

Minutes of the Meeting of Nicholforest Parish Council
7.00 pm on Monday 20th March 2017 at Nicholforest Village Hall

Attendees

Cllr J Sisson (Chair), Cllr C Dunn, Cllr G Noble, Cllr D Hammond , Cllr E. Smith, County Cllr Val Tarbitt,
Clerk Mrs Norma Wright

Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Ireland, Cllr D. Shepherd, Cllr D. Carlyle, Cllr K. Robinson

Minutes

Resolved; that the Minutes of meeting held on 4th January 2017 be signed by Chairman as a true and correct record.

Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations

Clerk Norma Wright declared interest in the planning application for the Corner House, Penton

Report on the activities of the Parish Council

5.1 Road repairs complaints; New Manager for Highways a Mr Gareth Scott can be contacted with any highway problems and a full list of recent works is available to look at the area's where repairs have been done, it was resolved to arrange a meeting with Mr Scott as soon as possible to look at area's of flooding on roadsides in the area where drains have become blocked and gulley's in the area of the Church, Cllr D.Hammond would be happy to meet with him and take to problem area's.

5.2 Website Construction; A list of content to conform to Government guidelines for the website was circulated and it was resolved to try to add the required information as soon as the current information is available.

5.3 Broadband upgrade; it was resolved to write to Paul Cretney about the problems in Catlowdy and Kershopefoot as most properties do not have Fast Broadband and have been having problems with breakdowns, Kershopefoot has a Cabinet which needs upgrading and would like to know who will be paying for it and how long for it to happen. There is new extra money now available for outlying area's too so an email was sent to Paul and his reply was to say the next phase would be rolling out soon but no dates given for improvements to our area.

Planning Matters

6.1 Corner House, Penton; Garage/Workshop plans looked at and a No comment response would be sent to the Planning department was decided.

6.2 Bridge Inn, Penton; updated plans for Roof and Dorma changes were looked at and a No Comment response would be sent to the Planning department was decided.

Correspondence

7.1 None

Financial Matters

8.1 The Clerk's timesheet and costs of £348 were agreed to be paid by the Council to Norma Wright

8.2 Approved payments to; Churchyard Maintenance £1000 ; £14.34 ; £95; ASP Fire alarm at Village Hall £420;

8.3 Approved spend to May AGM; Carry money forward for new Notice boards to 17-18; Bus Shelter to carry forward and look for grant aid in 17-18; Village Hall phone has been disconnected so no costs to Council in the future;

8.4 Pension Scheme; Clerk to contact Pensions Regulator to see when the staging date is for the Council and to see if we can opt out due to the small scale of our payroll (1 part time employee).

Village Matters

9.1 Hedge cutting; Various hedges in the local area have been identified as becoming dangerous and it was resolved that Cllr D. Hammond would write to one local Land owner about his hedges and Cllr G. Noble would visit another and ask for them to be trimmed as the only alternative would be for the Highways department to cut them down and charge the owners for this service.

9.2 Highways logging concerns in Kershopefoot; Cllr D. Hammond said that the Lorries were not causing too many problems as there was a one way system in operation through the Forest.

9.3 Drainage works between the new and old Graveyards to allow dual access and footpath and wall repairs to the same area. Permission has been given by the land owner to use this area as a footpath.

Councillor Matters

10.1 Cllr V Tarbitt visited Kershopefoot and thought the Cul de Sac needed better lighting and would see if there could be an improvement, Cllr D. Hammond asked that the residents should be canvassed for their opinion on this before any improvements could take place. Cllr Tarbitt was concerned for an elderly resident who lived at the dark end of the Cul de Sac.

10.2 Cllr D Hammond asked for the village Post Box to be reinstated as soon as possible and Cllr V. Tarbitt was to contact Hawick Post Office to see if a site can be found in the village for the old box.

Date of Next Meeting

Suggested date of the next meeting to take place on Monday 22nd May **2017 at 7pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.