



Monday 8th January 2018
Napton Parish Council Meeting
Minutes

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Gooderham
2. **Present:** Cllrs Clarke, Alsop, Veasey, Woodcock. County Councillor Andy Crump. District Councillor Chris Williams (joined the meeting at 8.30pm)
3. **Declaration of Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:** Taken by item
4. **Filming and recording of meetings:** notice read out
5. **Minutes of meetings of 4th December:** 2 amendments were suggested (shown in red) to correct ambiguities/inaccuracies. The revised minutes will be signed at the meeting in February.

Para 11 point 2. "It was reported that Cllr Veasey, the Clerk and Malcolm Thomas had recently had a meeting with the solicitors who are checking whether there is sufficient paperwork to prove title to the land **currently registered as village greens** without having to go through the process of "adverse possession". "

Para 11 point 3. "Cllr Gooderham explained that the current **outline** planning permission **for live work units** on the Brickyard site runs out at the end of Jan 2018. **Jim Sleight and Malcolm Thomas reported that the applicant did, however make a start on the commercial warehousing element of the application which was originally passed in 1990s.** "

6. Comments and Questions from the Public:

- It was reported that the drain at the bottom of the High Street is still overflowing. The clerk reported that the matter had been raised with Highways on 3 separate occasions and that the area surveyor has promised that it will be added to his list. Given the potential danger due to the current freezing temperatures it is clearly a priority, so Cllr Crump agreed to chase.
- A Parishioner questioned why the Parish Council has decided to take planning advice on the Brickyard site. The Chair explained that it was to help the Councillors prepare for any future applications which may come forward for the site and to enable them to be proactive in discussions with potential developers.
- A resident reported that successive works on the Marston Doles road had raised the level of the road surface. The run off is now causing flooding in his farm yard and drainage is required under the road to correct the problem.
- Concern was raised about steep drop which now exists alongside stretches of the Brickyard Road. This could be dangerous especially as people often speed along that stretch. Both of these issues should be added to the list of concerns to raise with Highways.

- Cllr Woodcock raised a number of issues of behalf of Andy Bean namely:
 - i. Hackwell Bank is in a poor state and needs a long term solution. NPC to undertake a site visit
 - ii. The fence at the back of the allotments is in a state of disrepair and needs removing. Clerk to ask allotments group if they have any objections
 - iii. The Best Kept Village sign needs erecting under the walnut tree at the entrance to the sports field. RW to organise.
 - iv. It was pointed out that the hedge overhanging the path opposite the Blue House is the responsibility of the landowner and that in future NPC should ask him to cut it back.

7. Signing of documents:

- The License between Napton Sports Association and Napton Parish Council for the management and operation of Napton sports facilities was signed and sealed
- The License between Napton Parish Council and St Lawrence Primary School for the use of the sports pitch at Granton Playing Field was signed and sealed.

8. Reports from District and County Councillors:

- Cllr Crump reported that Warks County Council are considering a precept increase of 5%, 2% of which is for adult social care. Other County Councils are requesting between 4.5% – 7%. Funding from central government will reduce by 40% between 2010 and 2020. The cost of Looked After Children is increasing. There will be an increase in the budget for transport/infrastructure planning. Community initiatives include a “flu safe” campaign, encouraging people to check smoke alarms and those of elderly neighbours and making archive material more accessible on line in an attempt to combat social isolation and to help people with dementia. The number of deaths in fires has decreased but the number of road traffic accidents has increased. The Fire Service will be working more closely with Highways in the future. AC reported that he had arranged for a representative from WCC Highways safety team to visit the village to look at the Priors Marston Road and other safety related issues. Cllrs Veasey and Clarke were invited to join the meeting. It was suggested that NPC could apply for a grant to help set up a community speed watch group.
- Cllr Chris Williams (arrived at 8.30pm) reported that the District Council is in the final stages of establishing its Council Tax rise for next year’s Budget. At the moment it would appear that an increase of 1% is going to be recommended, this is half the 2% allowed by government and is less than the rate of inflation. The District Council is facing inflationary pressures of over 2% for pay and contracts and is proposing to fund the revenue gap from its reserves to minimise an

increase for the 2018/19 financial year. Final decision will be made on Monday 26th February 2018.

Planning. Due to an administrative error Napton's proposals for the Built-Up Area Boundary for the village had not been adopted. This will now be discussed at a cabinet meeting on 15th Jan.

9. Planning matters: None received

10. Finance issues: Councillor Alsop declared an interest in the item relating to a grant for the Volunteer Driver Scheme and took no part in that debate.

- The payments listed in appendix 1 were approved
- It was resolved to awards grants of £250 and £265 to Napton Parish Magazine and the Volunteer Driver Scheme respectively.
- The Chair presented the draft budget to the meeting. This had been drawn up based on a clear rationale for expenditure next year. It was resolved to support the budget which would result in a precept request to SDC for £35,125. This figure takes account of the £420 Council Tax Reduction Grant and represents an increase of £965 over last year.

11. Admin issues:

- The Clerk reminded Councillors of the new code of conduct recently issued by SDC. It was resolved by a unanimous vote
 1. To adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct as adopted by Stratford on Avon District Council on 16th Oct 2017, so as to replace the Parish Council's existing Code of Conduct.
 2. To adopt the documents linked to the Code, namely those listed below
 - The guidance document including flow chart
 - Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form
 - Declaration of Personal Interests Forms
 - Town and Parish Councillor role description
 - Council Resources Policy
 - Social Media Policy
 - Gifts and Hospitality Policy
 3. To require all members to complete and submit a fresh Declaration of Personal Interests form to the Clerk on or before Friday 9th February 2018, to enable the Clerk to forward these to the Monitoring Officer
 4. The replacement Code and linked documents shall come into effect on Tuesday 1st May 2018
- It was resolved to accept the Council's revised standing orders

12. Highways issues:

- Cllr Clarke is keeping a list of ongoing issues. It is hoped that some of these can be dealt with in tandem with the safety meeting planned for wk/c 15th Jan. A question was raised about who is responsible for repairing damage and making good roads and footpaths after large scale developments have taken place. Cllr Crump stated that WCC

Area Surveyor should be seeking written agreement from developers that they will make good at the end of their contracts.

The footpath at the bottom outside Pillory Thatch needs clearing as do a number of others around the village which have become overgrown. Cllr Crump suggested that some resources may be available via the Community Labour Scheme and he undertook to feedback once he had met with the Probation Team.

13. Correspondence

- The Parish Council has been contacted by a resident whose elderly Mother's carer was unable to reach her during the recent bad weather. The Council has an Emergency Plan for major incidents, but it may be that an additional section needs to be added about action which could be taken in the event of more localised problems, for example compiling a list of people with 4 wheel drives who might be willing to help in the event of snow. The Council holds a list of vulnerable people but this needs updating. The Clerk was asked place articles in the Parish Mag and on Facebook as well as to approach Nosh and Natter and WI to raise awareness of the list amongst their members. Cllr Woodcock agreed to review the plan and come forward with some suggested amendments.

14. Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- The Clerk gave an update on behalf of the Chair who was ill. Anna Gamble has agreed to Chair the group going forward. Housing Needs Surveys will be delivered to all households week beginning 15th Jan (**all residents** are urged to complete these). Landscape Character Assessments will be undertaken between now and 16th Jan when key landscape features and views will be identified.

15. Councillor's items:

- Cllr Alsop reported that interviews for the current Parish Council Vacancy will take place on 10th Jan.
- Cllr Woodcock raised the issue of the proposed BUAB and suggested that the allotments should lie **inside** the boundary as this would allow greater flexibility in the future should the Parish Council wish to relocate the existing allotments and consider other possible uses for the site. The proposal, due to be considered by SDC cabinet on 15th Jan, shows the allotments and other significant areas of open space (land above current AC Lloyd development and Napton Charities land off Godsons Lane) **outside** the BUAB. It was felt that if the allotments were brought back **inside** the boundary then, to be consistent, the open spaces referred to above should also be **inside** the boundary (see Appendix 1). It was resolved to write to SDC and request that the item relating to Napton's BUAB be removed from the agenda on 15th Jan. This motion was proposed by Councillor Veasey and seconded by Cllr Woodcock, it was supported unanimously. This will mean that for the time being the allotments, the land above the AC Lloyd development and the Napton Charities Land are all considered to be within the BUAB of the village (as per appendix 1).

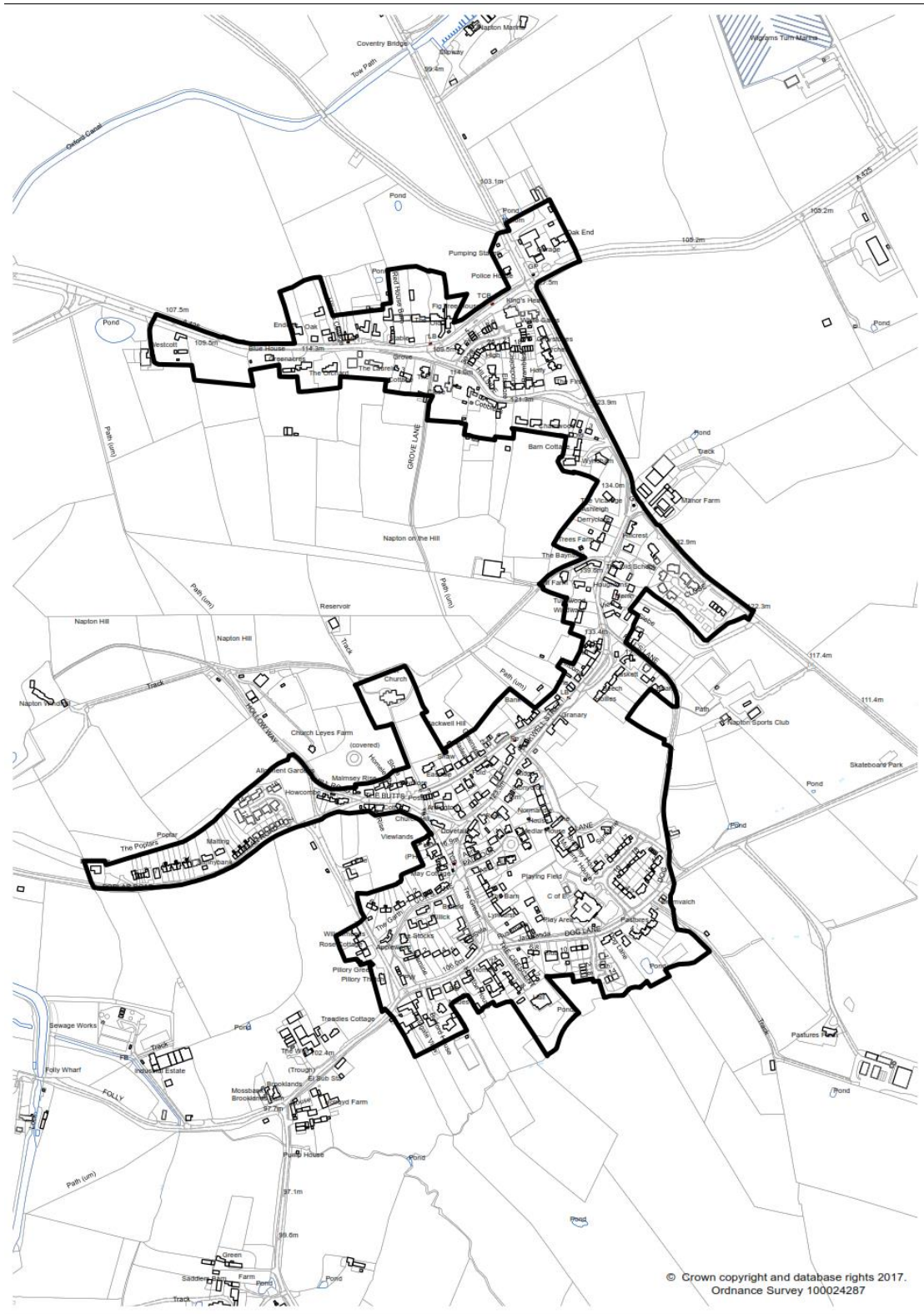
16. Dates of future meetings:

- These were confirmed as 5th Feb, 5th March, 9th April (TBC), TUESDAY 1st May, Sunday 13th May (Annual Parish Meeting), Monday 4th June

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix 1



Proposed Built-Up Area Boundary 2017 - Napton-on-the-Hill

