

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 6th July 2022

Present: Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking (Chairman)
Councillor - Mr David Flatt
Councillor - Mr Mike May
Councillor - Ms Abigail Smith
Councillor - Miss Sarah Peacock (co-opted at meeting)
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

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

Attendees: Cllr. Karen Soons joined the meeting at 1945 hours; the meeting was adjourned whilst Cllr. Soons presented her report, a copy of which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed with Cllr. Soons the ongoing problems concerning pot-holes, faded white-line road markings, and surface water on roads. The possibility of obtaining S106 funding from developers, towards the costs of providing improved road infrastructure whilst new development was taking place, was discussed. Cllr. Soons suggested that an email be sent to her, setting out exactly what the Council wished to achieve on the road. The Chairman mentioned the 'Twenty is Plenty' meeting which would be taking place in Nowton Village Hall on the 13th July; the Clerk was instructed to forward the details to Cllr. Soons.

Action: Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None, all present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held 18th May 2022** – Approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Flatt and duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting, not already on the agenda** – None.
5. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the Annual Assembly of the Parish meeting held 18th May 2022** – Approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Flatt, seconded by Cllr. May and duly signed by the Chairman.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish meeting, not already on the agenda** - None.
7. **Parish Council Casual Vacancy** – the Council had received one application for the position of Parish Councillor. Councillors had been given the opportunity to study the application of Miss Sarah Peacock prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. May. The vote was unanimous to co-opt Miss Peacock to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Peacock duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk. The Register of Interests Forms were given to Cllr. Peacock for completion and return to the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Peacock to the Parish Council and invited her to join the meeting.

8. **Finance** – Current Account: £1,730.58; Business Account: £6,293.13. Total: £8,023.71

8.1	Cheques approved and issued:	
	100403 I.C.O. Annual Fee	£40.00
	100404 H. Hopking, reimbursement, bus shelter purchases	£46.97
	100405 P. Stoddart, Clerk's salary April-June	£585.60
	100406 HMRC, re Clerk's salary	£64.40
	100407 Postage, reimbursement to Clerk	£10.03

The Clerk advised that due to the early meeting date in the month, there was insufficient time to complete a Q1 Internal Control Statement; Q1 and Q2 would, therefore, be presented at the next scheduled meeting on the 21st September.

The Clerk presented the Bank Mandate paperwork required to add a third signatory to sign cheques. It was agreed that Cllr. Smith would join the Chairman and Cllr. May as a signatory, and that Cllr. Peacock would undertake the completion of the Internal Control Statements from September, following a hand-over from Cllr. Smith at that time.

9. Planning – No planning applications to hand. Planning applications considered under Scheme of Delegation – DC/22/0751/FUL The Barn, Low Green. Continued use of ancillary shop and outdoor seating. Insertion of window to front elevation. Application supported.

9.1 Alcohol Licensing Application, Nowton Park. The Chairman outlined the terms of the present licence in force and the new licence applied for, which was requesting 365 days Monday to Sunday 1100-0000 hours for entertainment, music, dance, films etc. and the sale of alcohol. Councillors had multiple issues of concern, including:

- the difficulty in policing an area of nearly 200 acres
- the possibility of excessive consumption of alcohol, due to the increased licensing hours, ultimately leading to crime and disorder
- increase in litter and possibly illegal overnight camping
- the affects to the residents of the adjacent care home, school children and home owners, potentially being subjected to noise/music every day of the week until midnight
- protection of children from harm – children enjoy many facilities and activities in the Park, with the increase in events, resulting in an increase in people in the Park, possibly consuming alcohol for many hours, it must be considered a risk to young children and may well deter parents and children from visiting the Park
- with the limited parking, the increase in vehicles and pedestrians, it is inevitable that vehicles and pedestrians will spill out to Nowton Road, which is narrow and without a footpath; the potential for accidents in this area is considerable
- there are two unfenced ponds within the Park, under the influence of alcohol these might prove a danger to the public
- the present licence appears perfectly adequate for the number of events being run; to go from five days between June and September, to all year Monday to Sunday 1100-0000 hours does not appear to be in the local public interest.

To conclude, the Clerk to draft a Representation from the Parish Council, for the Chairman's approval, who would request that representation in person be granted to him when the Licensing Committee meet to discuss the application.

Action: Clerk

The closing date for Representation is the 13 July and, in the meantime, Councillors would endeavour to make contact with various parties whom they

considered might be interested or affected by this application, and also obtain evidence of similar parks licensing hours, for comparison.

Action: All Councillors

- 10. Road Safety Crime/Public Nuisance** – Cllr. May reported pot-holes in Park Lane and that random filling of a few of these had been completed. The Chairman reiterated the importance of continued notification to WSC, by using the on-line reporting tool.

The Chairman highlighted the ‘Twenty is Plenty’ vehicle speed meeting which was being held in Nowton Village Hall on the 13 July. Whilst the area being discussed at the meeting was just outside the parish boundary, he felt it may be of interest to attend.

The Chairman reported that drains had been flushed and roadside verges cut, which had revealed a lot of litter.

- 11. Report on The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations** – Cllr. Smith reported that the celebrations had been very successful, with a big turn-out and everyone had a good time; it was also an opportunity to showcase to parishioners all the work to, and equipment purchased for, the Village Hall and its surrounds. The Chairman said that it had been a memorable occasion and thanked Cllr. Smith and the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work, for which they should be very proud.

The Chairman commented that the plaque for the Platinum Jubilee tree still had to be put in place; he asked the Clerk to check whether, considering the cost of purchase, it could be included within the Council’s insurance policy. **Action: Clerk**

- 12. Nowton Village Website/Facebook Group** – the Chairman advised that Facebook was used as a medium of communication, and that he was aware that he needed to update the website. The bus shelter noticeboard was now being used purely for village social notices, with the official Parish Council notices being reserved for the noticeboard on the Village Hall. Cllr. Peacock suggested that a notice could be posted on the bus shelter noticeboard concerning the Licensing Application.

The Chairman reported that, disappointingly, the village newsletters delivered to Nowton Court for residents had not been passed to them and, consequently, residents were unaware of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations taking part in the village. In future, he would deliver the newsletters directly to private letter boxes.

- 13. Correspondence** – the Clerk reported that all email correspondence had been circulated to Councillors, as and when received.

- 14. Next meeting – Wednesday 21 September, 7.30 p.m.**

Future 2022 meetings: 19 October; 7 December.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9 p.m.

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Signed

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Date