

# LITTLE ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held at Saint Mary the Virgin Church, High Street, Little Addington on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: L Brown (Chair), T Brown, J Cocks, M Keech, J Powell, A Sheppard

**In attendance:** Claire Waring (clerk), Sophie Butcher (observer)

<b>23/411</b>	<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence (reasons to be advised).</b> None. Cllr L Brown reported that she had received Cllr Drinkall's resignation, which was accepted.						
<b>23/412</b>	<b>Public participation session.</b> None present.						
<b>23/413</b>	<b>To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.</b> None.						
<b>23/414</b>	<b>To receive and approve for signature minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2023.</b> Proposed by Cllr Cocks, seconded by Cllr Sheppard. Approved and signed by the Chairman.						
<b>23/415</b>	<b>To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda, for report only.</b> None.						
<b>23/416</b>	<b>To receive and approve the balance of account/bank reconciliation for current and MM accounts.</b> Proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Keech. Approved and signed by the Chairman.						
<b>23/417</b>	<b>To examine and approve the Bank Statements.</b> Proposed by Cllr Keech, seconded by Cllr Sheppard. Approved and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the previous increase in bank charges was due to a cheque deposit. The standard monthly charge remains at £8.						
<b>23/418</b>	<b>To undertake a check of expenditure against the budget.</b> The budget position was noted. It was proposed by Cllr L Brown, seconded by Cllr Cocks and agreed that £1050 will be moved from the ring-fenced money for the war memorial in the Money Manager account to the current account. The Money Manager account still includes £2534.72 from the Jubilee fund. £886.16 will be transferred to the new joint account of the Addingtons Liaison Group. The remainder will be transferred to the current account under Entertainment to cover payments made in April to the Woodland Trust, LA Parish Church and GA Parish Church from the current account..						
<b>23/419</b>	<b>To approve changes to the asset register.</b> None.						
<b>23/420</b>	<b>To approve and authorise payments of the following invoices.</b>						
	Invoice reference	Payment method.	Payee	Item	Total	Amount net of VAT	Power to Make Payment
	71.23/24	DD	HSBC	Current account	£9.00	£9.00	LGA 1972 S111
	72.23/24	DD	Microsoft	Email account	£12.36		LGA 1972 S111
	73.23/24	BACS	Clerk	Salary (Dec)	£196.00	£196.00	LGA 1972 S112
	74.23/24	BACS	HMRC	Tax (Dec)	£49.00	£49.00	LGA 1972 S112
	75.23/24	BACS	Land Registry*	Purchase of Title Registers	£18	£18	LGA 1972 S111
	* Prior approval pending possible requirement to obtain title registers.						

	<p>The direct debit statement received from npower showed a 48% increase in the unit price. The clerk had requested details of the council's current contract. Alternative suppliers will be investigated. Cllr L Brown will investigate details of the current group contract. Proposed by Cllr Keech, seconded by Cllr Cocks and approved.</p>
<b>23/421</b>	<p><b>To review the lease of the substation on Church Lane.</b></p> <p>National Grid holds over the lease under the protection of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1854. It presented three options: (a) to sell the freehold to National Grid for around £3000 with the Council's reasonable legal fees being covered by National Grid, (b) to continue the lease under the current provision, (c) to renew the lease, with each side paying its own legal fees.</p> <p>On a vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 5 in favour, 1 against</li> <li>(b) 1 in favour, 5 against</li> <li>(c) 0 in favour, 6 against</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed to contact National Grid about selling the freehold.</p>
<b>23/422</b>	<p><b>To report on the transfer of monies relating to joint villages events to a separate bank account.</b></p> <p>The outstanding Jubilee funds of £886.16 would be transferred to the new account (see item 418).</p>
<b>23/423</b>	<p><b>To consider quotations for grass mowing in 2024.</b></p> <p>A further quote had been received from JJG Landscape Services which has requested a site visit. Cllr Keech will arrange.</p>
<b>23/424</b>	<p><b>To consider and resolve the council's response to planning applications listed below plus any other planning applications advised by North Northamptonshire Council and available on its website between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting to which it pertains.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <i>Kettering Energy Park</i> A letter from Connect on behalf of First Renewables requested a meeting to brief the Council on the wider consultation programme. It was felt that this should be held with the working group.</li> <li>(b) <i>Monza House Lime Tree (NE/23/01310/TPO/).</i> No objections.</li> </ul>
<b>23/425</b>	<p><b>To note planning decisions made by NNC.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <i>Extension at 5 Dovecote Drive</i> Approval noted.</li> </ul>
<b>23/426</b>	<p><b>To report on the situation with the chicanes on Irthlingborough Road.</b></p> <p>Tom Pursglove, MP, had referred the Council's concerns to Northamptonshire Police and North Northamptonshire Council. The OPFCC has raised the matter with NNC Highways. The OPFCC has advised Cllr L Brown that Community Road Safety Grants are available for installation of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), which also record the speed of passing vehicles. This will be investigated.</p> <p>NNC Highways has advised that the developer has identified a significant issue with providing power to the signage associated with the chicanes. Highways is actively working with the developer to look at how to overcome the power supply issues and is close to a potential resolution.</p> <p>It was noted that turret lights on the plans for Howards Way had not yet been installed. Cllr Maxwell would be informed that the lighting at Howards Way is not a Parish Council matter. The planning approval has not been enforced by NNC.</p>
<b>23/427</b>	<p><b>To note any changes to the electoral roll.</b></p> <p>None. There are currently 265 electors on the roll.</p>
<b>23/428</b>	<p><b>To receive a report from LA Bloomers.</b></p>

	<p>LA Bloomers will hold a fund-raising Spring Fair on Sunday 21 April. This will require road closures on the Green.</p> <p>Locations for the Queen's Canopy trees have been decided and plaques to mark these are in production.</p> <p>Plaques for the bulbs and plants are also being produced.</p>
<b>23/429</b>	<p><b>To receive an update from Cllr Cocks on works to the war memorial.</b></p> <p>Cllr Cocks reported that there had been no response to date from Midland Conservation for the additional work required.</p>
<b>23/430</b>	<p><b>To receive a report from Cllr Powell on the website and email accounts. Social media to be reviewed when the website is completed.</b></p> <p>Problems with the transfer of the domain name from Wordpress were ongoing. Cllr Powell would investigate the cost of using a shorter new generic email address. Cllr L Brown reported that some parts of the existing website needed updating. She will liaise with the Clerk.</p>
<b>23/431</b>	<p><b>To receive a report from Cllr Powell on provision of broadband in the village.</b></p> <p>The reply from Openreach was not considered adequate and a response will be sent.</p>
<b>23/432</b>	<p><b>To consider provision of training on the use of the defibrillator.</b></p> <p>This will be arranged for spring 2024.</p>
<b>23/433</b>	<p><b>To receive an update on the electricity community supply on the Green.</b></p> <p>Cllr L Brown reported that SSE has asked National Grid to install the supply.</p>
<b>23/434</b>	<p><b>To review the car parking situation around the village, noting areas such as the village green and Amen Place and look at options to make safer and to resolve what actions, if any, are to be taken.</b></p> <p>It was noted that verges are being damaged by the post box as well as on the Green and Chapel Hill. A business account is being set up with West End DIY to supply the large edging stones.</p>
<b>23/435</b>	<p><b>To consider the provision of a plaque to mark the trees planted as part of the Queen's canopy.</b></p> <p>See item 428.</p>
<b>23/436</b>	<p><b>To receive a report on removal of signage on Burrows Farm Lane.</b></p> <p>The extent of the adopted highway will be determined.</p>
<b>23/437</b>	<p><b>To receive a report from the Village Neighbourhood Plan group.</b></p> <p>A meeting had been held with the consultant. The Council has been advised to make a grant application in April. Cllr Cocks will work with Cllrs L Brown and Sheppard to apply for designated neighbourhood status. Cllrs L Brown and Sheppard will draw up terms of reference.</p>
<b>23/438</b>	<p><b>To receive a report from the LA/GA villages liaison group.</b></p> <p>The Ladies Night was very successful and will be repeated in 2024. Ideas have been discussed for a men's event.</p> <p>Cllr Cocks and John Page from Great Addington joined a trial ComMunity Bus visit to Rushden Lakes and were pleased with the event. A Bus event is being planned for March. The ComMunity Bus is to tender for a weekly service through LA and GA. This would be on a pre-booked basis.</p> <p>A community event will be held on 27 January covering the Greenway and the GA Neighbourhood Plan housing site selection.</p> <p>The next litter pick in both villages will be on Saturday 23 March.</p> <p>It is planned to include fish and chips in the D-Day event on Thursday 6 June and suitable 1940's music.</p>
<b>23/439</b>	<p><b>To consider designating The Bell as an Asset of Community Value.</b></p> <p>This is in progress.</p>
<b>23/440</b>	<p><b>To receive notice of the registration of the Addingtons Playing Field as an Asset of Community Value.</b></p>

	Noted.
<b>23/441</b>	<b>To receive any updates from the Clerk.</b> It was agreed to ask for a photo of the King when available. Nobody would attend the Safer Communities Event on 26 March. It was agreed to introduce an Internal Councillor Checklist prior to each Council meeting. Cllr Cocks would compete this with the Clerk before the February meeting.
<b>23/441</b>	<b>To consider arrangements for the 2024-25 Annual Parish Meeting to involve more of the villagers.</b> It was noted that this had to be held after 6pm. Ideas to be discussed at the next meeting.
<b>23/442</b>	<b>To report on the preparation of an information leaflet for new residents of the village.</b> Wording was agreed. The entry from the church has been agreed by the PCC.
<b>23/444</b>	<b>To receive an update from Cllr Maxwell on the business at NNC.</b> In an email, Cllr Maxwell had expressed concern about the lighting on Howards Way.
<b>23/445</b>	<b>To decide on items to be included in the next issue of Saints Alive (March).</b> LA Bloomers Spring Fair. Addingtons' Liaison Group meeting on 4 March at The Bell. Situation with the chicanes. Parking. Dog fouling. Street Doctor for potholes.
<b>23/446</b>	<b>To identify any future agenda items for the meeting on 20 February.</b> Roles and responsibilities of Councillors. Co-option of Sophie Butcher to the Council. Electricity supply. Mowing. Annual Meeting. Joint Action Group. Neighbourhood Plan. Any items to be notified to the Clerk by <b>Friday 9 February</b> .
<b>23/447</b>	<b>To close the meeting.</b> The meeting closed at 22.10.

**Signed:**

**Dated:**