

MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2025 - held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, North Wootton

Present: Cllrs Marshall-Grint, Blood, Border, Blackmore, Lamb, Hemeter
Borough Councillor Bland

Also in attendance – 16 members of the public

Derek Cox – A minutes silence was observed by Councillors in memory of Derek, a valued member of the Parish Council who recently passed away. Remembering his service over many years to the community.

- 1. To accept any apologies** – Cllr Nurse (personal circumstances), Cllr Edwards (ill health), Cllr Harper (work commitments), County Cllr Ring, Bor Cllr Coates – (meeting at the Borough Council). Apologies were accepted.
- 2. To co-opt to fill a Councillor Vacancy**
The PC followed its procedures and James Quick was successfully co-opted to the Parish Council. James was welcomed and brings a new set of skills to the PC with his previous employment experience being a member of the fire service.
- 3. Declarations of Interest** – None
- 4. Minutes of last meeting** - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd January 2025 be accepted.
- 5. Matters Arising** –
 - The Clerk has reported the derelict house on Ling Common Road to the Borough Council.
- 6. Law and Order**
The recent activity of ‘Nottingham Knockers’ in the area appears to have gone. Cllr Hemeter will continue to attend SNAP meetings.
- 7. Open Forum**
 - Cllr Bland attended the PC meeting after an extra Borough Council meeting to discuss devolution. He gave an update as follows – Borough councillors have voted to give their leader authority to develop a devolution bill to bring back to full council. A preferred way forward is to join with North Norfolk and Breckland Councils and further discussions will take place with them shortly. The initiative for devolution is coming from central government. The Borough stance is that this must not affect Parish Councils. The Borough Council are updating their newsletter weekly on their website with up to date information on this and other matters.
 - Several residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns over the flooding which took place on 7th January following work carried out by NCC to clear the blockage in their culvert under Priory Lane. Cllr Marshall-Grint explained that the Parish Council is here to support residents. Concerns raised were as follows:
 - Was there a risk assessment carried out before the culvert was cleared? A residents’ telephone conversation with a NCC Officer appears to show that a verbal assessment was carried out as he walked along the ditch to Wootton Park to see where the flow of water would go. The Clerk has been unable to obtain a copy of a risk assessment or method statement from NCC despite requesting this several times.
 - Heavy rainfall and its collection in the woods on the Howard estate contributed to the volume of water. NCC have sent letters to David Goddard and Lord Howard to asking them to take action with water build up on their land.

- At present there is no co-ordinated approach to the management of potential flooding in the area. NCC have told residents and the Parish Council that they are investigating the incident, but have not admitted liability. The website link for insurance claims sent by NCC is to claim for uninsured losses only leaving residents to claim on their own insurance.
- If this should ever happen again, the water flow needs to be considered and whether Wootton Park is used as a flood plain.
- There is concern with silt build up after the new ditch was re-instated on 9 Acre Field, this is impacting Beech House.
- NCC have cleared the culvert on Nursery Lane but left some debris outside 10 Rill Close, Clerk to follow this up with SWPC.

8. Correspondence

The issue of the flooding on Priory Lane raised by several residents, discussed in Item 7.

9. Finance – to agree the payments list presented at the meeting

		38,057.98
Balance Brought Forward		
Less:	Payments	
Online	Nurture Landscapes – Cutting	697.08
Online	SWPC Recharge – Drainage	1,483.70
Online	SWPC – Recharge	2,867.59
Online	SWPC Recharge – Bench installation	100.00
Online	P Witt – Bins Jan 25	70.00
Online	BCKLWN – Dog Bin Emptying annual bill	856.13
Online	SLCC – Membership 2025	190.00
Online	R Curtis – Feb 25 Salary	658.67
		6,923.17
	Income	
		31,134.81
	<u>Made up as follows</u>	
	Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	231.92
	Lloyds Current A/C	482.21
	Lloyds Treasurers Account	30,420.68
		<u>31,134.81</u>

The payments above were approved.

It was noted that the 2025/26 precept payment from the Borough Council will be paid in 2 instalments during the year, one in April and October.

10. Highways – The tree which is leaning over the corner of Nursery Lane has been reported to Lord Howard who contacted the Clerk and said he thought it may belong to NCC. Clerk has reported to Highways on their portal and it is currently with them to investigate.

11. Wootton Park

Cllr Border reported on the following;

Building work has begun on the Pavilion and work is going well.

The agreement for the tele mast has been signed.

12. Street Lighting –

The Clerk has obtained a quote for a new lighting maintenance contract. The new contractor has come

recommended and charges £128 per month for a call out service to fix any problems. Councillors agreed to move forward with this.

13. Planning

Applications to Consider

- 24/0110/F 59 Woodland Gardens, PE30 3PX. Rear single storey extension and internal alterations. Support
- 25/00198/F – Tattoo Parlour, Ford Ave, change of use for tattoo business, seeking to make permanent after 1 year probation period – The Borough have received no complaints from residents - Support

Decisions Made by the Borough Council

- 38 Priory Lane, PE30 3PT – Self Build extension – Application Refused
- 24/02140/F – 17 The Howards, PE30 3RS - extension and alterations to dwelling PE30 3RS – Application Permitted

The PC has supported the CIL application made by the rugby club for their alterations. It has been confirmed that the new facilities will be open to all to engage with the community.

14. **Neighbourhood Plan** - no further updates now the plan is complete.

15. **Village Hall** -

The floor has been sanded and re-varnished. The markets are still popular and bookings for evenings and events remain good.

16. The Village

Following on from the discussions in Open Forum these are the actions the PC is undertaking regarding flooding.

Three trees will be removed from the ditch on the triangle of land at Priory Lane on the advice of NCC, this will stop debris falling through the culvert. Councillors agreed for our Park tree surgeon to remove the trees to ground level and take away and also to remove the holly tree on the Green.

It has been suggested that a weed block could be put on the culvert opening and a sluice gate could help to enable the flow of water to be controlled, these measures need to be agreed by NCC.

A contractor has been appointed to deepen the ditches either side of the culvert and remove the tree roots from the 3 cut down trees.

The PC is awaiting a quote from Nurture Landscapes to carry out monthly maintenance starting at Woodland Gardens, through Wootton Park and to the back of Nine Acre Field.

Clerk to Action - It was suggested that a meeting of all parties is arranged and Simon Ring asked if he will Chair. This will incorporate both NW and SW PC and residents. NCC and landowners in the area to be invited too.

Residents thanked the PC for their efforts in tackling these issues.

SAM Report –For the month of January 2025 the signage was on the junction of Nursery Lane and All Saints Drive. Data is 1st-24th as the battery died.

Volume

Daily: 1,194

Peak: 17:00-18:00hrs

Speed

85th percentile: 31.4

Average: 26.6

Top: 60 @20:25 22 January

This is our second speediest location across the village; capturing vehicles as they come downhill from South Wootton.

The sign is now back on Ling Common Road.

The tree survey will be discussed at the March meeting.

17. Open Forum

A resident asked if there was a plan in place if the SAM data shows increased traffic flow. It was explained that there is no ‘plan’ as such, but the data collected could prove useful for not only volume of traffic, but speed of traffic and this data can be reported to the police.

18. To confirm any items for future agenda – Tree Survey, Bench around tree at war memorial

Dates of Next Meeting – 6th March 2025

The meeting finished at 8.25pm

..... Chairman Date 6th March 2025