

NORTON AND CUCKNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on 9th November 2016 in the village hall.

Present: Cllrs.

D Collins (Chairman)
M Smith
G Smith
S Brailsford
J Reynolds
S Penarski
L Morton
K Barlow

Also Present:

District Cllr. K. Dukes

077/16-17 Apologies

Cllr D Alvey, who had a meeting elsewhere.

078/16-17 Declarations of Interest

S Penarski declared an interest relating to the planning application for Hazel Gap farm, intended as a wedding venue.

079/16-17 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 12th. October 2016 were, following a minor correction, adopted and signed (L Morton/M Smith)

080/16-17 Public Forum/D Ridout

Mr. Ridout did not attend the meeting.

081/16-17 Matters Arising

Suggestions were invited for a location in Norton village for the recently purchased grit bin, presently in the Chairman's hallway, and therefore not of much use to residents at present. It appeared that none of the said residents were keen to see the bin near their property, and so, as a compromise, it is to be put outside Mrs. Eddisons cottage, now vacant of course, she being deceased. D Collins to deliver the bin accordingly and fill the same.

Our Chairman drew notice to an event on 23rd. November at the Lady Margaret Hall. The Bassetlaw Plan will be on public display between the hours of 4pm and 8pm.

The bank receipt for the carpet bag has yet to be found, but those concerned have not yet abandoned hope that it might be.

The Council Tax Referendum.

It appeared that the “model letter” had not been proceeded with and was not sent.

082/16-17 Reports

Neighbourhood Plan

D Collins reported that he had been in touch with James Green, our contact at Bassetlaw D C ,and it seems that the Inspector, a Mr Mattocks, has paid a visit and that his report might be with us within a few weeks, possibly as few as two. Our Chairman thought that the next step would be for the plan to be adopted by BDC, and that there might then be work for the committee following the adoption of the plan, and prior to the referendum.

District Cllr. Update

D C Dukes thought a visit to the public showing of the Bassetlaw Plan would be well worthwhile.

There is political wrangling, he said, over the Sheffield City Region proposal, but not at Bassetlaw. The Derbyshire County Council has sought Judicial Review of the proposals, and there the matter stands for now.

D C Dukes spoke of the benefits of parishes adopting their local telephone boxes, these having been adapted for all manner of purposes already, with the future possibility that they might be used as an information hub linked to the internet.

However councillors had discussed this matter some time since, and had not felt that in this particular instance, involving the Norton kiosk, there would be any gain to the community, with the possibility that it might become a liability. Resolved unanimously that we do not adopt the phone box (L Morton/M Smith).

083/16-17 Finance

Financial Report.

D Collins, in the absence of D Alvey, made reference to the bank reconciliation dated 10/11/16, copies being available to all members. The large balances include the monies to finance the Neighbourhood Plan, held by the council.

Budget Review.

Again, a statement had been prepared and distributed, wherein the position was well set out and explained. Overall, we have 30% of our budget remaining to see us through the next four months, and, items of major expenditure having already been met, we seem on target to at least break even on the budget.

Payment Approval.

After brief discussion, the meeting approved the following payments for the month of November:

1 st .	E Knox	Pay	£109.40
8 th .	S Pemberton	Pay	£288.00
	R Wass	Pay	£115.20
	HMRC	I Tax	£56.20

To be paid:

10 th .	Welbeck Estates	Garden Lease	£60
	Grit Bin (Norton)		£81.40
	Planning Appln. Fee		£97.50
	Admin Expenses		£24.44

G Smith explained that the planning appln. related to the renovation works at the dam which included the removal of “listed” park railings for renovation or replacement as necessary. This work, and the fee, will be paid for by Solar Century in the long run, and the council reimbursed accordingly.

M Smith asked whether our former clerk had been approached regarding the cost of a book and a printer in his possession, paid for by the council. It is understood that D Alvey has the matter in hand.

After a brief discussion, all councillors were in agreement with the following proposals (J Reynolds L Morton)

The council to open an account with the Unity Trust bank and to transfer the funds currently with the Notts Building Society into that account.

That the name of Ed Knox be removed from the councils bank accounts.

That D Alvey be appointed forthwith as Responsible Financial Officer and that the post shall not be remunerated.

That S Penarski shall be appointed as an extra signatory to the account.

084/16-17 Review and Discussion Regarding a Replacement Clerk

M Smith thought that we could manage without a clerk for ,say three to six months and then decide on a suitable replacement in light of what the Neighbourhood Plan might bring, if adopted and implemented, whereupon, he said, there may be substantial effects upon our council.

K. Barlow was wary of leaving the matter in abeyance for so long. However S Penarski thought that she could find someone to take the minutes as from the December meeting. This fact, when combined with a natural ability and seeming enthusiasm on the part of D Alvey in looking after our finances, led members to conclude that advertising for a new clerk could be put off until after Xmas. The meeting approved an hourly rate of £9 and an allocation of five hours a month for the proposed minute taker, which S Penarski thought would be quite acceptable.

085/16-17 Planning

New Applications

There was no objection to an appln. to demolish and rebuild an unsound wall at Hazel Gap farm.

Insofar as our own appln. affecting the dam railings went, G Smith said that we could only afford the first stage, which is to be paid for by Solar Century, and remaining stages would have to await funding. This led to some exchange regarding safety considerations, and the feeding of ducks, not all of which was followed in detail by the author of these minutes. However members seemed satisfied with the outcome, so far as there was one.

086/16-17 Highways

The old bus shelter opposite the Greendale Oak car park has been removed and we will very shortly have a new one.

G Smith advised that she had reported the state of the A616 Creswell Road to the Notts CC. The surface on the bend near Blue Barn is so deteriorated as to be a danger.

087/16-17 Correspondence

Notice of the NALC's AGM had been received. There seemed little enthusiasm. D Collins said that he thought the speaker might be good. As he could not recall who the speaker was, or the topic, members remained unmoved.

The council may soon need to have a website of its own, and not rely on BDC. D Alvey had volunteered to attend a meeting and report to us on possible grant funding from the Transparency Fund.

088/16-17 Monthly Council Policy Review

The first policy to be reviewed fell to be that for Building Development. For obvious reasons the existing policy makes no mention of Norton. However, on examination, it seemed that a revision might not be too difficult. L Morton kindly agreed to rewrite the Policy and to circulate a draft to members via email, with a view to the adoption of a final draft at next meeting.

089/16-17 Xmas Tree

G Smith was keen to have a tree at the church. Welbeck will provide one free of charge, though it might be too small to go outside the church. S Penarski volunteered to decorate the tree, and together with G Smith will liase with the p c c regarding the council having its own tree at the church. These proposals recieved all round approval.

090/16-17 Remembrance Sunday

This coming Sunday, 13th. November, will see remembrance services throughout the country, including the service in our own parish church. The council felt that a representative should attend ,as last year, and K Barlow volunteered subject to the proviso that should he, against expectation, be unavailable, a substitute could be found. S Brailsford kindly volunteered, and was assured that it was most unlikely that K Barlow would be otherwise than available.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th. December at 7.30 pm in the usual place.