

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Twywell Parish Council

At 7.00 pm on Wednesday 8th September, 2021

Held as MacQueen House, Twywell, Kettering, NN14 3AH

Present:-

Members

Councillor David Brackenbury
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury

Councillor Peter Moynehan

Officers

Ben Smith (North Northamptonshire
Council/Temporary Clerk)

1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED:-

That Cllr Wendy Brackenbury be elected chairman of Twywell Parish Council for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury – in the chair

2 Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED:-

That consideration of the election of a vice-chairman be deferred until the Council is in a position where there are more councillors from within the parish area.

3 Clerk Vacancy

It was noted that the council had been inquorate and had no parish clerk since the middle of May 2021, following the ordinary elections, with informal support currently being provided by North Northamptonshire Council officers.

In order that the business of the council could be conducted in between meetings and so that new bank mandates could be created and bills paid etc, members were informed that North Northamptonshire Council was proposing to facilitate the duties of the parish clerk, on a short term basis, whilst a new parish clerk was sought.

RESOLVED:-

- a) That Ben Smith (Democratic Services, North Northamptonshire Council) be appointed Proper Officer (including the posts of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) in accordance with Standing Order 15a;
- b) That delegated authority be given to the clerk to appoint a locum clerk/support and/or advertise the permanent clerk vacancy, in consultation with the

Chairman of the Parish Council and Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC) in terms of appointment, appropriate hours and salary;

- c) Subject to successful recruitment, the proposed appointee be presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council for formal approval.

4 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Declarations of office were signed by the following councillors, and counter-signed by the clerk, as follows:-

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Councillor David Brackenbury
Council Peter Moynehan

RESOLVED:-

- a) That the declarations of office duly signed be accepted;
- b) That the period allowed for acceptance of declarations of office be extended to 30 September 2021.

5 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Geoff Shacklock, who was unable to attend due to illness.

6 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited those who wished to do so to declare interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

7 Co-option of Councillors

The clerk informed members of the current position in terms of co-option of councillors:-

- i. There were seven councillor seats on Twywell Parish Council;
- ii. Five candidates had sought election in May and were returned unopposed, four of which subsequently notified North Northamptonshire Council they would not be taking up their seats; the remaining councillor, Peter Moynehan had taken up his seat;
- iii. Under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972, due to the parish council being inquorate, North Northamptonshire Council, as the principal authority in the area had appointed three temporary parish councillors Cllrs David Brackenbury, Wendy Brackenbury, Geoff Shacklock, who were all ward councillors for Thrapston, of which Twywell Parish was a part;

- iv. This meant that four of the current seven seats were now filled. Of the remainder, two were vacant and able to be co-opted by the Parish without advertising, the final remaining seat then needing to be declared as a vacancy and if ten electors were to require a poll within 14 days of notice being given, a by-election would take place - if not, a further co-option would be able to take place;
- v. There had already been two informal expressions of interest received for co-option by the clerk, from Keith Sawford and Michael Mayes.

RESOLVED:-

- a) That delegated authority be provided to the clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to advertise for expressions of interest on the parish website and noticeboards, inclusive of writing to the four councillors that had not taken up their seats following the May 2021 election, and also to the two parishioners already expressing interest;
- b) Any expressions of interest received should be presented to the next meeting of the Council, for consideration and approval.

8 Minutes of Extraordinary Virtual Meeting - 28 April 2021

It was noted that none of the councillors present had been in attendance at the 28th April extraordinary meeting, and so were not in a position to formally declare the minutes as a correct record.

RESOLVED:-

That minutes of the Extraordinary Virtual Meeting held on 28 April 2021 be noted and accepted, for the record.

9 Governance Policies

The clerk informed the Council that several governance policies (as attached to the agenda) were required to be re-confirmed on an annual basis.

In noting that North Northamptonshire Council and NCALC were proposing that all town and parish councils adopt the new Local Government Association (LGA) Model Councillor Code of Conduct, this was also presented for consideration (subject to some small amendments made by the Monitoring Officer of North Northamptonshire Council and NCALC), to replace the current code.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the following governance policies be re-confirmed for the municipal year 2021/22:-
 - Financial regulations
 - Standing Orders
 - GDPR Regulations (including Access Request, Data Breach, Data Protection, Model Publication Scheme and Records Retention Policies)

- b) the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct (as amended) be adopted, to replace the existing Twywell Parish Council Code of Conduct;
- c) the parish website be updated accordingly.

10 Dates for Next Meetings - TBD

RESOLVED:-

- a) That for the 2021/22 municipal year, further parish council meetings be held in the following months:-
 - November 2021;
 - January 2022;
 - March 2022;
 - May 2022 (annual parish meeting)
- b) That following consultation with parish councillors and Girl Guiding (for availability of MacQueen House), the clerk confirm dates on the parish website and noticeboards.

11 Public Session

The Chairman declared the public session of the meeting open and invited any comments and/or queries in relation to parish activities.

Arising from discussion the following principal points were noted:-

Highway Issues

- i. Concern was raised that the hedges on either side of the road on High Street (from the Slipton Lane end to the edge of the village) were significantly overgrown and a danger to highway safety;
- ii. The hedge on the path opposite the Old Butcher's Shop on High Street and the adjacent verge also needed cutting back;
- iii. The ditch running alongside Lower Street (opposite Rectory Close) was overgrown and the pipe required cleaning – this was a concern as it was used to help to stop flooding during periods of heavy rainfall;
- iv. 5 lightbulbs had previously been changed to energy efficient lighting in the village, but it was not known when the remainder would be carried out;
- v. The magnesium light outside Shrublands House, opposite The Gables had not been working for some time and required fixing;

Planning Issues

- vi. It was claimed that land outside of The Gables property on The Green was common land, but that this had been incorrectly allocated to the property in recent times, via the land registry;

- vii. As the parish council was a statutory planning consultee, consideration of planning applications affecting the parish area should be resumed and placed on the agenda for future meetings.

RESOLVED:-

- a) That Councillor Moynehan approach the farmer who usually cut the hedges to see if this could be undertaken urgently;
- b) Subject to a response being received regarding a) above, the clerk pass on the concerns raised to highways and planning officers for actioning (where North Northamptonshire Council is identified as the responsible body) and provide an update at the next meeting;
- c) That a standing item be added to future parish meetings, for consideration of any planning applications affecting the parish area.

12 Accounts

- 1) In accordance with financial regulation 6.4, the clerk sought approval for three new member bank signatories, in order that accounts could be reviewed, monitored and bills paid.

RESOLVED:-

- a) That Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, David Brackenbury, Peter Moynehan, and the clerk be named bank signatories for the Unity Trust bank account;
 - b) That the clerk liaise to set up the new bank mandates and provide a review of the current accounts to the next parish meeting.
- 2) The clerk presented an appraisal of the financial situation as of May 2021, noting that current expenditure in the 2021/22 financial year was £2,9741.45, with a cash book balance of £5,812.97 (of which £5,254.72 was ringfenced, variously for the Lottery Grant, Transparency Code, and Allotments.

NOTED:-

The latest available financial accounts of May 2021.

- 3) Consideration was given to the latest payments which had been made by the Parish Council.

NOTED:-

That six payments had been made via BACS as approved as part of the National Lottery Grant, as per minute 20.11.24 April under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, totalling £667.27.

- 4) Members were then updated with the following payments required to be made once the bank account mandate had been updated:-

- as per the agenda, previous clerk overtime and accrued holiday of £308.00
- Annual Village Fete Small Society Lottery Registration (June 2021) £20
- Electricity account statement (July 2021) of £237.69
- Hire fee for village hall of this meeting of £25

RESOLVED:-

That the payments now highlighted, plus an additional £25 for hire of facilities for the next meeting of the Parish Council, totalling £615.69 be authorised to be paid from the Unity Trust bank account.

13 Items for next meeting or for general interest

RESOLVED:-

That the following items be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council:-

- a) Update on Parish Assets;
- b) Update on the parish defibrillator and exploration of further training opportunities for its use;
- c) Update on planning matters;
- d) Update on highways matters.

14 Close of Meeting.

The Chairman thanked members and parishioners for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 8.23 pm