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**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30.p.m. on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022  
in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr T Regan (Chair)  
Cllr J Simpson  
Cllr T Collins

**Clerk** Mrs M R Money

**Also present West Northants Cllr R Frost**

**Prior to the formal business taking place a one minute's silence was held in memory  
of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

**01.10.22 To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr G Hammersley.

**02.10.22 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda**  
No declarations of interest expressed.

**03.10.22 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
On a proposal by Cllr J Simpson it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be approved and  
signed.

**04.10.22 Public Time (3 minutes per speaker)**  
WNC Cllr R Frost asked whether the situation regarding the drains in Bradbury/Badby Road  
had been resolved. The Chair advised that to the best of his knowledge it had been  
resolved and the problem had been a build up of limescale, but it would be appreciated if an  
email confirming this could be received. Cllr Frost agreed to explore the present position.

- Parish Councillors now receive the Town and Parish Briefing published by WNC
- The Conservation Area proposal is currently being assessed
- It is expected that the pub in Everdon will re-open by Christmas. This led to the  
question being asked "Should village pubs be classed as ACVs (Assets of  
Community Value)".
- The waste bin outside the old shop had been removed by Norse without any  
reference to the Parish Council but at the request of the new owner of Chayomer (the  
old shop). A meeting has been held with a Norse representative who advised that  
the old bin could be relocated provided it was still serviceable. A new location was  
agreed, outside the Romer Arms, which would mean that a concrete base would

need to be put in. If the bin is damaged and not serviceable then a new bin would have to be purchased as it is not West Northants Council policy to replaced damaged litter or dog bins unless they are located in prime locations. Cllr Simpson will continue to liaise with Darren Rolls at WNC

- West Northants Council are looking to shave expenditure wherever possible but Cllr Frost did not think this would adversely affect Newnham. Cllr Simpson asked about whether the grant towards the cost of cutting the grass would continue and was told this had not been mentioned.

{Cllr Frost left the meeting at 7.52.p.m}

#### **05.10.22 i) Vacancies for Parish Councillors**

The four vacancies are still being publicised but so far there has been no interest.

#### **ii) Update on change to bank signatories**

Unity Trust Bank have confirmed that the Clerk and Cllr G Hammersley are now authorised to set up payments with Cllrs T Regan, J Simpson and T Collins able to authorise payments once they have been set up. All four councillors are cheque signatories.

#### **06.10.22 Traffic calming**

##### **a) Data and Update of Speed Indicator Devices (SID)**

The positioning of the new SID for the Mounts Lane/Poets Way/Weedon Road SID is still under consideration. Cllr Hammersley reported that he had met with Steve Barber of WNC Highways and there were 2 options.

1. Install a Non-solar device on the 30mph repeater pole. This would require no additional permissions or installation. The only alternative to a solar powered device supplied by TWM is mains powered; or
2. Due to the foliage on the southern side of the road, erect an 85mm pole (minimum for solar panels) on the northern side of the road, between the first 30mph sign and the repeater sign. Pole has to be installed by authorised agent. EM Pells do this type of work for WNC.

It was agreed that option 2 should be adopted and the Clerk will get in touch with Pells for a quote for the work.

Steve Barber acknowledged the problems with the junction and will be contacting the Community Liaison Team for their advice on making the junction safer.

The Road Safety Fund part fund signage and speed reduction initiatives.

#### **07.10.22 Correspondence and AD Hoc items**

##### **a) Blocked drains/standing water in Bradbury Road**

##### **b) Blockage/standing water in Badby Road, (from drainage/ditches behind "Brookside)**

See comments under Item 4.10.22

##### **c) Letter from Forde & Mchugh re: light maintenance**

This was felt to be very expensive and the Clerk was asked to contact EON who had provided a maintenance package in the past.

##### **d) Driving on The Green – Chayomer (old shop)**

Cllr Simpson will prepare a report now that he has access to old correspondence relating to driving on The Green.

**e) Litter pick 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022.**

Only 5 people had joined in the litter pick which was disappointing as the publicity had been the same as previously. It was suggested that a date for the next litter pick should be agreed and then for it to be included in Diary Dates in the Link. An article could also be sent to Ellen Henning the local correspondent for the Link.

**f) Power for lights on The Green**

The power could be sourced from the light next to the bus shelter. . Newnham Parish Council is deemed as the lighting authority and Simon Dolan will be asked to do the connection

**g) New bin to replace bin from outside old shop**

See comment under Item 4.10.22.

**h) Local Government Boundary review**

Positive and negative comments need to be in by 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**i) Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order re; dog control and smoking in public places**

The meeting by WNC to discuss the proposal has been moved to the 11.10.22 at Towcester.

**j) Request for water supply to allotments**

An approach has been made to Anglian Water for a quote.

**k) Provision of internet to Village Hall**

Cllr Simpson advised that he had attended the VHMC AGM who had agreed to the installation if it was paid for by the Parish Council, with the VHMC agreeing to make no charge to the PC for the electricity that would be required to connect the broadband hub, Cllr Collins said that the request for free installation by Gigaclear of the internet to the village hall has been declined as Everdon received it. There is seemingly only one free installation in any "build area". Gigaclear say that a reduced rate installation is not available either. Cllr Collins will consider alternatives.

**l) Dog fouling on path by the allotments running from Coronation Road to the playing field**

This has been reported on FixMyStreet. It is noted that dog fouling is not a Parish Council responsibility, which comes under WNC Highways.

**m) WNC – Managing its financial pressures**

WNC is under financial pressure and the 2022/23 Budget it likely to be severely curtailed.

**08.10.22 Financial**

a) Bank balance at 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 is £58,890.37 of which £34,390.50 is held as General & Earmarked Reserves

b) On a proposal by the Chair it as **RESOLVED** that the following accounts be approved for payment

|     | Payee                               | Details                                   | Amount  | VAT   | Total  | Stat.Power       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|---------|-------|--------|------------------|
| B/P | Mrs M Money                         | Salary/Expenses                           | 426.80. |       | 426.80 | LGA 72 - Sec 112 |
| B/P | LCH Hedging & Grass Maintenance Ltd | Grass Cutting – September 2022 – Inv 0175 | 350.00  | 70.00 | 420.00 | LGA 72 – Sec 111 |
| B/P | LCH Hedging & Grass Maintenance Ltd | Grass Cutting – September Inv 0190        | 350.00  | 70.00 | 420.00 | LGA 72 – Sec 111 |

|     |                  |                                  |        |       |        |                  |
|-----|------------------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|------------------|
| B/P | RGS              | Tree Survey – The Green          | 300.00 | 60.00 | 360.00 | LGA 72 – Sec 111 |
| B/P | PKF              | External Audit                   | 200.00 | 40.00 | 240.00 | Audit            |
| B/P | VHMC             | Hire of Village Hall - September | 17.00  |       | 17.00  | LGA 72 – Sec 111 |
| B/P | RBL Poppy Appeal | Wreath                           | 20.00  |       | 20.00  | LGA 72 – Sec 111 |
| B/P | Steve Chandler   | Handyman – Inv Aug/Sept          | 54.00  |       | 54.00  | LGA 72 – Sec 111 |

Two additional payments were authorised, to be ratified at the November meeting. Fire Safety Case £28.98 – reimburse Mrs M Money and £41.49 additional premium to A J Gallagher to cover insurance adjustment.

c) **Monies received** – WNC Grass Cutting Grant of £448.36; £150.00 from J Dorkins as a result of a kind donation from Mrs Hodges – this amount to be attributed to the Jubilee Legacy Fund; £17,361.00, being the second instalment of the Precept.

**d) Appoint External Auditor for 2022/23**

A letter had been received from the Smaller Audit Authorities Association regarding opting out of the new 5 year scheme arranged via NCALC. After consideration it was agreed that the Council would not change its external auditors.

**09.10.22 – Update on Insurance Renewal – due 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Cllr Simpson had advised A J Gallagher, the insurers, of changes that were needed and this resulted in an increased premium. An additional payment of £41.49 is required which was approved for payment. It was also agreed to proceed with a 3 year contract.

**10.10.22 Assets**

**a) Asset Register Update**

The Chair has updated the Register and this will again be the responsibility of the Clerk to maintain.

**b) Asset mapping project**

The Clerk will continue with this as time allows.

**11.10.22 Update on Allotment Renewal Lease**

Completion has now taken place. A £40 cheque is required to cover H M Land Registry fee to register the Right of Pre-emption against the land. This right gives the Council a right to purchase the land should it come up for sale. Approval was given for the payment of £40

**1213.10.22 Planning**

**a) Issues**

**Conservation area review**

The consultation ended in August 22 but the final proposal has yet to be considered by the WNC Planning Policy Committee (with their next meeting being moved from September to October/November).

**b) Applications**

**WND/2022/0817 – Westfield, The Green – Pollarding of trees.**

Supported

**WND/2022/0762 – Construction of agricultural equipment building – The Barn at Field Farm, Staverton Road, Newnham**

Supported.

**c) Decisions**

**WND/2022/0649 – Chayomer, The Green, Newnham – Conversion/Change of use of the shop to ground floor flat** – The change of use application has been approved. The approval refers to “no parking” and “no works being carried out except between certain times”. The developer is to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy.

**13.10.22 Handyperson**

**a) Update on Roles and Responsibilities**

Cllr Simpson said the responsibilities of the Parish Council and West Northants Council need to be clearly defined as at present residents tend to think the Parish Council is responsible for most things.

Potholes and overgrown foliage in Wet Lane should be reported to FixMyStreet, initially to see what, if anything, happens.

**b) Update List of works**

This list of responsibilities is to be done in conjunction with the grass cutting contract. Responsibility for spraying weeds in gutters and overgrown pavement edges needs to be defined.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of setting up Working Parties. The areas either side of the Daventry Road/Staverton Road crossroads and up to the Burial Ground is the first area to be considered for a Working Party and this item will be included on the November agenda when it is hoped to agree a date to start work. The possibility of holding an NPC Surgery in the Romer Arms to encourage residents to become involved in the work of the Parish Council was also considered.

**14.10.22 Health and Safety**

**a) Burial Ground**

The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint about spoil, clay, being put on the grave of Mrs Isom. She had arranged for this to be removed and a layer of compost put on the grave.

In the burial ground Rules and Regulations it stipulates that spoil must be removed. Discussion turned to providing a specific area for spoil in the overspill area of the burial ground together with some compost bins.

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

There has been no progress with this as the papers were mislaid by the Diocese and Cllr Simpson has not had time to re-submit them.

**c) Play Area**

Nothing to report. The handy person will be asked to submit a check list for each meeting.

**15.10.22 Grass cutting**

**Review & Update Contract for 2023 to include improvements/usage**

Cllr Hammersley has discussed options with the current contractor. The proposals are

- to commence cutting earlier;
- weekly cuts in the season;

- To have 20 cuts, 4 more than currently with the contractor proposing a reduced rate of £280 per cut arriving at the same total of £5600.00.
- The handy person would take over all the strimming work.

If there was a dry spell in the summer, rather than cut dust, the contractor said he could do alternative work like weedkilling or hedge trimming. There would be liaison with the handy person to avoid duplication of work.

It was agreed to accept these proposals and Cllr Hammersley was authorised to agree a new 1 year contract with LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd for the 2023 season. The contractor, would be asked to provide a price for cutting/laying the hedges in the burial ground.

#### **16.10.22 Review Annual Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Update on items arising. – deferred to November meeting.

#### **17.10.22 Update on Annual Tree Survey of trees on The Green.**

The Clerk had approached James Burton of Cutting Edge and the company recommended by Mrs Mobbs, who unfortunately had not replied. The Clerk was asked to approach both companies again for a quote and time scale.

#### **18.10.22 Items for discussion at next meeting**

- i) Budget for 2023/2024
- ii) Quarter 2 Expenditure against Budget
- iii) Update on Reserves

#### **19.10.22 Date of next meeting**

*Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30.p.m. in the Village Hall*

Meeting closed 9.50.p.m

#### **Contact details**

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MM  
27.09.22