

NYMPSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
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**MINUTES of the meeting of Nympsfield Parish Council (NPC)
held at Nympsfield Village Hall on Monday, 15th May 2023**

23/053: Present:

Cllr S Price (Chair), Cllr P Tomiak-Baquero, Cllr T Gaunt, Cllr R Clements, Cllr A Robertson, C Fairbrother (Clerk).

23/054: Apologies: GCC Cllr W Thomas, SDC Cllr Percy.

23/055: Minutes and Declarations:

The Draft Minutes of the 13th March meeting were unanimously approved. No declarations of personal interest were received.

23/056: District and County Councillors' reports:

Both reports received by email with thanks. Build Back Better funding as mentioned in Cllr Thomas' report was discussed and the relevant link is to be published on the website. Clerk to arrange.

23/057: Planning matters:

S.23/0707/FUL Thistledown, Tinkley Lane, Nympsfield, Stonehouse. Change of use of land to create new access track to serve the dwelling known as Thistledown (part retrospective) & to revert ancillary land to agricultural use. Discussed informally last month by NPC (April meeting was cancelled) and no objection was raised. That decision was formally confirmed at this point.

23/058: Grant Applications:

An application was received for £150 funding for the village street party organised to celebrate the Coronation. Receipts have been supplied to this value. NPC had previously indicated support for this worthy cause and are pleased to formally approve this application. Many thanks to Jo Beeston for a successful day.

23/059: Financial Matters – Payments of the Council:

Village Hall cleaning 1st qtr grant payment - £202-50.

Playing Field grass cutting 1st qtr grant payment – £341-04.

Village Hall Hire April - £20-00.

Salary & expenses March and April - £766-75 to include a change in terms and conditions with some arrears.

HMRC tax March and April - £191-40.

GAPTC annual membership fees - £105-88.

23/060: Financial Matters – Other:

Clerk pointed out that the Playing Field Committee award for 2023 will include an amount which will cover the VAT element, as a gesture of goodwill. Thereafter it is hoped the PFC would be registered for VAT. NPC agreed this approach. NPC may not reclaim VAT on any goods or services unless directly commissioned by themselves.

23/061: Clerk's Report:

Chair reminded the meeting that the annual spring clean of the village did not take place this year and must be scheduled in for 2024.

Clerk warned the meeting of the impending annual internal audit, which will form a large part of the June meeting.

Two quotes have been requested for insurance cover, due for renewal in June.

Two trees on the Barrow appear to require pruning. Clerk to contact the Diocese of Clifton, as it is understood that the (RC) church owns the Barrow.

James Turkington has been re-engaged to trim grass at the usual sites through the summer.

The dog bins have not yet been replaced by lidded versions. The Playing Field bin has not yet been replaced by a bigger one.

The Rose and Crown sale is now understood to exclude the adjacent barn. Clerk to contact SDC to express, once again, NPC's concerns for the future of the pub.

The following is a report of a meeting between the Chair and the National Trust on their purchase of Thistledown Farm. The NT plan to reopen the café and seek local views on what people want to see happen there. Chair raised concerns about increased traffic along Tinkley Lane and through the village and also raised the question of pedestrian access from Nymphsfield and whether a footpath could be opened. Parking at Thistledown was also discussed – would local residents get free/reduced cost parking for instance. Also, might there be a play area and could it be designed to co-exist with the planned play area at the Playing Field. The NT are expected to do open days and consultation in the near future.

23/062: Highways:

Cllr Tomiak-Baquero noted there have been three accidents to date since the Frocester Hill junction changes, albeit not at the junction itself. Though the changes have been useful, he still believes that a speed reduction in all directions is necessary. A joint approach with neighbouring parishes to share the considerable cost of applying for a speed limit (TRO) appears to be the best way to go about it. Clerk noted an attempt to do the same thing around 2019 had come to nothing. The meeting concluded that this should not be a reason for not trying again.

23/063: Glebe:

Chair continues to prompt the Diocese land agents for action on the proposed handover of the Glebe.

23/064: Bus Shelter:

No update this month. The change of use planning application decision is awaited.

23/065: Warm Hub:

Nothing new to report. NPC will discuss again in September. A brief but inconclusive discussion took place as to why warm hubs have not apparently taken off as expected nationwide.

23/066: Councillors' Items for Future Discussion:

Clerk: Audit 2022/23.

Chair: Woodchester Park.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

(Signed)..........(Dated).....10/7/23.....