

# North Newnton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7 p.m.

St. James Church North Newnton

## Minutes

**Present:** Chair of the meeting - Marcus Stoneham (MS), (Chair of the PC), Cllr David Brisker (DB) (Vice -Chair), Cllr Olivia Campbell Slight (OCS), Cllr Tom Ellen (TE) (Vice-Chair) and Cllr Mac Mclean (MM). In attendance: Gillian Tatum Clerk, and 2 Parishioners. **The meeting started at 7pm**

### 1 **Matters of the Council**

**Absence apologies and Declaration of interests.** Apologies: Cllr Paul Oatway and Cllr Tony Mulliken(TM) Members are bound by the provisions of the Code of Conduct and are required to declare either personal or prejudicial interests; None declared.

2 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021.** Cllr DB raised one change Section 3 “since moving back to his late father’s house in North Newnton he would Like (rather than the word live)”. The minutes were approved with this correction by all Councillors present and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### 3 **Adjournment. Welcome to the Public.**

No questions raised by Parishioners present

### 4 **Village Hall Update by Trustee of the Village Hall;**

#### **HILCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE FOR PARISH COUNCIL 5 JULY 2021**

*The past 18 months have been difficult for everyone and not least for the Village Hall project of a new build. I would, however, like to start towards the end of the year 20/21 i.e. 26 March when we had confirmation from WC of demolition and planning permission for our plans for the replacement building at the hub of North Newnton parish in Hilcott.*

*The Trustees gave an update to the PC for your 19 May meeting which included the hope that “the Parish Council will support us for the continuation of this project along with other partners”. The minutes noted “Cllrs thanked the Village Hall for the update” but there was no other comment or discussion. In fact since planning permission was granted, there has been a noticeable silence from all but one of the Councillors, which is disappointing.*

*In the invitation to the APM, the Trustees are described as “major stakeholders of the Parish” – could you please elucidate what this means and how you see our respective roles?*

*Unfortunately, we have not been able to have an AGM so far this year (or last) but hope to have one in the Autumn with of course all parishioners invited. As indicated to the PC in a letter of 11 November 2020: “For your information, the VH Constitution requires the election of parishioners to serve on the Management Committee for one year, and includes a representative from the PC, the PCC, other Community Groups e.g. Coffee Mornings, and also community people and Friends of the Hall”.*

*Latest news – at a Pewsey Area Board meeting last Monday, the Village Hall Trust were voted a grant of £3500 towards the next stages of the new build. This is particularly welcome as it helps towards match funding from other grant funders. The withdrawal of the balance of the funding (20/21) that we expected from you, the Parish Council, has not helped our cause and for the last 6 months our architect has donated his time “in kind”, in a gesture of community spirit.*

*We are continuing with bids and other fundraising activities (one in partnership with St James Church) but this all takes time and effort from a small team. The demolition has been held up*

*with some problems with SSEN over removal of cables, but we hope to have this resolved shortly. Our latest missive to the parish asked for suggestions on how the community space could be used in the meantime after the demolition has taken place. Finally and again, we express the hope that the Parish Council will support us for the continuation of this project. Carolyn Whistler, On behalf of the Trustees and MC – Hilcott Village Hall*

Cllr MM remarked congratulations on the area board grant and highlighted that the PC has a budget heading "Parish Space" with £2,105 available for any parish space proposals during the year. Cllr MS commented that any application for this budget will go through the normal process of PC consideration and majority vote. Cllr DB asked for feedback on the latest consultation about use of the vacant space (once demolition has been carried out) feedback includes suggestions for; bench, flowers, wildflower garden, small cabin and playground, child's slide. Trustees are still getting replies to evaluate the ideas. Clerk clarified the request in the Annual meeting of the Parish invitation by email, she had used the term major stakeholder to reflect that the Village Hall Trustees and the Church are along with the PC the major stakeholders in the Parish (we have no school or any other significant body such as a sports club). CW commented that she would have preferred the term Partner to have been used. CW was disappointed in not hearing back from the PC after the planning permission has been granted and wanted moral support from the PC on the project. It was explained by Cllr MS that as a PC it supports many projects, have a lot of items to cover but we are here for advice, moral support providing liaison as required, networking contacts etc. but that any financial proposals have to run through the due process being presented to the PC for consideration and ultimately for Council vote and majority approval in conjunction with the approved annual budget capacity. There was further discussion about the project and CW confirmed that no technical changes had been made to the proposal.

#### 5 **Planning Applications for Statutory Consideration**

**1. PL/2021/05984 Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area Cherry Tree needs felling as it is diseased and at the end of its useful life. We intend to plant a replacement tree of a native species. THE WHITE HOUSE, STITCHINGS LANE, HILCOTT, PEWSEY, SN9 6LD. After consideration resolved "Support for the Application".**

**Action: Clerk to inform Wiltshire Council of the resolution.**

**2. PL/2021/05993 Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area, G1 Conifer Hedge – Fell, STADDLESTONES, STITCHINGS LANE, HILCOTT, PEWSEY, SN9 6LD**

Clerk

Cllr MM had viewed from the White House side together with owner of that property and it was ascertained that the drawings were inaccurate showing the legal boundary of the property and that the box hedge was in the neighbour's garden, with the conifer trees only being within the property of Staddlestones. The owner of the box hedge (all within ownership of the White House) does not want this hedge removed. After discussion resolved "**Object to the application, it is not accurate as the box hedge does not belong to the Applicant**". **Action: Clerk to inform Wiltshire Council of the resolution.**

Clerk

**3. PL/2021/06249 Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area T1 - unspecified tree - fell due to large ganoderma bracket at base and cavities at base T2 - unspecified tree - reduce lateral limbs over field and road by 2m, MANOR FARM, HILCOTT, SN9 6LE. It was acknowledged that the map was inaccurate showing the location of the trees, however Cllrs knew the trees concerned and unfortunately the terminal nature of the disease and its proximity to nearby property and the Hilcott high street. Resolved "Despite the plan/address being incorrect for the location of the diseased trees, Councillors have no objection". **Action: Clerk to inform Wiltshire Council of the resolution.****

Clerk

#### 6 **Governance Cllr PO had given apologies; nothing to report from Area Board.**

**1. Consideration of any Parishioners seeking to join the Parish Council under co-option (1**

**Vacancy**); Sean Devine stood for co-option following the election process and 1 vacancy for the Parish Council. He was duly co-opted onto North Newnton Parish Council and congratulated on his appointment. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and Councillors and was also given a copy of the Code of Conduct. **Action: Clerk to ensure Register of Interests Completed and relevant induction documents given to Cllr SD**

Clerk

2. Specialists Areas of Responsibility; clerk had previously circulated table, Cllr TE to attend next PCAP & agreed round robin attendance at Area Board, to decide next one at Sept. Parish meeting. Cllr MM will step down from the Neighbourhood Plan as a lot to do for highways/footpaths. **Action: Clerk to circulate adding details for Cllr SD.**

Clerk

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#### **Correspondence and matters arising from previous meetings**

1. **Footpath request to facilitate join up to existing right of way, Bridleway 8 (outside our Parish) Woodbridge roundabout/Pewsey road to Parish Boundary**

Cllr MM outlined the parishioner request for a path to begin opposite the Woodbridge Inn along the Pewsey road (A 345) to the Parish boundary (the bridge over the river Avon) so that it may link up with the definitive Bridleway 8 (just outside the Parish Of NN which leads to Upavon). He walked the proposed route, it is currently on a slope, easy to slip into the road and the 150 approx. The stretch is very dangerous with high traffic volume. It appears to be well walked (due to the mud/worn vegetation) by locals for dog walking and for users of the caravan site to get to the bridleway. However he suspects there may be a BT and or PATA optic cables lying along here. He thought the quality of the footpath need not match that of high specification but maybe a surface with a wooden walkway and barriers to separate users from the road could be possible. **Action: Cllr MM will follow up ownership, services, and landowner etc. to explore the possibility of a new walkway.**

Cllr  
MM

2. **Road Safety Issues for pedestrians using A345 from Woodbridge roundabout towards Upavon.** This matter had been raised by a local parishioner especially of concern for his son requiring walking along the road daily to access a car share to school. Cllr TE has immediately put up a warning sign to alert drivers to slow down, the situation is at present compounded due to the road closure and diversion through this stretch of the road. Cllr MM has also raised with Wiltshire Councillor PO the possibility of a temporary 30MPH speed limit whilst the diversion was in place. He has reported back that the time taken to achieve this would be past the diversion time requirement. Sympathy was expressed by all Councillors but there are little short term measures we can carry out or seek Wiltshire Council to do. Longer term this stretch is the last phase for the proposed footpath (see 5).

3. **Waste Bin (dog waste) at X5 bus stop, Upavon Road;** Clerk has written to Wiltshire Council's contractor to ascertain costs and procedure to follow this up, will feedback more information known. It was discussed however rather than a secured bin; maybe a bin could be obtained free standing like the one at Cutenham Bus Stop. **Action: Clerk to follow up.**

Clerk

4. **Rushall Road/Woodbridge Close Visibility – Request has been made via CATG for Wiltshire Highways to visit the junction and suggest any improvements possible to the visibility.** Cllr MM reported back that Wiltshire Highways will review this junction when the development (on the old Garage site) is complete. In the meanwhile Cllr MM had asked if the vegetation growing on the road side of the soil heap be cut back (this has been carried out) to help improve visibility from this junction. **Action: Clerk to diary**

Clerk

5. **North Newnton Footpath; update.** Cllr MM reported back the latest situation; CATG have reported that due to PATA fibre optic and BT cables running alongside the next

section of the proposed route of the footpath, this makes it impractical from a financial viewpoint to continue to progress the route on this stretch. CATG have suggested continuing the footpath on the opposite side of the road, with speed reducing measures to allow pedestrians to cross safely. CATG confirm that highways own land for a 1.2 metre footpath strip from the gate entrance (field with caravan in) to Sundales Property. They do not own the land in front of Sundales. The path in front of the new development (old garage site) will be created by the developers and link Park Road to the boundary with Sundale. A missing link will be in front of Sundales which may not be possible to secure. Cllr MM has had informal discussions with the landowner about this, however CATG nor the Parish Council have no funds to acquire land for the footpath. Cllr MM has requested CATG to draw up a scheme for the footpath on this side of the road up to Sundale, review services, landownership, and design to get a preliminary cost. This would be the last section of the footpath route for Rushall road section. After this has been completed (could take a few years yet) the next phase will be the Woodbridge to Upavon section. (It was noted that Mr Wookey is the landowner of the fields adjacent to this section).

**Summary Action Points ; (i) Waiting for Highways design for the footpath on the Caravan field side of the road this to be brought to next meeting if available and also consult formally with owners of Sundale once a detailed drawing of their entrance has been received from Highways. (ii) Junction of Park Road with Rushall road, traffic calming measure required but Highways will only review once the development is completed. (iii) Concerns about the volume and speed of traffic on Upavon road passing residents here to Woodbridge roundabout, no temporary 30MPH speed limit but Cllr PO to pursue the possibility of a weight restriction being imposed on the road to stop over 7.5 tonne traffic to aid road safety. (iv) Walkway from opposite Woodbridge Inn to meet bridleway 8 Cllr MM will look at next steps information required.**

Clerk

8 Finance

1. **Bank Reconciliation for May and budget update;** FO/Clerk had previously circulated; currently £11,319 in treasurers account. All expenditure to budget including some asset costs for the re-positioning of the defibulator.
2. Cheques ratified Cheques to be ratified; Ch. No. 841 £226.70 Community First Insurance, Ch. No. 842 Clerk Expenses £6.40, Ch. No. 843 £17.31 PPE (visors), Ch. No. 844 £72 Defibulator Insulation Bag, Ch. No. 845 £47.94 Litter Pickers, Ch. No. 846 £50 Internal Audit, Ch. No. 847 Clerk Expenses £16 (ink third cost), Ch. No. 848 Cllr DB for posts, concrete for defib repositioning. **All agreed.**
3. **S106 Amendment ;** Cllr MM had an update from Wiltshire Cllr PO Wiltshire Council still not progressed the matter although had suggested payment could be made direct to PC but – but potentially the receivable amount after it had passed through Acorns accounts would be greatly reduced. **Action: Cllr PO to pursue change in S106 agreement**
4. **Request from Wiltshire Citizen’s Advice for donation** towards running costs; Clerk outlined the request for support following the hard year of COVID-19 and the additional support being carried out to Parishioners. Resolved unanimously to donate £50 to them. **Action: FO/Clerk to issue cheque.**

Clerk

9 Neighbourhood Plan Update.

Cllrs MM, MS and OCS had not been able to meet. Post July 19<sup>th</sup> Cllrs MS & OCS will now meet and made a commitment to devote a period of time at the next meeting to update all on a review of the situation for our NP. **Action: Cllrs MS & OCS to meet up to take forward the NP**

Cllrs  
MS &  
OCS

10. Projects

1. **Defibulator update** (to be placed on Stitchings Lane); Cllr DB reported delays due to the owner needing to agree the new position for the defibulator (all done now) plus then the consideration of the diseased tree (but now confirmed the contractors who will undertake the tree works have liability insurance and should be away from the defibulator in any case), plus the need to provide a substantial post (due to its weight). All these mechanisms now in place and with support from parishioners he was due to put the defibulator up weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Cllrs thanked him for his work on this. The Clerk raised that she had been contacted with a request for Defibulator training and had found this very helpful herself. Cllr DB confirmed we had organised training in the past, and costs could be split sharing with an adjoining parish. **Action: Clerk to find out about training post July 19<sup>th</sup> and cost to explore potential joint training.**
2. **Traffic Calming: White Entrance Gates update** (from CATG Meeting 16/06/2021); Cllr MM had attended meeting unfortunately CATG will not pay for White Gates for a road which does not meet the Speed Watch criteria and we have had 3 traffic surveys for Hilcott and all recorded below the necessary speed percentiles. We could however proceed with this at the Parishes expenses. In the interim Cllr MM suggested "Rundells" showing the speed limit of 40MPH on the road (approx. £80 each) and Cllr MM has requested an inspection from a highways engineer to agree the location and liaise with Cllr OCS with the inspection. It was noted that recent purchase of white gates for another Parish was £4,200 so funds would need to be saved and accumulated to pay for these over a few financial years. It was also noted that a SID was proposed to be purchased this financial year which could be located within Hilcott as well as the other "speeding" places in the Parish, the Clerk noted that this might qualify for a grant from the Area Board. **Action: Cllrs MM/OCS to meet highways for rundell inspection for Hilcott, Clerk to look at SID grant with Cllr DB**
3. **Greening verges update; comments received about lack of cutting obscuring traffic visibility Yards Lane, Hilcott;** Cllr DB & Clerk reported Parishioner complaints received about overgrown hedgerows obscuring road visibility. It was acknowledged that NN along with all of Wiltshire had adopted green verge policy to aid sustainability and diversity but this year's weather had produced particular active growth. Wiltshire policy is now a cut in May but then left until September for next cut to allow diversity except in areas requiring traffic visibility. It was noted in past years the Parish had paid for a contractor to cut some verges but had not done this now due to the new green verge policy. **Action; Clerk to clarify policy with Wiltshire Council, consideration to be made of instructing a contractor/local farmers to aid the situation in the short term. Local parishioners also contacting Wiltshire via MyWiltshireApp to report areas of traffic visibility concern.**
4. **Footpath to Rushall road;** already covered (7,5)  
Cllr MM wanted to acknowledge good support form Wiltshire Highways in dealing with a tree overhanging on Upavon road reported by a parishioner to him in North Newnton.

Cllrs  
MM/  
OCS  
Clerk/  
Cllr  
DB

Clerk

## 11 Updates from Meetings

Cllr TE reported back from PCAP and Area Board Meetings; first Area Board appointments after the elections, second grants (already noted Hilcott Village Hall grant) and also Pewsey are revising their Neighbourhood Plan (information passed to Cllrs OCS and MS) next meeting 20/09/2021 to be decided who will attend. PCAP looking at transport policy which may be of interest to us and he will attend the next meeting.

## 12 Next Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September , 10am – 12 noon Woodbridge Arms  
Parish Council Meeting , 13<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm St. James Church

**The meeting closed at 9.12 pm** Gillian Tatum Clerk to NNPC [Clerk@nnpc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@nnpc.org.uk)

Tel: 07979866387 09/07/2021