

LITTLE ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Saint Mary the Virgin Church, High Street, Little Addington on Tuesday 20 February 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 Beckett (observer)

23/448	To receive and approve apologies for absence (reasons to be advised). None.						
23/449	Public participation session. None present.						
23/450	To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. None.						
23/451	To receive and approve for signature minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024. Subject to the correction of Sophie Beckett's name, acceptance was proposed by Cllr T Brown and seconded by Cllr Cocks. Approved and signed by the Chairman.						
23/452	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda, for report only. None.						
23/453	To receive and approve the balance of account/bank reconciliation for current and MM accounts. Proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Keech. Approved and signed by the Chairman.						
23/454	To examine and approve the Bank Statements. Proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Cocks. Approved and signed by the Chairman.						
23/455	To undertake a check of expenditure against the budget. The budget position was noted as acceptable.						
23/456	To approve changes to the asset register. None.						
23/457	To approve and authorise payments of the following invoices.						
	Invoice reference	Payment method.	Payee	Item	Total	Amount net of VAT	Power to Make Payment
	76.23/24	DD	npower	electricity	£439.17	£418.26	LGA 1972 S111
	77.23/24	CHG	HSBC	current account	£8.00	£8.00	LGA 1972 S111
	78.23/24	DD	PWLB	Loan	£471.03	£471.03	LGA 1972 S111
	79.23/24	VISA	Microsoft	email account	£12.36	£12.36	LGA 1972 S111
	Proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Powell and approved.						
23/458	To report on the procedure to fill the council vacancy. The vacancy had been reported to the Elections section at NNC and a response was awaited. The vacancy will be advertised and if there is more than one candidate, an election will be held. If there is a single candidate, they can be co-opted. The GDPR councillor resignation checklist had not yet been received from M Drinkall.						
23/459	To review the lease of the substation on Church Lane. National Grid has asked LAPC to appoint a solicitor. Advice would be sought from NCALC. It was agreed that a solicitor could be chosen by Cllr L Brown and the Clerk in order to progress the matter. Cllr T Brown noted that the substation should be included on the asset register.						

23/460	To report on the transfer of monies relating to joint villages events to a separate bank account. This has been completed.
23/461	To consider quotations for grass mowing in 2024. JJG Landscape Services had visited the site but no quote had been received. Quotes from Emery Grounds and Garden Maintenance and Turney Landscape Services were reviewed. The quote from Emery would be accepted with the caveat that the situation would be reviewed after three months with LAPC reserving the right to terminate if the service was not satisfactory. Emery would be asked to inform Cllr T Brown a couple of days before the intended cut. Approved.
23/462	To review the electricity supplier for the village lighting. The Clerk had contacted Clear Utility Systems (CUS) which is a specialists in unmetered supply and is in partnership with NCALC. A letter of authority will be signed enabling CUS to search for suitable alternative suppliers.
23/463	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. <i>(a) Kettering Energy Park</i> It was agreed to ask Connect PA to provide all materials and presentation for LAPC to consider before the meeting. A date will then be fixed. The meeting will be public and villagers encouraged to attend. Questions will be requested in advance. Cllr Powell agreed to act as Chair.
23/464	To note planning decisions made by NNC. <i>(a) Monza House Lime Tree (NE/23/01310/TPO/).</i> Approval noted.
23/465	To report on the situation with the chicanes on Irthlingborough Road. Cllr L Brown will complete the application for a Community Road Safety Grant for installation of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), which also record the speed of passing vehicles. The data would go to the police. The maximum grant would be £5000. One quick online quote for the equipment was £6886.06 (£8263.27 inc VAT) and it was noted that funds may have to be taken from reserves. Graeme Kane of NNC Place and Economy had been asked when the situation would be resolved. A reply is awaited.
23/466	To review the roles and responsibilities of councillors. These were reviewed in the light of Cllr Drinkall's resignation: Vice-chairman – Cllr Sheppard Streetlights – Cllr Keech Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Cocks Website – Cllr Powell will continue
23/467	To note any changes to the electoral roll. One addition.
23/468	To receive a report from LA Bloomers. The unsafe tree on the High Street has been taken down. Plaques indicating sponsorship of bulbs had been placed. The provision of an edging for the wildflower area was in hand. Approval was granted for the installation of nesting boxes on the trees on the Green. Arrangements for the fund-raising Spring Fair on Sunday 21 April were in hand. Road closures on the Green had been requested. Approval awaited.
23/469	To consider the Council's Biodiversity Duty. It was agreed that this was primarily covered by the work of LA Bloomers. It was noted that biodiversity considerations should be taken into account for planning applications.

23/470	To consider the Rural Communities Needs Fund. Cllr Cocks will complete and circulate an application for funding to renovate/renew the bus shelter.
23/471	To receive a report from the Joint Action Group. Cllr L Brown reported that overall crime in the area is down. There is a knife amnesty in Irthlingborough and there had been a drugs raid in Great Addington.
23/472	To receive an update from Cllr Cocks on works to the war memorial. Cllr Cocks submitted a report with details from Midland Conservation for the additional work required. 1 Re-lettering on the main memorial 2 Repositioning the flagstones 3 Improving the angle for the World War II plaque 4 Cleaning it and re-cutting the lettering. Any additional flagstones required would be at additional cost. It was therefore agreed to ask Midland Conservation to proceed with stages 1-3 at a cost of £1467.00 + VAT. Work would be undertaken when the weather improved. After the flagstones had been re-set, the further expenditure for stage 4 would be considered. Proposed by Cllr Cocks, seconded by Cllr T Brown and agreed.
23/473	To receive a report from Cllr Powell on the website and email accounts. Social media to be reviewed when the website is completed. Problems with the transfer of the domain name from Wordpress were ongoing. Cllr Powell reported on available shorter new generic email addresses and it was agreed to use '@la-pc.co.uk'. He would purchase the necessary licences and assign them to clerk, chair, vice and individual councillors. This would increase the monthly Microsoft invoice but would give the council control over the use of email addresses.
23/474	To receive a report on provision of broadband in the village. A response from Openreach was due by 22 February.
23/475	To consider provision of training on the use of the defibrillator. This will be arranged for spring 2024.
23/476	To receive an update on the electricity community supply on the Green. Cllr L Brown reported that she was awaiting a response.
23/477	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. The business account application for West End DIY requires two trade references. Turneys had agreed to supply one. Midland Conservation had been asked but had not yet responded.
23/478	To consider the provision of a plaque to mark the trees planted as part of the Queen's canopy. Cllr T Brown will chase these.
23/479	To receive a report on removal of signage on Burrows Farm Lane. A letter had been sent to the property by NNC Highways and Waste saying the sign must be removed. This will be followed up with a site visit on 26 February.
23/480	To receive a report from the Village Neighbourhood Plan group. Cllr Cocks has drafted an application for designated neighbourhood status and will circulate this. Cllrs L Brown and Sheppard will draw up terms of reference.
23/481	To receive a report from the LA/GA villages liaison group. Cllr Cocks reported that there will be a ComMunity Bus visit to Rushden Lakes on 21 March. Tickets will be available from him and John Page at £2 each way and must be pre-booked. In April, the ComMunity Bus is to tender for a weekly request stop service through LA and GA.

23/482	To consider designating The Bell as an Asset of Community Value. This is in progress.
23/483	To report on the registration of the Addingtons Playing Field as an Asset of Community Value. The Clerk reported that the registration had been changed to 'The Addingtons' Playng Field'.
23/484	To receive any updates from the Clerk. The Internal Councillor Checklist had been completed by the Clerk and Cllr Cocks. A rota was agreed for who would complete the monthly checks. There are two meetings about the Local Area Partnership scheme on 13th and 14th March. Details will be circulated for anyone wishing to attend.
23/485	To consider arrangements for the 2024-25 Annual Parish Meeting to involve more of the villagers. It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 14 May at 7.00pm. Kevin Binley would be asked to speak about the Kettering Energy Park. Wine and cheese would be served.
23/486	To report on the preparation of an information leaflet for new residents of the village. The wording has been agreed and the leaflet is being formatted.
23/487	To receive an update from Cllr Maxwell on the business at NNC. In an email, Cllr Maxwell reported that NNC has received £9.57m for repairing potholes. The Council tax is due to be decided week beginning 26 February. She had reported a fallen tree on the main road (this has been dealt with). She is arranging a meeting for all councillors with Stephen Mold to hear about the new plans and ask questions. She will be asked to clarify which plans are concerned. She asked for a meeting with the councillors to hear any concerns. It was agreed to propose either Thursday 7 March or Tuesday 12 March at 10.30 at The Buttery in Woodford.
23/488	To decide on items to be included in the next issue of Saints Alive (April). Councillor vacancy. Annual Parish Meeting The removal of the dead tree on the High Street. LA Bloomers Spring Fair (from Georgia) LA Bloomers need of man/woman power help with some of the tasks. Street Doctor for potholes.
23/489	To identify any future additional agenda items for the meeting on 19 March. Coffee morning. Village sign Any further items to be notified to the Clerk by Friday 8 March.
23/490	To close the meeting. The meeting closed at 22.16.

Signed:

Dated: