



NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

**Monday 12th March 2018
Minutes**

- 1. Present:** Cllrs Alsop, Clarke, Gooderham & Veasey. J. Warman. County Councillor Andy Crump, District Councillor Chris Williams
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Woodcock
- 3. Declaration of Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:** Taken by item
- 4. Minutes of meetings of 5th February 2018:** Agreed as a true record and signed
- 5. Comments and Questions from the Public:**
 - John Line raised the issue of blocked drains stating that the previous jetting had not worked. He also stated that the repairs to Church Road and Hillside footpath are not of an acceptable standard. It was reported that a meeting had recently taken place with Patch Byrne. (see item 9).
 - Jayne Warman raised the issue of the faulty street light on Dog Lane, (see item 9).
 - Michael Sanchez addressed the Council regarding a plot of land off Fells Lane which his family would like to build on. The land is outside the Built Up Area Boundary but Cllr Williams explained that there is a policy in the core strategy (Com 1) which allows for exceptions. The Parish Council agreed to look at the application with this policy in mind when it comes forward.
- 6. Reports from District and County Councillors:**
 - **Cllr Williams** reported that the District Council element of the Council would rise by 1% however other elements will mean that the overall increase will be higher than this. Fortunately, due to healthy financial reserves the Council is also able to spend some of its reserves on helping the homeless together with investing in the Shakespeare Birthday celebrations.
 - SDC has been approached by Birmingham City Council and asked if it can make land available to meet their housing crisis (particularly for social housing)
 - SDC's transport strategy will be out for consultation later in the spring
 - **Cllr Crump** reported that he has escalated the issue of Broad Band at County Council level. Cllr Alsop suggested Napton should consider making a complaint to the Ombudsman if the service from BT Open Reach does not improve.

- The road works on the main A 425 will start overnight WEF 16th March.

7. Planning matters:

Planning application 17/03801/FUL

Proposed: Construction of a new first floor extension over the existing lounge to form a new en-suite to the existing building

At: Westcott House, Southam Road, Napton, CV47 8NG

For: Mr Rohan Falconer

It was **resolved** to support the application

Other planning matters:

- Cllr Gooderham gave a report on a recent meeting at which the Parish Council had met with a firm of developers who have come forward with new proposals for the Brickyard site. The key points are as follows :-
 - *NPC was approached in February by GVA and asked for an informal exploratory meeting re their client's proposals for the Brickyard site. No decisions were made and no formal application has yet been received.*
 - *The site has been put forward by SDC as a reserve site for housing*
 - *The site was previously granted permission for 56 live work units.*
 - *The previous application did not prove viable and the permission has lapsed.*
 - *The site is now in the ownership of a local developer - St Phillips.*
 - *New proposal is for 80 dwellings*
 - *50 open market*
 - *15 holiday lets*
 - *15 self build plots*
 - *Initial discussions touched on how the development would impact on the landscape*
 - *No 3 storey properties would be included*
 - *The site will not rise up the base of the hill*
 - *The site would be closer to the canal side than the previous proposal and therefore mainly on level ground*
 - *Access will be off the A425*
 - *NPC raised concerns about the site's relationship to the rest of the village*
 - *The emerging housing needs survey and character assessment in the NDP will need to be taken into account.*
 - *NPC are now awaiting proposals from GVA re the consultation timetable.*

8. Finance issues:

- The payments listed in appendix 1 were approved
- The Clerk was given authority to appointment Andrew Scott as the Council's internal auditor
- The Clerk reported that she had received 2 quotes for the repairs to the allotment water tank but there was insufficient detail to enable the Council to make a decision. The Clerk was asked to come back with more information to the April meeting.

9. Highways issues:

- Cllr Clarke reported that he and the Clerk had met with Patch Byrne and identified a number of issues including the blocked drains on High

Street. They also discussed the repairs which need to be undertaken by United Living before they leave the site.

- The issue of speeding on the main road was raised again. Cllr Crump reported that he has agreed to use his funding pot to support a reduction in the speed limit on the main A425 from 60mph to 50mph between Southam and Staverton. Councillors felt that it was also important to look at speeding through the village in the 30mph zone and the option to set up a community speed watch was again discussed. The Clerk reported that she has had 2 volunteers (others have subsequently come forward). There is a strict protocol for the use of speed guns. It was suggested that any action should be taken at peak times and on week days. Cllr Crump agreed to raise the issue at the forthcoming Community Forum. Graham Smith undertook to ask if other Councils, who had experience of the scheme, would be prepared to come and talk about the implications and share best practice.
- The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Clarke had met with AC Lloyd to discuss the street lighting plans for the new development. The original layout included 11 lamps which is the number required to meet British Standards for an urban area. The Clerk explained that it is possible for the Parish Council to influence the plan but any changes would require NPC to take on the responsibility for future maintenance and energy costs. It was **resolved** to opt for a reduced number of lights (to reflect lighting levels in the rest of the village) and to take on the responsibility going forward. Cllrs agreed to finalise the exact number outside of the meeting, ideally in discussions with AC Lloyd.
- The Clerk reported that she has struggled to get quotes for the necessary repairs to the defunct lantern outside Hatties Meadow. The Council was asked to consider whether in fact a replacement is needed as the area is no darker than the Crescent and other parts of Dog Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the properties in the area of the lamp asking their opinion.
- Cllr Veasey reported that there is a large amount of debris filling the gutters and preventing the water from going down the drains. The clerk was asked to report this to highways.

10. Correspondence

- The Clerk was asked for an update on undergrounding works on School Hill. She reported that she had had an email from EON in November of last year saying that it would be necessary to close the road to carry out the works and that the relevant paperwork would take 3 months. The Clerk agreed to chase EON for an update.
- The Clerk reported that she had spoken to SDC re the landscaping for the Priors Marston Road Development. It is not clear from the plans exactly what the soft landscaping should include. The Clerk was asked to pass the information on to Pete Gladwin.
- The Clerk has received a letter from the Village Hall Committee asking for clarification regarding its role in the event of an emergency. The Clerk was asked to forward this to Cllr Woodcock and Malcolm

Thomas and to ask the former to attend a meeting of the VH committee on his return from leave.

11. Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- The Clerk gave an update on behalf of the group Chair. The Housing Needs Survey is complete and its implication will be discussed at the next PC meeting.
- As part of the plan the group has the opportunity to propose “local green spaces” and “protected views”. If adopted these would give those areas special status in planning terms. The group will come forward with details of its proposals at the next PC meeting.

12. Councillor’s items:

- Correspondence has been received from Mr & Mrs Ogden Metherell regarding the TPO which has recently been placed on the Sycamore Tree outside their property The Laskett. It was resolved to object to the TPO and to write to SDC requesting information about the designation process. It appears that neither the Parish Council nor Ward Member were consulted and there is concern that the correct procedure may not have been followed. The Clerk was asked to write to the monitoring officer at SDC to raise our concerns.
- Cllr Alsop reported that at present NPC arranges for a formal annual inspection of Granton Playing Fields and the Skate Park. Weekly checks are undertaken by the Clerk and Councillors. There is a need to decide whether an additional, formal, quarterly or 6 monthly check would be of benefit and to produce a programme up upgrading/replacement. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at a gathering. It was also suggested that the school / PTA should be approached to establish a rota of volunteers to help with weekly checks.
- Cllr Gooderham reported that the sports field tennis courts and car park areas are increasingly suffering from flooding. It is possible that this is a result of the increased hard standing now on the Priors Marston Road Development. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the flood prevention dept at SDC.
- Cllr Clarke reported that AC Lloyd have proposed 2 street names for the new development based on the historical research provided by Graham Smith – Quincy Meadow and Meulan Way – and are asking for the Parish Council’s approval so that they can create addresses for the new properties. Cllr agreed to review the names and provide an answer once they had seen Graham’s information.
- The Council wished to register its heartfelt thanks to all those who helped clear roads and footpaths during the recent bad weather.

13. Dates of future meetings:

- Tuesday 3rd April.
- Tuesday 1st May Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Sunday 13th May Annual Parish Meeting
- Monday 4th June & Monday 2nd July