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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 7th February 2022 in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr T Regan (Chair)
 Mr T Collins
 Mr G Hammersley
 Mr J Simpson
 Mrs S Venner

 Clerk Mrs M Money

West Northants Councillor Rupert Frost was also present

01.02.22 To receive and approve apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

02.02.22 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

None were disclosed.

03.02.22 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2022

Subject to some amendments as shown in the Minute Book on a proposal by Cllr G Hammersley it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be approved and signed.

04.02.22 Public Time (3 minutes per speaker)

WN Councillor reported:

- that Daventry Cinema is due to open at Easter
- There are grants available to help with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- Gigaclear will be closing roads Daventry Road and the Green between 28th February and 4th March.

Discussion about ownership of the footpath and responsibility for repairing the walls between Mounts Lane and the Churchyard. The path itself is fine at the moment. This is definitely not a Parish Council responsibility. It should be reported via FixMyStreet. WNC would have 3 options –

1. Give a definite “No”
2. Carry out repairs
3. Contact the owners saying repair of the wall is their responsibility.

4. Kier WSP will not be submitting a tender for highway maintenance issues going forward. There are four applicants in the bidding process.
5. The condition of Wet Lane also needs reporting as the surface is a trip hazard.

Cllr Frost asked if the maps of the village boundary are adequate. He was advised that the plan provided showed the parish boundary and not the village boundary which is what is required. He agreed to try and obtain copies of the appropriate plan.

The information he had provided originally about the charge for a second garden waste bin was incorrect. Organisations and churches have to pay for a second bin. Efforts are being made by councillors to change the current process.

The flooding situation along Badby Road/Bradbury Road has still not been resolved. Cllr Frost asked Cllr Regan to forward the emails to him.

[Cllr R Frost left the meeting at 8.10.p.m.]

05.02.22 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

No interest has been shown in the three vacancies.

06.02.22 Traffic calming

- a) Purchase of additional Speed Indicator Device ("SID")
- b) Data update and siting of new & old SID's

Cllr Hammersley has taken the lead on the purchase of another SID. Four companies have been contacted and the way the information was provided made it difficult to compare like for like. The signs with amber flashes are no longer manufactured. After discussion it was agreed that the new sign needed to be larger than the current ones. Flashing speed indicator would be more impactful. A decision on the exact requirements will be made within the next two weeks. Cllr Collins said that lithium batteries would be the ideal batteries as they are a lot lighter than the lead acid batteries.

07.02.22 Correspondence and AD Hoc items

- a) Blocked culverts/drains in Badby Road well beyond the junction with Bradbury Road. Still not resolved. WN Cllr Frost has asked to see all the emails.
- b) Email from Cllr Venner re Parish Boundary plan
The plan provided by Cllr Frost showed the Parish boundary where it was the Village boundary that is required.
- c) Asset Mapping Project
A grant has provisionally been allocated to Newnham Parish Council to carry out the necessary work. The information required is based on the Asset Register. Councillors asked the Clerk to undertake the role. The project is to be completed by the end of March.
- d) Letter from Steven Gray re streetlight (light opposite Dolphin Cottage Mounts Lane)
The Clerk was asked to contact Zeta to see if it is possible to purchase some shields.
- e) WNC Bus service consultation
The item to be carried forward.
- f) Email from Ben Emery offering ground maintenance service
The Clerk advised that this is a new company. Ben Emery is known to the Council as he previously carried out work on the Churchyard trees.
- g) Update on Sourcing a company to deal with light repairs following Aylesbury Mains ceasing to trade.

The Clerk advised that she has had no luck in sourcing another company. A problem being experienced by several local parish councils. Cllr Simpson suggested that she approach Warwickshire and Leicestershire councils.

h) WNC Tree Policy Consultation

The Parish Council has nothing to add to the Consultation at this time.

i) Update on erecting lights on the Green for the Jubilee.

This is being dealt with by the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Working Party. It was proposed that strings of lights between trees would be more impressive as the trees will be in full leaf. A power source needs to be identified.

j) Jubilee celebrations update, including receipt of 30 Cope trees for planting together with location of trees.

The Jubilee Celebration Working Party are handling the celebrations together with locations for the trees. Residents should have an input to where these trees are located, and Cllr Regan will put an item on Facebook.

k) Mole infestation (Badby Road and elsewhere)

Cllr Collins said he has received a quote of £130.00. and this expenditure was unanimously approved.

l) Email from PCSO -results of survey – Local Identified Priorities.

The highlighted priority is speeding.

Cllr Hammersley is meeting with the village PCSO in the next couple of weeks.

08.02.22 Amendments to insurance cover

Cllr Simpson had circulated proposals for increasing the cover prior to the meeting. It was agreed that cover for the churchyard wall be increased to £15,000.00. The proposed amendments were approved.

09.02.22 Financial

a) Bank balance on 2nd February 2022 is £52,446.67 of which £23,819.00 is held as General & Earmarked Reserves

b) To approve payment of the following invoices

	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Total	Stat.Power
B/P	Mrs M Money	Salary/Expenses	430.50	1.50	432.00	LGA 72 - Sec 112
B/P	P Cummings	Handy Person	350.00		350.00	LGA 72 - Sec 111
B/P	Stocksigns	Solar Panels for SID	1150.00	230.00	1380.00	Highways
B/P	Anglian Water (Wave)	Cemetery Rates 8/10/21 – 7/1/22	15.03		15.03	Open Spaces

An additional payment of £21.00 to The Link was added to the payments as this had been omitted from the original payment last month.

c) Receipts – VAT Reclaim £1404.09

d) Expenditure against Budget – 3rd Quarter

Cllr Collins had produced an Expenditure against Budget document which was circulated at the meeting and approved.

e) Internal Financial Controllers Report.

Cllr Collins reported currently there is £14,000 ahead of budget meaning that reserves for 2022/2023 will be £32,000. A shortened version of the budget will be published on the website.

10.02.22 Policy Reviews

- a) Consider NCALC advice on policies to be held
The Clerk was asked to contact the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for their list of policies and template.

11.02.22 Update on Allotment Renewal Lease

Cllr Simpson advised he is still waiting to hear from the solicitors.

12.02.22 Planning

- a) **Issues** – None reported.

b) Applications

Cllr S Venner reported that the owners for The Green had put forward an application which had been refused. A subsequent application was also refused. They have not decided not to proceed. Cllr Simpson said they should ask for the reasons for refusal to be put in writing.

Tree removal – The Banks – This application had been supported.

- c) **Decisions** – None received.

13.02.22 Health and Safety

- a) Burial Ground – Nothing adverse to report.
- b) Churchyard – (i) installation of handrails along the slopes leading down to the dip and up towards Mounts Lane – Still waiting to hear from the Diocese about the Faculty.
(ii) Lopping/removal of trees adjacent to the village hall and other work – Cllr Simpson had circulated two quotes one from Ben Allee and the other from Cutting Edge. As the quotes were very close, after discussion it was agreed to give the Burial Groundwork to Ben Allee and Cutting Edge the churchyard and Coronation Road work. The proposed work was approved together with the expenditure.
(iii) Collapsing wall on right of way up to Mounts Lane – See Cllr Frost's comments in Public Time 04.02.22
- c) Play Area – Nothing adverse to report.

14.02.22 Update on recommendations made in 3 yearly Tree Survey

See comments under Health and Safety Agenda Item 13.02.22 (b)

15.02.22 Grass cutting

To review tender requirements and areas to be cut.

After consideration it was agreed that W S Gardens should be granted the contract for at least one year. They would be asked to carry out the same work as previously plus the additional bits highlighted by them. They would also be asked to cut the verge beyond the burial ground gates.

16.02.22 2021 Open Meeting – review any outstanding items.

17.02.22 Items for discussion at next meeting

None raised at this meeting.

18.02.22 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30.p.m. in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.