

Minutes of the Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting

Monday 18th January 2016 In Wallington Village Hall at 8.15pm

Present: Councillors Chris Garrett, Kate Heath, Linda Hill, Steve Pettyfer, Frank Randall

In attendance: Clerk, Marian Messenger

16/001 To receive and accept apologies for absence
None were received

16/002 Declarations of interest and dispensations

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
None
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests
None
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
None

16/003 To confirm the Minutes of the Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 2015. CG proposed that the Minutes be accepted.

Resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. **Unanimously agreed.**

16/004 To receive a report from the District Councillor.

There was no report as Steve Jarvis was not in attendance

16/005 To receive a report from the County Councillor.

There was no report as Tony Hunter was not in attendance

16/006 To decide whether there is a need for the Parish Council to have Standing Orders.

After a great deal of discussion around this issue, the general consensus was that there should be standing orders, but these should be basic and kept to a minimum. KH offered to work with the Clerk to draw up a draft list of standing orders to be considered at the next meeting. CG proposed that this should be the way forward. **Unanimously agreed.**

16/007 To discuss the new rules being brought in for the appointment of an auditor.

In view of the changes to the audit system, it was agreed that Ann Warner should be asked by the Clerk whether she would be willing to be the internal auditor one last time for the 2015/16 finances.

KH proposed that we go with the government's suggestion for the 2016/17 financial year, that an auditor appointed by them is used, should the need arise. **Unanimously agreed.**

16/008 To receive an update on the lease of the land in Wallington.

KH reported that the lease of the land in Wallington has been finalised and now officially belongs to the Parish Council. She explained the following actions need to be taken:

- The land needs to be surveyed to establish the actual boundary and ensure that we have vacant possession. Paul Morris has agreed to do this on a voluntary basis.
- The boundary needs to be marked to ensure that people do not accidentally go onto the adjoining privately owned land. Funding would be needed for this and it was suggested that an application could be made to the locality budget to cover costs.

- Signs need to be erected on the two areas of land. Formal wording for these has been suggested by Chris Hill.

CG proposed that KH go ahead with arranging these three actions. A maximum of £200 was suggested to cover the cost of the signs. **Unanimously agreed.**

16/009 To receive an update on the issue of the cost of grass cutting in Rushden.

LH stated that a meeting has been arranged for 19/01/16 with the Village Hall Committee to ask them to cover the cost of the grass cutting and collection on the date prior to the Village Fete.

LH proposed that the Parish Council should inform the church that the 'extra' area of grass behind the church will no longer be cut to reduce PC costs. CG is to write to Chris Whitton to inform him of this decision. **Unanimously agreed.**

16/010 To receive an update on drainage works in the villages

A Parish Action Plan for drainage works has been received, but it has no timetable, just a list of future works. LH proposed that CG should contact both Steve Jarvis and Tony Hunter to ask them to fund the replacement of the damaged post and rail fence in Rushden, which must be a priority. CG should also request confirmation from the Council that they do not consider it to be a safety issue.

Once either Steve Jarvis or Tony Hunter have agreed that they can fund this work, they should be asked to give a date when the funding would be available. Then quotes should be obtained.

Unanimously agreed.

16/011 To decide on the amount of precept to request for 2016/17

There was a lot of discussion around this issue. It is clear that something needs to be done to stop the finances going into the red. Rushden have made efforts to reduce their costs but, even so, the Rushden portion of the precept will be overspent this year, thus eating into the reserves.

SP proposed that the precept be increased by £200 this year. **This was carried by a majority vote.** Four Councillors supported the motion. One Councillor abstained.

The Clerk will inform NHDC of the amount of precept required i.e. £4,200.00.

16/012 To consider giving consent for the diversion of Footpath no 22 in Wallington.

Some Wallington residents have formally applied for the diversion of Footpath no 22. The new route of the path will go across the land in Wallington which is now leased by the Parish Council. Parish Council consent is needed for this change to go ahead.

Unanimously agreed that consent be given.

16/013 To discuss the council's 'Recycle Right' campaign.

The Council have requested that posters be displayed in the villages to advertise their 'Recycle Right' campaign. SP took the A4 poster to be copied and laminated for display on both village noticeboards.

16/014 To discuss the request for a donation to Sandon Sports Club

There was a lot of discussion around this issue. General feeling was that, while the Parish Council would like to be able to support Sandon Sports Club, the current financial position of the Parish Council does not enable a donation to be made this year. CG proposed that the Clerk write to Sandon Sports Club to inform them of this decision and to explain that this is no reflection whatsoever on the Parish Council's appreciation of what the Club offers to the community.

Unanimously agreed.

- 16/015 To confirm the continuation of membership of HAPTC for 2016/17
KH proposed that the Parish Council continue its membership of HAPTC for the year 2016/17
Unanimously agreed.
- 16/016 To discuss the current position regarding defibrillators for the two villages
KH explained that, although initial suggestions from the Ambulance Trust that funding for the defibrillators would be forthcoming, she has been unable to contact them for an update. She has tried both emailing and phoning. She will now write to them to ask their advice on the type of defibrillator they recommend and suggested that we may need to look elsewhere for funding. The Clerk was asked to contact HAPTC to ask whether they have any knowledge or advice on this.
- 16/017 To receive an update from the Clerk on the position regarding the Transparency Fund
The Clerk reported that an application has been submitted for funding from the government for a laptop and printer. She was also able to apply for a grant of £120 for the extra work the Clerk has had to do to ensure compliance with the Transparency Code.
- 16/018 To receive an update regarding the claim for return of VAT payments
The claim was slightly more complicated than it first seemed, but it has now been submitted and the Clerk is awaiting a reply.
- 16/019 To discuss the request from Community Officer, Sue Hardy, to inform her of any potential grant applications during the year 2016/17
The Clerk reported that Sue had intended to be at the PC meeting but, due to illness, was unable to attend. She had emailed to say that there is still some funding available from her current year's budget, which could be applied for.
The Clerk was asked to email Sue Hardy to tell her where funding is needed by the PC and to ask whether she could release funds to cover any of it.
- 16/020 To consider Planning Application, Case Ref No: 16/00030/1.
There were no objections to this planning application
- 16/021 To consider putting forward a nomination for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Tuesday 10th May 2016
KH proposed that the Parish Council nominate Chris Garret's name to be included in the draw for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, subject to him confirming his availability on the date of the event.
Unanimously agreed.
- 16/022 Repair of plank in Rushden.
CG informed the council that he had obtained a quote for the repair of a broken plank on a footpath at Southern Green in Rushden, which he felt needed to be carried out very soon. There was some discussion about who is responsible for the cost of this repair. KH suggested that CG could contact Julia Clarke at NHDC before spending the money. CG proposed that he should go ahead and arrange for the repair.
Unanimously agreed.
- 16/023 To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council
- 20mph speed limit in Wallington