

Northiam Parish Council

Parish Office, Village Club, Main Street
Northiam, East Sussex TN31 6LP

Telephone: 01797 253990

Email: clerk@northiamvillage.co.uk

www.northiamvillage.co.uk



**Meeting of the Parish Council to be held
in the Village Hall, Northiam at 7.00pm,
Thursday 12th January 2023**

Members of the Public and Press are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Due to the adoption of new Standing Orders, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to give their opinion or view once in relation to an item on the agenda.

MINUTES

Present: Tony Wadie (Chair), Tony Biggs (Vice Chair), Carolyn Pierce, Bob Russell, Penny Farmer, Anthony Wontner-Smith, Dean Johnson, Jon Streatfeild, Ben Dallimore

Georgina Jackson, Locum Clerk

Date: 15th January 2023

The Chairman announced that the meeting would be recorded by the Council, Cllr Dallimore also declared that he would be recording

1) Apologies for Absence:

No apologies of absence were received.

The meeting closed at 19.04

2) Public Questions (Maximum of 15 minutes)

A member of the public gave their support for obtaining legal advice in relation to the Stables lease.

A member of the public asked if there were any volunteer groups in Northiam that could help with clearing the snow should it be necessary, to help the elderly and the vulnerable.

The meeting reopened at 19.11

3) Declarations of Interests and Lobbying

All Councillors declared their interest in relation to the library planning application.

4) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th November 2022 and 20th December 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the signing of the Minutes dated 10th November 2022 to the next meeting to be held in February 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th December 2022 be approved and the Minutes were duly signed.

5) Finances

- i) To receive & approve the payment report November and December 2022.
The payments for November and December were circulated and **AGREED**.
- ii) To receive the most recent bank reconciliation and financial report.
It was **RESOLVED** That the bank reconciliation for December 2022 was approved.

The bank reports were **noted**.
- iii) To ratify the payment of £18,599.07 for the slide to KOMPAN
It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of £18,599.07.
- iv) To ratify the insurance cover and premium of £5,615.01 from Gallagher. This figure includes all the fees.
It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of £5,515.01.
- v) To approve the time-sheet of the Locum Clerk for the period 20/12/2022 – 06/01/2023
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the time sheet for the Locum Clerk.

6) To retrospectively approve the instructing of a contractor to remove the tree that came down at the allotment site at a cost of £150 plus VAT. This will be spent from the Horticultural Services budget line. Actual YTD £1,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve the payment of £150.

7) Stables Lease

- a) To consider obtaining legal advice from Wellers Solicitors on the legalities of the lease with regard to the items mentioned in the report.
 - 1. Attestation clause.
 - 2. CCTV element and signing without a resolution of the council.
 - 3. The requirement of NPC to obtain the planning permission on behalf of the tenant and the power that the council would use to do this without the General Power of Competency.
 - 4. Clarify options moving forward.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would obtain legal advice from Wellers Hedley Solicitors.

- b) To agree expenditure of up to £5,000 to obtain the above legal advice and the budget line that the expenditure should be taken from.
The expenditure of up to £5,000 was agreed by **RESOLUTION**.

8) Tree Works from Survey Undertaken

Items of expenditure to consider outside budget limit

Councillors to consider spend costs outside of the approved annual budget.

(a) To agree the tree works.

Tree Works Budget Actual YTD £1,380 with £4,620 remaining in budget line.

The quotations were received and it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Oakden Tree Care at a cost of £4,575.00.

9) Appointment of Transport Engineers for Change of Use applications at St Francis Fields.

To agree to defer this item until legal advice has been obtained from Wellers Solicitors and the Association of Local Clerks.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item until legal advice has been sought from Wellers Hedley Solicitors.

10) Budget and Precept 2023/24

i) To receive draft budget for 2023/ 2024.

ii) To agree final budget for 2023/ 2024.

The final budget of £219,501.03 was **AGREED**.

11) Precept

To agree Precept for 2023/2024.

It was **RESOLVED** that there would be a 7.5% rise in the precept.

12) To agree self-delivery in relation to the urban grass cutting options for 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree self delivery in relation to the urban grass cutting options for 2023.

13) To appoint new Councillor volunteer for weekly visual playground inspections.

After discussion Cllr Johnson **AGREED** to continue undertaking the weekly visual inspections, it was noted that the reports need to be actioned.

14) To consider refilling the salt bins in Wilderness Gardens.

It was **RESOLVED** to fill the two salt bins at Wilderness Gardens at a cost of £216.

15) Reports by County and District Councillors

i) District Councillor Martin Mooney. Cllr Mooney sent his apologies.

ii) District Councillor Tony Ganly. Cllr Ganly sent his apologies.

iii) County Councillor Paul Redstone

Cllr Redstone reported on the potholes left on the roads due to the snow, members of the public are encouraged to report any potholes.

16) VILLAGE MATTERS

i) Correspondence

Noted.

ii) Councillors' Reports

Cllr Johnson reported on the lack of signage at the cemetery footpath. The clerk will arrange for some signage.

Cllr Russell reported on parking on grass verges in the village and is obtaining some quotations to bring to council.

Cllr Streatfeild reported on the emergency response plan and stated that due to data protection he could not publish all the telephone numbers, he asked members of the public to contact him should the emergency response plan be activated.

Cllr Pierce gave an update on the most recent visit to St Francis Field.
 Cllr Dallimore asked a question on the relationship between the CIC and the parish council, this question had been asked by a member of the public.
 Cllr Biggs tendered his resignation.

17) Planning

Applications from November agenda:

- i) RR/2022/2437/P - **Undecided**
 Newlands, Dixter Lane, Northiam TN31 6PR
 Variation of conditions 2, 6 and 8 imposed on RR/2018/2282/P and conditions 1, 5 and 7 imposed on App/U1430/W/21/3279903 to amend the vehicular access to plots 2 and 3

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2437/P&from=planningSearch>

- ii) RR/2022/2355/P – **Approved Conditional**
 Windmill Cottage, Beacon Lane, Northiam TN31 6PJ

Demolition of the existing dwelling house and replacement with 2x 2 Bed dwelling houses and associated landscaping.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2355/P&from=planningSearch>

- iii) RR/2022/2535/L **Listed BC Granted**
 Great Dixter, Great Dixter House & Gardens, Dixter Lane, Northiam TN31 6PH

Essential repairs to the Wagon Shed

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2535/L&from=planningSearch>

New Applications/Amendments to current applications:

- iv) RR/2022/2804/P
 Land east of Ivy Lodge, Station Road, Northiam

Erection of 5no. detached dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping, works to include closure of existing access.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2804/P&from=planningSearch>

Northiam Parish Council **RESOLVED** to object to this planning application on the following grounds:

- The proposed development would result in the loss of the existing countryside gap and would extend the built village form along the northern side along Station Road, thereby contributing to the intensification of ribbon development on the village fringe, to the detriment of the village's historic rural setting, and the character of this part of the High Weald AONB. The site lies within a High Weald historic field boundary and is considered integral to the visual setting of the village landscape.
- There has been no highways consultation.

v) RR/2022/2437/P
Newlands, Dixter Lane, Northiam TN31 6PR

Variation of conditions 2, 6 and 8 imposed on RR/2018/2282/P and conditions 1, 5 and 7 imposed on App/U1430/W/21/3279903 to amend the vehicular access to plots 2 and 3.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2437/P&from=planningSearch>

Northiam Parish Council **RESOLVED** to support this application.

vi) RR/2022/2938/P
Morley Cottage - Land adjacent to, Beckley Road, Northiam TN31 6JB

Erection of an agricultural building to be used for the safe and secure storage of agricultural equipment, machinery and coppiced timber.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2938/P&from=planningSearch>

Northiam Parish Council **RESOLVED** to object to this application.

vii) RR/2022/2691/P 2
2 Millfield Cottages, Beacon Lane, Northiam TN31 6PJ

Demolition of existing single garage and erection of double garage building with room in the roof.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2691/P&from=planningSearch>

Northiam Parish Council **RESOLVED** to object to this application.

ix) RR/2022/2266/P
6 Station Road Coplands Plat, Northiam TN31 6QB
Proposed off road parking and pavement crossover for wheelchair access

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2266/P&from=planningSearch>

Northiam Parish Council **RESOLVED** to support this application.

x) RR/2022/2711/P

Northiam Village Hall - Car Park, Frenwen Close, Northiam TN31 6RA

Retention of a portacabin to be used part-time as village library.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2711/P&from=planningSearch>

Northiam Parish Council will not respond to this application as it is their application.

All appeals, enforcements and decision notices have been previously circulated to Councillors.

18) To agree the public’s exclusion from the confidential part of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting and move into confidential session.

The meeting moved into confidential session at 20.51

That in view of the confidential nature of the business (employment/legal issues) about to be transacted it was resolved under the provisions of Public Bodies admissions to meetings Act 1960 s.1 that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

Human Resources

19) To consider entering into early conciliation in relation to ACAS application and asking to clarify the details.

After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to enter into early conciliation.

20) To confirm the hourly rate for the Locum Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the hourly rate for the locum clerk.

21) To agree mileage for the locum clerk to attend meetings at the standard rate of 0.45 pence per mile.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the mileage for the locum clerk.

The meeting ended at 21.15

Chairman