

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Church Street, Rothersthorpe on Monday April 1st 2019 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Boscott – Chairman, Mrs C Nolan, Mrs J Johnson, Mr S Major, Mrs J Botterill, Mr P Sage and Mr N Henry

In Attendance:- Mrs S Murphy – Clerk
SNC Cllr Mrs A Addison
1 member of the Public – Mr Mike Barber

Mr Boscott addressed the meeting and advised Councillors and members of the public that under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public are permitted to photograph, film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being disturbed,

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from NCC Cllr Adam Brown (meeting) and SNC Cllr Karen Cooper (meeting)

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest on any item on the agenda.

3. Public Open Session

Mr Barber addressed the meeting and said that he had 3 points that he wished to raise:-

i. Why was there an increase in the Parish Rate by 32%? Mr Boscott responded and explained that there are several issues that need money such as the Churchyard Wall, supporting the bus service and remedial tree work. Mr Boscott explained that the rate had not been increased for several years and with the move to Unitary Authority the parish council may have to take on financial responsibility for different things that have been provided by NCC in the past. Mr Boscott said that the parish council had acted prudently to ensure a safe position for this year and for the future.

ii. Churchyard Trees

Mr Barber asked that when the trees are cut down could the cypress be cut to about one foot above the ground to provide seats. Mr Barber also asked if the two Hornbeams overhanging the Churchyard wall could be pollarded. The Parish Council agreed to review the situation in the autumn.

iii. Planning Inquiry at the crossroads

Mr Barber asked what the Parish Council response was and would they be attending the Inquiry? Mr Boscott explained that there is a healthy land supply within the SNC area and as designated in the Local Plan. Unfortunately no one from the Parish Council was available to attend but Cllr Addison or Cllr Cooper would respond on the parish council's behalf. Mr Boscott said that he would prepare a response. Mr Barber asked if the development would sustain the village and bring children to the school. Mr Boscott said that the scale and location of the development is not sustainable. Mr Sage said that the school would be unable to cope with 66 children.

Cllr Addison addressed the meeting and said how sad she is at what is happening with the move

towards Unitary Authority. The current successful relationship with Cherwell District Council is coming to an end although this could be extended if the Unitary Authority is not settled in time. Council tax bills will be very high with the Unitary Authority.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on February 11th 2019 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Churchyard Trees

The Picus test had been carried out and a report had been submitted suggesting the necessary remedial work that needs to be carried out. An application had been made to SNC planning department to request permission to carry out the work and to fell two cypress trees and a holly tree by the back gate due to the trees being in the conservation area.

Cemetery Hedge and Planting

Allseasons have cut back the cemetery hedge and replanted in the required areas. There has been a very positive reaction to the work.

New Homes Bonus

Mr Henry submitted the application on time and the meeting will be held on April 7th to determine the grants.

Litter Bin at the Crossroads

SNC have replaced the broken bin at the crossroads.

6. Northamptonshire Village Awards

It was agreed to enter the Northamptonshire Village awards again. The cost is £20 and Mr Major agreed to co-ordinate the entry.

7. Street Lighting

Following a review of street lighting energy costs Mrs Murphy had obtained a quote from the Great Annual Savings Group. They had compared the current estimated rate from E.ON with other providers and obtained the following quotation:-

E.ON unit rate – 22.1pkwh	SSE Unit rate – 17.611pkwh
Estimated annual spend – £2,868	Estimated Annual Spend - £2,325

It was agreed to accept the quotation and move to SSE as the energy suppliers for the village. Proposed: Mrs J Johnson. Seconded:- Mrs C Nolan. All agreed.

8. Clerk's Report

Audit for the year 2018/19

Details for the audit for the year 2018/19 have been released and the year end reports will be completed shortly.

Parish Council website and Communication with the village

Mrs Johnson reported that several of the older villagers without access to the internet wanted more information about the parish council and the projects it is involved with. It was agreed to put an article in the newsletter about the Churchyard Trees, the Churchyard Wall, new Streetlights and supporting the bus service. Mrs Johnson agreed to review other parish council and village websites to see how parish council information is presented.

Mr Sage agreed to look into the setting up of a website and to look into local website providers. Mr Henry also agreed to talk to other website providers.

9. PlanningLand at Kislingbury Road:- planning appeal.

The meeting for the Planning Appeal begins on April 30th and is likely to last for up to four days. Details of the Parish Council's response were discussed in the Public Open Session at the beginning of the meeting.

10. FinanceIncome

Mr M Goodson:- Allotment Fees	£8.00
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Expenditure

Paid 17.3.2019:- RGS – Picus Test on Hornbeam	£300.00 (vat £55)	Chq.No 001100
Towcester Town Council – No 87 bus	£1,671.87	“ “ 001101
Paid 28.3.19:- Allseasons Cemetery hedge and gardening	£1,928.98	“ “ 001102
	(vat £321.50)	
E.ON Street Lighting	£145.66(vat £24.28)	“ “ 001103
Mrs S Murphy – Salary	£500.01	“ “ 001104
Mrs B Osborne – payroll services	£55.00	“ “ 001105
Paid 1.4.19:- Northamptonshire Acre – subs	£35.00	“ “ 001106
Rothersthorpe PCC – donation	£200.00	“ “ 001107
Mrs J Johnson –Acre community subs	£20.00	“ “ 001108
Mrs S Murphy – petty cash	£100.00	“ “ 001109
Northamptonshire Acre –Village Awards	£20.00	“ “ 001110

Payroll: Barbara Osborne has informed the Parish Council that her charge will go up to £57.50 per quarter from April 1st 2019.

Signatory List: The Parish Council updated the National Savings Account signatory list. Signatories are Mr R Boscott, Mrs C Nolan, Mrs J Johnson and Mrs J Botterill. Any two of these will be required for any future transaction.

Internal Audit

Since the previous meeting Mrs Nolan had reviewed the account books and supporting documentation of the parish council and found them in appropriate order.

11. Highways/Footpaths

Street Doctor: This will now be found on the NCC website as Fix My Street.

12. Representative Reports

Neighbourhood Watch: Mrs Nolan said that she had received a lot of emails on NW issues.

VHMC: The VHMC are looking into ways to fund a new kitchen

13. Dates of the Next meetings

Monday May 13th

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7p.m

The Parish Council meeting will be held following the conclusion of the APM

The Annual general meeting will be held following the conclusion of the Parish Council Meeting.

Monday June 24th 2019 at 7.30p.m.:- Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Signed.....Dated.....