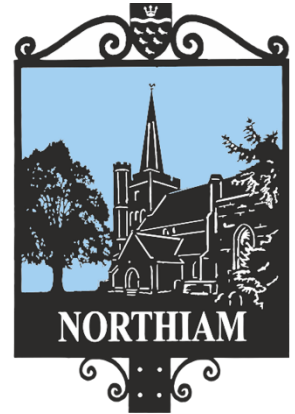


Northiam Parish Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2024, Northiam Village Hall

Present: Cllr Fairbrass (Chair), Cllr C Biggs, Cllr Fenton, Cllr Harding, Cllr Luckett, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Schlesinger, and Cllr Wadie.

Also Present: Mary Philo Locum Clerk - Cllr T Biggs (RDC), Cllr Ganly (RDC), Cllr Redstone (ESCC) and approximately 20 members of the Public

FC24/407 Apologies for Absence

All parish Councillors were present.

FC24/408 To Receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Meeting Adjourned at 19:10 to enable members of the public and county and district councillors to address the meeting.

There was a 20-minute presentation on the draft Local Plan by Rother District Council Spatial Planning Officer, Holly Harrison. This is currently open for public consultation and closes on 23rd July 2024. The two themes are Green to Core and to Live Well Locally, the latter aiming to reduce car dependency. There is a target to create 74,000 square metres of employment floor space and 14,000 new dwellings both by 2040. To achieve the latter, it would be required to erect 750 dwellings per annum, whilst currently new dwelling per year are around 230.

County Councillor Paul Redstone had nothing to add to the report the report already circulated.

District Councillor Tony Biggs reported there was a budget for 5 planning enforcement officers but at present only have 2.5. He advised that Persimmon had agreed that they were responsible for the maintenance of the land behind Donsmead. It had been heard that they may approach Northiam Parish Council to assume that responsibility.

Local Nature Recovery Group (Formerly The Biodiversity Group) are looking at a bottom up approach in addition to their top down approach. They are closely monitoring the wild life on Beacon Field where target species have returned, and Field 14 where signs of a second target species look good.

- FC24/409 Meeting Resumed at 19:30 Minutes.**
The meeting scheduled for the 19th March was cancelled due to the resignation of the Clerk.
Following minor amendments, the council agreed to the minutes of the 9th April 2024 and 23rd May 2024.
- FC24/410 Terms of Reference for Natural Burial Ground Cemetery.**
The Council agreed 9-0 to the Terms of Reference for the natural burial ground cemetery and to admit residents and experts with appropriate experience to the working group.
The members of the working group shall be Councillors: Julian Luckett, Pete Sargent, Tony Wadie and Sue Schlesinger.
- FC24/411 Terms of Reference for Playground Working Group.**
It was noted that the Council will be seeking match funding should additional funds be required, and members of the working group may include non-councillors. The Council voted 9-0 to accept the Terms of Reference for the Playground Working Group.
The members of the working group shall be Councillors: Pete Sargent, Sue Schlesinger, Jacqueline Harding, John Fenton and Michelle Fairbrass.
- FC24/412 Biodiversity Working Group.**
It was agreed to set up a Local Nature Recovery Working Group, to encompass the whole parish (St Francie Field, verges, Harlots Wood, Beacons field etc). Terms of Reference and members to be agreed at a later meeting.
- FC24/413 Planning.**
RR/2024/547/P. Old Piggery, Crockers Lane: Variance of condition 2 to application RR/2023/2154/P to have drawings reflect amended position of proposed storage shed.
The Council voted 9-0 to support this application.
- RR/2024/782/P. Wellington House, Dixter Road: Removal of C20 single storey sunroom, erection of two storey extension.
The Council voted 9-0 to support this application, subject to confirmation of no loss of amenity to neighbouring properties.
- RR/2024/861/P. Crockers End, Crockers Lane: Amendments to applications RR/2020/219/PN3, RR/2022/1100/P and RR/2022/3002/P to allow relocation of driveway to the south of dwelling and areas of the garden land amended to accord with this charge; changes to fenestration, removal of access steps and addition of patios. (Retrospective).
The Council voted 9-0 to support this application.
- RR/2024/954/T. Frewen College: Oak – T876, T875, T874, T873, T872, T871, T870, T869, T868, T867, T866 – Remove dead wood from crowns.

The Council voted 9-0 to support this application.

Finances

FC24/414 The Council agreed 9-0 the bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2024 £262,631.39 and for the year 2023-2024 total receipts for the year £ 181,164.50 and total Payments were £ 182,313.79.

Bank Statements as at 31 st March 2024	Co-op	£67,456.33
	Hodge	£82,165.65
	Unity	£26,961.67
	Nationwide	£54,318.49
	Barclays	£31,729.25

FC24/415 The Council agreed 9-0 the bank reconciliation as at 30th April 2024 £319,256.41 and the budget monitoring for April 2024.

Bank Statements		Balance carried forward		
£262,631.39				
30 th April 2024	Co-op	£67,456.33	Total receipts	£
68,520.81				
	Hodge	£82,165.65	Total payments	<u>£</u>
<u>11,909.90</u>				
	Unity	£26,961.67		
£319,256.41				
	Nationwide	£54,318.49		
	Barclays	£31,729.25		
	Petty Cash	£ 14.11		

FC24/416 The Council agreed 9-0 the bank reconciliation as at 31st May 2024 £318,823.03 and the budget monitoring for May 2024.

Bank Statements		Balance carried forward		
£319,256.41				
31 st May 2024	Co-op	£115,186.71	Total receipts	£
75,578.62				
	Hodge	£ 82,165.65	Total payments	<u>£</u>
<u>16,401.09</u>				
	Unity	£ 26,961.67		
£318,823.03				
	Nationwide	£ 54,318.49		
	Barclays	£ 40,190.51		
	Petty Cash	£ 00.00		

Receipts

Vat refund	£ 111.12
Bungalow Rental	£1,183.00
Sheep grazing	£ 69.50
Vat refund	£2,694.19

Payments Net

BT	£ 170.47
Southern Electric	£ 640.65
Salaries	£1,062.75
ICO data handler reg	£ 40.00
Hall hire	£ 10.00
Broadband	£ 19.31
Playdale	£ 135.14
Parish Meeting	£ 21.00
Parish Meeting Room hire	£ 42.50
Library Electric	£ 192.14
War memorial	£ 36.99
SFF Rates	£ 384.00
Castle water	£ 390.90
EDF	£ 98.10
J O'Connor	£ 938.16
VAT	£ 309.08

FC24/417

The Council agreed 9-0 to authorize the June 2024 payment schedule.

Payee	Budget	Amount Gross	Amount Net	VAT	Method	De n
John O'Conner	R&M-Grass con	£1125.79	£938.16	£187.63	BACS	Gr Ma e-
NVHT	Admin-RmHire/APM	£30.00			BACS	Rc Mē
RDC	SFF-Stble Rnt	£384.00			BACS	Ra 24

Safeplay	R&M-Playg	£120.00	£100.00	£20.00	BACS	Play op insp
Scribe	Admin – AccSftWare	£673.92	561.60	112.32	BACS	Ann
Staff	Staff Cost - Sal	£2093.20			BACS	Outs May JUNE
Wealden Traditional Construction	General Reserve	£900.00	£750.00	£150.00	BACS	Spor Pavi Plan
Online playgrounds	R&M-Playg-CIL	£24.44	£20.37	£4.07	BACS	Play repa
Kompan	R&M-Playg-CIL	£62.68	£52.24	£10.44	BACS	Play repa
EDF	SFF-Utilities	£103.00	£98.10	£4.90	D/D	SFF
Castle Water	SFF-Utilities	£410.44	£390.90	£19.54	D/D	SFF
GCI/Global4	Admin-Broadband	£23.17	£19.31	£3.86	D/D	Broa

FC24/418**Bank Transfers**

The Council agreed 9-0 to transfer £25,000 from Co-op to Barclays to cover a share of the 6 monthly Public Works Loan Board payment.

The Council agreed 9-0 to transfer £10,177 from Barclays to Co-op as Community Levy Funds were paid in error into Barclays.

FC24/419**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-2024**

1. The council noted that the Asset List for the AGAR for 2023-2024 remains the same but will require updating/reviewing in the next 6 months.
2. Internal Audit Findings of 30th May 2024 deferred due to fresh information.
3. Response to AGAR assertion 9 section 1, deferred due to fresh information.
4. AGAR section 2 Accounting Statement deferred due to fresh information.

FC24/420**Playground Report.**

A draft tender specification was being created for playground improvements. In the meantime, smaller repairs were completed, as highlighted in the interim operational inspection. There was an inconsistency in safety inspection reports so the group is considering changing the company used.

FC24/42

1

Cemetery and Extension Working Party Update Report.

The group will continue to chase the footpath contractor to rectify the poor work on the recently laid path.

1. The council agreed 9-0 to accept the quote of £850 from S J Gray to pollard the Ash tree which overhangs neighbouring property and well-tended graves. As the tree is in a conservation area, an

application for tree works will be submitted for approval before any works will be carried out.

2. The council agreed 9-0 to apply for a Commonwealth War Graves sign to be installed at the entrance to Northiam Cemetery.

FC24/42

2

Allotments.

The council agreed 9-0 to the letter drafted by the Clerk requesting an agreement to change the terms of the notice period and rent increases.

FC24/423**St Francis Field.**

1. Future strategy. Meetings are held 1st Tuesday of each month. Production of the draft budget has been brought forward to October. The council agreed the proposed actions in the short term, while constructing a longer-term plan. These included the following:
 - Continue with the community garden.
 - Progress the newt pond to improve biodiversity and include community access via permissive path and in the long term to provide some income.
 - Continue with the natural burial ground, submitting a change of use planning application separately from any other applications for St Frances Field. The Earmarked reserves were not expected to be sufficient for the works required.
 - Reconsideration of a secure dog walking area which had been previously left to one side due to the costs of fencing.
 - Improving public access with a permissive path through fields 13 & 14
 - Village Picnic for the August Bank Holiday.
 - Consideration of 5K park run or bike or fitness trails.
 - Consideration of archery and/or pétanque temporarily accommodated at the sand school area and a tennis court.

Harlotts Wood: The Council agreed 9-0 to have a letter from the Clerk requesting the person(s) creating a new footpath to stop citing the reasons why, with supporting information from Brian Banks.

2. It was agreed 9-0 to draft a letter to Sarah Sheppherd at RDC to see if planning permission was required for a 10m x 6m x 2.6m polytunnel to be erected.
3. August Bank Holiday Community Picnic.
The Council agreed 9-0 to invite the entire village to a community picnic to be held on the St Francis Field on the August Bank Holiday. No cost to the council as only minor cost anticipated which would be covered by the SFF CIC.
4. The Council agreed 9-0 to sell cordwood arising from tree and hedgerow maintenance (about 10 cubic metres), carried out by the SFF CIC. The funds raised, less chainsaw and tractor costs, would go to the parish council.

FC24/424**Playing Field and Pavilion Working Party Report.**

In order to seek grant funding towards the cost of refurbishing the sport pavilion, it was necessary to demonstrate that the proposal is feasible. An approved planning application would help towards this. It was agreed 9-0 to submit the planning application for a refurbished pavilion before the next ordinary meeting. The cost is estimated at around £1000.

FC24/425 Information for Councillors.

- 1. D-Day 80th commemorations and beacon lighting, was attended by around 80 people with no reported incidents.
- 2. Extraordinary Meeting to be held on Thursday 27th June 2024 to agree the AGAR and response to questions raised by external auditor in March 2024.

FC24/426 Items for Next Agenda.

St Francis Field bungalow maintenance.
Information Commissioners Enquiries.
Terms of reference for the Playing Field and Pavilion Working Group.

Meeting close at 21:25

Date of Next Meeting Thursday July 11th 2024 at 7pm Northiam Village Hall.

Signed:

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Date:

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