

## NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

**Present:** Mr Roger Brooke (Chairman)  
Mr John Mitchell  
Mrs Monica Nightingale  
Mrs Fleur Boyce  
Mr Simon Walker  
Mrs Rhona Hatchley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr Jackie Porter, Cllr Kim Gottlieb

#### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

#### 2. Councillors Reports

In her absence, **Cllr Jackie Porter's** email report was circulated which covered a number of local issues of interest to the parish including grit bins, disabled badges and under £30k grants. The full report is attached.

#### 3. Chairman's report

Roger Brooke introduced his report by saying that he had been invited to a **budget meeting** at Winchester City Council which he could not attend. John Mitchell kindly volunteered to represent the council. A further letter had been received from Marc Samways on the subject of the **speed limit** on the B3046 reiterating that the temporary 30mph signs would not be in place until after the New Year. Discussion of what to do next followed and it was agreed that Roger should write back and attempt to fix a date for the work. Fleur Boyce said she had been in touch with Andy Smith about the drainage on the corner adjacent to her property – he said he would contact Peter Eade in the relevant council department for action. The chairman reported that there had been some confusion in the handover of waste collection to **BIFFA**, in particular his own refuse had remained uncollected for several weeks. This appears to have been resolved now but Monica Nightingale and a number of other residents had not had their green waste bags collected for two weeks. Monica agreed to notify the Clerk for action if this was not collected this Friday.

#### 4. Parish Plan

Following mention of the **Parish Plan** by our county and city councillors at the last meeting, the Clerk had spoken to Steve Lincoln at WCC about what it would involve. She described the process to the council (an open village meeting, the appointment of a committee and writing of a description of the village, its facilities and infrastructure). It was felt that this had already been done in December 2010. The report is on the village website. No action will be taken for now however changes to the planning laws in the recently passed Localism Bill were considered highly relevant to our village and should be tested at the first opportunity.

#### 5. Grit Bins

Monica Nightingale had first made contact with WCC about the issue of grit bins in May 2010. The first one was put in the village in December 2010 followed by a mis-placed one in Kite's Hill. Monica had then spent six months trying to get it moved to Northington Hill where it is now, but she is also trying to get one put halfway down the hill at the end of Church Lane. It was suggested that she contact Peter Lamb at Ruffside to establish where best to position the new bin. Robert Larard had also contacted Monica to ask for a bin at the top of Chalk Hill. Monica has agreed to ask both for this one and a further one on the Village Hall junction of the B3046. It was also agreed that she should pass Gina Chandler's details on to Robert Larard so he could contact her directly. The council agreed that it was important to get the bins in position before the first snow and is very grateful to Monica for all her efforts in sorting this out.

## 6. Church Lane Repairs

Peter Lamb has contacted the Parish Council to ask for support for his endeavours to get funding for repairs to the Church Lane. The council all agreed the lane is in a very poor condition, being a danger to drivers and pedestrians alike. Concerns were raised about proper drainage, the strength of the adjacent wall and the subsequent ownership of the lane. It is currently the property of the Grange Estate but Lord Ashburton is happy for repairs to go ahead. The Clerk had put Peter in touch with Cllr Jackie Porter who has funding available for "simple road/footway schemes". It was decided to support Peter's initiative and the Clerk was asked to keep up to date with developments.

## 7. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that Francesca Baring's application, reported in the last minutes had been resubmitted, letters of support had been sent and we await the outcome. Another planning application had been received for an extension to 76 Northington. The Clerk agreed to email the plans to the council for review.

## 8. Clerk's Report

The Clerk circulated the **Second Quarter financial statement** produced by the treasurer. As at 4<sup>th</sup> November, the balance in the Nat West current account is £2,085.87 and in the Nationwide is £1,112.35. Four payments were made in the last quarter as per the budget (£438.00 as part two of the Churchyard upkeep grant; £500.00 to the Village Hall; £200.00 Clerk's salary and an unbudgeted £ 27.00 for repairs to the Millennium Seat. Simon Walker offered to liaise with Emma La Fontaine Jackson, our treasurer, to update the content of the quarterly report and produce it in a more user friendly format.

John Mitchell raised concerns as to whether our Parish Council **insurance policy** covered us if anyone should be injured climbing the recently repaired stiles on the Millennium walk. The Clerk had spoken to Came and Company and established that we are covered for such incidents. Roger agreed to write a note of thanks to Ann Leonard's son-in law who carried out the most recent repairs.

## 9. Any other business

The Chairman is keen that the planned **Village Hall refurbishment** continues as soon as possible with the heating, front entrance and toilets as the highest priority.

Philippa Pellereau, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee contacted the Clerk to invite her and any other Council members who were interested, to join her at a meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the **Diamond Jubilee Celebration** in the village. She proposes to have a beacon, a barbeque and a tractor ride for the children.

Fleur Boyce had received a response to a letter she had sent to **Stagecoach**, objecting to changes to the bus timetable. In response, Stagecoach was sorry that we were concerned but was unable to do anything to rectify the situation and could not coordinate their timetable with CANGO as it was a separate organisation. Monica Nightingale raised the subject of **septic tanks** and the confusion arising in the village amongst those who had paid for registration before discovering that it might not have been necessary. She gave us the appropriate web address for enquiries [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/132387.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/132387.aspx) Simon Walker agreed to send us information he has on the subject which he hoped would clarify the position.

Fleur Boyce reported that she had tidied up the **bus shelter** at her end of the village for which we are very grateful. The other bus shelter near the village hall requires repairs to the roof which Ian Cammack has very kindly agreed to fund. Fleur asked the Clerk to try and put a late advertisement in the Oxdrove for helpers and plans to contact Mr Whitcher who might be able to manage the project.

## 10. Date of the next meeting

Monday January 30th, 7.30pm, Northington and Swarraton Village Hall