

North Newnton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th December 2021 at 7 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Cllr Marcus Stoneham (MS), (Chair), Chair of the meeting, Cllr Tony Mulliken (TM), Cllr Olivia Campbell (OC), Cllr David Brisker (DB) (Vice -Chair), Cllr Tom Ellen (TE) (Vice-Chair), Cllr Sean Devine (SRD) 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: Wiltshire Cllr Paul Oatway. 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 the Parish Council Meeting 8th November 2021.** Cllr MM asked for one revision to section 11.2 to cover the total cost in the order of £65,000 rather than £47,000 as recorded. The Chair made the changes and initialled this in the formal minutes. The minutes were then duly approved by all Councillors present and signed by the Chair as a true record.

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

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, he explained due to the latest COVID-19 advice that the publicised Agenda will be curtailed to keep the meeting as succinct as possible and minimise risk but if anything they particularly wanted to raise would be covered. He also wished a Happy Birthday to Cllr TE and was very glad to see the recovery of Cllr TM from COVID-19 and able to join the meeting.

4 **Finance**

1. **Budget proposed for 22/23**

The Chair stated that the Finance Sub-informal Group had met and produced the draft budget which had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. He proposed to run through each budget line for any comments and for agreement prior to then proposing the Precept for 2022/23 agreement.

Income; Cllr MM asked for clarification on the amount carried forward estimated from 21/22; this was shown as £2,000. He was referred to the latest 21/22 budget showing forecasted spend to year end; which forecasts a surplus of just over £2,079.46 with assumptions that money would be spent from the remaining headings; Traffic Calming Measures (A SID), Contingency (Bench at Bottlesford) and Parish Space . It was confirmed that no requests from the 2 known projects on Parish Space had made any recent approach for funding to date. **Expenditure;** Cllr MM asked why there was no allowance for the S106 legal costs; the Clerk replied that it had been assumed that the capital income of the S106 monies would absorb any legal costs applied to it and that neither the income of the S106 nor expenditure was shown in the Parish Budget (as the money will reside within Wiltshire Council ring-fenced for the pavement works at North Newton).

The Chair ran through the rationale on how each expenditure line had been calculated. The total expenditure proposed for 22/23 from the Treasurers account is £16,250.

The Chair then ran through the proposed budget associated with the Investment Account (the Parishes savings account) with income showing £19,934 brought forward from 21/22 and a small amount of predicted interest at £1.50 showing a total income of £19,935.50.

Expenditure for the Investment Account; proposed an additional £2,500 for Parish Space

(£2,500 has already been allocated to Parish Space in the Treasurers account) making the total budget for Parish Space for 22/23 at £5000.

The next item was the proposed footpath expenditure for the North Newton Pavement which had an allocation of £12,800 (with a note to be discussed at the meeting). The finance sub-group had added this note as since the allocation of £12,800 for the final phase of the NN Pavement the situation had changed with the receipt of the S106 monies (approx. £22,000).

The Chair raised a motion “to reduce the contribution by £12,800 for the final phase of the North Newton Pavement in the light of the change in financial circumstances with the receipt of the S106 money (approximately £20,000 after legal cost deduction)”. Seconded by Cllr TE.

There was a detailed debate before voting; Cllr MM said that the Substantive Bid had already been submitted with the pledge from the Parish Council for £12,800 and that he had been verbally told it was to be granted. He agreed that the substantive bid had been submitted in September prior to the Parish Council knowing about the S106 monies (the Deed of Variation was signed on the 10th November 2021). His belief was that the S106 was Wiltshire Council’s and not the Parishes and so that the Parish was still obligated to pay the additional £12,800.

Cllr MS (Chair) stated that the situation had changed vastly from 2014 when the NN pavement project was first started and the original s106 was for a playground, an asset and amenity for North Newton but historically Wiltshire Council had not provided for any land for this to be created at the Woodbridge Road housing development and after considerable effort by all in the Parish over a number of years (including Cllr MM efforts) the S106 had finally been varied such that the funds were not lost but now ring-fenced for the NN Pavement. £15,000 of NN money had already been paid for phase 1 of the footpath and he would be very uncomfortable if an additional £38,200 were then paid for this final phase by the Parish. He regarded the S106 as Parish funds, they came from the variation of the S106 agreement which was to provide an amenity for the benefit of our Parish and although the legal process meant that Wiltshire Council holds the funds until expenditure this did not mean the money is theirs and that effectively the Parish having the benefit of the £20k , a sum in excess of £12,800 by £7,200 would be our contribution to the substantive bid allowing the £12,800 to be re-allocated for other worthy requirements such as Traffic Calming and Parish Space.

Cllr MS (Chair) wanted it recorded that he had always supported the NN pavement project but £32,000 contribution was too high and unreasonable to be required by Wiltshire Council for the final phase of the pavement.

Cllr OS agreed that the historical mistake by Wiltshire Council in not getting a play park, with these new changes in developments, it was unreasonable for Wiltshire Council to ask the Parish to pay on top of the £20k S016 monies now available for the NN pavement. She supported the motion.

Cllr TE stated it was an unexpected bonus that was never expected back in 2014 onwards when the Parish started “saving” for the NN pavement and the situation was now very different with only 2 phases of pavement proposed and that £20k S106 had now been secured he did not support any additional money being paid on top of this . He also commented that we owed it to parishioners to keep the precept as low as possible and use our budget accordingly. He therefore supported the motion.

Cllr TM commented that with £12,800 a great deal could be done with this money; he acknowledged that it had been saved up over a number of years for the NN pavement but that now the situation had changed with the receipt of the £20k S016 monies. He stressed that the situation had changed with the funding. He therefore supported the option.

The vote was then taken; Cllr MM against, Cllr SRB abstained, Cllrs MS, TE, DB, OS and TM for, the motion was carried 5:1 (1 abstention).

Action; to find out the position of the substantive bid and advise Wiltshire Council of the

decision and at a later date to review the budget for 22/23.

- 4.2 **Motion to agree the Precept amount for 22/23 “Proposal by Finance sub group (Cllrs MS & OC) to keep precept the same as 21/22 at £15,000”.** Proposed at the meeting by the Vice-Chair Cllr TE, 1 abstention (Cllr MM), all remaining Cllrs in favour. The precept form was duly signed by the Chair and by the Clerk. **Action; Precept request to be submitted to Wiltshire Council.** Clerk
- 4.3 **Reconciliation for November and budget update 21/22;** the Clerk outlined the bank reconciliation (previously circulated to Cllrs) with £10, 882.51 remaining in the Treasurers account as at 08/11/21 and £19,933.88 in the Investment account (as at 06/12/21). No comments from Cllrs.
The Clerk asked for any questions on the existing budget (previously circulated to Cllrs), no comments.
- 4.4 **Cheques to be ratified;** Ch. No. 869 £180, Tim Gent (annual grass cutting Bottlesford 7 Stars), Ch. No. 870 £5.30 Clerk Expenses Ch. No 871 Sophos renewal
All agreed
- 4.5 **Proposal to purchase SID £2,695 (plus bracket £55);** Cllr DB had researched and forwarded details of the proposed SID (Speed Indicator Device) prior to the meeting. A Parishioner present asked if it could be located to cover Broad Street, Hilcott. Cllr DB stated that there were limitations by Wiltshire Highways where it could be located but he was sure locations could be agreed to accommodate traffic monitoring in the areas the Parish identifies where there is known traffic speeding and issues. These locations did not necessary tie up with the Speedwatch locations and no people would be required to monitor. The advantage of the SID is that it has different settings and we would also be able to draw off data from it.
Unanimous agreement to purchase. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr DB to purchase. It was noted that we would still use the shared device until our own one is received and locations agreed with Wiltshire highways where it can be located.** Cllr DB/
Clerk
- 5 **Planning – to gain Statutory View of the Parish Council as Consultee**
PL/2021/10738 Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area Address: Cassocks Broad Street Hilcott, Pewsey SN9 6LE Proposal: T1 - Leylandii tree - fell Applicant Name Mrs Carolyn Whistler (for Hilcott Village Hall Trust).
All Councillors were in favour of this proposal and agreed to support the application. Action: Clerk to notify Wiltshire Council. Clerk

The following items were not all directly discussed at the meeting (due to COVID-19 advice to keep the meeting succinct only priority items were covered). However update notes were circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. And details produced for parishioners update

6 **Village Hall at Hilcott – update**

Dear Gill and Councillors

Please accept apologies from the Hilcott Village Hall Trustees for the PC meeting on Monday 13 December.

This is the most important meeting in the year for the Parish Council and parishioners, with the setting of the precept and budget for the following financial year, and I for one would have liked to attend on behalf of the Village Hall Trust, a major stakeholder/partner in North Newton Parish.

However, the lack of welfare facilities and poor lighting externally and internally (especially in the winter) in the church, as a venue for a public meeting, precludes me from attending. Perhaps you could seek a more conducive venue for people to come along.

Hilcott Village Hall Update - December 2021

As you know, the Trustees have acquired the land to the west of Cassocks, Hilcott, as a gift from a very generous donor. We have named this piece of land Barnard Meadow, and our intention is to have a car park and small garden to serve the hall as a community area. This is of course a long term project and will require support from the parish, Wiltshire Council and beyond. Initially, we have to clear the ground which is very overgrown after nearly forty years as a derelict field, and remove the large tree and other scrub from the site. A working party is being set up with friends of the hall and others. Any offers of voluntary help from parishioners would be most welcome. Contact is Malcolm Baker at Ivy Cottage, Yards Lane, bakerhousehold2@btinternet.com

7 Governance

7.1 Flood Warden/Emergency Plan update; to be discussed at the next meeting

7.2 Beechingstoke Parish Review – reminder the survey link is here – it can also be completed as from NN Parish <https://survey.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=163602403243>

7.3 Civility and Respect Project update; The primary aim of the project is to coordinate a programme of work designed to promote civility and respect in public life, including good governance, positive debate and to support the well-being of councillors, professional officers and staff.

8 Correspondence and matters arising from previous meetings

8.1 S106 Deed of Variation completion (associated with NN housing development funds now allocated for NN pavement works). Signed by both parties on 10th November 2021.

8.2 Defibrillators – These will be shortly UNLOCKED – you will not need to ring 999 to get a code to unlock them and are available to be used when required.

8.3 Parishioner complaint regarding blocked drains at Bottlesford gully maintenance required. Cllr DB has requested the gully cleaner from Wiltshire Council to undertake this including the entire stretch of Broad Street starting in Bottlesford to Hilcott.

9 Projects

9.1 Traffic Calming Hilcott; The installation of the Roundels along the Hilcott road has been undertaken, parishioners attending were asked if they thought the traffic speed had reduced but the first impressions were that they had seen no difference. Cllrs confirmed that this is the first stage of traffic calming measures and the next stage are white gates, discussions are on-going with Wiltshire Highways and there is money budgeted in 22/23 for traffic calming.

9.2 Footpath to Rushall road/Park Road; to be discussed at the next meeting.

9.3 Bottlesford Bench; Proposal to purchase bench for Martin's Close, Cllr TM has spoken to residents about the location for the bench (close to the tree at the back of the green); a map showing the location has been sent to Aster. The proposed bench is the Glasdon Lowther Seat (wooden slats with metal ends) £546.99 plus VAT. **This was not discussed at the meeting and will be considered at the next meeting, there is budget provision in 21/22 to purchase this.**

9.4 Proposed Facebook Page; to be discussed at the next meeting.

9.5 Fibre Optic Broadband for the Parish; to be discussed at the next meeting.

10 Neighbourhood Plan Update

10.1 Remaining grant has been paid back to Groundwork under final grant requirements

11 Update from Meetings

11.1 – CATG – to be discussed at the next meeting

11.2 Area Board – to be discussed at the next meeting

11.3 Discussion on future venues for PC meetings; Cllr MM asked to seek a more amiable space for Parish Council Meetings, he wanted to undertake his civil duty to attend meetings but felt uncomfortable meeting in a place of worship and with no welfare facilities. He

suggested Rushall Hall however this is not available on a Monday evening until 8pm, cost £13 per hr (normal meeting time is 7pm). A discussion followed, many Cllrs were happy to continue to meet in the Church and/or wanted to meet within the Parish so reluctant to travel outside to Rushall. Cllr TE volunteered to find out about the meeting room in Woodbridge Inn (allowed as it is normally closed on a Monday so no alcohol being served on the premises on a Monday), Cllr TM volunteered to find out about the Seven Stars room (again allowed as it is normally closed on a Monday so no alcohol being served on the premises on a Monday). Next meeting Monday 7th February at 7pm. Clerk will also find out if Rushall could be available earlier at 7.30pm on a Monday (as it was felt 8pm too late a start as meetings are sometimes 3 hrs long). Due to other evening commitments and past practice it was felt necessary to keep Parish Council meetings on a Monday evening.

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Future Parish Council Meetings

Monday 7th February 2022 (Time and Venue to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 8.20pm Gillian Tatum Clerk to NNPC Clerk@nnpc.org.uk

Tel 07979866387 16/12/2021

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