

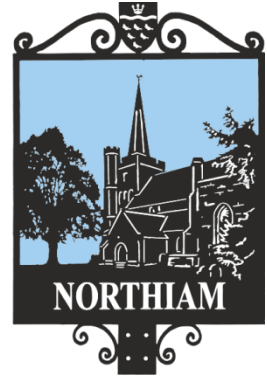
Northiam Parish Council

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Meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the Village Hall, Northiam at 7.00pm, Thursday 14 October 2021

MINUTES

- 1) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Tony Wadie gave apologies for absence and these were accepted.
- 2) **ATTENDEES:** Councillors Jacqueline Harding (JH) Chair, Tony Biggs (TB) Vice-Chair, Penny Farmer (PF), Dean Johnson (DJ), Robert Maltby (RM), Anthony Wontner-Smith (AWS), Jon Streatfield (JS), Councillor Sue Schlesinger (SS)
- 3) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Members Conduct.
- 4) **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Maximum of 15 minutes)**

Jackie Broad asked if it could be agreed how the money can be given to SFF? The Chair advised that the clerk would agree a procedure with the CIC.

Sarah Giles gave a pop up pub update. It was hugely popular and made a good net profit (£4800). The CIC now have some money for match funding and it was only successful because of the large number of volunteers (25) and a good way of the community getting involved. There had been a number of lessons learnt including cover for rain. It had been open early evening but there was support for later evenings. Sarah advised that it won't be open again until May and look to open 10 times p.a. but possibly with a one-off at Easter.

5) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16 September 2021

It was agreed that the minutes would be amended to say that 'If there is a longer list of planning applications (more than 3), then members will hold an additional meeting'. There were no other amendments.

6) REPORTS BY PARISH, COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- (a) District Councillor Martin Mooney had provided a written update to the Council.
- (b) County Councillor Paul Redstone asked the Parish Council for their views on whether they were happy to resolve hedge issues and footpaths direct with residents. The Council agreed to do this, but with the Clerk to keep a note in order that there was a central register.
- (c) Parish Councillors gave updates on areas within their responsibility:

Cllr. Maltby advised members that the bonfire event had worked very well. He agreed to provide a copy of the asset register to the Clerk, and told councillors that school advertising was in hand.

Cllr. Tony Biggs asked if the minutes on the cemetery could be added to this month's minutes. Lots of work has been carried out in the cemetery and brambles are being cleared on graves. All acknowledged that the cemetery was looking much neater. The Chair asked for the chapel key to be provided. The PCSO meeting didn't happen due to technical difficulties. All agreed that the wreath would be purchased for Remembrance Sunday and Pete Sergeant would be asked if he could do the sound system.

Cllr. Anthony Wontner Smith said he was very concerned with some residents reactions to the Housing Needs Survey, as the Council had specifically said that it would consult with residents, and wanted to stop major development on the site. The Council had previously said if there could be an exception site then it might consider this, to support the village, but the land had been purchased for the benefit of the village and to stop unwanted development.

Cllr. John Streatfield felt that the land down by the pond needed some attention, including litter picking, as it was overgrown and had overhanging branches. The Clerk was asked to send the tree survey to round again to councillors, as this work should have been identified.

Cllr. Penny Farmer advised that the Goddens Gill gate still needs to be repaired. Cllr. Mooney reported that Optivo would be removing the gate at Goddens Gill in order to encourage residents to use that area, and there was a debate as to who was the owner of the land. It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to look into this. There were rats at Goddens Close and this need taking forward with Rother Environmental Health team, and the Clerk was asked to contact RDC. Cllr. Farmer also felt the Northiam sign needs polishing.

Cllr. Dean Johnson gave an update on the playground. There was vandalism to the surface near the slide, where part of the surface (a previous patch repair) had been cut out. Fences need repairing around the playground. Councillors raised whether it was possible to have CCTV to help stop the vandalism. It was a very reluctant decision, but the council felt it had no choice but to close the playground until further notice, due to the health & safety risk. This was a very disappointing step and was very unfair to the majority of users, because of the actions of a very few.

7) FINANCE

- a) The Council noted the current financial position to 30 September 2021.
- b) The payment report for October 2021 was received and Councillors agreed the payments contained therein.
- c) The report of PKF Littlejohn in respect of the Annual Governance Review 2020 was received, and it was agreed that the Finance Advisory Committee would look at the variances with the Clerk.
- d) The Finance Advisory Group has considered the request from the CIC for additional funds, and recommended that up to £17,000 be made available to the CIC for capital works, from the earmarked reserve. It was agreed to make this sum available, with the

Clerk to make suitable documented arrangements with the CIC for the release of this money, by way of invoices from the CIC.

- e) Members were aware that ESCC require £2150 to complete this year's sponsorship of the school crossing patrol, in the sum of £3750. The sum of £2000 is to be provided by Maloney's, and the Council has received a donation of £500 from a local resident. The Parish Council has already made a donation of £1600 in June, and this leaves a balance of £2150 to be paid to ESCC when the money is received from Maloneys.

IT WAS AGREED:

- a) The current financial position was noted.
- b) The payments set out in appendix 4 were agreed for payment
- c) The report from the external auditors and their comments were noted, and the Finance Advisory Group were to work with the Clerk to look at the variances.
- d) That up to £17,000 be made available to the CIC from the earmarked reserve. The Clerk to make suitable documented arrangements with the CIC for the payment of these funds.
- e) To make a payment £2150 to ESCC, on receipt of the donation from Maloneys.

8) PLANNING:

The following planning applications were considered: -

RR/2021/1740/P - 3 Ghyllside Road, Northiam TN31 6QG
Loft Conversion, Including New Front and Rear Dormers and Front Porch Modifications
Members agreed that there was NO OBJECTION to this application.

RR/2021/1935/P - Cooks Farmhouse - Land Adj, New Road, Northiam TN31 6HS - Proposed siting of a static holiday let unit and associated change of use of the land.
OBJECTION because it is an intrusion on the AONB

RR/2021/1883/P - Torphin, Station Road, Northiam TN31 6QL - Proposed extensions and alterations to dwelling
SUPPORT

RR/2021/1786/P - Spar Stores, Clematis Cottage, Station Road, Northiam TN31 6LQ
Roof extension over existing shop premises to create two self-contained flats
OBJECTION as there is no parking, overlooking and highways issues.

RR/2021/1730/P - Copley, Station Road, Northiam TN31 6QL
Single storey rear extension and loft conversion including extensions to the existing roof
SUPPORT

ALL PLANNING DECISIONS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS.

9) URBAN GRASS CUTTING

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) requires local Councils to advise by December which option they would like to choose for next year, in respect of urban grass cutting, and have advised that from this year they will be including an inflationary increase in their prices.

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish/Town Council a total of £921 for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £460 to do this.

Resolve:

The Parish Council agreed to Option 3, and the Clerk was asked to notify ESCC accordingly.

10) VILLAGE MATTERS:

- a) Clerk/RFO applications. To note the current position with regard to the appointment of a permanent Clerk/RFO. It was agreed that the Council would also interview the other candidates.
- b) Defibrillators. Further information on the defibrillators and their locations had been provided by Councillor Farmer. Defibrillators were to be considered as part of the budget setting.

11) CLERKS REPORT

The Council's insurances are due for renewal on 17 November 2021. The interim clerk has limited knowledge of the Council's assets and risk profile. The Clerk therefore recommends that the Finance Advisory Group consider the proposal prior to acceptance, and supports the production of an updated risk register for Council approval.

Meeting Closed 8.40

