

Telephone 07725 843 505

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Website <http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home>

## Ninfield Full Council Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Cllrs Present:

Chair K Williamson (KW); S Guard (SG); P Holland (PH); K Crittall (KC); G Pharo (GP); J Cheshire (JC); P Coleshill (PC); J Langley (JL).

County Cllr B Bowdler

In attendance: J Scarff Clerk and 6 members of the public.

2484 KW welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting for a long time and introduced our new County Councillor Bob Bowdler.

### To receive reports from the County and District Cllrs and any questions on these reports.

KW explained that NPC had received a joint report from the district cllrs which have been circulated to cllrs and are available for members of the public if they wish to have one.

KW also explained that Cllr Bowdler had also submitted a report but that in view of its political content it would not be circulated.

PC made a comment on the District Cllrs report that the majority did not relate to Ninfield, MP's are trying to engage with central Govt to alter the way housing numbers are set for Wealden. All points proposed on this matter he agreed with.

KC also wished to formally thank Cllr Cade who had taken up an issue that she had raised with him which has been followed through to resolution.

### To receive reports from Schools

Ninfield school did not have to close any pupil bubbles during the year. The decarbonisation works has been delayed. Reported that there were some roof tiles that had been hit by the cricketers. Repairs have been done for the school. IM reported that some weedkiller had been sprayed around the fence and asked that this isn't done during term time.

The planted area near the fence will be replaced with a trim trail in October.

KW thanked SG for organising an excellent village fete and thanks to everyone who helped this to happen it was a great day enjoyed by lots of resident in the village.

2485

### Public Questions

Ten minutes are available for the Public to express a view or ask a question on **relevant matters on the following agenda.**

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

A resident commented that she had spoken to the clerk but was highlighting that community right to bid for Ninfield Working Men's Club is coming to the end of its 5 year registration in December. She asked what the club needed to do.

The clerk agreed to find out.

The twitten next to Jubilee Cottage need clearing,

Top of Church Path is overgrown – the clerk informed the resident that it will be cleared next week.

A resident commented that he had asked on the community FB page why the verges hadn't been cut as well as asking some other questions.

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GP explained what has been happening this summer. JL explained how the project of the wildflower verges was started.

KC suggested that a walk around the village to discuss all the different areas and then to feed back when things are needed to the clerk. It's difficult for all areas to be monitored by the councillors alone and encouraged the residents to become part of the monitoring process.

BB introduced himself, offered to help if people get in touch with him.

2486 **Apologies** and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S 85 (3).

Cllr S Collins for personal reasons

District Cllrs P Doodles & R Cade; Paul Frostick sent his apologies; 4 members of the public left the meeting.

2487 **Disclosure of Interests**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of the interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Revised Code of Members Conduct.

**SG declared a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in 8h SG & PH declared a prejudicial interest in 8h.**

2488 **Exclusion of the Public**

To exclude the public for a particular agenda item the following resolution must be passed. 'Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'

**KW Proposed that the public be excluded from item 8j, KC seconded the motion  
7 cllrs voted for the motion 1 cllr voted against the motion.**

2489 **Minutes of previous meeting** to be agreed and signed as a true record  
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

2490 **Matters arising from previous minutes** – that are not already included on the agenda.  
Nothing

2491 **Matters for discussion**

- a) To hear an update on the neighbourhood plan and agree any actions required.  
The documents that make up the evidence base are now on the Parish Council website for residents to read and make comments. JC explained what the documents are thanked all the people who have contributed to the documents. The documents are evolving as feedback is received and they are subsequently updated. After the next steering group meeting WDC will be invited to look at the evidence base. Meanwhile, AIRS are working on a policy framework using the evidence which can be adjusted when feedback from WDC is received.
  - i) To draw the raffle from the questionnaire.

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140 people who registered their details for a voucher. 5 winners will get a £20 voucher each from a local business of their choice.

The following numbers were drawn. No. 49 No. 59 No. 11 no. 120 no. 39

KC thanked JC for all the work he has done on the NDP and the cllrs gave him a round of applause.

**b) To hear an update on the wildflower verges and grounds maintenance and agree any actions required.**

This had been discussed in the public questions.

The clerk explained that the AONB partnership have awarded us the full amount of the grant applied for and asked for permission to return the letter to accept the grant. The money will be paid retrospectively, and a monitoring report must be filled in to trigger the release of the money.

**c) To discuss communication with the residents in the village and agree any actions required.**

There was a discussion about the best way to communicate so that as many people as possible get the information.

The Parish Council FB page and Website should be used. Other sites can be referred to the PC pages. There was a discussion about a community newsletter in the spring and autumn.

**d) To receive reports from Parish Councillors including those requiring actions.**

JC reported on Speedwatch – over the last 12 months the group has recorded 1595 speeding vehicles, and 230 in the last month. There were 11 volunteers and in a police report Ninfield was 3<sup>rd</sup> in East Sussex for the number of speedwatch sessions undertaken. Sadly the amount of abuse that the group have to endure from motorists has increased and there have been 2 incidents recently where the volunteers have had to call the police. Speed indicator device in Standard hill. As a result, 3 volunteers are no longer available to help. The group is continuing to go out and JC has purchased a body camera for the volunteers to use. To supplement the efforts of the speed watch group JC suggested a replacement speed indicator on the High St near Standard Hill. The equipment will be approx. £2500. GP suggested that there should be one at the memorial Hall end of the village as well.

JC said he would get some more information

PC highlighted a new acoustic camera available, being trailed in Kennisgton & Chelsea. PC asked if the PC could investigate getting a grant for the camera. KC proposed that PC investigate if the PC would be eligible for a grant.

GP asked about the changes to the road on the A269 where the new 30mph speed limit area still has 40mph signs on the side of the road. The clerk has contact ESCC and copied Cllr Bowdler. The required Traffic Regulation Order is not ready and the contractor should not have painted the 30mph on the road. Cllr Bowdler told the meeting that Cllr Ray Cade had the issue in hand.

SG explained that there had been a successful meeting with the new football team and the football team in residence. Both football clubs are happy to work together with Pass and Move offering to help the new team.

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e) **To receive the minutes of committee meetings.**

There were no committee meeting minutes to present.

f) **To receive recommendations for approval from committee meetings**

Nothing to report.

g) **To consider the invitation from Huw Merriman MP to visit the village and discuss our local challenges and agree a response.**

The cllrs agreed they would like to invite Huw Merriman to the village and will organise an agenda for the occasion.

h) **To discuss a request from the Memorial Hall for the Parish Council to consider applying for a loan from the PWLB for £15,000 and pay it back on behalf of the village Hall.**

**Having declared their interests at the beginning of the meeting SG and PH did not take part in the next item but remained in the room during the discussion.**

The Treasurer of the Memorial Hall Charity explained the history of the project and highlighted that they are £15,000 short of being able to unlock the grants that have been awarded that will allow the project to be completed. A condition of two separate grants totalling £30,000 required the Charity to be able to confirm that they have the total amount of money required to finish the project.

Various options were discussed.

The clerk explained that if the PC took out a loan from The PWLB they could grant it to the Memorial Hall but they could not loan it.

If the PC were to use reserves they could grant it to the Memorial Hall but could not loan it.

If the Parish Council were minded to consider a grant then the best thing would be to publish this information and invite comments from the electors in the village.

PC proposed that the cllrs agree that they would like to support the memorial Hall through a grant from reserves subject to advertising the fact to the residents and considering the responses at the next meeting. KC seconded

Resolved All cllrs who were involved in the discussion agreed.

i) **Finance Matters**

**To receive the bank reconciliations to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The Unity Trust Bank reconciliation shows a balance of £73,256.58 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**To present for approval the payments for the month.**

Resolved that the payments be made as presented.

29/07/2021 BACS Orchard Landscapes Ltd £3,600.71

29/07/2021 BACS Ivan Luck £135.00

30/07/2021 BACS HMRC £692.12

30/07/2021 BACS Mulberry & Co Ltd £216.0

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To receive the spend against budget for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year.

To be presented after the end of September 2021. The clerk explained that at the present time there is no reason to expect the budget to be overspent.

- j) To discuss an update on the boundary review and agree any actions required.  
This item was confidential.

2492

**Correspondence** – to note for possible inclusion on next agenda

Signed.....Dated.....