

Nettlebed Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

held at Nettlebed Village Club on Wednesday 3 September 2014

Present: Cllrs B Lewis (BL), J Simon (JS), N Gibson (NG), R Collier (RC), D Butler (DB) and the Clerk AJ McEwen (AJM)

Also Present: SODC Cllr A Paterson (AP), M Lewis (ML) Village Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

1. **Apologies for absence:** OCC Cllr S Harrod (SH), Cllr J Sedwell (JSed), Malcolm Lewis (ML)
2. **Declaration of interests:** None declared.
3. **Minutes** from meeting of 2 July 2014 were found to have computer translocations and as such were not signed pending correction of a software problem.
4. Update on Lych Gate: David Challis (DC) - Secretary of the Nettlebed Branch of the Royal British Legion - had been invited to attend the meeting.

He reported that a Mr Mike Willoughby has written an authoritative book on the First World War. It appears that five names were either missed or lost or not included (by wish of the relatives) on the names recorded at the Nettlebed Lych Gate:

James Brakspear, William C H Colman, Fredrick Richardson, Herbert J Mace.

DC has received a quotation from Sheppard's in Henley. The cost to supply and fix a plaque engraved with the names is quoted as £494.60p.

BL asked if the plaque would be large enough to incorporate future names if required and if the size should be increased for future discovery. The proposed size was said to be more than adequate for this.

The motion to proceed with the engraving and fixing of the memorial was proposed by BL and unanimously carried.

The Drumhead service was well received and a vote of thanks was recorded to the organisers.

5 Matters relating to SODC and OCC:

Signed

Date

AP reported on the recent boundary changes which have to be reviewed periodically, the last review was thirty years ago and is handed down to the councillors and require parliamentary approval which is due. The effect of the recent changes is to make ours a two member ward and reduce the number of SODC councillors from 48 to 36. The information is on the boundary Committee website.

SODC Local Plan 2031: All 3,000 responses to this latest plan are being collated by SODC regarding preferred options. AP said these should be announced at the next Town & Village Forum - AP to get the date of this to NPC.

BL asked AP if any progress had been made by SODC to provide a designated officer to work with NPC. NPC understood that Peter Canavan was to be that officer. AP to confirm. BL thanked AP for coming to the meeting.

5. BL reported on behalf of SH regarding the **Port Hill footway**. A major weed killing and cutting back is under way by OCC according to Area Steward Keith Stenning. SH to be contacted again if this work not done within the next two weeks.

JS reported on old Furniture store: Ownership of the building and plot has been confirmed from a Land registry search that it does belong to OCC. Our County Councillor Steve Harrod has confirmed that they agree.

The position regarding Common Land has not been clarified as the OCC department at Eynsham who store the records from the Commons Registration Act 1965, are unable to give a definitive answer. Should the site ever be disposed of this would be significant as registered common land cannot be built on without application to Defra under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 - restricted works on common land. Any application would almost certainly be refused.

The matter is still under investigation.

Salt: AJM reported that we have three tonnes in one tonne bags at the Old Calving Unit but it is subject to weather and Mr Blyth can no longer store it as a result of expansion and changes to the use of this area of the farm. The possibility of moving the salt to the Old Furniture Store was raised. AJM to site visit and talk to Mr Blyth about this as he has offered the services of the Telehandler for this .

6. Police & Neighbourhood Watch:

BL presented ML's Report.

There is 80% NHW coverage of the village. The Police offered to help with a New Website but it was felt that this offer was not needed as most of the NHW information was on the General website anyway. JS asked if the new (police) website was solely for all NHW Schemes in the area. BL to ask ML.

01491-82300 Jem- what's this? I gave you Malcolm's written report.

7. **Commons matters:** deferred to after the next Crocker End Management Committee meeting in October.

The council was informed by JS that the Triangle will be cleared in a ratio of 20m cut/20m left uncleared up to the roundabout. This is to provide wildlife 'corridors'. Some concern was voiced as to what this would look like but it was agreed to wait and see. The section between the bus shelter and the Village will be cleared. The cutting of the common was discussed as this used to be done by Ian Victor-Smith who then sold on the hay. Could there be anyone willing to do this in future?

Phillip Day has helped in the past and is willing to do some things in the future.

The Adventure Trail is nearly finished and should be complete for official Opening On 1st November at 2pm. Currently there are warning signs that this is still work in progress.

8. **Grass Cutting:** the revised list is in compilation and then will be presented to Scion for a revised quote for next year.

The trees in **Lion Meadow:** NG to obtain 2 quotes if the one quote exceeds £250.

Anna Hale –Malt House the trees and hedging are not really under control. BL will speak to Anna Hale about this.

9. **The Bus Shelters:** are finished and paid for.

The cycle racks will be discussed at the November meeting.

10. **Recreation & Amentities:**

BL presented the **NSCC** report:

Cllr Lewis reported that the community centre has provided excellent facility over the summer holidays:

Signed

Date

Advanced Sports Ltd has provided daily weekday activities for 30-40 primary school aged children. @ £30 per day this has produced an income of £810.00 for the NSCC Account.

There was no charge for the “*ball run*” set up at the front of the premises and open three days per week. Grant funded and originally planned for the Walled Garden but trimmed back in scale by the organiser and moved only when there were concerns regarding the safety of the coping stones on top of the Walled Garden wall. As yet we do not know if this raised any money for the community as was intended.

BL to present NSCC end of the academic year accounts to the Joint Use Committee in October and to NPC in November.

Old School Green: Open space

A complaint has been received from a resident of the private houses regarding the untidy state of the ground cover planting in front of the brick and flint SOHA house.

Whilst it was hoped that the tenant of the SOHA house would be proud to tend this small area, it appears not to be the case. Anticipating this BL consulted Paula Fox at SODC Planning (the case officer throughout the Planning and building of the NSCC and responsible for drawing up the S106 Agreement that is part of the project). BL asked if there was any reason why the PC, as owner of the Open Space, could not remove the planting and lay down grass instead, and she (PF) could see no reason. Proposed by BL; passed unanimously by NPC.

AJM to ask Scion to cost the work.

Nettlebed Friendship Club :

Claire Harwood is organising the Christmas Party for Senior Citizens of Nettlebed. The W.I. has given £50 remaining in their account for the party. The Friendship Club will be looking to the NPC for the usual £150.00 Donation, plus relying on the PC to deliver the invitations in early November.

A Christmas Late Night Shopping Event was discussed. BL would talk to GCJ and the School at the JUC meeting in October with a view to organising firm arrangements to present to NPC in November.

Playground: BL presented RSoPA report which concluded much self help was possible. The report has been paid for and Playground Services to be asked for a quote for the works. Addition of mini trampolines recommended.

Signed

Date

BL reported receiving an email regarding twinning from a Councillor of a Breton village in France with implied social and cultural benefits. The PC felt whilst this might work with special interest groups but there were doubts if Nettlebed could amass enough interest to make this viable. However, it was agreed to put an article in the next newsletter inviting anyone interested to contact BL.

11. The Newsletter: JS reported that this requires articles for insertion and will come out in October/November. BL to draw up a preliminary list of articles to give to JS.

12. Roads & Footpaths:

Priest Hill: BL reported that planings from previous works have been kindly laid down by contractors (constructing 2A and renovating 2 Priest Hill) resolving the surface problems here.

Flooding of Cat Lane: Following a site visit by JM it was reported to the OCC Highways authority. The drainage should be by means of a gully but from subsidence and lack of management it appears the camber of the road is now wrong and the water forms a deep pool in the subsided road rather than draining to the field. The solution is to repair the road and possibly clear the gully.

NE5 footpath: unclear as to where the problem lies, site visit required then contact appropriate bodies.

There will be **Rolling Road Closures for the Oxon stage of the Tour of Britain Cycle race on Friday 12 September (1100am-3.00pm)**. All were advised to report any problems (or benefits) experienced in the village to OCC Highways.

13. Transport:

NG reported that the Reading Timetable of buses is now 10 mins later but no problems have been reported. The bus only accepts 1 wheelchair which was felt to be not enough accommodation. However the bus is well used particularly as it is FOC to most users who have a bus pass.

NG also commented that there is no parking for cars near the bus stop.

NG to raise this with the bus company.

Signed

Date

A local cyclist asked about the policy regarding the incorporation of cycleways into road planning to JMcE. Viability and comment from OCC.

Clerks Correspondence:

Accounts sheets circulated.

Clerk informed the council of recent course on clerking completed.

Clerk informed the council that as of August this year recording of public meetings is now allowed and for reasons of council protection from edited versions now recommended.

NPC informed the most recent audit is now available for inspection.

Public Questions - 3 present.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, November 5th 2014 in the Village Club.

Meeting finished 10.06pm

Signed

Date