

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes

Recorded by: Amanda Rossiter, Parish Clerk

Date: 5th July 2021

Meeting Commenced: 19:00

Meeting ended: 21:40

Present:	Rex Symons (Chair) Jane Burton Tim Andrews Keith Larkin Dave Palmer Dave Purnell
District Councillors:	George James Catherine Braun Ken Tucker
County Councillor:	Linda Cohen
Clerk:	Miss A Rossiter
Other:	Five members of the public

Items

1. To receive and accept any apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Hay received and accepted

2. To invite and receive any declarations of interest

None

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the council's June meeting

(Previous minutes are available to view on the Parish Council website)

Minutes from meetings held on May 17th and June 14th approved and signed

4. Meeting for public discussion and questions

(Open to members of the public to raise issues)

A member of public raised comment on agenda item 5 and discussed their concerns over the increase in traffic along Frog lane and suggested that the council consider requesting signage warning of the S bend and also made representations for the speed limit to be extended from The Street to the bottom of Frog Lane. District Cllr Cohen explained the efforts she is making to support the road safety issues in North Nibley and agreed to try and address this issue.

Another member of public (MoP) spoke about agenda item 12a and explained the intentions behind the application and discussed the work being done to increase bio diversity, attract over 250 wildlife species, including the rare Rock-rose Pot Beetle. The MoP talked about plans to coppice Hazel and manage the semi ancient woodland in such a way that it would let in more light. It was noted that the application would allow the MoP to extend the track to take one curve down to increase practicality of access and that no trees need to be felled, and care would be taken around existing trees. The MoP advised the council of the specialist advice sought on all of these matters.

No other members of the public wished to make any comments and the public session was closed

5. To discuss the road safety issues outside of North Nibley CofE (Aided) Primary School and agree actions

Chair introduced Sue Bradley Jones and reason for letter.

Sue Bradley-Jones, chair of governors of North Nibley School made representations on behalf of the school and discussed the concerns over the amount and speed of traffic along the road outside of the school. Sue Bradley-Jones described how traffic at drop

off and pick up times became crowded around the school and the impatience of passing traffic has led to hazardous situations, she also explained that the school would like to have a 20mph speed limit implemented, not just at school pick up and drop off. Sue Bradley-Jones noted that the recent speed camera had made a positive difference to the problems and spoke of other solutions she had seen, eg. the models of children outside Slimbridge school and invited the council to offer comment/support.

A lengthy discussion followed and the following things were noted:

- A recent meeting had taken place with Highways and the road safety outside the school was raised as a concern
- County Councillor Cohen has ring fenced funding to support with North Nibley road safety issues
- Monitoring of the situation and acquired evidence would be required before any action could be taken. It was suggested that monitoring via a speed monitoring device take place outside of the school holidays when the problems are lessened (County Councillor Cohen agreed to fund this)
- Parents/Caregivers to make considerations when driving to and from the school and parking at drop off/pick up times
- Attempts previously made to slow traffic ie. "20 is Plenty" signs
- Costs of traffic regulation orders (TROs) being at around £15k - £18k and the current suspension over new TROs
- The importance of fighting the cause for safe roads in North Nibley was recognised and agreed by all
- Representations for action were made through the county councillor who was present at the meeting
- ANPR, SIDs and mobile speed vans to be considered and a review over the impact of GDPR concerns
- Cllr Cohen pledged to support a community campaign if one was started and supported a suggestion of North Nibley School teaming with other Gloucestershire schools to make a movement on the overall safety concerns
- Cllr Cohen explained that timescales were dependant on Highways capacity to action
- Recap of discussions and previous efforts made via Stroud Road Safety Group meetings
- The need for members to join the community SpeedWatch group. Clerk to advertise this in the next OTE
- Recognition that the speeding issues extend to Frog Lane as discussed in item 4

6. The Council to receive the following reports from councillors

a. Written report from district councillors

Cllr Braun added the following comments to the written report:

- Committees are starting to meet again
- Currently campaigning for transport for young people. (Clerk will share link to survey via Facebook)
- Comments on proposed changed to Parliamentary constituency boundaries to be submitted by 2nd August. Councillors agreed to send their comments via email to Chairman

A member of the PC queried the process of commenting on the local plan and what impact the PCs comment makes. The district councillors discussed the groups already in place and the areas being looked into and noted that it's worthwhile submitting comments for consideration.

b. Written report from county councillor

No further comments on report

Chair thanked the county and district councillors for their helpful reports.

7. To note any matters arising from the meeting held in June and not covered by agenda items (item for information only - covered in clerk's written update)

Councillors confirmed receipt of update and had no further comment.

8. To receive internal audit report (item for information only)

Council confirmed receipt of internal audit report. Clerk and Chair to make action plan based on feedback. Clerk suggested that she could arrange for some coaching from the auditor as part of her training and development plan.

9. To review and agree AGAR document for completion and submission

Chair amended agenda items to allow for review of each AGAR section separately. The AGAR form was reviewed and discussed by the council, section one approved by unanimous vote

10. To review and agree AGAR document for completion and submission

Chair amended agenda items to allow for review of each AGAR section separately. Section two of the AGAR form was reviewed and discussed by the council, section two approved by unanimous vote

11. To review and agree AGAR document for completion and submission

Chair amended agenda items to allow for review of each AGAR section separately. Explanation of variances agreed by council

12. To approve comments for submission on Stroud Local Plan

The parish council noted that the submission draft had been discussed at some length at its meeting on 14th June 2021 and therefore agreed to agree a final version taking into account comments made at and subsequent to that meeting. After due consideration the parish council resolved by unanimous vote to submit the following representations:

1. It supports the growth strategy for concentration of growth in a few large sites including new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe subject to adequate physical and community infrastructure being provided in step with development including improved public transport.

2. It supports the policies designed to protect, conserve and enhance the countryside and its biodiversity especially within the Cotswolds AONB including CP14 and 15 and ES 7 and 8. With respect to Policy CP15 (1) it considers that greater tests and proof should be required to demonstrate that proposals are essential to the maintenance or enhancement of a sustainable farming or forestry enterprise including financial and functional tests as is required under this policy for proposed farming or forestry dwellings in the countryside (criterion iv). Exemption to this requirement may be applied where it is clearly demonstrated that a building is essential to support a community led project such as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust/Orchard Trust or where there is a proven wider community, sustainability or environmental benefit.

3. It supports policies designed to tackle the shortage of affordable housing working with Parish Councils including rural exception sites Policy HC4.

4. It supports proposed new policy DHC2 to help maintain the social sustainability of smaller rural settlements including North Nibley subject to the detailed criteria set out in the draft Policy.

5. It supports North Nibley's designation as a Tier 3 b settlement where limited infill or redevelopment within the SDL will be permitted and (exceptionally) adjacent to the SDL (subject to Policy criteria including HC4 and DHC2) with a view to sustaining or enhancing the village's role, function and accessibility as a settlement with local facilities. In this regard the Parish Council considers North

Nibley should be more accurately described as having FAIR access to key services and facilities elsewhere to be consistent with other similar settlements such as Uley, Horsley and Coaley.

6. It supports the aim of making the District carbon neutral by 2030, maximising the use of previously developed land and policies for regenerating the canal corridor from Sharpness through to the Stroud valleys

13. To consider and approve proposed protocol on discussions with developers

Chair gave background to the project for benefit of public and summarised the document. Protocol adoption agreed by unanimous vote. Clerk to update policy review timeline to review in 12 months and upload to website

14. To consider and comment upon the following planning application(s) / appeal(s):

a. S.21/1430/AFPA | Extension of forestry track. | Field East Of The Reservoir And North Of The New Inn North Nibley Gloucestershire

The council discussed the application and took into consideration comments from member of public noted in item 5. It was suggested that historic practices of wood removal by horses could be considered and the applicant who was present as a member of public clarified that the traffic to and from the site would be very light.

It was resolved by unanimous vote that the council would submit a response of "no comment"

b. S.21/1462/P3Q | Conversion of agricultural building to form 1 no. dwelling and associated building operations | Agricultural Building At Corner Farm North Nibley Gloucestershire

Following discussion the council agreed by unanimous vote to object to the application, based on local knowledge and information the PC disputes that the building was in agricultural use as part of an established agricultural unit on 20 March 2013 or when last used. Insufficient evidence has been submitted to prove this. In the circumstances the PC does not consider this qualifies as permitted development and a full planning application is required.

c. S.21/1436/CPE | Certificate of Existing Lawfulness for use of agricultural land for domestic (C3 Dwelling houses) purposes. | Greenbanks Wotton Road North Nibley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 6DS

The Parish Council discussed the application and agreed by unanimous vote that to the best of Councillors' knowledge this area has been used as garden for Greenbanks for many years. Therefore the Parish Council considers the use to be established and has no further comment.

15. To note receipt of written report from Chairman's meeting with Highways and agree any actions

Report noted. Chair summarised points and the following comments/proposals were made:

Gateways - It was agreed that the Chair should contact other PCs to find out what their costs were and how they went about having the Gateways installed and bring the information to next meeting for discussion and agreement on actions. Suggestions of Nympsfield and Slimbridge.

Parking - Highways have confirmed that the PC has the authority to install verge markers and also signage (subject to format conditions i.e A2 sized, blue with white writing). It was agreed that Cllr Palmer would review the quantity we would need and clerk would contact five valleys signs for a quote once this has been done. Chair to look into verge markers.

Drains and Snitend lane - Chair recapped communications so far and will continue to liaise with Paul Helbrow of Highways

Wotton into Nibley 30mph speed limit signed covered by foliage - Cllrs Purnell and Palmer will remove the foliage

Speeding -Chair to obtain details of Speed Indicator Device

16. To note receipt of public complaints re vermin in cemetery and discuss and agree appropriate action

Council discussed the investigations that had been made into the cause, level and prevention of the damage to the cemetery and neighbouring properties. It was noted that the government guidance is that the PC is obligated to take appropriate action to manage this. A number of different actions were discussed and agreed, including the removal of nettles for which it was agreed that the chair would instruct local contractor. It was suggested that increasing the predation of the vermin would be helpful in the ongoing management and therefore Cllr Andrews will investigate and present a proposal to install owl boxes at the next meeting

17. To receive and approve a written cemetery report from Burial Clerk

Report noted, no items to approve. Chair thanked the burial clerk for her hard work - Payment of £40 received for memorial plaque

18. To note efforts made to date to publicise intentions to discuss the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and agree further action required to promote public involvement/awareness

The council discussed the importance of having a strong commitment from a community group. It was agreed that the council will host a public meeting to ascertain community interest in the project, explain what the commitment requirements are and look to recruit a working group. It was suggested that a member from nearby councils who have explored NDPs already could attend and provide a presentation. Proposed date for this is 23rd September 2021, subject to Covid restrictions.

19. Parish council finances

a. To review and agree payments on the attached payment schedule (appendix 1)

Following payments agreed as per the schedule:

A Rossiter £358.38 (LGA 1972 S.112)

TW Hawkins £1159.75 (LGA 1972 S.2114 & S.215)

b. To note receipt of following payments:

a. Precept payment - £9200 - Noted

b. Interest £240.33 - Noted

c. Cemetery Income £245 - Noted

d. Western Power Distribution - £9.80 - Noted

c. To note payment made to PWLB £1068.74 via DD - Noted (LGA 2003 S1.2)

d. To review and agree bank reconciliation - Agreed

20. To receive update on Churchyard wall and agree further actions

Clerk has requested clarification from Don Hughes (surveyor) that the quotes received satisfy the recommendations made by himself when surveying the safety of the wall. It was agreed that the powers would be delegated to clerk to instruct builders following response from Mr Hughes. It was noted and agreed that there may be a change to materials costs since receiving the quotes and that clerk has delegated powers to review and agree if appropriate. Clerk to report back to council if Mr Hughes doesn't agree that the quotes fulfil the requirements.

21. To receive verbal reports from parish councillors

Cllr Palmer reported that the barrier lock at the bottom of Wood Lane had been damaged - This has been reported to PROW. Discussions re access to rights are being had with new land owner.

Cllr Burton - Reiterated points re traffic and speeding and noted that the matter needs to be revisited if not addressed as discussed in item 6 (above)

22. To review and approve policies/protocols as per agreed schedule

Agreed - See item 11 (above) Protocol and Guidance on Pre-Application Meetings with Developers

23. To receive for information details of any correspondence received (written report supplied by clerk)

Report noted - No additional comments

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 2nd August at a later time of 7:45pm