



WOOD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of

Wednesday 18th January 2023 at the VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

Attending: Cllrs. Marcus Crowe (Chair), Jean Johnson (Vice Chair), Jenny Marchant, John Jennings, Carol Robson, Tim Lidstone -Scott, District Councillor Vincent Fitzpatrick and Ophelia Donovan (Clerk).

- 1) There were apologies from County Councillor Steffan Aquarone and Cllr. Lorraine O'Keefe.
- 2) Welcome new clerk, Ophelia Donovan.
- 3) Councillors introduced themselves to the new clerk.
- 4) Minutes:
 - a) Matters not listed on the agenda: Cllr. Crowe emailed Felbeck Trust on the 20/12/22 regarding surveyor's land site visit, no response to date. Action: Cllr. Crowe will email again.
 - b) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 16th November 2022 were agreed and signed.
- 5) There were no declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.
- 6) An update was received from the District Councillor V. Fitzpatrick. This concerned contacting the NNDC in respect of:
 - a) Cost of living crisis, the availability of community grants and funding.
 - b) Reporting issues online such as abandoned cars and fly tipping.Action: Cllr. Johnson said she would display the District Councillor's information sheet in the village notice board.
- 7) There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 8) Correspondence:
 - a) Correspondence from Tess Morley had been received. This concerned whether the Parish Council would consider installing grit bins around the village.
 - b) All Councillors were in favour of trialling one grit bin to monitor usage.
 - c) Cllr. J. Jennings had completed some research into obtaining a grit bin. The cost per bin would be £180 plus delivery excluding VAT.
 - d) There was some discussion as to where the grit bin could be located and the number of bins required. There was also discussion that a street furniture licence would need to be required. It was decided that the Councillors would look around the village to discover a suitable place for a grit bin.

- e) It was agreed that the grit bin would be discussed at the next meeting with suggestions as to where it could be placed.

9) Finance:

a. Current Financial Position as of the 7th January 2023

- i) Community Account - £5,511.67
- ii) Defibrillator Account - £1,602.60
- iii) Village Sign Account - £1,358.58 (includes interest of 72p).
- iv) General Deposit Account - £571.99 (includes interest of 32p).

It was confirmed that these amounts reconcile with the paper statements sent to Cllr. J. Johnson

b. Payments:

- i) Payment for Village Hall Hire in respect of Invoice VH-2022-133 £24.00.
Proposed Cllr T Lidstone-Scott
Seconded Cllr. J. Jennings.
- ii) Payment to HMRC – Final Payment for previous Clerk £23.20
Proposed Cllr T Lidstone-Scott
Seconded Cllr. J. Jennings.

c. The Chair sought approval to authorise Statutory and Regular payments as and when necessary.

Proposed Cllr. J. Marchant
Seconded Cllr C. Robson.

d. Banking Situation Update

The chair updated that 3 councillors now have full access to online banking and another form needed completing for him to receive read only access.

e. The Chair provided an update on the VAT position.

It was stated that VAT had not been claimed for the last 3 years.

- i) The first claim was £119. 28 VAT in respect of the Community Account.
- ii) The second claim was £175.40 VAT in respect of the Defibrillator Account.

10) 2023/2024 Precept

It was agreed that the Precept should remain as it is.

11) Household Support Fund

Cllr. M. Crowe provided an update on the Household Support Fund Application. Cllr. M. Crowe confirmed that the Council had been rejected for the Household Support Fund. It was agreed that the Council would re-apply when/if another round of funding becomes available.

12) Village Gates Project

Cllr. J. Jennings confirmed that the gates had turned out well. He confirmed that there is no receipt to claim back VAT, as the price was net of VAT, but had been advised that the award letter can be used as proof of purchase.

Cllr. J. Jennings confirmed the Council had taken some of the old signs away.

The Chair thanked Cllr. J Jennings for his hard work.

13) To discuss phone box / defibrillator

The Chair sought approval to install a handle on the old phone box, now housing our defibrillator, in order to provide easier access to the defibrillator. All Agreed.

Action: Cllr. M. Crowe to install handle on the old phone box.

14) Rosemary Cottage

- i. District Cllr. V. Fitzpatrick stated that he was in the process of constructing an email to Environmental Health in respect of Rosemary Cottage and will copy in the Chair when sending.
- ii. Birds have still been reported roaming free. The Chair will contact County Councillor. Steffan Aquarone again.

District Councillor V. Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

15) To discuss the Climate Change resolution

Cllr. Lidstone-Scott suggested that the focus should be on recycling.

16) To discuss Highways Matters- Update on Ranger Visit

Cllr. C. Robson stated that Mr. White stated that there was nothing wrong with the drainage system. However, the new drain gets covered in mud and the updated drainage system does not work satisfactorily.

Chevron signs are to be cleaned and re-aligned.

Cllr. J. Jennings reminded the Cllrs. of a sign that has been knocked over and is rusty.

Cllr. M. Crowe stated that he had forgotten about that sign and that he will remind the rangers of this.

Cllr. M. Crowe stated that when the rangers visit, he has emailed that he would be happy to accompany them, to show them the different issues.

Action: Cllr. M. Crowe to accompany rangers when they attend.

17) To discuss King's Coronation Celebrations

Cllr. J. Marchant mentioned she had received correspondence from Bruno Peek, National Pageant Master, to suggest that bells may be tolled and beacons could be lit (awaiting official advice).

Cllr. M. Crowe said that that the village hall committee are intending to put on a B.B.Q and suggested that the parish council could offer the parishioners a complimentary drink of orange juice or prosecco on arrival. It was agreed that this was a good idea (date to be confirmed by the Village Hall Committee).

Cllr. M. Crowe confirmed that he was prepared to install the beacon and light it.

18) To discuss Annual Action Sheet

NALC

Cllr. J. Johnson suggested the council may like to think about future membership to NALC. Cllr. T. Lidstone-Scott stated that the council website has a lot of new and historic information on it and is hosted by NALC.

Gates Safety Inspection.

It was discussed that a safety inspection would be required in relation to the new gates.

Cllr. M. Crowe confirmed that this should take place on an annual basis and asked whether Cllr. J. Jennings would be prepared to do this.

Cllr. J. Jennings confirmed that he would be prepared to undertake the safety inspection.

Action: Cllr. J. Jennings to undertake safety inspection.

Cllr. J. Jennings stated that all inspections should take place and that there should be a paper trail. This should be recorded somewhere so that they can be easily sourced. The council will give this some thought.

19) To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda:

- a. Review of Health and Safety Policy.
- b. Further items:
 - i. Rosemary Cottage

ii. Drains-Highways matter.

iii. Grit bins.

20) To note the date of the next meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2023 at Wood Norton Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 08:35pm.