

NYMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
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**MINUTES of the meeting of Nympsfield Parish Council (NPC)
held at Nympsfield Village Hall on Monday, 13th September 2021**

21/096: Present:

Members of the Public, Cllr S Price (Chair), Cllr E Sturgess (Vice Chair), Cllr T Gaunt, Stroud District Cllr M Percy, C Fairbrother, clerk.

21/097: Apologies:

Cllr P Tomiak-Baquero, Gloucester County Cllr W Thomas.

21/098: Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 09th August were unanimously agreed. Cllr Gaunt declared a personal interest regarding a planning application to be discussed.

21/099: Public questions/participation:

Nympsfield residents Rosie and Ava attended to further discuss plans/opportunities for improved play facilities within the village. The discussion mainly centred on the possibility of developing an area of the Playing Field. The possibility of NPC running any financial transactions through its bank account was questioned. Whilst being generally supportive, NPC would need to understand implications. For instance, NPC might as a result breach the £25K annual turnover limit, which would trigger an external audit in addition to the internal audit currently undertaken. Clerk to contact GAPTC for advice. The whereabouts of monies raised in previous times for similar purposes was also questioned. Vice Chair, whilst explaining the trust status of the Playing Field Committee (PFC), responded that to her knowledge, NPC had never been involved and the likelihood was that the PFC would have spent any such money with agreement from the fund raisers. PFC and NPC would have to be able to come to an agreement about leasing the space, should NPC offer funding for the project. Vice Chair pointed out the responsibilities that NPC would need to assume, including ongoing repairs and maintenance. For instance, it would need to reserve the right to close the play area, if it at any time in the future became unsuitable for use. The formation of an action group of interested parents was agreed to be central to the success of the venture. Other funding possibilities were suggested, including crowdfunding. Chair also suggested Rosie and Ava take their case to Gloucestershire CC for aid.

Nympsfield residents attended to express concern about the announced closure of the Uley dispensary and surgery. The agenda item on this subject was thus brought forward.

Cllr Gaunt responded to concerns. A letter of strong objection to the proposed dispensary closure has been sent. A letter of strong objection to the proposed surgery closure has been prepared for delivery, subject to agreement at this meeting – which was received. Cllr Gaunt

EAS

reported 767 signatures to the petition and a good attendance at a vigil in Uley despite limited notice. 59% of Nympsfield residents are registered at the Uley practice.

Nympsfield resident Winnie raised several issues. She wished to know if NPC were preparing for the Queen's celebrations in 2022. Chair responded that the subject was for discussion later this year. The location of the council noticeboard was stated to be too dangerous to read and that the councillor vacancy at NPC was not properly advertised. The bus shelter should be the stopping point of Nympsfield buses. Water pumped out of the pub and allowed to run down Front St should be stopped as it is damaging and potentially dangerous. NPC are in total agreement with this and whilst pointing out that it is ultimately a matter for Gloucestershire Highways dept, clerk will write to the tenant.

Chair thanked the members of the public for their input and Cllr Gaunt for his continuing efforts in mobilising resistance to the Uley surgery/dispensary closure proposal.

21/100: District and County councillors' reports:

District Cllr Percy highlighted his monthly report. 35 Afghan refugees will be homed in the Stroud area. Finance to fund running of a play area could be available from District or County level funding.

County Cllr Thomas was unable to attend but has submitted her monthly report.

21/101: Planning matters:

S.21/2008/HHOLD Location: Candle Cottage, The Plain, Nympsfield, Stonehouse.

Erection of single storey rear extensions and rebuild of rear dormer and erection of 3 no. front dormer windows. Respond by date: 09.09.2021 Web Link:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/apps/planning?AppRef=S.21/2008/HHOLD>

NPC expressed concern regarding the 3 dormer windows to the front elevation.

S.21/1973/HHOLD Location: 3 Highland House, Church Street, Nympsfield, Stonehouse.

External alterations to improve access, erection of carport and single-storey extension
Respond by date: 03.09.2021 Web Link:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/apps/planning?AppRef=S.21/1973/HHOLD>

Cllr Gaunt, having declared a personal interest in this application, left the room as required. However, this rendered the meeting temporarily non-quorate – only 3 councillors were present including Cllr Gaunt – therefore, as NPC were unable to vote on the application, no comment was offered.

21/102: Payments of the Council:

Payroll, Village Hall cleaning and hire up to June were agreed and cheques signed.

21/103: Clerk's report:

The council vacancy has been advertised on the website and the newsletter. No interest has yet been received.



21/104: Climate change and Sustainability policy:

Cllr Gaunt gave a brief overview of what is happening nationally and locally.

230 parish councils have declared a climate emergency. Should NPC be the 231st? A 2006 Act gives powers to parish councils to promote green initiatives. Coaley and Uley Climate Action Network have their meetings sponsored by Coaley Parish Council. Stroud DC are creating a hub to improve buying power to help groups in the purchase of solar panels, for instance. Grants may exist to help convert from oil to electric.

Cllr Gaunt proposed the creation of a working group/action network with a point of contact in the NPC. He will invite interested people forward in the next newsletter.

21/105: Potential purchase by NPC of the Glebe:

Church Agents are meeting on 14th September regarding this subject.

21/106: Bus shelter plans:

Vice Chair has drafted a 'heads of terms' document, being a non-binding outline of the main issues relevant to a possible lease of the bus shelter to Wooldridge Milking Technologies. Clerk to send to Mr Wooldridge and seek a response.

21/107: Plans for Winter:

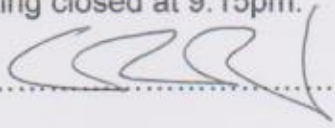
Vice Chair to establish the process by which a snow plough is engaged. Clerk to contact Gloucester Highways with a view to having drains in the village cleared but particularly at The Cross and The Plain. Grit bins to be identified and filled.

21/108: Councillors' topics for next month:

Cllr Gaunt – Climate Change and Sustainability progress report.

Chair – Queen's Celebration 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

(Signed) 

(Dated) 11th October 2021