

Minutes of the Meeting of Nicholforest Parish Council
7.00 pm on Monday 23rd May 2016 at Nicholforest Village Hall

Attendees

Cllr J Sisson (Chair), Cllr C Dunn, Cllr D Hammond, Cllr G Noble & Cllr E Smith, Cllr K Robinson,
Clerk Mrs Norma Wright

Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Ireland, Cllr D Shepherd, Cllr D Carlyle, County Cllr V. Tarbitt

Minutes

Resolved; that the Minutes of meeting held on 14th March 2016 be signed by Chairman as a true and correct record.

Annual Elections

Election of Chairman, Cllr D Hammond proposed Cllr J Sisson be re-elected as Chairman was seconded by Cllr C Dunn and agreed by all who attended.

Election of Vice Chairman, Cllr D Hammond proposed Cllr C Dunn be re-elected as Vice Chairman was seconded by Cllr J Sisson and agreed by all who attended.

Public Participation

One member of the public was in attendance; Paul Cretney from BT invited to address the Council with an update on the Broadband upgrading roll out.

Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Report on the activities of the Parish Council

Nothing to record

Planning Matters

Applications to be Considered:-

Dwelling for worker at **High Catlowdy Farm, Penton**

Resolved; No further comments necessary.

Correspondence

Nothing to consider.

Financial Matters

8.1 The Clerk's timesheet and costs of £534.50 were agreed to be paid by the Council to Norma Wright

8.2 Asset register agreed and added to the 15-16 Year end records for the Auditor review.

8.3 BDO form discussed and final Financial position of the Bank accounts at 31st March 2016 was agreed to be sent to the Auditor PL Gauntlett and from there submitted in good time with a deadline of the 30th June 2016. The agreed Final Accounts and BDA form was signed off by the Chairman Cllr J Sisson and the Clerk Norma Wright.

8.4 Website Construction and ongoing costs, Cllr J Sisson proposed to use 4dwebdesign to construct a website and update it monthly at a cost of £120 pa paid monthly @ £10 also ongoing there is an additional annual Hosting cost of £90, these costs were less than the expected costs from CALC of a set up and short training cost of £324 which didn't include Hosting or ongoing costs.

Resolved: Agreed as good value for money and Cllr J Sisson to instruct 4webdesign to go ahead with the website construction, the Clerk is to apply for a grant for the ongoing running costs from Calc as the grant for setting up the website has already been received in the IT grant in February 2016, it is thought this sort of grant will be available for up to 3 years as an incentive for Councils to have a website.

Payments and Receipts

The following payments were approved:

Norma Wright Clerk £528 for work to date and £6.50 Stationery

A Vat refund claim for £2694.01 has been submitted to HMRC for purchases made over the previous year.

Administration

Asset Register

Asset Register set up containing new Equipment purchases and the Village Hall and Land, Bus Shelter and Bench and Notice Board was agreed as correct.

Village Matters

Broadband Update

Paul Cretney attended the meeting and gave a full account of the situation now and datelines for improvements;

At the moment due to an error by Open Reach (contractors to BT) the new Superfast fibre is only available to a few homes on the outskirts of **Catlowdy** even though it goes straight through Catlowdy, works are underway so that the remaining houses in Catlowdy will have access to it in August. **Kirkandrews Moat** should be completed by next spring and **Kershopefoot** should be completed by March 2018, the delay is due the exchange being in Newcastleton and the Scottish upgrades timetable is different to Cumbria's.

Paul discussed different ways of getting Broadband to houses on the outskirts of villages or more remote buildings, overhead cables is one solution although it is more expensive so charges may apply, cables underground costs can be reduced by self-digging for Farms or remote houses any enquiries can be emailed to paul.cretney@bt.com

Satelite Broadband is also available and a grant can be applied for on the Connecting Cumbria Website where a £350 voucher to cover the cost of this is available, it can be used as a temporary measure until a better service is available and it wouldn't stop you getting normal Superfast broadband once it is completed.

Highway Matters

Cllr V Tarbitt was unable to attend this meeting but had updated Cllr D Hammond on the Log lorry worries due to entrance improvements made to Forest entrances near to Bushfield and said that as far as anyone knew no new logging was due to take place.

The clerk is to email Cllr V Tarbitt and request a site meeting with Cumbria County Council highways department to progress the issues of the road surface degradation in numerous areas particularly on the road leading to the Village Hall and the S Bends near Bushfield and to view the junction at the Bridge Inn where we think a Stop sign is necessary also to look at Catlowdy with regards to some sort of traffic calming measures.

Councillor Matters

Reported that issues concerning the location of fire hydrants which had been experienced by the Fire Brigade when attending to an emergency on Christmas Day last year. Advised that markers that indicate the location of hydrants were missing and when a hydrant was eventually located, it was found to be seized. Cllrs advised that United Utilities were now responsible for hydrants, rather than the Fire Service.

Update; Cllr D Shepherd has reported that no Maintenance now takes place on Fire Hydrants and the Fire department do not have up to date maps of their positions and many are not visible to the naked eye anymore.

The Clerk is to write to Rory Stewart expressing our concern for Public safety due to the lack of maintenance of the Fire Hydrants in our area and possibly the whole of Cumbria which were recently highlighted in our area by this major fire incident as it is now a general concern in the community that we do not have adequate protection in a crisis.

Date of Next Meeting

Suggested date of the next meeting to take place on **26th September 2016 at 7pm,**.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.