

NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Flint House, Grange Park on Monday 30th January, 2012

Present: Mr Roger Brooke (Chairman) Mr John Mitchell
Mrs Monica Nightingale Mrs Fleur Boyce
Mr Simon Walker Mrs Rhona Hatchley (Clerk)
PCSO Siobhan Murray & PCSO Laura Willshire (first part of meeting)

Apologies: Cllr Jackie Porter, Cllr Kim Gottlieb

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 16th November, 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

2. Police report

PCSO Siobhan Murray from the Hampshire Constabulary introduced herself and her trainee colleague PCSO Laura Willshire. PCSO Murray is the new police officer based at Alresford Police Station, responsible for Beat 1 which includes Northington, Itchen Abbas, Avington, Ovington and Easton. She is also an Equine Liaison Officer. PCSO Murray replaces PC Andy Reid and she explained that Sergeant Mandy Smith has been replaced by Sergeant Mark Lamper who has left Winchester City Centre to take overall responsibility for our area. PCSO Murray asked us to be as vigilant as possible and drew our attention to the most prevalent local crimes namely metal theft, poaching and the theft of saddle stones; she suggested the use of *smart water* to mark our belongings. Council members asked if help could be given by the police to control speeding delivery vans in the build-up to the opera and also speeding vehicles on the straight stretch of the B3046 through the middle of the village. PCSO Murray gave us her mobile number (07901102508) as the best first point of contact and asked us to circulate it to our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Elaine Capp. The Clerk agreed to email her all our contact details in return.

Councillors' reports

In her absence, **Cllr Jackie Porter's** email reports for January and February were circulated. They covered a number of local issues of interest to the parish including the maintenance of footways, broadband and the County Council budget.

Cllr Kim Gottlieb had sent his apologies and asked to be kept informed of any developments in the areas of local planning which is now high on the City Council's agenda.

3. Chairman's report

Speed limit - the Chairman was happy to report that the County Council had finally placed a small 30mph speed limit sign on the northbound approach on the B3046 into Northington but unfortunately the corresponding sign has not yet been placed on the southbound approach. Fleur Boyce was thanked for her efforts in achieving as much as we have and she agreed to chase up the missing sign. Once both signs are in position the Chairman plans to write to the Council thanking them for their interim measures but reminding them of our ultimate aim to have a 30mph limit stretching from Swarraton Farm to The Woolpack Inn.

Localism - the **Localism Bill** is now law and the Chairman drew our attention to the fact that as promised it does give residents the power to instigate local referenda on any local issue and the power to veto excessive council tax increases. On a local level, towns and villages are being encouraged to produce **Parish Plans** where appropriate. It was felt that whilst our village is probably too small for such a project we should invite Steve Lincoln who is the Community Planning Manager at Winchester City Council, to come to our next meeting and explain the plan in greater depth. The Clerk agreed to contact Steve to organise this.

4. WCC Budget Meeting Report

The Chairman thanked John Mitchell for attending this meeting on his behalf. John reported back to the council the breakdown of City Council income and expenditure summarised on the attached slide show and minutes of the meeting held on 13th Dec 2012.

5. Grit Bins

Monica Nightingale has continued to liaise on a weekly basis with Gina Chandler in her quest for sufficient grit bins to be positioned on Northington Hill both at the entrance to **Church Lane** and next to the **Village Hall**. The position of the bin at the Village Hall crossroads has been agreed (as you leave the village, just above the village hall on the left). The best position for the grit bin near the church is generally thought to be at the entrance to Church Lane. There is some confusion at the Council office as to the name of the hill which has led to incorrect positioning of grit bins in the past but Cllr Jackie Porter has since assured Monica that the bins will be in their correct places as soon as possible, preferably before we have significant ice or snow. Monica was thanked once again for all her efforts with this.

6. Bus Shelter Repairs

Fleur Boyce reported that unfortunately we have had no response to our advertisement placed in the Oxdrove asking for help to restore the village bus shelter. However, John Mitchell and Simon Walker have bravely agreed to undertake the work. Simon has kindly donated some oak cladding for the outside and Ian Cammack has generously offered to pay for the roof to be fixed. It is hoped that this work will be done in the spring. Many thanks to everyone for their help.

7. Church Lane Repairs

Peter Lamb has kept the Clerk updated on the progress with repairs to the Church Lane - as yet it is still at the planning stage. Cllr Jackie Porter had suggested a metal tread as an option. It is hoped that a grant might be forthcoming.

8. Planning Applications

Plans for the new **Meeting Hall** to be built at the Lunways site by the **Plymouth Brethren** (<http://planningapplications.winchester.gov.uk> planning ref W01603/07) had been sent to the Clerk for us to look at. It is an unobtrusive, low level modern building. The preliminary plans have already been approved by Winchester City Council and the Itchen Abbas Parish Council. No objections were raised and it was agreed that the tidying up of the previously derelict site by such a conscientious group would be welcomed.

9. Clerk's Report

The financial report prepared by the treasurer for the third quarter was presented: as at 4th January 2012, the balance in the Nat West current account was £1,240.77 and in the Nationwide was £1,112.38. Three cheques were countersigned by Monica Nightingale £200.00 for the Clerk's salary 3rd quarter (in arrears); £200.00 for the Clerk's salary 4th quarter and £70.00 expenses claimed by the Clerk for the hire of the Village Hall and payment of the internal audit. It was agreed that a simpler, larger format for the quarterly reports would be acceptable and Simon has a meeting scheduled with Emma La Fontaine Jackson to address this.

The noticeboard at Northington crossroads has fallen down. It belongs to the Parish Council. At a time when emails are widely used for notices and as we have a better, weatherproof noticeboard at the village hall it was agreed not to replace the board.

Having attended the **Village Hall Committee** meeting to plan the **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations** (2-5 June 2012), the Clerk reported that provided there is enough support for them, the most likely village events will be a barbeque and a beacon. Exact times and dates are to be confirmed.

We have also received a letter from the County Council offering villages a free **oak tree** to plant in commemoration of the Jubilee. Simon Walker suggested planting it in the water meadows in a landmark position where an old tree has died and fallen down. The Clerk agreed to order the tree and contact the landowner Mark Bickford-Smith to discuss the location.

10. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 27th March, 7.30pm, Northington and Swarraton Village Hall.

Date of the Annual Meeting Tuesday 2nd May, 2012 to be approved by the Village Hall Committee.