

NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday September 29th, 2011

Present: Cllr Jackie Porter
Cllr Kim Gottlieb
Mr Roger Brooke (Chairman)
Mr John Mitchell
Mrs Monica Nightingale
Mrs Fleur Boyce
Mr Simon Walker
Mrs Rhona Hatchley (Clerk)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 23rd June were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising

Point 8 - John Mitchell asked whether it was the case that Emma La Fontaine Jackson, our new Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), needed to be an elected councillor. The Clerk had spoken to Vendy Treagust, Member Support Officer at the HALC, who confirmed that the post does not have to be held by a councillor although the RFO should report the finances through the Clerk who would still be ultimately responsible.

3. Councillors Reports:

Cllr Kim Gottlieb introduced himself to members of the council and explained that as an experienced surveyor, his main area of responsibility at Winchester City Council is planning. He reported that the **Barton Farm** planning application had been turned down but warned that this might result in pressure being put on other areas considered suitable for a similar development.

The proposed **Woodmancott Wind Farm** was also discussed and whilst Kim expressed his support for renewable energy in general, he felt that it might be wise to wait and see if other less invasive forms of energy production emerge before committing to wind farms. The Chairman, Roger Brooke explained that although the Woodmancott wind farm was not specifically a parish matter, we should express our general support for opposition to a project which makes such a huge visual impact on the area. Simon Walker suggested that if we are to object, we should be sure to look at or support viable alternatives and energy saving measures.

Cllr Gottlieb also reported that the cabinet was about to consider the **Blueprint** recommendations; feedback showed that our contributions had all been well received and it was time to put together a village plan. He suggested that Steve Lincoln, Community Planning Manager at Winchester City Council, could come and show us what exactly what we needed to do. Roger Brooke mentioned that if the on-going plans for development in the village and surrounding farms came to fruition, we would already have a modest increase in accommodation. Monica Nightingale observed that all these plans are for the development of existing buildings which would otherwise fall down.

Cllr Gottlieb explained that the City Council responsibility also includes our local rubbish collection. This has recently been taken over by BIFFA and will now be collected on different days to be confirmed.

Cllr Jackie Porter circulated her recent report (attached) which covered many local issues including the **CANGO** bus which we are happy to report is being kept on through Northington and Swarraton; the **grit bins** which are at last to be moved into their proper places the village; the continued importance of registering for faster **Broadband**; and most importantly, the **speed limit on the B3046**. After strenuous efforts on our behalf, and supported by letters from the chairman and councillors, Jackie has persuaded the new section head, Marc Samways to take up our case and will keep us informed of progress. Unfortunately in order for

our case to be taken up, he will have to replace another on-going project, but Jackie remains optimistic and members of the council thanked her for her efforts. Roger Brooke suggested that the council could part fund the work and also asked if another police officer could come and assess the road in question. Fleur Boyce agreed to write another letter, this time to Marc Samways, detailing the accidents that have happened adjacent to her property. In his letter to last month's Oxdrove, Steve Brine MP offered to help us where possible.

4. Chairman's report Blueprint and Speed limit on B3046, see above

5. Woodmancott Wind Farm Proposal see above

6. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that Francesca Baring's application to Winchester City Council for "the removal of condition 5 of permitted permission ... for commercial purposes" had been refused. Given that at our last meeting we reviewed the plans with no objections, Roger Brooke agreed to sign a letter of support which will be sent to the case officer Jane Rarock.

7. Village Hall refurbishment

Roger Brooke suggested the council should write to Philippa Pellereau and her committee to congratulate them on the splendid refurbishment which has transformed the hall and also to those (private and public) responsible for the grant which helped to finance the project.

8. Northington Parish Council website

The Clerk described the updates and additions to the website and encouraged council members to publicise its existence as an electronic Parish Notice Board where minutes of council meetings, CANGO timetables and other notices can be found. <http://communities.hants.gov.uk/northington-index>

Rhona also explained that she was working with the Village Hall Committee to maintain the list of email addresses in the village for circulating information and saving paper. These will of course be used confidentially and for village matters only.

9. Clerk's report

The Clerk presented the first quarter's report for this financial year which showed the current balance of both Nat West and Nationwide combined, at £2,698.26.

Quarterly reports, the annual budget and the annual audit will now be produced by Emma La Fontaine Jackson, and the Internal Auditor will be James Hatchley. The Clerk is very grateful for these offers of help. Elaine Capp has kindly volunteered to be the Neighbourhood Watch rep for Northington. She will circulate the NW newsletter which comes out three times a year and will be a point of contact for the local police.

10. Any other business

Fleur Boyce has kindly agreed to talk to Ian Cammack about the refurbishment of the bus shelter in the village which is still used as a pick up point for the CANGO bus. Previous plans to dismantle it have now been abandoned.

The chairman suggested that a short letter to the Oxdrove be written summarising some of the main points of the meeting minutes. The clerk agreed to draft this.

11. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 16th November, 7.30pm, Northington and Swarraton Village Hall