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NORTH CLAINES PARISH COUNCIL (NCPC)

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT**

**FERNHILL HEATH BAPTIST CHURCH**

**On Monday 14th March 2016 at 7.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr M Sainsbury (MS) **Chairman** Cllr J Carter (JC)

Cllr M Drinkwater (MD) Cllr M Farmer (MF)

Cllr P Maybury (PM)

Cllr P Philips (PP)

Cty Cllr A Miller (AM)

Dst Cllr L Duffy (LD)

#### To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A. McManus (AMM) Cllr S. Routledge (SJR) Cllr B Hollis (BH) and Cllr K Savage (KS)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

a) Register of interests; Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

b) To declare any other Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. There were no interests declared.

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. There were no interests declared.

d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting. No requests were submitted.

Councillors who have declared an interest left the room for the relevant items as per the code of conduct and the North Claines Parish Council standing orders.

**3. To consider the approval of the minutes from the last Parish Council Meeting that was held on Monday 1st February 2016**

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

The meeting was closed for **public question time** (PQT) and opened again after.

Public question time does not form part of the meeting and is therefore not minuted. Notes from PQT are attached to the minutes as an aide memoire.

#### 4. Progress reports from the previous minutes and any matters arising for information

4.1 Update on the action re the mud on the lanes in Bevere.

The mud has been removed by Top Cut Mowing services for the parish council.

It was noted by the Clerk that this should be done by the landowner who creates the mud and should not paid for by the parish council in future.

**5.** **The Brum**

5.1 Do any Councillor have any matters to raise with regard to the Brum?

* Cllr JC noted that the Brum had been flooded during the extreme rain and he would keep an eye on the situation.
* It was noted that the bin on the recreation ground was broken and the Clerk would arrange for its replacement or repair.

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* Cllr AM noted that a new timer was needed on the lights and AM would forward the details of the electrician to the Clerk to make contact.

5.2 Update on the “Fun on the Brum” day to be held on July 23rd 2016.

Cllr MF noted that the plans were underway and a timetable of events would be available soon.

The Clerk is to book the toilet facilities for the day.

5.3 Update on the “Easter day” to be held on 30th March 2016.

Cllr MF noted that the plans for this were underway and a small area of the Brum would be fenced off for this. The event was to be teamed with Fernhill Heath in Bloom and sunflower seeds would be given to participants for a competition.

5.4 The lease on the Brum recreation area has expired. The Clerk has spoken with WCC and Place partnership to discuss terms of the new lease and more details will be available at the next meeting.

It was noted that the Brum should be registered as a community asset.

**6 Highways, Footpaths and Lighting.**

6.1 Update on any highways actions from or since the last meeting.

Items reported via the online service at WCC and to Top Cut and others

Station Road bridge reported to network rail for repair– 160- 222-000050.

Rose Cottage – Fernhill Heath – Hedge overhanging Okeys lane impeding access – householder has been informed.

220 Droitwich Road – Householder written to re hedge overhanging pavement and impeding access.

Highways – report no 6866079 – blocked drains in Bevere outside Bevere Knoll

Lights reported for repair to Prysmian/Western power

None to date.

6.2 Councillor Meg Farmer updated the council with regard to the proposed planters for the three entrances to Fernhill Heath.

A reply from Highways was awaited.

A query was raised with regard to the ownership of the land for the sign near the River School. AM agreed to verify ownership.

6.3 Quotes for repairs on the lights – Do the Council wish to proceed with the following repairs;

* 11 Jacobs ladder repair - £706.46
* 33 Okeys Lane repair - £559.81

The Council agreed that the work should be done, but requested a second quote. AM is to arrange for a second quote to be obtained.

6.4 Provision of a new dog bin for Bevere.

The Council discussed and approved this proposal. It was agreed to site this new bin near Owens Farm.

The initial yearly cost to include the bin will be – £522.61

The yearly cost afterwards will be £86 to include emptying weekly and cleaning twice a year.

6.5 Other repairs; Dog waste bin – Clerk has ordered repairs on the Danes green dog waste bins which have been completed.

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The Clerk has also ordered a new bin on Butchers Walk to replace the bin with the faulty inner bucket.

6.6 At the last meeting of the parish council the issue of the provision of allotments was discussed, but as the item was not on the agenda, a final decision was not made.

The following points were made;

* There was no suitable space available in the parish
* There were allotments just outside the parish (Blooms/WCC)

The Council agreed that the provision of allotments (as requested by 6 parishioners) would not be provided within North Claines Parish Council at the present time.

The Council were sorry to note that they would be unable to provide allotments to the parish.  They noted that the Parish Council did not own any land which would be suitable for allotments, and to purchase some for that purpose was not within their budget. They noted that they had considered the matter in full and were unable to justify the cost.

The council noted that it has done more than its strict legal obligation requires by not only taking the representation of the original six electors into consideration, but also by seeking to ascertain (publishing a piece in the Parish Focus magazine) if there is a demand for allotments which would warrant the council pursuing the issue.  The Parish Council agreed that 9 electors was not enough of a demand to warrant this action.

It was noted that if a developer approached the parish council with a future planning development, then they should be asked to give a portion of the development land to the parish council for allotments.

6.7 Does any Councillor have any additional comments with regard to highways, footpaths or lighting?

* It was noted that the pavement was being pushed up by tree roots near the roundabout on Grange Lane
* JC noted that the pavements were dirty. MF noted that the WI were doing a litter pick on 26th March at 10am.
* It was noted that the bus shelter in Dilmore Lane was quite unclean and needed disinfecting.
* It was agreed to place an article in the Parish Focus about the ongoing issue of dog fouling.

7. Correspondence for information only.

Calc

Updates for December and January, February and early March 2016

Email from parishioners

Re the tree stumps on the wall in Bevere

Council and Clerks direct.

Magazine

National Flood Forum

Are there any flood action groups in the area?

St John Baptist Church – Claines

magazine

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Tower Mint

HM commemorative medal for schools and councils to purchase

West Mercia crime report

Crime report for Feb

Worcestershire County Council

Traffic regulation order re Station Road – Fernhill Heath

Wychavon Parish Games

Invitation to join the parish games.

Public footpath diversion order on Egg Lane became effective on 28th January 2016.

Flood alleviation scheme – grants up to £1,000 are still available for areas that have been flooded.

Email from parishioners

Mr Briggs re flooding

Thomas Lias re flytipping at junction of Dilmore and the A38.

8. Planning

8.1 Planning applications for decision

W/16/00382/PN

Inglenook

Sling Lane

Fernhill Heath

WR3 8RH

Variation of condition of planning permission.

The Council objected to this planning application.

W/16/00448/CU

Dilmore Lodge Farm

Lower Town

Claines

Worcester

WR3 7RY

Barn conversion to dwelling

The Council noted that they wished for the drainage issue as highlighted by parishioners was resolved and also that the windows did not overlook the neighbours.

W/16/00420/PP

3 Sundew Close

Claines

Worcester

WR3 7LF

Removal of doric columns to front portico and replacement with structural timber posts and beams. Replacement single storey rear conservatory and internal modeling.

No objection.

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W/16/00247/PN

Linacres Farm

Egg Lane

Claines

Worcester

WR3 7SB

New detached garage and stables to replace existing and new outbuilding to provide office and tack room.

No objection.

W/15/03259/OU

Land adjacent to the Bull Inn

Droitwich Road

Fernhill Heath

Outline application for 2no 4 bedroom dwellings.

The Council objected to this planning application as the reduction in the size of the car park would be detrimental to the public house, which is an important part of the village amenities.

It was noted that the proposed access by the bus stop was dangerous.

8.2 Planning decisions received from Wychavon District Council

W/15/03255/LB. Flat 1, Bevere House, Bevere Green, WR3 7RG. Approved.

W/15/02907/PN. Lyftors Lodge, Firs Firm, Bevere, WR3 7RH. Approved.

W/16/00128/PP. 4 Westfield Close, Fernhill Heath, WR3 7XF. Refused.

8.3 Neighbourhood Plan Committee

8.3.1 As AMM was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that an additional meeting of the Parish Council would be held in the Clerk’s office at The Old Library Centre on Thursday 24th March to discuss the progress of the plan and to agree to the next stage of the process.

8.3.2 No report was available.

8.3.3 Section 106 contributions.

There was no report from Cllr S Routledge.

9 Report from District and County Councillor.

9.1 Report received from LD;

* The SWDP has been approved by Wychavon , Worcester and Malvern Hills district councils.
* Wychavon’s new strategy is people, place and prosperity.

Report received from AM;

* Yew Tree and Butchers Walk are to be resurfaced.
* Broadband in Bevere was being looked into.
* AM noted that the Chatterbox group were concerned with regard to the potential loss of land at the memorial hall. This will impact on their ability to operate from the venue. It was agreed that AM and MS would speak to Chatterbox on this issue and the parish council would discuss the matter at the next meeting.

10. Newsletter and website

10.1 Update on the newsletter – winter 2015/16 issue has been delivered to the parish and well received.

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10.2 Website update.

It was noted that a group needed to be appointed to discuss the publication scheme for the website in order to ensure that all the relevant Council documents were publicised in a timely fashion.

11 Finance.

11.1 The invoices for payment were approved and the cheques were signed accordingly.

11.2 Money received.

Worcestershire County Council – from A Miller £500

Towards the planters for the village entry points.

11.3 Diane Malley MAAT writes to ask North Claines Parish Council if they would like her to carry out the internal audit for the year 2015-16.

She confirms that she is suitable qualified to carry out the audit and her fee will be £120.

The Parish Council agreed to this appointment.

11.4 To arrange a date for the finance committee to meet to review the end of year accounts and discuss any other related business.

Cllrs KS, SJR and PM to arrange a date for this meeting.

**12 Parish Maintenance** **-** Items for consideration/notification.

12.1 Appointment of a parish maintenance committee. Currently Paul Maybury and Andrew McManus. This committee was approved.

12.2 Update on the proposed contract for services and other parish maintenance issues.

Contracts are currently being drawn up and the parish maintenance will be put out for tender as soon as practical.

13 Do any Councillors have any items for consideration?

MF would like to discuss the provision of daffodils along the main road at the next NCPC meeting.

PM would like to place on the next agenda an item with regard to the provision of a 20MPH zone when the lights are flashing near the school.

14 Dates of the next Parish Council meetings.

4 April 2016 which is to be following the Annual Parish Meeting.

9 May 2016 which will be the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Abbreviations

AM – County and District Cllr A Miller

AMM - Cllr A McManus

BH – Bob Hollis

Cllr – Councillor

JC – Cllr John Carter

KS – Cllr Kevin Savage

LD - County and District Cllr L Duffy

MD - Cllr Margaret Drinkwater

MF - Cllr Meg Farmer

MS - Cllr M Sainsbury

NCPC – North Claines Parish Council

NPC – Neighbourhood planning committee

PM - Cllr P Maybury

PP - Cllr P Philips

SJR - Cllr S J Routledge

WCC – Worcestershire County Council

WDC – Wychavon District Council

**Public Question Time**

Smartwater

Simon Thompson from Wychavon – Business and rural crime co-ordinator spoke to the Parish Council about the benefits of becoming a smartwater village. This is where all houses are given their own smartwater coded fluid to apply to their valuable objects. Each property in the parish would have a separate code.

Once the entire parish has been enrolled, the appropriate signage is installed by Wychavon. The crime levels are reported to decrease by 60-70% where this is done.

* Cost would be £8.90 per household, for each household in the parish, paid by the parish council.
* This would be a joint enterprise between the parish council, Wychavon, the community and the police.
* All houses would need to be visited to explain the process and one item per house would be labelled as an example. Then a form is filled in, to register the house to its individual smart water.

The parish council is to discuss this at their next meeting.

Sling Lane planning

A complaint was noted re the building work on Sling Lane with regard to its height, it was noted that Cllr MS went to the planning committee to object to this application originally. Planning enforcement would be visiting the property to investigate further.