

NYMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
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**MINUTES of the meeting of Nympsfield Parish Council (NPC)
held at Nympsfield Village Hall on Monday, 11th December
2023**

23/155: Present:

Cllr S Price (Chair), Cllr P Tomiak-Baquero (Vice Chair), Cllr T Gaunt, Cllr A Robertson, County Cllr W Thomas, District Cllr M Percy, C Fairbrother (Clerk).

23/156: Apologies:

None.

23/157: Minutes:

The Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November were approved.

23/158: Declarations of Personal Interest:

No declarations of personal interest were received.

23/159: Public Participation:

None this month.

23/160: District and County Councillors' reports:

Both reports received with thanks. GCC Sunday bus service provision review - Nympsfield has been highlighted as being in need. Local tourist sites – Slimbridge, Westonbirt, Woodchester - have been flagged as worthy of bus service provision. Local Plan revision still in progress. M5 junctions 12 and 14 to be redesigned. Again, this process is time limited – if not resolved within the time there will be a period wherein no local plan legally applies and planning restrictions may be loosened. 'Build Back Better' funding was flagged up as not spent yet. Individual applications can be made – see the GCC website for details. Rural prosperity funding for capital projects available – Cllr Gaunt confirms the Village Hall committee are aware – and Cllr Percy will send the link.

23/161: Planning matters:

S.23/2311/TCA St Michaels, The Cross, Nympsfield. Trees in a Conservation Area:
1- Copper Beech, reduce height by 4m and lateral branches by 2.5m. 2-Sycamore,

reduce height by 4m and lateral branches by 2m. Web Link:
<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/apps/planning?AppRef=S.23/2311/TCA>

S.23/2050/FUL Land Parcel North West of Ragged Barn, Horsley.
Clerk has written to Stroud planning department with no objection, but to raise concerns about David's Lane's surface and potential light pollution.

23/162: Grant Applications:

A small donation of £32.24 was requested to aid a village hall fund raiser. NPC unanimously approved the expenditure, conditional upon receipt of documentation.

23/163: Financial Matters: Payments of the Council:

Salary and Expenses £279.70 (Nov).

HMRC £70 (Nov).

Nymphsfield Village Hall hire £20 (Nov).

23/164: Financial Matters: Other:

A discussion took place around setting the level of precept for 2024/25. Whilst wishing to keep the financial burden on ratepayers as low as possible, the current level of precept is insufficient to balance the budget. Chair suggested an increase to cover 70% of the projected shortfall. This was adopted by the whole council, clerk will request accordingly.

The CIL grant money received for community benefit, in compensation for new build within the village, needs to be spent within 5 years. Play equipment matching funding had been thought to be a good community benefit, but the current status of the project is uncertain. Clerk to ask after progress of the person nominally in charge. Cllr Robertson wished it minuted that all the donations collected for play equipment are being held in safekeeping by NPC.

Cllr Robertson asked if a community electric charging point would be a good use of CIL funding – it was agreed this was worth researching, Cllr Robertson to investigate costs, timeframe.

23/165: Clerk's Report:

2 quotations have been received for village tidying. References are to be requested.

Chair has sent an email to Stroud DC regarding NPC concerns with the proposed development at Forest Green Rovers. In response, they have confirmed the plan for redevelopment has been approved by planning, the designation of the space is now 'for development' and this will continue to be part of the Local Plan. SDC did suggest that Chair write to the Planning Inspectorate if there continued to be concerns. NPC agreed that this should be done. County Cllr Thomas felt that GCC Highways should

be included in any correspondence about the state of Tinkley Lane, along with any present and future traffic concerns. Apropos of which, NPC recently received a report of lorries damaging a wall at Nympsfield Cross en-route to Smith's facility on Tinkley Lane.

23/166: Consider Councillor vacancy:

Interest has been expressed but so far the vacancy remains open. NPC may now lawfully co-opt a (willing) member of the parish to fill the vacancy. Any parishioner who wishes to become a councillor and or has any questions about the role should contact the clerk. Cllr Tomiak-Baquero undertook to make a Facebook entry advertising the role.

23/167: Highways:

Frocester Hill junction - poles now installed, no date for the VAS component installation. Clerk has drawn Highways' attention to the flooding potential for the houses at 'The Plain' at the bottom of the Front St hill, and has asked that particular attention be paid to drains there during the annual drain clearing event. They have noted the request and informed the drain gang.

23/168: Biodiversity:

Parish Councils are required to consider a biodiversity policy by January 2024. Chair undertook to draft a policy in time for the next meeting. District Cllr Percy reported an initiative from Cotswolds Grassland Trust working with Uley PC on managing common land to best effect.

23/169: The Glebe:

No progress to report. Chair to email the Church solicitor yet again.

23/170: Councillors' items for Future Discussion:

Cllr Robertson: Warm Hub review.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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