

NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 18th March 2010 at 7.30pm.

- Present:** Mr R. Brooke (Chairman)
Mr R. Bryant
Mrs M. Nightingale
Mr E. J. Mitchell
Mrs S. Wye
Mr R. Leonard (Clerk)
Dr Nigel Paterson (Alresford & District Partnership)
- Apologies:** District Councillor Neil Baxter (post meeting)

1. Presentation by visiting speaker.

The Chairman welcomed Dr Paterson, who had come to introduce the ADP to the Council.

The Partnership sought to link surrounding parishes with Alresford Town, and to provide a meeting point so that the needs of those parishes might be considered in the future development of the Town. There were quarterly meetings of the Partnership, with specialist groups responsible for traffic, transport and policing matters.

Dr Paterson invited the Council to send a representative to the next Partnership meeting, and asked if there were any pressing issues that the council would like addressed. Councillors advised that the shortage of car parking space in the town was the main issue for parishioners, even following the recent provision of additional parking at the Perins School site.

Dr Paterson was thanked by the Chairman for his talk: Council would consider the matters raised.

2. Community Safety.

The Clerk reported that due to a late change in the meeting date the police were unable to be present. On the PACT initiative it was reported that a box for communications with the police had been sited in the church. The Neighbourhood Watch link had reported a theft of batteries in the parish, and the Countrywatch service was providing an overview of rural crime in the area.

3. District Councillor's Report.

Councillor Baxter had sent a written report that had been circulated to all Councillors. This was taken as read, and accepted.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting.

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th January 2010 were accepted and signed.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

(a) **Totford Woodyard.** A planning application for a single dwelling on the site had now been submitted to the Planning Authority, as presented in draft to the October Council Meeting.

(b) **Travellers at the Chipping Depot.** The earth bund at the site entrance had been reformed, and additional concrete barrier units placed across the driveway. There had been no reported incidents of travellers camps in the parish since the last meeting.

(c) **Web site.** The Clerk had reviewed the web sites of local parishes for ideas, and was continuing to add to the Northington site. The Minutes of the January Meeting, and notices for the March Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting had been incorporated.

(d) **Dial-a-Ride service.** The Clerk reported that the Winchester service was operated by Winchester Area Community Action (WACA). They had not responded to requests for details of possible charges, but a link had been found on their web site, and this would be included on the parish web site.

(e) **Traffic speed through the parish.** The Clerk had written to County Councillor Porter for a progress report on the ongoing review of speed limits on A and B class roads across the County. The Clerk was asked to chase this up.

6. Finance.

(a) **Financial position.** A draft Financial Statement for the year end had been circulated to Councillors, and was accepted. This showed some savings against the budget, and a forecast final balance of £1147.11

(b) **Payments due.** Council approved the payment of £30.00 to the Village Hall for the use of the hall for council meetings through the year, and £250.04 to the Clerk for his final quarter salary and miscellaneous cash expenses.

(c) **Additional payment.** Councillors agreed to make a Section 137 donation of £25.00 towards the running costs of the Alresford & District Partnership.

7. Planning.

Totford Sawmill, Basingstoke Road, Totford.
Demolition of Sawmill and replacement with new detached dwelling house.

The Council considered that one or two houses on the plot would be in keeping with the rural nature of the site and with adjacent properties. It was recognized, however, that the parish was included in the 'Wider Countryside' of the District Development Framework, and as such all development would be limited to that which had an essential need to be located in the countryside.

A letter of comment from a neighbour had been received on the day, and was noted. It was agreed that the points raised should be forwarded to the planning department alongside the observations of the Council.

8. Reports and Questions from Councillors.

(a) **Disposal of Dog Excrement.** The Chairman had raised this with the alleged dog owner.

(b) **Meeting on Emergency Plans.** Councillor Nightingale reported on the meeting held in Winchester, where parish representatives reviewed the effectiveness of emergency planning in the aftermath of the abnormal winter weather recently experienced. This was to brief District Councillors and to assist them in further development of their emergency procedures.

9. Correspondence.

(a) **Letter from Lt Col Lamb.**

(i) On the condition of the Millennium Seat by the churchyard wall, this would be looked at to see if it should be left to weather naturally, or whether it should be treated with preservative. Lt Col Lamb's offer to carry out any preservative treatment was appreciated.

(ii) No objection was raised to his suggestion of discrete signs in the church car park to discourage fouling by dogs.

(iii) His request for extra grit/salt bins in the parish was being discussed with the highway authority.

(b) **Letter from HCC regarding additional grit/salt bins.** It was agreed that HCC should be asked to provide extra bins at the Village Hall junction, the Woolpack junction, and at a suitable site on Northington Hill.

10. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting, at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd April.

The Chairman and Clerk would present their reports, and Councillor Bryant would review the neighbourhood watch scheme. County and District Councillors would be invited to attend and speak. Apologies for absence were presented by Councillors Nightingale and Wye.

11. Date for next Council Meeting. This was scheduled for Thursday 17th June 2010, in Swarraton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.