

## NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Councillor - Mrs Carol Perry (Chairman)  
Councillor - Mr David Flatt  
Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking  
Councillor - Mr Mike May  
Councillor - Ms Abigail Smith  
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

Prior to the meeting commencing, 10 Minute Public Forum – no members of the public were present.

**In attendance:** Borough Councillor Terry Clements.

**Apologies received:** County Councillor Karen Soons.

**Report from Cllr. Clements** - Cllr. Clements wished to highlight two points, the first being that grants were presently available to help communities get 'up and running again' after the pandemic; he supplied the name and contact details of the Officer responsible and Councillors agreed that it would be beneficial to invite the Officer to the next Parish Council meeting on the 20 October, in order to gain an insight into the opportunities that may be available.

### **Action: Clerk**

Secondly, Cllr. Clements advised that Hawstead Parish Council was undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan and that it might be useful to make enquiries with them as to whether the two parishes could work together on this, to mutual benefit.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Clements for all his work and support, Cllr. Clements left the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – all present.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – none.
- 3. Approval of the draft Minutes from the meeting held 7 July 2021** – Approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Flatt, seconded by Cllr. Hopking; duly signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 7 July –**
  - 4.1 (13.1) Neither the Clerk or Cllr. Hopking had received a response from the Green Access Officer from the SCC Public Rights of Way Team.
  - 4.2 Cllr. Hopking advised that Cllr. Soons had responded re his query as to whether funding might be available for environmental projects within the village. He commented that there was a certain structure that would need to be implemented, which he was happy to work on.
- 5. Finance** – Community Account £1,473.52; Business Premium Account £5,992.43  
Total: £7,465.95

Six cheques were approved and signed:

100382	Postage, reimbursement to Clerk	£54.33	(LA2011 SS 1-8)
100383	<i>Spoilt cheque</i>		
100384	Nowton Village Hall, recycling	£276.08	(LA2011 SS 1-8)
100385	Clerk, Q2 July-Sept	£287.60	(LA2011 SS 1-8)
100386	Stationery and ink, reimbursement to Clerk	£261.67	(LA2011 SS 1-8)
100387	CAS, Insurance, due 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	£154.28	(LA2011 SS 1-8)
100388	HMRC, Tax Q2 re Clerk's salary	£35.40	(LGA 1972 s11)

Cllr. Hopking commented that the recycling payments represented significant income for the Village Hall and suggested that the facility should be sign-posted in such a way as to notify and encourage use from passers-by, who perhaps were unaware of the facility offered. The Chairman would put this very useful suggestion to the Village Hall Committee. **Action: Chairman**

6. **Emergency Plan** – The Clerk had produced and handed Emergency Plan packs to all Councillors, based on the information gathered with the consent of parishioners. The Clerk emphasised the confidential nature of the information, advising that the packs should be kept in a secure and safe place and the information contained within them only used for the purpose for which it was given - in the case of an Emergency only.

The Clerk would send a copy of the Emergency Leaflet as already delivered to every household in Nowton, together with a copy of the Emergency Plan pack (*but devoid of parishioners' personal information*) to the Officer responsible for Emergency Planning at West Suffolk Council, as requested. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Hopking raised the subject of AED (defibrillators) which had been discussed in the past by the Parish Council, but was an issue he felt worth revisiting, to which Councillors agreed. Cllr. Hopking offered to look into the subject in more detail and present the facts to the Council at its next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Hopking**

7. **Planning** – DC/21/1632/LB – 3 Low Green. Application for listed building consent, repairs to roof structure including rafter replacement. Councillors discussed this application and unanimously agreed their support. **Action: Clerk**

8. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2-5 June 2022** – Councillors proposed various ideas to mark the Platinum Jubilee, including a fete, and tree and bulb planting, all of which Councillors thought ideally should be in partnership with other village bodies, i.e. Nowton Park, the Cricket Club, the Village Hall Committee.

8.1 After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Smith would investigate further the tree canopy suggestion. **Action: Cllr. Smith**

8.2 Cllr. Hopking will contact the Cricket Club and also look into the idea of bulb planting, or perhaps giving every household a gift of bulbs to plant.  
**Action: Cllr. Hopking**

8.3 The Chairman would liaise with Nowton Park re the idea of extensive tree planting of a Platinum Jubilee Wood, to join the already established Coronation and Jubilee Woods, and also speak with the Village Hall Committee.  
**Action: The Chairman**

9. **Nowton Village Website/Facebook Group** – Cllr. Hopking reported that Facebook was a good way of communicating and that the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator was now using it for Neighbourhood Watch issues. He was aware, however, that not all parishioners used social media and he therefore ensured that information appearing on Facebook was also shown on the village website. Cllr. Hopking highlighted the opening again of the Church, and the success of the two recent social gatherings and walks. Social evenings were planned for the last Friday in the month in the Village Hall between 6pm-8pm. He had produced and distributed the second village newsletter to Councillors for delivery to all households. The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Hopking and Smith for organising the events.

9.1 Cllr. Hopking highlighted that grants were available for electric vehicle charging points, which could also be a source of income, and queried whether it might be something as a village which might be of interest in the future, particularly in relation to reducing the carbon footprint. He was also intrigued as to why Nowton Park did not appear to have any EV charging points. The Chairman pointed out that the land at the Village Hall did not belong to the Parish Council, but that she would raise the question of EV charging points with Nowton Park.  
**Action: Chairman**

9.2 In regards to reducing the carbon footprint, Cllr. Smith suggested the possibility of solar panels on the Village Hall roof. The Chairman commented that the Village Hall Committee was presently inviting interest from parishioners wanting to become more involved with the running and future of the Village Hall and encouraged Cllr. Smith to consider this.

**10. Road Safety, Crime/Public Nuisance** – Cllr. May reported that diversion signs, of which there were many at the moment, were sometimes obscuring drivers' views, and that the cleaning up following roadworks sometimes left a lot to be desired. Pot holes in roads continued to be a problem, although Cllr. May reported that the ones in Cooper Lane had at last been repaired.

10.1 Cllr. Hopking congratulated Cllr. May on his perseverance in getting the stolen Victorian post box at High Green replaced by a new one.

10.2 Councillors discussed the recent accident involving three vehicles at the corner in the vicinity of the bus shelter. Cllr. Hopking reported that there had been no damage to village infrastructure, but that the issue of speeding needed to be kept active.

10.2 Councillors noted that after the recent rains an overall partial improvement had been noted in the condition of the drains, although those beside the Village Hall had filled up again.

10.3 Cllr. Smith reported that the white parking-bay lines in Cooper Lane had faded and needed repainting. The Chairman would contact Havebury.  
**Action: Chairman**

**11. Correspondence** – relevant email correspondence had been circulated by the Clerk to Councillors as and when received. A copy of the Clerks & Councils Direct was given to the Chairman for onward circulation to Councillors to read at their leisure.

**12. Next Meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.  
Further meetings for 2021: December 1.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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Signed

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Date