Excl. VAT</b>
G A Bailey – Salary (Clerk) -	£897.28	£897.28
E.On – Street Light Electricity -	£140.69	£117.24
The Goode Book-Keeping Service – Payroll Services (Clerk)	£ 30.00	£ 30.00
Southam Office Supplies – Stationery -	£ 31.38	£ 26.14
G Smith – Printing for Summer/Christmas NHW Newsletter -	£ 40.00	£ 40.00
Orchard Print services (Stationery Items - Parish Magazine)	£330.00	£275.00
Southam Office Supplies – Printing Compliment Slips -	£ 88.80	£ 74.00

Plus.Net.Com - Broadband Internet & Telephone Services –  
 January 2015 £ 31.27 £ 26.06

Bank Balance & Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 **Balance: ££8,914.55**

Bank Balance & Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 **Balance: £8,707.77**