



Full Council Meeting 2nd February 2021 Minutes

Date: 2 nd February 2021 Time: 7.30pm	
Venue: Virtual Meeting via Zoom	
Parish Councillors In attendance: T Barwick, F Billingham (Chairman), T Charteress, J Clark, P Heap, C Lloyd, G Tobutt, G Ward & J Willmer. Also in attendance: Parish Clerk A Benson, County Councillor M Clarke & District Councillor R Atkinson.	
018/21	<p>To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from Councillors S Harris & L Nash.</p>
019/21	<p>Approval of the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2021 RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting 12th January 2021 be approved.</p>
020/21	<p>Matters arising The early warning flood alarm for the Village Hall was donated by the Environment Agency & needs regular servicing and contact details updating. Action: Councillor Charteress to forward information to the Clerk who will forward to the Village Hall Committee. Article on social housing will appear in the next issue of the Mag'.</p>
021/21	<p>Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.</p>
022/21	<p>Requests for Dispensations – There were no requests for a dispensation.</p>
023/21	<p>Public Time</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> District Councillor R Atkinson provided a written report which is annexed to these minutes. County Councillor M Clarke confirmed that the journey towards unitary continues unabated. There is also lots of great work locally in Covid-19 management. No public present.
024/21	<p>To receive a report from the Clerk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morris Homes have agreed to honour their previous commitment to install a grit bin on Cowslip Close. They have also agreed to re-consider HPC's request for permission to install dog waste bins. Draft documentation for the easement onto Longland Meadow has been amended. Our Groundman passed his Routine Level Play Equipment Training Assessment with flying colours. Issues with the Wootton Brook at Piddington Lane reported to the Environment Agency. Highways have raised a works order to clean and test the drains within 28 days on Great Lane. The loose kerb stone on Church Road Piddington has also been reported and again a works order raised for 28 days. Larkfleet have been contacted regarding the bridleway KM43. The Local Plan has been submitted to SNC for Section 16 consultation. All of the defibrillator pads expire next month so 3 more sets have been ordered which will last for 2 years. Letter received from Grand Union Housing re flooding in The Crescent.

025/21	<p>Finance & Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The receipts and payments account to 26th January 2021 was received and compared to budget. RESOLVED: The figures presented represent the current financial position of HPC. Bank balances as at 26th January 2021: Current account £108,792.73 deposit account £30,071.84. b. RESOLVED: To approve for payment outstanding invoices/accounts as per schedule presented. c. Report from the Internal Control Councillors was received. Matters arising to be resolved at agenda items 025/21d&g. d. RESOLVED: To apply for a credit card facility of £500 for the Clerk & £150 for the Groundsman. Fee £3.00 per card per month. e. The Asset Register was reviewed and updated. RESOLVED: The Asset Register fully reflects the assets of HPC. f. Resolved: To amend the Communications Policy as previously circulated. g. The lack of a written agreement with the payroll provider was discussed and the potential risks around data protection & succession. Action: Clerk to discuss with payroll provider and draft an SLA for approval at the next meeting.
026/21	<p>Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Negotiations are underway with a local landowner to re-locate the storage container. RESOLVED: If agreement can be reached with the landowner to instruct solicitors to draw up a licence. Legal costs £295. b. The possibility of acquiring land within the parish was discussed. RESOLVED: To delegate to Councillors Clark & Ward together with the Clerk to investigate possible opportunities.
027/21	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NCC has re-confirmed that it is not in a position to consider an asset transfer. It would be a Department of Education decision. Action: Letter to go back to NCC, Clerk to arrange meeting with Councillors Billingham, Charteress & Lloyd to scrutinise the lease and review the history before referring to DoFE. b. Dog fouling remains an issue. CCTV quotes received. Further articles to be placed in Parish Mag' and signage on the entrances. Action: Agenda item for next meeting. c. The play equipment inspection report was received. RESOLVED: To delegate to the Clerk to arrange for all high-risk items to be resolved.
028/21	<p>Churchyard</p> <p>Request for the installation of a flat granite plaque in the Churchyard received. This request is not within the remit of HPC. Resident to be referred to the PCC.</p>
029/21	<p>Elections 2021</p> <p>Elections expected to go ahead on 6th May 2021. Candidate nomination papers to be with SNC no later than 4pm on 8th April 2021. RESOLVED: To delegate to the Clerk to run a campaign within the Parish to encourage residents to put themselves forward for election.</p>
030/21	<p>Highways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Complaints continue to be received from residents regarding loose chippings on Newport Pagnell Road. NCC Highways have confirmed that the surface is to be surveyed. Action: Clerk to revert to Highways expressing continued concerns and requesting urgent action. b. A sink hole has appeared on the verge of the Newport Pagnell Road at The Choakles. NCC Highways and Taylor Wimpey are in discussion regarding liability. Action: Clerk & Councillor Charteress to continue to push for an urgent resolution to this safety issue.
031/21	<p>To consider/note the following correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public Health Northamptonshire – Supporting Independence Programme Action: Clerk to advertise. b. Freedom of Information request – Local government in practise.



032/21

Next meeting

Tuesday 2nd March 2021. Agenda items to the Clerk by 21st February 2021.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Signed



2nd March 2021

Appendix A

District Councillor's Report:

Record December waste collections.

One big surprise of the current situation is the amazing increase in all areas of waste and recycling collections in South Northamptonshire over December.

The total of over 4,000 tonnes collected is a record, representing a 2017 –2019 month-on-month increase of 707 tonnes, which is an increase of just over 21%.

Over the months from April until December, the picture has been up and down with notable peaks in April, July and September.

April saw the biggest increases, which at the time were put down to households clearing out tons of rubbish due to the first lockdown period, as well as an increase in DIY projects being carried out.

September was notable for a 43.8% increase in garden waste due to a hiatus in gardening activities but that was to be expected due to the nice weather we had then. Over the previous eight months, dry recycling, food recycling and residual waste tonnages fluctuated to some extent with garden waste of course tailing off after September. December broke all our records with the biggest increase in dry recycling which saw a 29.7% rise. Food waste was close behind at 29% and residual was up by 26.1% and garden waste 18.6%.

The reasons - no doubt Amazon and others' packaging must have contributed greatly to the dry recycling and the food increase was probably due to food being bought in anticipation of larger gatherings which probably didn't happen due to lockdown!

Sponne Arcade short stay Car Park.

For those that don't already know this is the new name for the former Co-op car park in the centre of Towcester which SNC acquired last year.

It will have a 3hr limit stay facility in line with the car park strategy currently within the town.

There will be circa 150 spaces and will have spaces for disabled parking, electric charging points, designated tenant, family, motorcycle and cycle parking.

There will be landscaping and a thoroughfare from Sponne Arcade out onto the Richmond road.

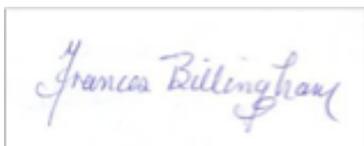
This project will start prior to the demolition of the Co-Op building which will not happen until later after bat surveys are completed in May/June.

When complete, this town centre upgrade will make an attractive addition to the facilities in Towcester with enabled additional parking spaces.

CENSUS YEAR – DUE 21st March 2021.

Yes, this year is a Census year – so where did the last 10 years go to?

As most of residents are aware, every 10 years the country counts it's population.



This is done to be able to assess how many people are living within our country and what their future needs will be relating to Government funding.

Knowing the population and its growth from the last Census future funding for health, schools, adults and children's social services and many other services helps to guide any present and future governments in the right direction. It is up to us all to make sure that our nearest and dearest get to fill in the appropriate forms, to be able to stand up and be counted as a citizen of the United Kingdom – thank you in advance to you all for your help and forthcoming participation.

South Northamptonshire Businesses helping to get Computers for Children.

South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) is helping a local initiative to get computers for children. This week saw local businesses come together to create the #TechTogether initiative.

It is the brainchild of Northamptonshire based 'All Things Business' and IT Support Company ACS. #TechTogether is a business-led initiative to get iPads, Laptops and other discarded, but usable devices and computer equipment to children that are currently being home-schooled due to the latest lockdown measures.

Flooding

Congratulations to the parish council and its members for the stoic work during the recent flooding around the villages, I am sure the community as a whole would be likeminded and think the same - well done to those who went the extra mile in helping out all those who were affected - thank you.

Finally: The following article is taken from Public Health Northamptonshire

COVID-19 complacency can kill!

- **COVID can be invisible.**

Up to 80% of people who have COVID-19 may show no symptoms at all but they still carry the disease at a strength which could kill another person. That means you could be casually spreading the disease everywhere you go. That is why you should always 'act as if you have it' because you may not know you do.

Stay at home, Protect the NHS and Save lives.

If you must leave the house, you must take as many precautions as possible not to transmit this deadly virus. If you test positive, but still feel absolutely fine, you must still self-isolate for ten days. Community-based asymptomatic testing sites will be open to those who are unable to work from home and particularly those in high-risk workplaces or key worker roles. Testing will be available at sites in Corby and Northampton and will be fully operational from 21st January (booking available via NCC website).

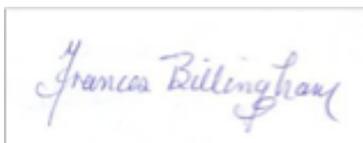
Further sites across county to come on-line over the next 3 weeks.

- **Every touch leaves a trace.**

Listen out for our radio adverts reminding you all that the virus can be transferred on all surfaces.

Think before you touch and remember that pedestrian crossing buttons, lift buttons, handrails and car doors are all touch points which may be harbouring the coronavirus.

When using public transport, shopping, accepting parcels and deliveries (including online shopping), car sharing (in bubbles), touching doors, going in and out of buildings –remember these are all potential points of COVID-19 transmission and frequent hand washing, or sanitising, is key to reducing the risk of catching COVID-19 from surfaces.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frances Billington".

The new variant is spreading rapidly so hand washing, face coverings and keeping a distance are all vital.

- **Complacency can kill!**

The new variant is up to 70% more transmissible. We are in national lockdown and compliance with Government restrictions and regulations is essential if we are to see our positive case rates continue to come down.

Thank you to each and every one of you who is staying at home and following the rules –it's working but we have a long way to go still - keep at it and we will beat this virus!



Frances Billingham