



NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Napton Parish Council Monday 3rd October 2016 7.30 pm Minutes

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Veasey, Clarke and Woodcock
- 2. Declaration of Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:** None
- 3. Minutes of meetings of 5th September:** These were signed after a minor amendment was made to reflect the fact that the WMWP is in fact a working party and not a sub group of the PC
- 4. Comments and Questions from the Public:** A representative from the WMWP reported that the benches on memorial green and at the observer post have been cleaned and re stained and that a donation of £250 had been received from Napton Music Festival Trust and passed on to the PC.
- 5. Reports from District & County Councillors:** Cllr Appleton reported that budget cuts are a key issue with the County needing to save £67m over the next 3 years. Cllr Williams reported that the District Council is in a similar position and that there will be local consultation meetings to discuss the proposed cuts. He confirmed that a copy of the newly adopted Core Strategy would be available in Southam library and that he would be happy to collect and deliver a copy to NPC to save on P&P.
- 6. Co-option of new Councillor:** Sean Featherstone was confirmed as a new member of the Council and signed the acceptance form.
- 7. Planning applications (Stratford District Council)**
 - A. Ref: 16/02841/FUL**

Proposed: Erection of single storey rear extension and raised platform & steps.
Location: The Laskett, Vicarage Rd, Napton
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ogden- Metherell
NPC decision: support as it mirrors other extensions in the row. Proposed Cllr Alsop, seconded Cllr Gooderham. All in favour.
 - B. Ref: 116/02988/COUQ**

Proposed: Prior approval notification for a change of use for part of an Agricultural Building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building to a dwelling under Class Q (a) and (b)
Location: Land and Building Off Church Road, Napton-on-the-Hill,
Applicant: Mr Trevor Eadon
NPC decision: As the application is a dealt with under the COUQ regulations the Parish Council is limited in the comments it can make. Therefore, it was not felt appropriate to vote in to support or reject the proposal but to submit any concerns about the

application. These centered on the Highways issues and the potential increased use of the narrow class D lane off which the property is located. Councillors also expressed concern that if permission were granted it could set a precedent for development in an area which the Parish Council feels strongly should remain free of development.

C. Ref: 16/03115/COUR

Proposed: Prior notification under Class R for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to B1 or B8 use.

Location: The Grainstore, Brickyard Road, Napton-on-the-Hill,

Applicant: Mr William Line (W Line Farms)

NPC decision: As the application is a Prior Approval Notice the Parish Council is limited in the comments it can make. Therefore, it was not felt appropriate to vote in to support or reject the proposal but to submit any concerns about the application. These centered on the Highways issues and the potential increased use of Brickyard Road which is already very busy.

8. Consultation on Rugby Local Plan (Lodge Farm Garden Village Grandborough):

The Clerk explained that Rugby Borough Council's local plan includes a proposal to develop to an area of open countryside to create a new settlement of approx. 1500 homes on farm land close to Grandborough. It was agreed that NPC should respond to the current consultation objecting to the proposal partly because of the loss of countryside but also because in future it is possible that Stratford DC may wish to / be forced to take additional housing allocations from Coventry or Birmingham. It was noted that Grandborough do not have a neighbourhood plan and that the absence of such a plan will make it more difficult for them to object.

9. Insurance: The Clerk confirmed that the Council's insurance broker had provided 3 detailed options for consideration on the renewal of the Council's insurance. The policy for 15-16 ran out on 1st Oct so it was necessary to make a decision prior to that date and then ratify the decision at a full Council meeting. It was reported that Hiscox had been chosen as the provider. The decision was ratified and payment approved

10. Disposals policy: As part of the internal audit process it was identified that the Parish Council needed a policy to deal with the disposal of assets. The following framework was suggested: -

- Items valued below £100 – at discretion
- Items valued between £100 - £500 – dispose as appropriate with a report to a full PC meeting
- Items valued at over £500 – proposals for disposal to be discussed at a full PC meeting.

It was clarified that where there were a number of items it was the **total value** which should be considered.

It was suggested that there should be additional guidance on the disposal of IT equipment.

Both of the above are to be added to the Council's standing orders before they are next reviewed.

- 11. Consultation on changes to precept process:** The Clerk explained that the Government are proposing changes to precept setting process which would mean some Councils would need to hold a referendum if they wished to increase their precept by more than 2%. It was also pointed out that this process could ultimately be extended to include all Parish Councils. WALC, NALC and SLCC are urging Parish Councils to respond to the current consultation exercise by objecting to the proposals. Cllr Alsop proposed that NPC object. Cllr Gooderham seconded the proposal. Cllr Featherstone abstained stating that he wished to have time to read the paperwork before making a decision. He then undertook to inform the Clerk of his decision. It was agreed that if he supported the proposal the Clerk would be given delegated powers to respond.
- 12. Spending priorities:** Cllr Gooderham explained that in preparation for the Precept Setting process the Council was planning to seek the views of Parishioners in order to help determine spending priorities. It was agreed that an article would be placed in the Parish Magazine asking for ideas. It was suggested that the article should make clear which functions are the responsibility of the County and District Councils and also what the current levels of NPC spending are.
- 13. Attendance at memorial service:** Cllr Gooderham offered to attend the ceremony and to do a reading.
- 14. Dog fouling:** The Clerk stated that she had had reports that certain dog owners were allowing their pets to wander the village and that these animals had been seen fouling paths and greens on a regular basis. It was suggested that these individuals should be reported to SDC dog warden who will take the matter up with the owners and also check whether or not the dogs have been chipped. Owners whose dogs are not micro chipped face a potential fine of £500 and those who allow their dogs to foul can be fined up to £1000
- 15. Napton Sports Association Report:** noted.
- 16. Neighbourhood plan:** Cllr Gooderham reported that a recent government consultation has led to a simplification of the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and that now that SDC has adopted its Core Strategy Neighbourhood Plans will have greater legal status. It was agreed that NPC should invite Matthew Neal from SDC to come and speak about the process but in the meantime the Clerk should start the process of trying to encourage members of the community to get involved.
- 17. Volunteer driver scheme:** The Clerk reported that a request had been received to expand the criteria for the scheme to include non-medical appointments e.g. trips to the bank and some social activities such as attendance at day centres in an attempt to combat social isolation. Proposed Cllr Gooderham, seconded Cllr Alsop. All in favour
- 18. Monthly finance report:** Noted

19. Dates of future meetings in 2016
Mon 7th November, Mon 5th December

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