

Minutes of Abthorpe Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023
Held in The Old School Hall Abthorpe

Present: M Greenhalgh, R Stevens, F Noble, E Humphrey, P Berry, M Kellner, Parish Clerk T Emerton and Ward Councillor Bambridge and one resident

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received and approved from Councilors Zachar

2. Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were raised

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28 November 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed

4. To note any matters arising from the minutes

| Action No. | Description | Action |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| November 007 004 | Next year's meeting dates | Clerk to book the school hall for parish council meetings next year and the village parish meeting |
| November 007 006 | Village signs | Councillor Berry will order two more village signs |
| November 008 002 | Abthorpe crossroads | Ward Councilor Bambridge will investigate with the Community Liaison Officer to see if the hedges and trees can be cut back, if not the council will contact the owner |
| November 008 003 | Road surfaces | Ward Councilor Bambridge will follow up about the pothole on the road from Abthorpe to Silverstone and the accident that happened due to it |
| November 009 | Internal Audit | Internal Control, Risk Assessment and Standing Orders to be completed at next meeting |

5. Public Forum

Opportunity for residents to bring along points they would like to discuss with the council
One resident attended to be part of the discussion for item no 7.5

6. Finance

1. Cash in bank as of 30/12/22 Total £6190.02

- Treasurer's Account - 1801.48 (transferred in £1,500 from Business Account also credit from EON of £12.64 for overcharge)
- 30 Day Business Account - £4388.54 (£1,500 transferred to Treasurers Account)
Balances were agreed

2. Invoices for payment

| Item no. | Payment to | Description | Net | VAT/TAX | Total |
|----------|----------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 6.2.1 | Alison Robbins | Muffins for Christmas Tree Event | | | 25.40 |
| 6.2.2 | CBR Excavations & Drainage | Additional work - pick up gates, additional kerbing (invoices total £6,600 total work currently paid for is £5,600, quality of work not acceptable) | | | 800.00 |
| 6.2.3 | JACs | Purchase of village gates | 2323.68 | 464.74 | 2788.42 |
| 6.2.4 | NPOWER | Electric usage | 92.06 | 4.60 | 96.66 |
| 6.2.5 | P Berry | Bolts for village sign | 13.38 | | 13.38 |

The invoices were agreed to be paid

7. Specific items for discussion

1. Ward Councillor Bambridge update

Budget proposals

WNC's Cabinet has approved its draft budget for 2023-24 for consultation and is seeking views on these proposals. Like all councils, there have been a number of unprecedented financial issues throughout this year which have significantly increased the cost-of-service delivery.

The main financial issues include, inflationary and cost of living pressures, the ongoing financial impact of COVID, continued additional demand-led and inflationary pressures within the Children's Trust and Adult Social Care and additional operator costs in providing school transport, increased salaries and many other issues around children in care, temporary housing and other challenges. The draft budget for 2023/24, continues this work and includes proposals for the coming financial year which will ensure the council will continue to meet its statutory duties, protecting, as far as possible, its vital services in the most efficient and effective way possible. To find out the details of the proposals and make comments please go to

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24/>

Update on Shacks Barn and DHL applications

Shacks Barn is still progressing very slowly and currently National Highways has requested time to consider traffic further. DHL is awaiting final highway modeling information and re-consultation is to be sent out very soon to parish councils and others. There are still other matters awaited including those related to the football pitches and the visual impact study, which is awaiting a review of changes including information on the tree planting on the bunds. There is a possibility that this and Shacks Barn might come to committee in March but more likely it will be later, possibly June.

A43 road surfacing

Many people have been asking if the A43 from Silverstone to Towcester has been forgotten as the rest of the road between Towcester and Brackley and beyond has been finished. The northbound A43 in question is scheduled for resurfacing with the road markings refreshed and work done on the laybys. Work will take place between 13 March and the end of June. It will involve road closures which will take place only between 8pm and 6am on weekdays.

2. Community Speed Watch 2023

It was agreed to participate in the scheme again this year. Councillor Stevens will confirm with them and agree dates the clerk will support with the organisation

3. Electrical supplier

YU was the cheapest supplier. 3 year contract at a fixed price, council agreed to change supplier to save money

4. Next year's meeting dates

17th April

22nd May **Tuesday** (due to bank holiday) Annual Parish Council and ordinary meeting (5 weeks)

Wednesday 31st May Annual Village Meeting

17th July

4th Sept

30th October

11th December

29th January

11th March

Meeting dates were agreed. Clerk to book the Old School Hall including the annual parish meeting

5. Planning Applications

Planning consultation/Information for application reference WNS/2022/2378/AGD Land at Abthorpe Brackley Lane

It was discussed that this application is to decide if prior approval is actually required. If it is agreed that it is, a planning application will be raised. The council and Ward Councilor Bambridge, as well as a resident raised their concerns with the potential application as the applicant is known to previously use this type of land for leisure activities. Chairman Greenhalgh has written to WNC with the councils concerns

6. Village Green Project

1. Village Gates, paths and Kerbing of the Green update

Councillor Berry discussed the concerns with some of the work carried out and that they have returned to rectify the issues. £1k payment is withheld until rectified and he will confirm the actual payment that will be outstanding. It was discussed that there was really good feedback about the new village gates that were installed and the council felt that there should be a village sign on each gate, it was agreed to purchase two more village signs.

8. Correspondence

1. For Information - WNS/2022/2009/LDP 38 Wappenham Road Abthorpe NN12 8QU - Abthorpe Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Development comprising of the installation of solar panels on the roof of the house - Approval

2. Crossroads at Abthorpe

Ward Councilor Bambridge raised the issue with the hedge and trees on the crossroads restricting view for cars coming from Slapton and asked if the hedges and trees can be cut back. We will await an update from the community liaison officer who is looking into this. If there is no resolution the council will contact the owner

3. Brackley Lane Road surface

This has been raised urgently to WNC as the concrete under the tarmac seems to be intact. Ward It was also mentioned that due to the potholes on the road between Abthorpe and Silverstone an accident occurred on Tuesday 3rd January where a cyclist drove into the pothole and as he fell off his bike he was hit by a car and sustained injuries. He is currently in Coventry hospital. Ward Councillor will follow up

9. Any other business

The Interim audit has been completed and to ensure the end of year audit is compliant we need to plan the internal review, risk assessment and standing orders at the next meeting

10. Close

The meeting closed at 20.05

Signed *Tina Emerton*

Abthorpe Parish Council Clerk

Meeting dates - 6th March