



## NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, at Mannings Heath Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr C Kenny (Vice Chair), Cllr V Court, Cllr S Catterall, Cllr W Bayley.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Louise Shaw (Locum Clerk) and 7 members of the public (MOP). CCllr Nigel Jupp

1947hrs *The Full Council meeting started at 19.47pm due to needing to be quorate.*

323-23/24 **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs D Cotton, K McGovern, N Bryant, M Oswell-Penton

324-23/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

325-23/24 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING-**

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting dating on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and the meeting of the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting of the 31<sup>st</sup> January were accepted and And approved as true record of the meeting. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the The chair of the meeting duly signed the minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

326-23/24 **COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS**

The Minutes of the Finance Committee dating on the 14<sup>th</sup> February were accepted and And approved as true record of the meeting following the removal of the statement, "Cllr CK refused to sign the cheque." ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the The chair of the meeting duly signed the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

327-23/24 **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chair of the meeting stated that he had nothing to report for this meeting and opened the floor to the other members of the council. No further comments were taken.

328 – 23/24 **PUBLIC SESSION–**

The Chair of the meeting opened the floor to the members of the public. Two members of the public spoke about the Nuthurst Carbon Busters and their request to have access to the council's Online mapping system Parish Online. Carbon Busters would like to look at the biodiversity within the Parish and would like the support of the Parish Council One member of the public offered the Carbon Buster's support. No further comments were taken.

329-23/24 **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

CCllr Nigel Jupp mentioned that the markings were done in front of the school on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> February and asked if the council had any comments about the works. NPC Councillors had no comments to make. CCllr Nigel Jupp spoke about the County Council's recent approval of the budget for 24/25. There will be an increase of 4.99% for the forthcoming year. The increase sees an rise of 2.99% inline with inflation and includes provision of childcare. There are currently 900 children in social care with the County Council looking for foster carers within the county. The further 2% is an allowance that comes from central government to provide social care. CCllr NJ stated that the County Council has not had to use their reserve funding and that the government stepping in and gave an extra £7m, which results in a balanced budget for 24/25. CCllr NJ further stated that there are funds of £400k for Operation Watershed to help local councils with flooding issues. Parish Council's would have to apply for the funding. Cllr CK spoke about the condition of Bar Lane Lake and the flooding issues across the road across Bar Lane. CCllr NJ asked for the Clerk to forward to photos and report to himself and will follow up with the WSCC officers. Cllr SC also spoke about the potholes and asked why the repairs carried appeared to deteriorate very quickly, sometimes within 3-4 months.

### **1 MOP left the meeting at 20.15pm**

#### **330-23-24 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr VC spoke about the new chair for HALC and the investment of the new chairman, which took place tonight. Graham Watkins takes up the new role. HALC are in full support of the Civility and Respect movement.

#### **331-23/24 DEER POPULATION**

The Clerk spoke to the members about the Deer Population and informed the members that this issue was not within the remit of the parish council. The recommendation would be for council or residents to make contact with outside organisations such as DEFRA, or Principle councils. Cllr WB asked for the Clerk to make contact with HDC to enquire about their Deer Policy.

**Action: The Clerk**

#### **332-23/24 CIVILITY AND RESPECT**

The Clerk informed the members about signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. The pledge will include:

- Treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.
- Put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Sign up to Code of Conduct for councillors.
- Have in place good governance arrangements including staff contracts and Dignity at Work Policy.
- Commit to seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.
- Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme.
- Support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

***Cllr VC proposed that the council adopt the pledge and asked that the council include it on the annual review and renewal of the council's existing policies. Cllr SC seconded the proposal. It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the council approve and accept adopting the Civility and Respect Pledge.***

More information about the pledge can be found [here](#)

**333 – 23/24 HALC REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr VC spoke to the members and informed them that the council has the opportunity to have two seats on HALC. The Clerk informed the members that Cllr Cotton had been nominated. Cllr VC proposed that Cllr Cotton be appointed as the second representative, Cllr CK seconded the proposal. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that Cllr Cotton be appointed as the new HALC representative.***

**334 – 23/24 COUNCIL STORAGE**

Cllr VC informed the members that she had been in contact with Mannings Heath Village Hall in relation to the council's items that are currently in storage in Henfield Hire. The Village Hall have confirmed that they are happy for the items to be housed in the village hall and confirm that there will not be a charge for it. The members were very grateful to hear this and stated that they would like to that up the offer. Cllr VC has offered to collect the items from Henfield Hire and confirmed that the items will need to be removed before the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024. **Action: The Clerk to make contact with Henfield Hire**

**335 – 23/24 PO BOX**

The Clerk spoke about this item and suggested that the council had a PO BOX address. This would mean that the council would have a permanent postal address for council business and reduce the number of times the address gets changed. The cost of this would be in the region of £400pa and would go against the Administration Budget.

***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that council would adopt a PO BOX at its earliest convenience.***

**336 – 23/24 CARBON BUSTERS**

One MOP spoke about Carbon Busters and the work that they would like to do along side the council. They have requested having access to the Council's Parish Online mapping system. The Clerk informed the members that this is a standard practice and informed them that in her other parish council, the environment group have access to the mapping system. Cllr SC informed the meeting that there are grants available for community groups, and should the carbon busters have a specific proposal for 2024-25 they could make an application. For 2025-26, they would need to apply in October 2024 for the following financial year. Cllr SC proposed that the council allow Carbon Busters to have access to the council's Parish Online Mapping System. Cllr WB seconded the proposal. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that council would allow the Carbon Busters to have access to the Parish Online Mapping System.***

**337-23/24 E-RESOLUTION**

The Clerk spoke about having an auditable process for urgent council business between council meetings. The Clerk will prepare a form and email out. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the council adopt the new process for approving emergency council business outside of a meeting.***

338 – 23/24 **PLANNING MATTER**

1. **DC/24/0169**      **ERECTION OF FRONT PORCH  
MILLERS MEAD, NUTHURST STREET**  
**DECISION:** The Council have no objections or further comments on this planning application.
  
2. **DC/24/0198**      **CONVERSION OF EXISTING GARAGE INTO HABITABLE  
LIVING SPACE.**  
**THE DEES, POUND LANE, MANNINGS HEATH**  
**DECISION:** The Council have no objections or further comments on this planning application.

339-23/24 **FINANCE**

The Clerk informed the members that she had done three hours of training for the council's accounting package and that the accounts had been reconciled up to January 24. Cllr WB asked if the banking issues had been resolved, with Cllr SC confirming that they hadn't. The clerk is working with the Chair of council to resolve this as soon as possible and will report back to council as soon as there is news. Cllrs VC and CK signed the remaining cheque for the purchase of the laptop.

340-23-24 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair of the meeting requested that a standing item be placed on the agenda for Councillors to have items placed on the agenda. The next meeting of Nuthurst Full Parish Council Meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at Mannings Heath Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

*Meeting closed at 20.45hrs.*

*Signed.....*

*Dated.....*