

Nunthorpe Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 6th January 2016

PRESENT:

Ken Tomlinson (Chair), John Harrison, Charles Morrish, David Leyland, Stephen Thomason, Gamini Wijesinghe, Frank Robinson, Jo Turner

IN ATTENDANCE:

Angela Livingstone (NPC Clerk).

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ward Cllr. Jon Rathmell, Ward Cllr. Lesley McGloin, Lesley Tomlinson, Secretary Nunthorpe Community Council

2.0 CLERKS REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE:

2.1 The Clerk presented the correspondence/communication sent and received since the previous meeting:

- 1.12.15 Correspondence with Galliford Try re Christmas lights payment and switch on
- 4.12.15 Email to Mayor re 80 Cookgate planning application
- 4.12.15 Email to Middlesbrough Council re FOI request
- 7.12.15 Reply from Middlesbrough Council re FOI request
- 9.12.15 Email to Nunthorpe Institute re EGM room hire
- 9.12.15 FOI report from Middlesbrough Council
- 9.12.15 Email from and telephone conversation with Mayor re 80 Cookgate
- 9.12.15 Reminder email to R&C BC re Gypsy Lane
- 10.12.15 Order to Green Barnes for Notice board
- 10.12.15 Response from R&C BC re Gypsy Lane confirming email forwarded
- 11.12.15 Planning list email from Middlesbrough Council
- 13.12.15 Email from and response to St Marys Church re service
- 14.12.15 Email from NALC re Defibrillators
- 17.12.15 Email from Avenue School re grant application
- 18.12.15 Planning list email from Middlesbrough Council
- 21.12.15 Email Planning App 35 Collingham Drive from Middlesbrough Council
- 22.12.15 Email from NALC re Regional Event 9 March
- 23.12.15 Email from resident re Blacksmiths Yard sale
- 29.12.15 Email to Middlesbrough Council re Croft Coach Trial route
- 30.12.15 Email Planning application Flat 6 Grey Towers Hall from Middlesbrough Council
- 3.1.16 Email to and reply from Croft Coaches re trial route
- 4.1.16 Email from Middlesbrough Council re trial bus route

Report

Clerk informed that there had been no response from R&C Council re Gypsy Lane reopening request. Clerk to progress. **ACTION:CLERK**

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3.0 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Cllr. Thomason proposed that the minutes of the previous council meetings held on 2nd December 2015 and 14th December 2015 were a true and correct record, seconded by Cllr. Harrison. Members voted and agreed. Chairman signed the minutes. Clerk to forward to Middlesbrough Council and Mynunthorpe websites.

ACTION:CLERK

4.0 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS MATTERS:

4.1 The Tree Area – Camber of road is to be investigated by Middlesbrough Council.

5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT /GRANT REQUESTS/BUDGET:

Clerk presented monthly financial report, which all members agreed as correct.

5.1 Expenditure since last meeting:

Cheque no

Parish Clerk Dec Wages	£240.68	001050
Room Hire December	£ 13.00	001051
NALC	£ 16.00	001052
Chuhan & Singh	£ 192.00	001053

5.2 The Clerk advised of a vast difference in the invoice cost from Chuhan and Singh compared to the previous year, Cllr Harrison agreed that this was a large variation and agreed that the Clerk should query it. **ACTION:Clerk**

5.3 Cllr Harrison stated that the clerk is currently on a variable figure whilst other clerks are on a fixed salary. The Clerk currently enters an invoice which is laborious and Cllr Harrison asked that the Clerk is offered a fixed salary. All Councillors agreed that they would be happy with this arrangement. Cllr Harrison and the clerk to discuss and bring a proposal to the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Harrison/Clerk**

5.4 Budget

Cllr Tomlinson and Cllr Leyland commented that lower reserves should be held, and following budgeted figures produced by the Clerk it was understood that this would be achieved with anticipated spending over the next few years.

Cllr Turner joined the meeting.

Councillors discussed ideas as follows.

1. There were suggestions of a further two notice boards. Members agreed to await installation of the board which has been ordered before looking at any further purchases.

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2. Cllr Leyland informed that in 1978 Middlesbrough Council had planted trees along Mallowdale. He suggested planting more trees along where there are gaps with the intention that in 20 years there will be an avenue of trees. He suggested a budget of £1,000 per year to fund this.

Cllr Thomason questioned liability and land ownership. Cllr Wijesinghe informed that Richard Ward is the contact in Middlesbrough Council to consult.

Cllr Tomlinson suggested that capital funding could be requested for the trees. Cllr Leyland to consult and bring back further details to the next meeting. He informed that planting would not commence until November 2016. All agreed that a continuous planting programme for Nunthorpe would be beneficial. Ideas were discussed of funding via the Woodland Trust. **ACTION:Cllr Leyland**

3. Following discussions Cllr Wijesinghe agreed to work with Cllr Leyland and to speak with Bob Mullen regarding information which may be used for a History board which members agreed could be sited at the Tree. Further details on costs and content to be progressed. **ACTION: Cllrs Wijesinghe/Leyland**

4. Cllr Leyland asked that monies are made available to mitigate and rebalance the flora and fauna He informed Councillors that in a local survey the greenery had been the second most appreciated benefit of living in the Parish. Cllr Leyland suggested working with local schools for which he will bring further information to a following meeting. He asked any other Councillors to be involved with him on this topic. **ACTION:Cllr Leyland**

5. Cllr Leyland asked other members to consider replacing some of the seven tubs at the Avenue which are maintained by the Nunthorpe in Bloom group and the Grumpy Gardeners. He suggested GRP self watering tubs at a cost of approx £750 each. Costs from various websites to be obtained.
ACTION:Councillors/Clerk

6. It was noted that the Clerk had included within the budget for donations to local groups. Cllr Leyland asked that other Councillors put further thought into requirements for the area. **ACTION: Councillors**

Members agreed that the ideas discussed be progressed. Cllr Harrison stated that he would prefer that the precept is not changed to enable the extra spending and that only reserves are used without dipping too low. The Clerk cautioned that she felt that a small increase should be made every few years especially as the number of households had increased. She added that the precept amount had been held for a number of years. Cllr Thomason agreed with the Clerk and felt that monies should be available for spending when the project progresses.

Cllr Wijesinghe proposed that the precept is frozen, seconded by Cllr Harrison and agreed. Clerk to send request to Middlesbrough Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

6.0: PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECTS:

- 6.1 Notice boards – The Clerk reported that the notice board has been ordered but a response is still awaited from the solicitor.

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6.2 Litter Bins – Clerk advised that Ward Cllr Rathmell was progressing this matter.

6.3 Public Telephone box - Mallowdale/Nunthorpe Village – Clerk advised that Ward Cllr Rathmell was progressing.

6.4 War Memorial – Cllr Leyland informed that work on the development site had commenced and he will speak with the developer when the gable wall was in place to progress landscaping. Members agreed that the layout of the build is very overpowering on the War Memorial. **ACTION: Cllr Leyland**

6.5 Nunthorpe Park – Members discussed their understanding that despite delays a plan is being circulated within Middlesbrough Council and that Mr C Gibben is still involved. Members agreed they had previously discussed waiting till February to send any further enquiries to Middlesbrough Council. Following discussions the Clerk suggested that she writes in advance of the February meeting requesting an update which Councillors agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.0 WELCOME TO NUNTHORPE ROAD SIGNS:

Councillors all agreed that the current signs are adequate and that nothing further is to be progressed for the next few years.

8.0 ADOPTION OF FLOWER BEDS:

Cllr Leyland proposed maintaining and planting shrubs on the flower bed at the bottom of Mallowdale/Stainton Way for which he asked other Councillors to give their time to help with. Cllr Tomlinson stated that Nunthorpe in Bloom and the Community Council would need consulting to ascertain if they have plans. The Clerk reminded members that the Parish Council had been approached previously by Lesley McGloin who had wanted the Parish Council to adopt the flower bed; however the Parish Council had not shown any interest and felt that this bed should be allowed to grow back to grass. All members agreed that this be progressed. Cllr Turner and Cllr Thomason both again asked that a local plan is progressed which would look at the whole area and have a focused plan. Cllrs' Wijesinghe, Turner and Harrison agreed that subject to further information they would be happy to help with planting. All agreed for a plan to be progressed by Cllrs' Turner, Thomason and Wijesinghe. Cllr Leyland to seek information on the flower bed. **ACTION: Councillors**

9.0 FRACKING WITHIN AREA:

Cllr Harrison informed the meeting of an article from the local Evening Gazette stating that fracking licences had been granted for areas including Marton and Nunthorpe. All Councillors voiced concerns and Cllr Wijesinghe agreed to make enquires and report to the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Wijesinghe**

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10.0 NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS – BLACKSMITHS YARD

Members discussed the issues being faced by residents in Nunthorpe Village with the uncertainty of access due to proposed new development.

The Clerk advised that she had discussed this with Ward Cllr McGloin who had recently attended a site visit and was working with residents. Councillors agreed that the Ward Councillors were best placed to address this and would ensure that this continued to be progressed on behalf of the residents. **ACTION: Ward Cllrs**

11.0 PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – NUNTHORPE VILLAGE:

The Clerk advised that to date no definitive plan had been received from Ward Cllr Rathmell. Clerk to progress. **ACTION: Clerk**

12.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT NUNTHORPE

The Chair advised that prior to the start of today's meeting a representative from Croft Coaches had attended. He had advised of an anticipated commencement of service on Monday 11th January 2016. This service would follow the route circulated by the Clerk earlier in the week. Following previous comments from Councillors the Clerk and Chair had suggested to Croft Coaches that the preferred route would be via the Tree, for a better safety point of view and to attract more customers, additionally this had always been the route used by public transport. The response had been that they had found issues with the route via Marton Moor Road due to parked cars. Cllr Harrison stated that there had been no consultation and he was aware that his neighbours' had written to Mayor Budd with valid points. Members discussed that the trial period has a very tight timescale, which the Clerk advised would be due to the Stainton development s106 monies being given by Middlesbrough Council. Further concerns were discussed that this route did not serve the Connaught Court elderly people homes and had not had any advertising. All agreed that Croft Coaches and the Ward Councillors should ensure that this is adequately publicised. All agreed that a letter is sent to Middlesbrough Council and Croft Coaches stating concerns as discussed and questioning the level of consultation and feedback from customers using the service.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Wijesinghe left the meeting.

13.0 NORTHERN RAIL SIGNAL BOX:

Cllr Leyland asked that this subject is added to the agenda for April's meeting as he is unable to attend the next two meetings and would like Councillors to discuss the matter. He informed that the signal box is a listed building and future plans show the crossing to be automatic computer controlled from York. **ACTION: April agenda**

14.0 NALC EVENT:

Cllr Leyland asked other members if there was any interest in attending the NALC North East Regional Event on 9th March, he asked that anyone interested in attending speak with the Clerk.

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Members discussed that this event was regarding organising events and it was added that the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race would be passing through the area this year for which an event could be held. **ACTION: Councillors**

15.0 HISTORY GROUP

Cllr Leyland asked that the Parish Council become more involved as Bob Mullen is no longer running this group. Cllr Leyland felt that the Parish Council should be aware of where all of the information is stored. Cllr Leyland to speak with Cllr Wijesinghe who has stated an interest in local history and progress. **ACTION: Cllr Leyland**

16:0 DISCUSSION ON 80 COOKGATE:

Members all agreed that it was believed that Ward Cllr Rathmell is still working on this. The Chair commented that the Parish Council had believed that Middlesbrough Council would have the fence removed. However the Executive subcommittee had supported the owner of 80 Cookgate. The Clerk informed that during a conversation with Ward Cllr McGloin she had been informed that the new fence at 6 Towthorpe is not on public land and that it followed the line of the private land. The Clerk had also been advised of possible other residents looking at taking unregistered land within Nunthorpe.

Councillors discussed the following points

- The land adjacent to 80 Cookgate had always been perceived to be public green land;
- A full response had not been received from Middlesbrough Council and numerous breeches were evident;
- There had been no consultation;
- Conduct of Middlesbrough Council in relation to this, which Ward Cllr Rathmell is pursuing, Councillors agreed to leave this with him;
- Warning against first registration at a cost of £40 suggested by Ward Cllr Rathmell could be progressed. Councillors felt that this would be worthwhile and could be done for other areas in Nunthorpe, this could be retracted at a later date but would ensure that land could not be transferred to individual residents. There were concerns voiced that if the Parish Council gain ownership they would have liability, which the Clerk stated that this should be covered by the insurance.

All Councillors agreed that in accordance with points raised at the meeting on the 14th December a letter should be sent to Middlesbrough Council voicing concerns and strength of feelings, adding that the Council neglected 4000 residents and supported 1. Explaining that land claims look likely to happen in other places throughout Nunthorpe and ask them to claim the land.

Cllr Turner asked that legal representation from NALC could be sought, Clerk to progress.

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Cllr Turner proposed that the discussed actions are taken by the Clerk with a letter going to the unitary authority, a warning on first registration being sought for £40 and a meeting with the mayor organising following these actions. This was seconded by Cllr Morrish and agreed by all. Clerk was asked to speak with Ward Cllr Rathmell regarding any updates prior to sending letter and to include points as per recent email.

ACTION: Clerk

16.0 PLANNING:

Review of previous applications: Applications were brought to the attention of the full NPC requiring discussion/decision.

35 Collingham Drive – Councillors discussed the application for a first floor extension and agreed that there were no objections.

Flat 6 Grey Towers Hall – All agreed that there were experts on conservation at Middlesbrough Council and they would be best aware how to progress.

**With no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15
and thanked Members for their attendance.**