

## **Northmoor Parish Council**

**Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 9 January 2019  
Northmoor Village Hall**

### **Parish Council Members Present**

Dr G Shelton - Chairman  
Dr M Sears  
Mrs A Adams  
Mrs S Woolford  
Mr P Winder

Mr M Ryan (Clerk)

**Apologies.** District Councillors Steve Good and Hilary Fenton.

### **Councillors and Public Present**

County Councillor Charles Mathew, parishioners Valerie Ryan and Graeme Ogilvie.

**Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 14 November 2018 had been previously circulated to Parish Councillors. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising not covered in the Agenda.

### **Item 4/5. Reports from Councillors and questions from Parishioners.**

Parish Councillor Sharon Woolford spoke about the concerns over the lack of clear vision at the junction of Bablock Road, West End and Thameside Court, and asked whether a mirror could be purchased to improve visibility. There was a discussion around the need for approval from Highways, and the cost. The conclusion was that this was something for the residents association at Thameside to pursue.

Councillor Graham Shelton referred to a request from the Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) for a meeting to look into designating walks around Northmoor and a need for a map showing where the footpaths were. The Clerk said he would forward a map to Graham.

Councillor Maureen Sears spoke about the concerns over the lack of water passing along the village brook for most of the previous year, and she had met with Mr Jackaman of White Horse Contractors to discuss the problem and look for causes. Mr Jackaman had submitted a report advising the cost for an initial GPS survey would be

£300 plus VAT, and the cost to clear some 80m of stream would be £1200 plus VAT. In addition there was a need for permissions from the EA and local landowners. It was agreed to put this on hold for the moment whilst some base water table measurement figures were requested from Hansons and other issues and ways for carrying out this work were investigated.

Councillor Peter Winder reported on his investigation into whether more use could be made of the Comet bus and extra days provided. This service every Tuesday going to Eynsham and on to Witney only has a regular group of some four passengers and whether it would be any more popular if on another day such as a Friday was not known but probably not. It was decided to leave the service unaltered.

Peter said that the Northmoor Website was being looked after by Andrew Williams and Sue Harrison. He wondered whether it would be visited more frequently if a Northmoor App was produced that could be used on mobile and other computer systems.

Peter said that the computer club, which is open to anyone inside or outside the parish, was providing useful help and support to a regular group. No charge was made for this service and no costs other than the cost of hiring the village hall. The Parish Council had supported this for its first year, ending at the end of March and he had made soundings to see whether any grants were available to assist.

Lastly Peter spoke on a suggestion to mark the completion of phase 2 of the Hall refurbishment with a joint public meeting of the Parish Council and the Village Hall sometime in March where a further roll out of the Northmoor Vision, taking in the footpaths, cycling, village brook, care for the vulnerable, to name just four could be complemented with the showing of what had been achieved with this latest work on the village hall and an appreciation of those who had contributed to the works. It was agreed that Peter, Bella and Maureen would meet and discuss this idea.

County Councillor Charles Mathew advised the meeting that there was a public meeting at Stanton Harcourt on 21 January to discuss the problems of the B449 particularly in relation to the dangers of cycling between Stanton Harcourt, Sutton and Eynsham, a young cyclist was killed in December; and the additional problem of the high level of HGVs on this road. Charles gave an example of Sheehans HGVs where recent permission has increased the frequency from 100,000 to 170,000 vehicle movements per annum.

Councillor Mathew also reported that the OCC budget was being considered for the coming financial year.

Michael Ryan, Clerk, said he had listed a number of road repair issues on Fix My Street and would see how well it was responded to. Councillor Mathew asked if he could be given the list of defects.

## **Item 6. Finance**

The Clerk in his role as Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish presented a proposal for the Precept for the financial year 2019/20. The spreadsheet detailed the precept set for 2018/19, that is the current year, the expenditure incurred up to the end of December, and expected total for the year. These figures were extrapolated to produce the total monies required for 2019/20, a figure of £4280 after taking into account the District Council special grant of £45. This represents an increase for a Band D Property of 8% and is due to the reduced total requested in 2018/19 to negate the expected increase forecast for the District Rate.

After a discussion on this proposal the Precept was agreed at the suggested figure of £4280.

The Clerk continued to explain that the District Council had agreed to a short-term loan of £38,000 to the Village Hall. This had been agreed to assist in their cash flow during the building works. The District could only make this sum quickly available by loaning it to the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to this arrangement after receiving assurances from the Village Hall that the monies would be repaid within the period of the loan. As of today's date the monies have been received and paid to the Village Hall.

### **Item 7. Planning.**

**12/04327/HHD** Replacement of existing hedge with a stone wall. Mr M Ellett, Yew Tree Cottage. This had been responded to before this meeting to comply with the consultation period. There were no objections from councillors.

### **Correspondence**

**WODC Oxfordshire Plan 2050.** Notice of public consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement. The contents were noted.

**OCC Paul Wilson, Highways Dept.** Information on the officers responsible for the roads.

**WODC.** Notice of meeting for Parish Councils on 7 March. Councillors wishing are to attend to notify the Clerk.

**WODC** Survey on proposed increase of £5 on District Council's rates. This is the same as was forecast last year and not carried out. Last year it encouraged this Council to reduce its precept. No similar reduction possible this year.

**NHS Survey.** A consultation on an older People's Strategy for Oxfordshire 2019-2024. The contents were noted.

There were a number of journals and advertising literature sent to the Council since the last meeting.

### **Any Other Business.**

There being no other business the Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place on Wednesday 13 February 2019

Signed.....Date...13/02/2019