

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9th November 2022

Present: Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking (Chairman)
Councillor - Mr David Flatt
Councillor - Mr Michael May
Councillor - Miss Sarah Peacock
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.

Attendees: Cllr. Karen Soons, whose November report had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr. Soons spoke before the meeting commenced and reminded Councillors of the Town and Parish Forum taking place via Teams on the 16 November. She highlighted several points within her report including: metal recycling; ANPR devices; cost of living impact on County Council budget; 825 new places for SEND; hosts needed for Ukrainian refugees. Concluding her report Cllr. Soons gave a reminder re flu vaccinations and advised that the mass Covid vaccination centres were expected to close at the end of December.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Cllr. Soons confirmed that she would be undertaking the duties previously assigned to Cllr. Wiseman, until the election in May. The Chairman would contact Cllr. Soons in relation to issues that were previously ongoing with Cllr. Wiseman. **Action: Chairman**

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None, all present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – The Chairman declared an interest in Item 7.1, as a neighbour of the householder submitting the planning application.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held 5th October 2022** – Approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Peacock and duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, not already on the agenda –**
 - 4.1 (9) The Chairman advised that whilst he had reported issues discussed at the previous meeting, only the pot-holes in Park Lane had been repaired, with the response given that the other issues were not urgent. Cllr. Smith mentioned an overgrown footpath and the Chairman offered to report this. **Action: Chairman**
 - 4.2 (8.3) Having spoken to the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, the Chairman would liaise with the Clerk re reporting back to the Licencing Committee. **Action: Chairman/Clerk**
5. **Finance** – Current Account: £1,393.78; Business Account: £5,295.14.
Total: £6,688.92 Cheque number 100409 for £345.10 in favour of the Village Hall was given to Cllr. Smith, as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, for banking.
 - 5.1 Cheque signatories, Bank Mandate – the new paperwork was completed at the meeting. Cllr. Smith to contact the Bank to fulfil ID requirements. **Action: Cllr. Smith**
6. **West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) Consultation** – The summary and background of the West Suffolk Local Council Tax reduction scheme proposals had been previously circulated. WSC was seeking views on some potential

changes to its LCTRS to support low-income working-age residents, in light of the current pressures on the cost of living. Councillors went through the survey's four specific questions giving their response to the Clerk, who would in turn complete the survey on-line before the 18 November when the consultation period ends.

7. Planning –

7.1 DC/22/1873/HH a) solar panels to rear elevation of cartlodge; b) ground mounted solar panel array at Old Gardeners Cottage, Cooper Lane. After discussion the Council unanimously agreed to support this application.

Action: Clerk

8. Rural Mobility in Parishes Survey – details of the survey had previously been circulated. Councillors went through the numerous questions within the survey on facilities within the parish, giving their response to the Clerk who would in turn complete the survey on-line on the Council's behalf. **Action: Clerk**

9. Road Safety Crime/Public Nuisance – the Chairman reiterated that Councillors and parishioners should continue to use the on-line reporting tool for alerting Highways to pot-holes and other road issues within Nowton. Cllr. Flatt mentioned that, although reported, the re-painting of the white lines at the junction with the main road was considered by Highways as 'not urgent,' despite the lines being virtually non-existent. Cllr. May felt that speeding within the village was on the increase.

The Chairman reported two illegal fireworks parties within Nowton Park on Guy Fawkes Night. Cllr. Smith queried whether security cameras could be sited in that particular part of Nowton Park, where much of the anti-social behaviour occurred. The Chairman offered to speak with the Head Ranger in this regard. **Action: Chairman**

10. Nowton Village Website/Facebook Group – the Chairman advised there was nothing specific to report, other than the proposal for a Christmas meal/social event for residents which was in the early stages of being planned; donations and sponsors were being sought. The Clerk would seek clarification from SALC as to whether the Parish Council could contribute to this event within its legal powers. **Action: Clerk**

11. Correspondence – the Clerk reported that email correspondence had been circulated to Councillors, as and when received. The latest edition of the Clerks & Councils Direct magazine would be passed to each Councillor for individual reading.

12. Next meeting – Wednesday 7th December, 7 p.m.

2023 meetings:

11 January; 22 February; 5 April; 17 May Annual Assembly of the Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings; 5 July; 13 September; 25 October; 6 December.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8 p.m.

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Signed

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Date