



NAPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.
7th March 2016
Napton Village Hall. 7.30pm

MINUTES

Item 1

Present:

Napton Parish Councillors:-

Linda Gooderham (Chair) John Veasey (Vice-Chair), Richard Woodcock, Gordon Clarke.
Clerk to the Parish Council, Jayne Warman Jackie Alsop, Bernard Alsop.

Item 2

Declaration of Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

None . Cllrs Jackie and Bernard Alsop declared an interest in item 6 and left the room during that discussion.

Item 3

Comments and Questions from the Public

A Parishioner commented that the resurfacing on Church Road was of a poor quality. Cllr Clarke explained that it was a temporary measure and undertook to speak to WCC Highways dept when the permanent works start.

Item 4 The Minutes of the meetings of 1st & 16th February 2016 were approved and signed

Item 5 Report from District Councillor Williams – copy attached

Item 6 Planning applications and decisions (Stratford District Council)

A. Ref: 15/04242/FUL.

Proposed: The erection of a detached dwelling with attached garage, new access and driveway with associated work (Application to be reconsidered in the light of plans having been received from SDG)

Location: Nissen Hut, Howcombe Lane, Napton-on-the-Hill

Applicant: Mr Arthur Alsop

The applicant's architect Mr Roger Wood attended the meeting and explained that they have tried to minimise the visual impact of the property by making it as low level as possible. He reported that he had not received any adverse comments from Highways. The ownership of the verge is in dispute which may make the installation of a footpath difficult. Whilst the current proposal does not include the removal of the existing Nissen hut Mr Wood confirmed that his client would look favourably on a request to do so.

Cllr Woodcock proposed that the application be supported. This was seconded by Cllr Veasey BUT the Council agreed that this should be conditional upon the removal of the existing Nissen hut.

Item 7 Monthly action log – update on key issues

Brickyard Road – EH issues

A meeting has taken place with J Wright MP who proposed a follow up meeting with SDC EH and Planning depts. Representatives of both have since visited the site. Some evidence of progress:- skip lorries have been seen with nets, litter is less in evidence and the gap in the bund is being repaired. Continue to monitor

Brickyard Road - off road motor bikes

Complaints have been received from Parishioners about unlawful use of the site by off road motor cycles. 2 signs were paid for and erected by the land owner, both have been vandalised but Cllr Woodcock reported that he felt levels of activity had reduced slightly. The police have tried to engage with the users but this has not been successful. Cllr Gooderham reminded everyone that this activity is taking place on private land and that the Parish Council therefore has no jurisdiction. It was agreed no further action would be taken.

Queen's birthday celebrations

The option of lighting a beacon was discussed but it was felt there too little time available given the deadline of 21st April. Councillors felt there would be more enthusiasm for an event in June and would consider any requests for support as they arose.

Highways issues

Cllrs Clark and Alsop (B) continue to meet regularly with Patch Byrne from WCC Highways Dept. Several overgrown footpaths are being cleared and hedges cut back. The sharp bend in the road outside Houghton's Farm is a perennial problem. Consider asking for a Highways to provide a central white line. **Action GC**

Report on awarding of mowing contract

Cllr Gooderham reported that 3 tenders had been received and that they had been assessed on a number of criteria including price, additional services offered and overall

value for money. The value of the contracts did not require a formal tender process but the Chair emphasised that the decision making process had been open and robust. The contract was awarded to Michael Mann

Report on IT proposals for Clerk

Cllr Gooderham reported that 3 quotes had been received and that they had been assessed on overall value for money and suitability for the PC's purpose. The contract has been awarded to MEZTEC.

Date for AGM & Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 9th May 7.30pm & Sunday 15th May 2.30pm respectively

Item 8 Correspondence

Letter from Mr W. Watson re Hackwell Bank – the Clerk reported that she had taken advice from WCC. The land is classified as Highway Verge and as such will always remain grass. Therefore, if it is damaged by resident's vehicles there is no action that the Parish Council or Highway authority can take.

Request for funding for Churchyard – a contribution of £650 was agreed. Proposed Cllr Gooderham, seconded Cllr Veasey

Item 9 Finance

The presented cheques were signed – see appendix 2

The Clerk reported that she now had access to on line banking with HSCB although payments will still need to be made by cheque.

The Skipton Building Society have confirmed change of address for the Clerk.

The Nationwide BS have at last allowed us to open an account. In order to do this the Council was required to provide a signed copy of the Council's standing orders. These were signed at the meeting on 16th Feb. This decision was ratified.

Item 10 Councillor's items

Work on listing the Council's fixed assets continues. This now needs to be audited to ensure an appropriate level of insurance cover is purchased.

Cllr B Alsop explained that he had come across a large number of legal documents and Cllr Veasey said he had found paperwork relating to the establishment of the areas of Village Green within Napton. These may need cataloguing/scanning and cross checking with what the Council's solicitor holds. **Legal docs to be added to the action log. JW**

There was a brief discussion about the possible production of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that this would not be pursued but that the existing Parish Plan should be updated.

Updating Parish Plan to be added to the action log. JW

Cllr Clark said that he had concerns that the 8 weekly litter pick by SDC was not being done to a suitable standard. He has spoken to the EH team and will monitor the situation. **Action GC.**

The Parish Council has agreed to contribute £700 to the Volunteer Car Scheme for next FY.

Defibrillators - Cllrs Woodcock and B. Also to approach local businesses/organisations to see if they would be prepared to host a machine.

Item 11 Dates of Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 4th April

Monday 9th May (AGM)

Sunday 15th May Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....

