

NYMPSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
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**DRAFT MINUTES of the meeting of Nympsfield Parish Council
(NPC) held at Nympsfield Village Hall on Monday, 14th February
2022**

22/013: Present:

Cllr S Price (Chair), Cllr P Tomiak-Baquero, Cllr T Gaunt, Cllr R Clements, Gloucester County Cllr W Thomas, Stroud District Cllr M Percy, C Fairbrother (Clerk), three members of the public.

22/014: Apologies: Cllr E Sturgess (Vice Chair)

22/015: Minutes and Declarations:

The revised Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December were approved, along with the draft Minutes for 10th January. No declarations of personal interest were received.

22/016: District and County councillors' reports:

County Councillor Thomas.

– Frocester Hill – Glos Highways are preparing a new design for area of the crossroads at the top. Input is possible but it was considered best to see what they come up with first.

- Roadworks around Nympsfield – Gigaclear are installing 5G cabling, timetabled for April. Disruption is expected.

- Stagecoach - driver strike possible.

District Councillor Percy.

– Further mention of available grant funding, possible nuclear fusion development at site of Berkeley power station and staffing shortage at SDC enforcement dept.

22/017: Planning matters: No applications received this month.

The NPC position on the proposed restricted byway from the top of Bath Rd to Uley reservoir was discussed. One of the landowners affected was present and stated that 'several acres' would be lost to the byway, and that Uley PC have asked for a deadline extension. Chair reflected on the varying opinions expressed by parishioners, ranging between safety concerns and support for the proposal, but explained that the grounds for objection to the proposal are restricted to challenges to the evidence for a pre-existing right of way. Chair proposed that NPC should remain neutral. This was unanimously agreed.

22/018: Payments of the Council and Financial matters:

Payroll, website maintenance and Village Hall cleaning and hire for January were agreed and cheques signed. The receipt of cash raised (£784) for the funding of play equipment was acknowledged – this money to be deposited in the NPC bank account. Cllr Clements also noted a contribution from Smith's was forthcoming. Congratulations are due to Cllr Clements and Ava.

Certain financial documents were presented to NPC for approval.

Bank Worksheet, up to and including December 2021; noted and approved.

Quarterly bank reconciliation, up to and including Q3 (December 2021); noted and approved.

Budget v Actual, up to and including Q3 (December 2021); overall spending slightly over budget to date; noted and approved.

Draft Budget 22/23; adopted by the meeting.

22/019: Clerk's report:

Stroud Enforcement dept have responded to NPC's concern expressed in the January Minutes. They awaiting a report on David's Lane, but have issued directives to the owners of the other two properties in question.

The Agenda item 8 'Grants' was brought forward as the Clerk's report dealt with the subject - see the following. Also see 'Audit Matters'.

A grant application has been submitted for the purchase of toys for a proposed Jubilee children's party at the Playing Field. NPC discussed this and it was agreed that, whilst new single use plastic toys did not meet NPC environmental criteria, toy hire should be possible and could be supported by NPC. Cllr Clements agreed to contact the applicant.

NPC now have control of a number of Minute notebooks covering the 1950s and 1970s which have been in private hands. These are to be archived as valuable historic documents. Clerk asked those present, if there is awareness of the existence of other Minute notebooks, for the holders of same to contact the clerk.

A new, larger, mobile phone mast has been installed on Bath Rd. This was a 'permitted development' but no courtesy warning had been given by Maxema.

22/020: Audit matters:

Annual review of Standing Orders; NPC stated this has been undertaken with no change necessary.

Implementation of new Grant award Policy: subject to agreed wording changes to the policy document and application form, the adoption of the draft versions and publishing to the website was agreed.

22/021: Bus Shelter:

No news this month.

22/022: The Glebe:

Vice Chair reported by email that nothing further has been heard from Bruton Knowles for the Diocese. In the search for suitable legal representation for NPC, Vice Chair will contact Davies and Partners.

22/023: Queen’s Jubilee:

It was agreed to discuss again in March. However, two possible initiatives were suggested by Vice Chair by email. One - focus on the 30 minutes between 19:52 and 20:22 as a simple but effective way of mirroring the years of the Queen's reign. NPC might encourage those organising to try to incorporate this into festivities if possible. Two - support a bench by the bus post at the Cross. This could commemorate the Jubilee and mitigate against Stagecoach’s refusal to stop at the Bus Shelter. Consent might be required from Glos Highways as it would be on highway verge.

22/024: Interaction with other Village committees:

Cllr Gaunt felt this was an important area. He informed NPC that the Village Hall Committee had expressed a wish for a member of the NPC to be co-opted. A similar arrangement might be possible with the Playing Field Committee, especially in light of the likely play area development there. Cllrs Gaunt and Clements to explore both possibilities.

22/025: Public Participation:

Chris Keith suggested that the enclosure of trees and scrub along David’s Lane, known as Quarry Wood, is NPC property. Also, a memorial bench sited on the Haye and partially funded by NPC a number of years ago, has fallen into permanent disrepair. Clerk thanked Chris for the information and will investigate the ownership of Quarry Wood.

22/026: Councillors items for next month:

Cllr Gaunt – Climate – a brief report.

Cllr Clements – Footpath access to the Playing Field.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

(Signed).....(Dated).....