

Minutes of the Yardley Hastings Parish Council

Tuesday 5th October 2021, at 7.30pm, the Memorial Hall

Present: Ms D. Smith (*Chairman*), and Messrs A. Willis, C. Pickering, A. Rowton, (*arrived 8.30pm*) and M. Cooke.

Clerk: Mr G. Gill Public: None Councillors: Fiona Cole (*arrived 8.00pm, left 8.20pm*)

120./21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr D. Winter (work commitments), Mr J. Quilter (work commitments) and Mr R. Houghton (family medical emergency). These were approved. The Clerk confirmed that with four Councillors being in attendance at the beginning of the meeting the meeting was quorate.

121./21 Public Participation

None

122./21 WNC Councillors' Reports

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Fiona Cole on her first to the Council. Councillor Cole observed that the WNC would soon be conducting their "Spatial Options" Consultation in relation to the new West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. They were currently conducting a consultation on their proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme. They had recently invited suggestions from residents as to what issues the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees should investigate over the next twelve months. Following the COP 26 summit in Glasgow the WNC would begin to formulate its own climate strategy, which process would no doubt include public consultations. The new Electoral Register was now being compiled, and over the coming weeks the Council would be seeking to make contact with those residents who had so far failed to supply their details for entry on the Register. Covid vaccinations were now being offered to students between the ages of 12 and 15. The WNC would be taking responsibility for the resettlement of up to 200 Afghani refugees, and a "staggering" amount of money had been raised by Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire to assist in their support. Councillor Cole also observed that she and her fellow Councillors had been made aware of a number of speeding issues in various locations across the ward. This was an issue which they would be pursuing.

123./21 Members' Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda

None.

124./21 Approval of Minutes of last Parish Council meeting held 15th September

The Minutes were approved on the proposal of Mr M. Cooke, seconded by Mr A. Willis, and signed by the Chairman.

125./21 Matters arising from Minutes

(*Items 56./21 and 104./21*) The Clerk reported that in advance of the meeting he had displayed an updated "Recruitment poster" on the village notice boards inviting applications for the three casual vacancies. However he had not received any expressions of interest.

(*Item 105./21(d)*) The Clerk reported that he had now taken down the "Notice of Conclusion of Audit" from the village notice boards.

(Item 117./21) The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from Gigaclear’s new “Community Engagement Executive” to the effect that their “go live” date for 63% of the properties in the village was 10th October. It was anticipated that additional properties would become “live” in stages thereafter. After Monday 11th October Gigaclear’s website would be offering an availability checking facility – linked to post codes: <https://gigaclear.com/mycommunity>

(Item 101./21) It was noted that Councillor Stephen Clarke had received advice from the WNC’s Waste and Cleansing Manager to the effect that there had not been any changes to collections since the creation of the WNC. Residents did need to ensure that their containers were put out for collection by 7am and left out until all of the collection vehicles had been around, since each type of waste was collected by a separate lorry. Any missed collections could be reported at: <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/info/10/rubbish-and-recycling/7/report-a-missed-bin-collection>. Any short-term disruptions to collections would be notified on the WNC’s social media pages and its website.

126./21 Finance

(a) Review of (i) Clerk’s remuneration (hourly rate) and (ii) Clerk’s contracted hours

Mr C. Pickering reported that he and Mr J. Quilter (*not present*) had met with the Clerk to conduct his appraisal, which was satisfactory. They had had a very productive conversation. He observed that the Clerk’s hourly rate of pay was currently agreed at spinal point 14 (on the new NJC scale). He and Mr Quilter were jointly proposing that this should now be increased to spinal point 15 (currently £12.24 ph, an increase of 24p ph over spinal point 14), backdated to 1st July, the anniversary of the Clerk’s original appointment. This was seconded by Mr A. Willis and agreed. It was noted that the NJC rates to be applied from 1st April 2021 were still the subject of negotiation, and that once these were agreed the Clerk would be due a further back-payment.

(b) Approval of the invoice received from J. Garrard & Allen (re: Registration of Lease)

The Chairman reported that she had still not received any reply from J. Garrard & Allen. She would write to them again, advising them of the date of the next Council meeting, and inviting them to respond beforehand.

Action: Ms D. Smith

(c) Report of payments made by Standing Order and Direct Debit since the previous meeting

Brian Osborne	Handyman 01/09/21 – 30/09/21 (By Standing Order)		349.00
SSE 20/09/21	Street Lighting – August (By Direct Debit)	NET: £100.18 VAT: £5.00	105.18

(d) Payment by cheque of accounts received

G. Gill	Clerk’s remuneration - September		300.00
G. Gill	Reimbursement for purchase of Goalposts	NET: £579.17 VAT: £115.83	695.00
G. Gill	Reimbursement for purchase of basketball net	NET: £3.54 VAT: £0.71	4.25
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath		25.00
CPRE	Annual Subscription		36.00
Yardley Hastings Memorial Hall	Room Hire – May to September		45.00

The Chairman proposed, Mr A. Willis seconded, and it was agreed that the above accounts be paid.

Action: Clerk

127./21 Planning Applications

- (a) WNS/2021/1560/MAF - Variation of Condition 8 (Parking and Turning Provision) of planning permission reference S/2021/0700/MAF – Change of Use of land from agricultural to recreational use (resubmission of S/2013/1594/MAF & S/2018/1167/MAF)

The Chairman observed that since notification of this application had only been received earlier in the day it had not been included as a specific item on the previously published Agenda. In view of the subject matter of the application she was therefore of the opinion that the Council should delay submitting a formal response until such time as the residents of The Leys had had an opportunity to view the application and voice any comments which they might wish to make. Any such comments could then be taken into consideration in formulating the Parish Council's response to the Application. This was agreed. The Clerk said he would ask the Planning Officer for an extension so as to give the Parish Council an opportunity to discuss the application at its next meeting before submitting its formal response. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk observed that the purpose of the Application appeared to be the removal of a potential obstacle which could have the effect of preventing Francis Jackson Homes from re-starting their housebuilding operations on the site adjacent to The Leys, which they were now keen to do. As currently framed Condition 8 could technically prevent Francis Jackson Homes from starting the construction (on the adjacent site) of the main access road to the site from the public highway and the rear access to The Leys, since the "pre-commencement" condition, namely the approval by the WNC of a detailed plan to be submitted by the Parish Council in relation to the development of the proposed sports field, had not been met and was not likely to be met for some considerable time. It appeared that the precise wording of Condition 8 had not been fully thought through at the time when the Permission had been granted. The proposed variation, if granted, would make it clear that the immediate construction of the main access road on the adjoining site to the south would not now constitute a breach of Condition 8. In support of the Application Francis Jackson Homes were submitting that Condition 7 of the Permission was sufficient of itself to provide the necessary protection in relation to the proposed sports field, requiring approval of plans by the WNC before construction of any new facilities on site.

128./21 Recreation Ground

The Chairman expressed her thanks to the Councillors who had carried out the repointing of the "Tunnel" and the installation of the new litter bins. *(Item 104./21)*

The Clerk advised that following receipt of the grant monies promised in relation to the purchase of the Goalposts (£434.37) the balance of the Grant remaining unclaimed would be £3,267.16, and that to take advantage of this the Council would need to spend a further £1,089.05 of its own money, to purchase equipment to the value of £4,356.21 (net of VAT).

- (a) Signage

The Chairman asked if Councillors could each bring some positive ideas to the next meeting, with suggestions for detailed wording. Photos of signage in situ elsewhere would be a useful contribution to the discussion. **Action: All Councillors**

- (b) Development of the tarmac area

Mr C. Pickering presented two quotes which he had obtained for the installation of a "kicking wall", to be installed alongside the edge of the tarmac area. The first, from Playdale, in the sum of £3,773.84 + VAT, was for their "Target Rebound Wall", a straight timber construction measuring 3 metres in width and 1.6 metres in height. The second, from a company called "Action Play and Leisure", based in Norfolk, was for a "Timber Kick Wall with Markings", a concave timber construction measuring 6.4 metres in width and 2.2 metres in height. This was priced at £2,940.00 + VAT. It was agreed that the Council were minded to go with the quote from Action

Play and Leisure. Mr Pickering said he now would produce a third quote to satisfy the requirements of the WNC's Grants Officer. The Clerk said that at the same time as submitting the three quotes he would enquire if there was anybody in the SNC with expertise in the area of play installations who could give advice as to positioning. **Action: Mr C. Pickering, Clerk**

(c) Installation of goalposts

The Clerk advised that he had provisionally arranged for the new goalposts to be delivered on site. However it was pointed out that unless the components were assembled and installed immediately after delivery there was a risk that they might be stolen or vandalised. It would be better if they were delivered to a location where they could be kept securely until such time as arrangements could be made for their installation. The Clerk apologised and said he would make an appropriate change to the delivery arrangements. **Action: Clerk**

It was noted that the remains of the old goalposts were still present on site, and needed to be properly disposed of at an early opportunity. Also work needed to be done to tidy up the site of the contractors' secure compound and then possibly re-seed it.

It was noted that Brian Osborne's latest report was clear.

129./21 The Leys Development

The Chairman reported that for various reasons it had not yet been possible to arrange the proposed meeting with Mark Henderson. Mark Henderson had advised that he would be having a further meeting with Francis Jackson Homes on Friday 8th October, following which he was hoping to agree a meeting date which was convenient for all parties, including Francis Jackson Homes.

Ideally it should take place in advance of the next Council Meeting. **Action: Ms D. Smith**

130./21 Correspondence

None.

131./21 Emergency Plan – Report from the working party

Ms D. Smith reported that following the establishment of the West Northants Council she had been contacted by the new personnel now leading the Flood Resilience Pathfinder Project, which was being "rebooted" (*see item 128./20*). It was anticipated that a catch-up online meeting would be in place by the next Parish Council meeting, so as to establish the next steps, in particular the response to the map of problem areas and the visit by the civil engineers.

132./21 Dog-fouling and other litter

Nothing to report.

133./21 Village Sewerage system

Nothing to report. The Clerk observed that there had not been any reported sewage overflows since November 2019, when Anglian Water had had to carry out some works at the pumping station to resolve a flooding issue at a nearby property (*see item 200./19*). It seemed highly likely that these works, carried out in November 2019, had effectively cured the overflow issues which had previously been occurring on a regular basis. He asked if he could now discontinue this item as a regular item on the agenda, and this was agreed.

134./21 Highways - Update on outstanding matters

It was noted that two days previously Councillor Stephen Clarke had logged updates to Fix My Street Report 2520777 (broken storm drain in Chase Park Road - *Item 66./21*), and Reports 2801763 and 2392685 (repeated flooding of the carriageway of the main A428). In both cases he

had asked for updates from Highways as to what actions they might or might not have carried out in response to the original reports. The Clerk observed that so far Highways had not uploaded any responses to Councillor Clarke's updates.

It was also noted that following Councillor Clarke's report to "Fix my Street" on 15th September (*see item 101./21*) the deformed pavement outside 14 Northampton Road had been repaired within a week. It appeared that the work had been done to a good standard.

135./21 Police and Neighbourhood Watch

In the absence of Mr R. Houghton there was nothing to report.

136./21 Pocket Park and Millennium Triangle

It was proposed to cut the wildflower area of the Millennium Triangle the following week, after which some new wildflower seeds could be spread (*see item 87./21*).

137./21 Street Lighting

Nothing to report.

138./21 Councillors' Reports and Concerns

Ms D. Smith observed that the "There but not there" silhouette, currently installed in the closed churchyard, had originally been installed in the highway verge south of the Millennium Triangle. She wondered if it might be appropriate to return it to that location for a few weeks either side of Remembrance Sunday. Mr C. Pickering observed that the construction of the silhouette was not particularly robust, and that the risks involved in moving it were best avoided. The Clerk concurred, and it was agreed to leave the silhouette in its present location.

139./21 Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday 27th October