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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 7th March 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

01.03.22 To receive and approve apologies for absence

None were disclosed.

02.03.22 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

Cllr Simpson declared, to the extent required on behalf of the Parish Council, an interest in the Planning Application relating to the Churchyard and Cllr Hammersley declared an interest in the Planning Application for Fernvilla.

03.03.22 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2022

On a proposal by Cllr Venner it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be approved and signed.

04.03.22 Public Time (3 minutes per speaker)

Cllr R Frost reported that

- WNC are publishing a Parish Newsletter.
- Two WNC Council meetings have been held and a decision about the Northampton Football Club has been delayed.
- WNC Budget for 2022/23 shows a £5m surplus.
- Northampton's bid for City status is ongoing.

Discussion then turned to the drainage problem along Badby Road and Bradbury Road. To finalise the various problems Cllr Frost asked to be supplied with a full list of Complaint Nos so that some can be closed.

Cllr Frost was made aware of the proposed closure of the A45 from 9.30.a.m.to 3.30.p.m on 14th/15th March to allow for preparation work prior to re-surfacing later. Concerns were expressed that the village would again become a rat run and road safety compromised.

[Cllr Frost left the meeting at 7.45.p.m.]

05.03.22 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

No interest has been expressed.

06.03.22 Traffic calming

- a) **Purchase of additional Speed Indicator Device ("SID")**
An order has been placed with TWM and the invoice is on the agenda for payment. The location needs to be carefully considered to avoid foliage blocking the solar panel. The device is to be installed in early April. Cllr Venner offered to ask Mrs A Rushall about ownership of the verge.
- b) **Data update and siting of new & old SID's**
No data has been downloaded at this time. Cllr Regan is to check which software is required to download data by Bluetooth. The intention is to collect data every month for analysis so that a report can be given to the Parish Council.
Cllr Simpson agreed to download data from the SID situated in Preston Capes Road. It was stressed that when downloading data the direction of travel needs to be logged as well.
Cllr Regan volunteered to download the data from the Badby Road camera and would also speak to the handyperson about collecting data on a scheduled basis.

07.03.22 Correspondence and AD Hoc items

a) Blocked culverts/drains in Badby Road well beyond the junction with Bradbury Road.

Dealt with under 04.03.22

b) Email from Cllr Venner re Village Boundary plan

The information should be available now that the Parish is signed up to Parish Online

c) Asset Mapping Project – approve grant application and update re completion of the initial inputting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had signed up to the Asset Mapping Project and that the grant will be applied for. The Clerk had started inputting the information but it was taking longer than expected.

d) Letter from Steven Gray re street-light (light opposite Dolphin Cottage Mounts Lane)

The Clerk will pass light details to Zeta Lighting so that shields can be purchased.

e) Update on Sourcing a company to deal with light repairs following Aylesbury Mains ceasing to trade.

Still proving extremely difficult to locate another company but efforts will continue

f) Update on erecting lights on the Green for the Jubilee

Cllr Collins reported that lights that had been wrapped around the branches of the tree outside The Romer Arms would not be the most impactful during the summer, so suggested instead wrapping the lights around the trunks of the trees on the Green, but a power source needs to be identified. Cllr Hammersley will contact Yu Energy to see about tapping into a streetlight. Cllr Simpson to supply Cllr Hammersley with EON details.

g) Jubilee celebrations update, including receipt of 30 copse trees for planting

Cllr Simpson reported that planning was moving forward. There will be a beacon on Walkers Hill on the 2nd June at 9.45p.m. with a Hog Roast an hour before.

Newnham Band is being resurrected; dance classes are being led by Harry & Joan Ferguson so people can join in the dancing. Bell ringing will also take place. The final event is on Sunday 5th June with the Celebration on the Green. The Council expressed grateful thanks to Mrs J Dorkins, Mr K Alexander and Cllr Hammersley for their tireless efforts in trying to obtain funding.

It is hoped to use the bus shelter interior and exterior to display broads and decorative maps. The Clerk will investigate whether planning permission is needed. She will also investigate insurance for the various events.

Entertainment for the weekend will cost approx. £2,000.00.

It is hoped that a Heritage Trail round Newnham could be set-up, but this will be after the Celebration Weekend. Possible Lottery funding is being explored.

Cllr Venner was asked to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for their help with funding applications.

The Jubilee Working Party will not, at present, have anything to do with the trees due to be received as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

The trees have not yet been received and it was agreed to set up a Working Party to work out where the trees could be planted. The Working Party consists of Cllrs Collins; Hammersley; Simpson, Venner and Mrs Dorkins

h) Mole infestation (Badby Road and elsewhere)

Cllr Collins reported that the molecatcher had caught 2 moles and would be returning on Wednesday 9th March to re-assess.

i) Email re planning appeal Newnham Turn Farm

Noted but agreed there was nothing further the Parish Council could add.

08.03.22 Amendments to insurance cover

The Clerk to contact Came & Company to increase the insurance by £15,000.00 for the churchyard wall.

09.03.22 Financial

a) Bank balance on 28th February 2022 is £49,309.77 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	423.00		423.00	LGA 72 - Sec 112
B/P	P Cummings	Handy Person	270.00		270.00	LGA 72 - Sec 111
B/P	Stocksigns	Solar Panels for SID	2826.25	565.25	3391.50	Highways
B/P	NVHMC	Hire of Hall	34.00		34.00	LGA 72 – Sec 111
B/P	Cutting Edge	Removal of windblown tree	500.00	100.00	600.00	Open Spaces
B/P	Huws Gray	Post fix/gloves	71.07	14.21	85.28	LGA 72 – Sc 111
B/P	TWM	Speed Indicator Device	4688.41	937.68	5626.09	Highways
B/P	Ben Allee	Inv BA4288 – Tree work on The Green	250.00		250.00	Open Spaces
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00700371 - 01/01/22-31/01/22	11.27	0.56	11.83	Highways
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00700370 – 01/01/22-31/01/22	67.66	3.38	71.04	Highways

D/D	Yu Energy	Inv00731180 01.02.22-28.02.22	58.55	2.93	61.48	Highways
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv00731181 01.02.22-28.02.22	10.13	0.51	10.64	Highways

c) Receipts – Burial Fees – Walton 170.00 and Shoemith additional inscription 35.00

d) National Pay Award

Cllr Simpson will look at last year's award and advise on this year's now that NCALC have said payment of the increase can be made albeit that the increase has not yet been formally accepted nationally.

e) To approve payment of the annual green waste collection for the churchyard £42.00

The Clerk will arrange this.

10.03.22 Policy Reviews

a) Consider NCALC advice on policies to be held
Copies of the NCALC and SLCC list of policies had been circulated to Councillors for consideration.

b) Financial Risk Assessment
Cllr Simpson will produce a schedule in time for the April meeting.

11.03.22 Update on Allotment Renewal Lease

Cllr Simpson has heard from the landlord's solicitors who are taking further instructions on some points but has not yet had time to consider the proposed amendments.

12.03.22 Planning

a) Issues

b) Applications

WND/2022/0067 -Listed Building Consent for replacement of kitchen window with French doors and replacement of backdoor and side window with set of French doors – Pear Tree Cottage, The Green, - Supported

WND/2022/0126 Planning application for work to trees in the Churchyard – as yet no documentation received from Michael Venton – submitted by the Parish Council.

WND/2022/0114 – Work to tree and felling of a tree within a Conservation Area – Fernvilla. Supported

WND/2022/0077 – Relocate timber garage, construction of summerhouse and gazebo and various landscaping works – Pear Tree Cottage, The Green -Supported

c) Decisions

None received at time of issue of papers

13.03.22 Health and Safety

a) Burial Ground – closure on 10th/11th March for removal of tree at the entrance. The noticeboard will also be removed in time for the work to be carried out.

b) Churchyard – (i) installation of handrails along the slopes leading down to the dip and up towards Mounts Lane

A decision is still awaited from the Diocese.

c) Play Area

The handyperson will be asked to inspect.

14.03.22 Grass cutting

To review tender requirements and areas to be cut.

Approval of grass cutting contract for this year.

W S Gardens whose tender had been accepted have now said that they are no longer able to deal with the grass cutting in the village this year. Attempts were being made at this late stage to source a new contractor.

After discussion it was decided to remove Contract 5 (burial ground hedges) and ask for grass collection with every cut on the Green.

16.03.22 Items for discussion at next meeting

Housing Needs Survey

Draft Public Spaces Order on Responsible dog ownership and no smoking areas.

Decision on grit bin filling

17.03.22 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4th April 2022 at 7.30.p.m. in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.40.p.m.