

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Church Street, Rothersthorpe on Monday June 24th 2019 at 7.30p.m.

Present:- Mr R Boscott – Chairman, Mrs C Nolan, Mrs J Johnson, Mr S Major and Mr P Sage.

In Attendance: Mrs S Murphy – Clerk
NCC Cllr Adam Brown
Graham Moore – Member of the Public

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 SNC Cllr A Addison (meeting), SNC Cllr K Cooper(meeting), Mrs J Botterill(holiday) and Mr N Henry (holiday).

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest on any items on the agenda.

3. Public Open Session

Mr Moore addressed the meeting regarding the state of the public footpaths around the village. He explained that a lot of the footpaths were inaccessible because of being overgrown and that many of the stiles were dangerous because of being loose and broken. The footpath to the lakes was particularly overgrown.

Mr Major mentioned the footpath that goes behind the church. Since the public footpath sign has been missing, the footpath is difficult for walkers to locate.

The Parish Council agreed to look into this and to contact the landowners regarding the stiles and clearing the footpath.

Cllr Brown addressed the meeting. Elections will be held next year for councillors for the Unitary Authority. There will be 3 Unitary Councillors per County division and 93 Councillors overall. This number may need to be reviewed. The new unitary Authority will be one of the 5 largest in the country. NCC approved a motion on climate change in Northamptonshire. NCC delivered a balanced budget for 2018 – 2019 with an underspend of £4.5million. The balance will be transferred to a budget delivery reserve to support the Council's ongoing financial health in 2019 – 2020. The NHS and Adult Social Care are looking to integrate and this will go through soon.

Cllr Brown left the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on May 13th 2019 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Land at Kislingbury Road Planning Appeal decision

The Planning Appeal for 66 houses on land at Kislingbury Road has been dismissed by the Inspector. Mr Boscott thanked SNC Cllr Karen Cooper and SNC Cllr Ann Addison for their strong representation on Rothersthorpe's behalf. He said that this shows that SNC have a sound planning policy and also thanked the SNC staff who had helped defend the decision on appeal.

Travellers at Service Station

Cllr Brown had reported that Roadchef obtained an eviction notice against the travellers in early May, however the travellers did not move on. A possession order was obtained through the high court towards the end of May (which is enforceable) and enforced with the help of the local police on May 31st. This was a protracted process with several incidents seemingly designed to frustrate the eviction. The eviction however was carried out and Roadchef's contractors have cleared the land and secured the site.

If there are any further incursions residents have been asked to contact Road Chef Site Director. The parish council thanked Cllr Brown for his work on this issue.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit had taken place on 21 May 2019. Issues for consideration include Standing Orders, based on the latest NALC Model, will be reviewed and adopted at the next meeting on June 24th 2019. Financial Regulations should also be reviewed, and if necessary, updated. The Parish Council web site is part of a general village site. It is preferable for the council to control its own web site. The Parish Council are custodian trustees of the Memorial Garden. Apart from nominating one person to the committee of Management, the Parish Council has no responsibility for the management of the Memorial Garden.

Having tested the internal controls, the Auditor was satisfied that effective systems of control are in place.

It was agreed to try and get further information regarding the role of the Parish Council and the VHMC in the running of the Memorial Garden.

The Memorial Garden

This has become very overgrown in places and needs tidying up. It was agreed to ask Allseasons to provide a quote to clear the areas that need it. Mr Major agreed to link up with Allseasons to discuss the work required.

Trees n the Churchyard

Seb Hodges is hoping to complete the tree work towards the end of July.

Delivery Lorries

Mr Major expressed his concern that some delivery lorries associated with the development at Studleigh cottage are arriving too early in the morning.

Mr Major to contact SNC.

6. To Approve the Accounting Statement 2018/2019

Mrs Murphy presented the Accounting Statement to the Parish Council. It was proposed to accept the Statement and Mr Boscott, as Chairman, signed on behalf of the Parish Council.

Proposed: Mrs C Nolan. Seconded: Mrs J Johnson. All agreed.

Certificate of Exemption

The Parish Council agreed to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 as the gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year ended 31 March 2019.

Proposed: Mrs J Johnson. Seconded: Mr R Boscott. All agreed.

7. A Review of the Parish Council Standing Orders and the New Model Financial Regulations.

Standing Orders are the written rules of a local council and are used to regulate the proceedings of a meeting.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the new model standing orders which reference new legislation introduced after 2013 when the last model standing orders were published.

Proposed: Mrs C Nolan. Seconded: Mrs J Johnson. All agreed.

It was agreed to defer a review of the New Model Financial Regulations until a future meeting.

8. Clerk's Report

Village PCSO

Pattishall Parish Council had been asked by a resident if the Parish could employ a village PCSO. This would cost approx. £37,500.00. Pattishall Parish Council have asked if any of the surrounding parishes have thought of employing a PCSO or sharing one, thus reducing the overall cost.

Rothersthorpe Parish Council felt that it was impractical for them and that with only a small budget and already supporting the No 87 Bus Service, they would not be able to contribute.

Network Morning for Parish Councillors at Northamptonshire ACRE on July 22nd

A network morning will be held for Parish Councillors at ACRE on July 22nd from 10.30a.m – 12.30p.m. This will enable discussion about issues that affect parish councils and other topics.

No 87 Bus

A meeting will be held on July 23rd 2019 at 4p.m in Astcote to discuss new proposals.

9. Planning

Application No: S2019/1122/MAF – Solar farm, Land south of Hill Farm, Gayton Road

Variation of condition 6 (date) S/2015/2469/MAF

The Parish Council have no objection.

10. Finance

To pay the following:-

E.ON: Electricity – 1.4.2019 – 21.5.2019

£499.38 (VAT £83.23) Chq. No. 001117

SSE: Electricity -22.5.2019 – 3.6.2019

£103.47 (VAT £16.03) “ “ 001118

Allseasons Gardening : 30.5.2019

£612.00 (VAT £102.00) Chq.No. 001119

It was agreed to pay the following accounts which arrived after the agenda was set:-

Mrs S Murphy – Salary	£525.00	Chq.No 001120
Barbara Osborne – Pay Roll	£57.50	“ “ 001121
Rothersthorpe Village Hall – Room Hire	£32.00	“ “ 001122

Balance as at 3.6.2019

NSB: £15,482.62

Current Account: £9,734.45

11. Highways/ Footpaths:

Conditions and Signage of Public Footpaths: Discussed at beginning of meeting

12. Representative Reports

VHMC: Still looking at grants for the new kitchen

NHW: Signs still to go up

Speedwatch: August

Best Village: Judging went well. Mr Major spoke about a children’s parish council developing in the school.

13. Dates of the next Meetings

Monday September 9th 2019 at 7.30p.m.

Monday October 21st 2019 at 7.30p.m.