



Pudding Norton & Testerton Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 12 January 2023, 6pm

Parish Councillors present: Patrica Ainger, Vivien Woods, Nigel Housden (District & Parish Councillor), Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor), Terry Amos and Andia Brassley. Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk).

There were 5 members of the public.

1. **Welcome and to receive apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed those present.

There were no apologies received.

1.1 To acknowledge Cllr P Ainger stepping down as Chairman

Cllr Ainger wished to step down from the role of Chairman but remain as a Councillor. Members present wished to thank Cllr Ainger for all her help and leadership of the Parish Council during her time as Chairman.

2. **To elect a Chairman**

Following Cllr Ainger's decision to step down the Clerk invited nominations for the office of Chairman. Cllr Woods was nominated by councillor's present. With no further nominations it was agreed to elect Cllr Woods to serve as Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Ainger and seconded by Cllr Amos. Cllr Woods thanked councillors and signed her declaration of acceptance. Cllr Woods took the remainder of the meeting as Chairman.

3. **To fill a parish councillor vacancy by co-option**

The Council RESOLVED to co-opt Andia Brassley onto the Council. Proposed by Cllr Woods and seconded by Cllr Amos. All agreed. Cllr Brassley duly signed her declaration of acceptance.

4. **To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations**

Cllrs Ainger and Brassley declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.1.

It was RESOLVED to grant the Councillors a dispensation to participate in the consideration of item 9.1.

5. **To approve the minutes of meeting held on 10 November 2022**

The minutes were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. **To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting**

Clerk and Chairman noted that there is no further update on the village gateways at this time.

7. **To receive reports from NCC Cllr & NNDC Cllr, if attending**

Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor) – Report can be found on our website www.puddingnortonpc.info.

Nigel Housden (District Councillor) - Please see item 8.

8. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public

A member of the public asked for an update on the operating licence in relation to the Parklands sale...it has been 3 months since the sale and still no agreed licence, why is this? The residents of Parklands have no faith in NNDC at all.

Cllr Housden explained that what should have happened is that any negotiation of the licence should have been drawn up before the sale and he is working hard on behalf of Parklands residents to ensure that the agreed licence is suitable to the residents as well as the new owners and NNDC. The required fit and proper person should have had a DBS check carried out on them but this has still not been done and Cllr Housden will be bringing this up at the meeting next week with Steve Blatch.

Cllr Housden went on to explain that nothing can realistically be done to overturn the sale of the site but they can still hold NNDC to account for not acting in the parishioners best interests. A member of the public stated that 'NNDC had confirmed they would do this and said the same to our local MP Jerome Mayhew, but they have clearly not had the residents' best interests at heart'. Cllr Housden is in contact with Jerome Mayhew MP.

Cllr Housden has requested that the monies from the sale are ringfenced and put back into the local area and is doing all he can to get a satisfactory resolution to this matter.

Members of the public present also raised issues with the new owners. They are reportedly requesting rent payments outside of the usual time period...and are increasing electricity costs, even though NNDC said it would continue at the lower rate. No information is made available about the energy supply or unit rate of energy from the new owners, just that it had to be paid with 3 days notice. The new owners are reportedly intimidating residents and entering their properties uninvited.

Following some detailed discussion, it was agreed that residents should contact the local community police officer Richard Dawson to report this behaviour.

Cllr Housden asked that all reports or comments from residents are sent to him so that he can forward them all on to NNDC.

Cllrs Housden and FitzPatrick suggested that advice and information can be found in the Mobile Homes Act, where there are fact sheets (these could be printed at the library if people don't have a printer).

Cllr Housden reported that the licensing officer was unable to attend tonight's meeting but is happy to attend a separate meeting. Cllr Brassley or Clerk to contact the NNDC licensing officer for his availability for a meeting date.

Cllr FitzPatrick also suggested contacting the Law Society and asking for their services on a pro bono basis if possible, as legal aid is required by a specialist law company on this matter.

It was also recommended that if residents have complaints, they should send them in to the CEO at NNDC directly, who should then respond. Failing a satisfactory response then residents could contact the Ombudsmen.

Clerk to contact PC Rich Dawson and invite him to our next meeting and forward his contact his details to Cllr Brassley.

Cllr Woods asked for discussion to come to a close with the proposed action plan:- letters of complaint from residents to be sent to the CEO at NNDC , Cllr Brassley will take peoples statement to be signed by residents about what was discussed prior to the sale, Cllr Brassley and Clerk to agree a course of action to obtain some possible dates meet with the licencing officer (possibly to be held at Fakenham Connect offices).

9. Open Spaces

9.1 Discuss any further progress on the sale of the Parklands

Please see item 8.

9.2 Discuss and consider new defibrillator

Clerk had contacted the new Parklands owners regarding a location for a new defibrillator, however no response has yet been received. It was agreed that further research was required on costings, and confirmation of ownership of the street light columns near Parklands.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 To receive results of applications

There were none.

10.2 To receive and consider new applications

PF/22/2912 | Fakenham Racecourse, The Racecourse, Pudding Norton, NR21 7NY

Installation of 4 rows of ground mounted Photo Voltaic (PV) panels (74 panels in each row)

PC comment - SUPPORT

PF/22/3004 | Land At Goggs Mill , Goggs Mill Road , Hempton

Siting of a caravan and steel shipping container used in association with the keeping of animals (retrospective)

PC comment - OBJECT

11. To receive and consider correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – Made available to Councillors.

Invitation to attend an extraordinary planning meeting at Fakenham Town Council Cllr Housden and Woods will attend.

12. Financial matters

12.1 To approve the bank reconciliation and payment of accounts list

The Council RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation and payments list (below)

K&M Lighting	Street Light Maintenance	27.52
Clerk	Salary (Dec – Jan)	312.00
Hempton Parish Council	Clerk Expenses	9.23
AJ Gallagher	Insurance	427.82
Fakenham Sports Centre	Venue Hire	30.00

- 12.2 To approve the budget and set the precept for 2023/24
Following review, the Council RESOLVED to approve the budget presented by the Clerk and set the precept for the 2023/24 financial year at £5000, representing no increase on last year. Clerk to action.
- 12.3 To consider and approve renewal of insurance policy
Following consideration of the two quotations received, the Council AGREED to accept the renewal quote from AJ Gallagher. Clerk to action.
13. Receive update on progress with the Merger with Hempton Parish Council
The Chairman noted that we are still awaiting further information from NNDC, but we are expecting to complete the grouping in April.
- 14. Receive items for next agenda and note the date of the next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 March 2023, at 6pm.
The Chairman of the meeting thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date:

- 15. To pass a resolution (under the Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press for the following confidential items:**
To acknowledge national pay scale uplift of Clerks salary, backdated to 1st April 2022.
Due to time constraints the Chairman requested that this item is deferred until next meeting.