

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2021 - held at 7.00pm

This meeting was held virtually by Zoom, due to Coronavirus restrictions.

Present: Councillors Marshall-Grint (Chair), Border, Kilham, Simpson, Edwards, Harper, Cox, Merrey, Lamb, Nurse

Also in attendance - Clerk Rachel Curtis, 1 member of the public and Bor. Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds and Marc Melton

1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Responsible Finance Officer, election of Committees and Representatives

Chair – Cllr Marshall-Grint, proposed by Cllr Merrey and seconded by Cllr Edwards. There being no other nominations, Councillor Marshall-Grint was elected as Chair.

Vice Chair – Cllr Nurse, proposed by Cllr Border, seconded by Cllr Edwards. There being no other nominations, Councillor Nurse was elected as vice-chair.

Responsible Finance Officer – Cllr Will Border, proposed by Cllr Marshall-Grint, seconded by Cllr Merrey. There being no other nominations, Cllr Border was elected as Responsible Finance Officer.

Vice Responsible Finance Officer – Cllr John Marshall-Grint, proposed by Cllr Merrey, seconded by Cllr Border. There being no other nominations, Cllr Marshall-Grint was elected as Vice Responsible Finance Officer.

Wootton Park Representatives – Cllr Will Border (Chair of WPA), Cllr John Marshall-Grint, Cllr Bridget Nurse, Cllr Keith Simpson. Proposed by Cllr Merrey, seconded by Cllr Kilham. There being no other nominations, Cllr Border, Cllr Nurse, Cllr Marshall-Grint and Cllr Simpson were elected as Wootton Park Representatives.

Village Hall Representatives – Cllr Will Border, Cllr John Marshall-Grint, Cllr Jason Harper, Cllr Bridget Nurse and Cllr Antony Lamb, proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by Cllr Merrey. There being no other nominations, Cllrs Border, Marshall-Grint, Harper, Nurse, Lamb were elected Village Hall Representatives.

Trinity Almshouses Representative – Cllr Simon Kilham, proposed by Cllr Marshall-Grint, and seconded by Cllr Cox. There being no other nominations, Cllr Kilham was elected Trinity Almshouses Representative.

Planning Committee – Cllr Derek Cox, Cllr John Merrey and Cllr Malcolm Edwards, proposed by Cllr Marshall-Grint, seconded by Cllr Border. There being no other nominations, Cllrs Cox, Merrey and Edwards were elected as the Planning Committee.

Armed Forces Representative – Cllr Bridget Nurse, proposed by Cllr Marshall-Grint and seconded by Cllr Border. There being no other nominations Cllr Nurse was elected Armed Forces Representative

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Cllr Keith Simpson and Cllr Jason Harper, proposed by Cllr Border and seconded by Cllr Merrey. There being no other nominations, Cllrs Simpson and Harper were elected to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Police Liaison Representative – to be elected after item 3 on the agenda.

2. Apologies – None Declarations of Interest - None

3. To consider prospective Councillor application and undertake the co-option process

Marc Melton attended the meeting after submitting a letter of application; he spoke to the Councillors and said his main reason for wanting to be on the PC was to be able to give something back to the Community. He is interested in all aspects of the PC, especially the Police Liaison.

The Clerk removed Mr Melton from the meeting and Councillors discussed his application. All agreed that he would bring a younger perspective to the PC and were unanimous in agreeing to co-opt him to the PC. Mr Melton re-joined the meeting and was welcomed as a Councillor. Cllr Marshall-Grint then proposed that Cllr Melton take the position of Police Liaison, this was seconded by Cllr Border and unanimously agreed.

4. To Adopt the General Power of Competence

The Council meets all the criteria for adopting this, the Clerk is CILCA qualified and the majority of Councillors have been elected. Therefore the PC unanimously agreed to adopt this power for the forthcoming year.

5. Minutes of last meeting - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1st April 2021 be accepted.

6. Matters Arising

- School car park project – Cllr Marshall-Grint is awaiting further correspondence from James Grimsby, head of North Wootton Academy.
- Bor. Cllr Nockolds will check with the planning department for the committee date when the House on the Green application will be decided.
- The Clerk is obtaining a quote for the bench chosen by the family in memory of their relative to be put on Manor Road.

7. Law and Order

Footage was received and sent on to the Police of a motorcyclist on Wootton Park at the weekend. The culprit's address was known and therefore the Police were able to speak to the person. Cllr Melton asked about the laws relating to electric scooters – Cllr Border explained that any rider should have a provisional or full driving licence. Police are currently attending schools in the area to educate children.

8. Open Forum

- A resident attended the meeting to express concern at how speeding motorists are harming the duck population at the Manor Road area of the village. He requested that additional signage be put up in this area to warn motorists to slow down. His daughter had also written correspondence asking for PC support in this matter. The PC discussed the issue and agreed to do the following as an immediate response –
 - Send a request to Highways for another duck crossing sign to be put up at the North end of Manor Road, move the current sign on Priory Lane which is visible northbound near the Woodland Gardens entrance to higher up the lamppost, so that it is not obscured by parked vehicles.
- It was also suggested that residents could put some temporary signage in their gardens themselves for motorists to be aware of broods of ducks in particular areas.
- Longer term solutions to be worked on – trying to get enough people to volunteer for a speedwatch group.
- It was suggested that signage could only be displayed for a shorter period of time, so that drivers do not become blind to it and pay more attention when visible in the duck breeding season.

9. Correspondence

- 1. Correspondence regarding speeding and safety of ducks – discussed in item 7.

- 2. A resident wrote to say that the situation with heavy haulage coming through the village is better. Cllr Marshall-Grint will be speaking to the new landowners of Wootton Marsh Farm soon to explain the issues residents have and ask them to be aware of their activity and frequency of loads etc. It is acknowledged that the route out of Station Road cannot be changed and lorries can only turn left, there is no alternative. Councillors agreed that this is a matter which has to be accepted living in a rural community.
Another point was raised by the resident about the development at Linnymead and the protection which is taking place around the large trees on the development as to not harm the trunk or the routes. This is a matter which needs to be taken up with the Borough Council as they were the authority which requested these measures to be taken.
- Sandringham Cricket Club has asked for the PC's support for alterations to their pavilion. Councillors agreed for a letter of support to be sent. It is believed that several Wootton's residents belong to this club and they also promote a youth training programme to train younger players.

10. Finance

BALANCE b/fwd	£55,370.80
002061 BCKLWN – Printing Winter Newsletter	99.06
002062 BCKLWN – W Park Land Rent	20.00
002063 Total Gas and Power – March	864.67
002064 Westcotec - April	250.48
002065 Jet Reach – April	60.00
002066 R Curtis – Salary – May 21	535.60
	£1,829.81
Made Up As Follows;	
Saffron Building Society	£14,244.68
Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	£31,105.83
Lloyds Current A/C	£ 8,190.48
	£53,540.99

11. Highways

Nothing to report

12. Wootton Park

- The CIL application has been submitted for the hardcore of the car park.
- PC Dave Allcock has confirmed that CCTV can be installed in the Park, Data Protection regulations should be adhered to by putting up signage to inform people it is there and recordings will be overwritten every week – Cllr Border will now get a quote for the work.
- Wildlife cameras will be put up to watch activity at the bug hotel.
- Constructive discussions took place between the WPA, Kings Lynn Soccer School and the Wootton's Football Club at the AGM. It was agreed that the parking situation on busy match days is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. The Clubs are looking at their timetables and fixtures for a long term solution and in the meantime cones are being used to stop people parking inconsiderately and dangerously. This is being closely monitored over the next few weeks and discussed again at the next WPA meeting at the end of May to see if the problem has improved and agree on long term actions moving forward.

13. Streetlighting

The CIL application for replacement of the streetlamps for LED lanterns has been submitted.

14. Planning

- Applications considered
21/00656/F Variation of planning condition – 5 Hayfield Road – no comment.
- Decisions received - none

The PC will agree to begin the process of writing a Neighbourhood Plan

After a productive session where the Councillors met via Zoom, it is unanimously agreed that North Wootton PC will produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Initially the Clerk will contact the Borough Council to inform them and begin the process. A banner is to be printed to go on the Village Hall in time for the next Farmers Market on 15th May, the PC agreed a budget of up to £200 for the printing of these. It is hoped that this way of promoting the idea initially will gain some support and interest. The Clerk will also produce information for the following;

- Posters to go in the village hall
- Letters to be sent to stakeholders in the area including landowners (liaise with Cllr Kilham)
- Inclusion in the next PC newsletter
- Inclusion in the Contact magazine

David Goddard has arranged a meeting with the Borough Council to be held on 11th May to discuss issues relating to the Knights Hill development. The content of the letter which was sent to the PC to review was agreed.

Information was sent from STEAG Solar Energy Solutions informing the PC of a proposed solar farm on land at Kilhams Way, PE30 2HY. The farm area will be 58 hectares in size and the panels will be mounted 2m off the ground given the tendency for that area to flood and will produce enough electricity for 13,500 homes per year. The PC agreed its support for this proposal for greener energy and will comment accordingly when the application is submitted to the Borough Council.

15. Village Hall

Private bookings are increasing for when restrictions should ease in June, the village markets will resume regularly on 15th May. VJ Day celebrations are planned for 15th August from 12pm onwards, there will be 30/40's style catering and historic memorabilia on display. The PC agreed to a donation of £500 to support this event.

16. The Village - None

17. Open Forum - Nothing to discuss

18. To confirm any items for the future agenda

To agree the audit figures for 20/21

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

..... Chairman

Date 3rd June 2021