

Northmoor Parish Council

**Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 12 June 2019
Northmoor Village Hall**

Parish Council Members Present

Dr G Shelton - Chairman
Dr M Sears
Mrs S Woolford
Mr P Winder
Mr M Ryan (Clerk)

Apologies. Parish Councillor Bella Adams, County Councillor Charles Mathew and District Councillor Steve Good.

Councillors and Public Present

District Councillor Hilary Fenton, parishioners Mr & Mrs Sparrowhawk, Mark Heffernan and Valerie Ryan.

Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 8 May 2019 had been previously circulated to Parish Councillors. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising.

There was a discussion about the control of the brook at the lasher in Brook Farm and a suggestion that the old boards need replacing. Where the funding to carry out these works could be found would need to be researched.

Item 4/5 Reports from Councillors and Matters Parishioners wish to raise.

District Councillor Hilary Fenton reported that with the Council having several new members there was little to report other than the recent public debate over the proposed new motor museum at Enstone that had now received planning consent.

Councillor Woolford reported that the seat at Bablock corner had been replaced.

Councillor Sears reported on the environmental issues raised at the recent Annual Parish Meeting by Soraya Heffernan, which were expected to be followed up in the coming months.

Maureen also reported regarding the offer of young trees for communities by the Woodland Trust the problem was one of a lack of public places in which to plant them.

Councillor Winder reported that the computer club was still operating, though numbers were small.

Peter also referred to “Healthy Northmoor” a project to encourage parishioners to take part in healthy exercise, and said that this would be raised again as the year progressed.

The Clerk reported that he was in communication with Sheila Ladmore-Murphy about looking for a second named person to be involved with keeping a watch on the defibrillator at Bablockhythe.

The playing field is in need of extra rubber chippings on some apparatus, and Graham Shelton added that work was needed in the ground of the village hall, hedge, ditch etc.

Graham also said that the Village Hall had a new projector and screen being installed very shortly and whilst they had a grant to cover the cost, this grant was not payable until it was installed and paid for. Graham asked whether the Parish Council could give a temporary loan to cover this cash-flow problem. Michael Ryan as Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) for the Council said that if Councillors agreed the Council could afford to loan £8,000 for a short period. Councillors Woolford and Winder both agreed, but as both Councillors Shelton and Sears had an interest in the village hall it was felt that it required Councillor Adams to also agree. Clerk to ask Councillor Adams. If agreed it was felt that a loan for three months could be offered.

Item 6. Finance

The Council reviewed the Annual Accounts statement for the financial year 2018/19.

Michael Ryan, Parish Clerk, as RFO explained that this had been an unusual year for the Parish Council Accounts. In a normal year the income and expenditure would be somewhere in the range of four to five thousand pounds and even the receipt of £2060 from Park Farm Development Section 106 monies, requested for the renewal of the fence between the Playing Field and the Village Hall car park, would be well below the £25K threshold for requiring an external audit. However this was not a normal year. The first factor was the village hall trustees had approached WODC for a short-term loan to cover staged payments for building works to the hall. WODC agreed to a £38,000 loan but payable through the Parish Council. In addition a grant that the village hall had successfully negotiated from WODC towards the building project, and independent of the Parish Council, had three of its four progress payments, totalling £15499.55, paid in error into the Parish Council account.

Michael sought an exemption from the Auditors, explaining that these large sums were simply being passed on but no exemption was forthcoming.

So, in summary, the Parish Council monies spent on services provided to the Parish Council in 2018/19 were, with the exception of the new fence, the normal expenditure normally experienced, but with the large loan added in meant that an external audit is required.

Councillors approved the Accounts.

The Council approved the following payments: -

Scott Gillam for grass cutting in April £240

The Clerk for expenses incurred on items listed for the playing field £67.44

Item 7. Planning.

19/01202/FUL. Erection of garage for Mr & Mrs Sparrowhawk. There were no objections from Councillors.

Correspondence

Keith Butler, WODC. A notice asking for notification of any changes to polling area or polling places. The Clerk to write to advise there are no changes required.

OCC, Traffic Regulation Team. Notice of proposed closure of Cow Lane leading to Stanton Harcourt for four weeks, starting on 24 June. The Clerk advised the meeting that County Councillor Charles Mathew was urgently seeking to have the closure delayed until the school summer holiday break.

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 9.10 pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place on Wednesday 10 July 2019

Signed.....Date...11/09/2019