

## **NYMPSFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30 pm in St. Joseph's Primary School.**

Present: Councillors Elizabeth Sturgess (ES) (Chair), Sue Cowle (Vice-Chair), Ann Hardy (AH), David Acton (DA),

In Attendance: Councillors Loraine Patrick (LP) (County), Jim Dewey (RJD) (District), Ashy McKay (AM) (Clerk).

1. **Apologies.** Councillor Carol Pittaway (CP).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016** were agreed and signed by the Chair.
3. **District and County Councillor Reports.** Councillor Jim Dewey presented his report.

"I would like to thank Ashy and all members of Nympsfield Parish Council for the support they have given me throughout the year and the work they have undertaken to support the village.

*Background* - Elected 2016 and currently sit on Environment Committee, Development and Control (Planning) Committee and Planning Review Panel. Also on Cam Dursley and Uley Greenway Group for Cycle path and SDC representative on Prema Arts Centre Board.

*Problem Resolution* - The main issue that I am involved with in the village is the problem of parking and speeding. We have a meeting with GCC Highways manager Andrew Middlecote in June to discuss this issue and see what steps can be taken to avoid potential accidents. I am available to act as a point of contact for residents and the Parish Council with SDC and have been contacted over a planning matter with a listed building and the Rose and Crown community asset.

*Housing* - Stroud has a council house building programme to deliver 236 homes at a cost of £19m over 5 years. The Council is seen as a valued and effective partner in economic development and regeneration by local companies, investors and GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership.

*Local Plan* – Gloucestershire's only local plan adopted under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and shortlisted for a national award, helps us scrutinise planning applications and reign in development not in the Local Plan, thus protecting our rural environment from opportunistic development.

*Local Flooding* – I attended a conference held at Gloucester University and sponsored by SDC on RuSuds - Rural Sustainable drainage scheme in the Stroud Valleys - one of only two UK projects sponsored by the Environment Agency with a CPRE award. With attendees all over the country, including Somerset, Cumbria and Wales, Stroud leads the way in reducing flooding in our area and commendable work has also been carried out along such lines by the National Trust at Woodchester Park.

*Promote Health and Well Being* – SDC recently allocated £300,000 for cycling and walking in the District with a full-time officer appointed (Gideon Darley) who amongst other things will seek match funding from other sources such as from the Lottery for

cycling and walking projects. One such is the CDU Greenway Project which promotes building a cycle path through Dursley and Cam to the railway station to promote health and reduce congestion. I would urge Nympsfield community to start thinking about producing plans for any such projects in the pipeline. I would be happy to support such plans and provide representation to Stroud District Council and make our voice heard. One such project might be the establishment of a footpath from the village to the playing fields along Tinkley Lane.

*The Future* - Stroud District Council, like almost all council across England, has signed up to a four-year grant settlement offered by Government. However, Stroud will be the first authority in Gloucestershire to lose all revenue support grant and by 2019/20 will be paying £549,000 to the Government. Effectively Stroud has to become a self-financing council with council tax and business rates the principal source of income. It's not clear yet how this income will be distributed between councils.

I wish to congratulate Loraine Patrick who was elected Gloucester County Councillor for our area and look forward to working with her for the benefit of Uley Parish Council and their residents.

Councillor Loraine Patrick is newly elected as the councillor for Gloucestershire County Council. She serves on the Children and Families Committee, and the Commons and Public Rights of Way Committee. She had a small dedicated fund to spend on her parishes and can potentially contribute towards local projects. She is meeting with Andrew Middlecote, the Highways Manager in a couple of weeks".

4. **Nympsfield Parish Council Chairman's Report.** (Councillor Elizabeth Sturgess). ES presented her report:

*Thanks*

Another year past and once again it has been my pleasure to serve as Chair to this Parish Council. Thank you to my vice chair and to the other Councillors for their support and efforts during the year. This is certainly a team effort.

Also thank you to those parishioners who regularly take the time to attend meetings and work with us. We very much appreciate this and find their contributions valuable.

Of particular thanks, this year to our outgoing clerk. We said goodbye to Ann Robertson after years of service to the council. We are most grateful to her contribution to the smooth running of the Council. We welcome our new clerk, Ashy McKay, who took up the post on 28 November 2016 and look forward to working with you going forward.

*Finance*

The precept for 16/17 was £7,458 with total income including VAT refund and an insurance claim standing at £9,025.50.

The main items of expenditure for 16/17 were:

- (a) Clerk
- (b) Cleaning costs for the village hall
- (c) Grass cutting for the King George V playing fields

(d) Printing costs for the Nympsfield Newsletter

There were very few grant applications.

Our outgoings remain modest but reflect our income, but we are building up a cash balance of just over £14,300 at the end of the financial year. This will enable us to plan for some more significant expenditure in the future.

*Events and Projects*

Once again, we held a successful Village Spring Clean, which is becoming somewhat of a tradition. We were lucky with the weather this year and saw around 30 to 40 people turn out on the Sunday to help with litter picking, sign washing and general maintenance. In particular thank you to those who took on the task of tidying up the memorial bench area by the Village Hall. Also thank you to those who not being able to make it on the Sunday nevertheless took the time in the days before and after to do their bit.

The question of highways continues to be an issue and probably our biggest issue. It is one that we have not yet found a solution to. We have had support from Councillor Steve Lydon and Councillor Jim Dewey as well as other interested parishioners. All of which we are most grateful for and which we will continue to rely upon in the future. We have a plan and let's see how 17/18 pans out.

The AED Unit is still a work in progress with a tentative promise from Tony Sanders of the Red Rose Investments to pay for the initial cost. We will have to review this during the year.

The Glebe field and village green status has been settled for a little while now but the Council is working with Ian Crossland and the current tenant to put together a management plan so that the land can be enjoyed by all in a thoughtful and accommodating way. We thank Ian and Ben for their contribution and cooperation.

*Planning*

In last year's report, I mentioned that the adoption of the Local Plan should reduce the number of applications that were coming through. This has been borne out. We have seen far fewer applications this past year and no successful applications for new build houses.

The more significant applications this year have included:

- (a) a much-supported telecommunications mast near the Cross – due to be erected in July 2017
- (b) conversion of the out buildings at the Rose and Crown into a residential unit – yet to be started

We have however seen the start of the larger residential development at the Rose and Crown which is on-going and the commencement of the construction of the house at the rear of the Print Cottages. All these were permissions from the previous year(s). We will watch these schemes unfold with interest.

We are also anticipating the redevelopment of Forest Green Rovers which although outside the Parish will have implications for traffic flow through the village. At our next meeting will be considering what comments we will make to Stroud DC.

### *Crime*

We continue to be fortunate as to the level and nature of crime within the Parish but as before we need to continue to be vigilant and work with the police and with the support of parishioners to ensure the Parish continues to feel like a safe place to live.

5. **Open Forum**. It was agreed to raise and discuss the possible impact of the proposed new development at the Forest Green Rovers site in Nailsworth on the village.

Meeting closed 7.30pm.

Chair's

Signature:.....Date:.....