

# NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Present:** Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking (Chairman)  
Councillor - Mr David Flatt  
Councillor - Mr Michael May  
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

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

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs. Smith and Peacock.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None. The Clerk reminded Councillors to review their Register of Interests at least on an annual basis.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held 7 December 2022** – Approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. May, seconded by Cllr. Flatt and duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, not already on the agenda -**

4.1 (8.1) The Clerk had responded to the resident outlining the discussion from the meeting and advising that the Chairman would be happy to discuss further. No further communication had been received.

5. **Finance** – Current Account: (Including income since the last meeting of: £264.70 WSC for recycling; £101.95 VAT refund) £1,307.37; Business Account: £5,298.25 Total: £6,605.62

5.1 Draft Policy, Donations to Charities – As requested, the Clerk had produced a draft policy which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Flatt, seconded by Cllr. May; the policy was adopted with immediate effect and duly signed by the Chairman.

5.2 Donation requests - Requests received had already been discussed by Councillors at the previous meeting, for final consideration at this meeting. It was agreed that a donation of £100 be made to St. Nicholas Hospice. Proposed by Cllr. Flatt, seconded by Cllr. May.

Four cheques were approved for signing:

100417 Nowton Village Hall, recycling	£264.70
100418 Clerk, salary Q3	£585.50
100419 HMRC, Clerk's salary Tax Q3	£64.60
100420 St. Nicholas Hospice	£100.00

Two cheques were given to the Chairman, to be delivered by hand to the Treasurer, or Chairman, of the Village Hall Committee:

100415 Nowton Village Hall, rental for 2022 PC meetings <i>(as approved and signed at the previous meeting)</i>	£54.00
100417 Nowton Village Hall, recycling	£264.70

5.3 Ratification of the Precept 2023-2024. Being mindful of the present cost of living crisis the Parish Council had produced a cautious budget incorporating funds from reserves resulting in a percentage decrease of 9.64% on the previous precept request. The final Parish Precept figure was £3,769. Proposed by Cllr. May, seconded by Cllr. Flatt. The Application for Parish Council Precept 2023/24

Form, which the Clerk needs to submit to WSC by the 25<sup>th</sup> January, was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

**6. Planning –**

6.1 No planning applications had been received.

**7. Road Safety Crime/Public Nuisance –** Cllr. May reported the on-going problem with pot holes and Cllr. Flatt advised that the white lines at the junction with the A143, which had previously been reported to Highways, were now non-existent.

The Chairman noted that there had been fireworks set off at the village end of Nowton Park on New Year’s Eve and, whilst the debris of the ‘party’ had appeared to have been deposited in the bin outside the Village Hall, in the car parking area, the spent fireworks were left littered on the ground. Whilst it was good that the rubbish bin was being used, the Chairman reported that it was often overflowing and he would, therefore, speak informally to the Village Hall Committee as to the possibility of providing a bigger receptacle. **Action: Chairman**

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

8.1 At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk had contacted WSC with regards to lawful ways in which the triangle of grass around the village sign could be protected, as it was presently being eroded year on year by heavy vehicles encroaching on the grass when turning. Whilst no response had yet been received, Cllr. Soons did advise that she may be able to offer financial help towards the costly provision of curb stones, providing the Parish Council could also contribute. For further discussion after formal response from WSC received. **Action: Clerk**

8.2 At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk had contacted WSC with regards to the clearance of ditches in Low Green, which had previously been discussed in May 2022. Whilst no formal response had been received, the Chairman was aware of an inspection taking place, having spoken informally with the Nowton Park Ranger.

**9. Next meeting – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 7 p.m.**

Further meetings 2023:

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 7.30 p.m.

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Signed

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Date