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**Minutes of the Council Meeting, Held on Thursday October 20th 2022.
 at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre**

Members Present: Councillors Linda Hook (Chairman) , Mavis Wilmshurst, Kathryn Barker, Richard Matthews, Colin Moore and Soosan Philip
 West Northants Councillors Pinder Chauhan and Brian Sargeant
 Also present – Fiona Young (Clerk)
 Members of the Public -10

Item no	
22/151	<p>To receive any apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Carl Squires.</p>
22/152	<p>To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda None received</p>
22/153	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on September 29th 2022 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. There were three amendments to make, one was to add Cllr Barker to item 22/138, the second was to add Cllr Moore to the attendance list. Cllr Moore also spoke about an error in the minutes in the item Finance, the Clerk explained that as the error was not found until after the meeting it would not be in this set of minutes. The error will be discussed later in this meeting and recorded in the minutes for this meeting. It was Resolved to agree the minutes and they were signed as a true record with the amendments required.</p>
22/154	<p>Public Session. One resident voiced his concern that the parish council are considering holding a fireworks event next year, he mentioned the impact on local residents, pets and wildlife and how much the fireworks would cost. The Chairman explained that on the whole the council had received some very positive feedback following the fireworks event last year and had received many requests to stage another event. The event will be discussed later in the meeting. Several members of the public attended the meeting to speak about their concerns regarding the withdrawal of the Stagecoach Number 3 bus service between Camp Hill & East Hunsbury Tesco. Four residents spoke to council, in summary the concerns are as follows –</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of the No'3 service leaves residents with no bus service, this includes vulnerable residents and children using the bus to get to school • The bus is used by residents to attend Drs appointments, without the bus it would be very difficult for residents to walk up the steep hill to get the Drs surgery. • Taxis are far too expensive • Concerns were raised about the safety of school children having to walk to school and residents having to walk to work. • We are being encouraged to be greener and more environmentally aware and yet our bus service is being removed. • The service should have been reduced instead of cut completely.
	<p>It was agreed at this point to move Item 22/163 up the agenda.</p>
22/163	<p>Bus Service – Resolution to agree action regarding the recent cuts to the bus service.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the parish councillors are all very sympathetic towards our residents concerns regarding the loss of the bus service. She expressed disappointment that the parish council were not consulted earlier in the year when Stagecoach first had discussions with WNC about making changes to routes across Northampton. The Chairman also said that this is an issue across the entire county, it is not restricted to just this immediate area.</p> <p>Patrick Stringer is the Commercial Director of Stagecoach, in a conversation with Cllr Hook this week he explained that Stagecoach attended a meeting earlier in the year with Chris Wragg from West Northants Council who at the time was the WNC Transport Manager. This meeting was a network review during which it was explained that the number of people using the bus service dropped hugely during covid and unfortunately those numbers have not returned to normal levels. Stagecoach then asked West Northants Council if they could consider offering some financial assistance to keep some of the routes running. Chris Wragg is now working for North Northants Council, unfortunately the parish council were not consulted at all during this period and the Chairman voiced great disappointment that this was the case. Stagecoach have quoted figures of around £100,000 a year to support this route which has meant that this route is no longer financially viable.</p> <p>A reduction in the service has been discussed but Stagecoach said that it proved very difficult to fit in a reduced service into the existing timetable. The Chairman asked whether a mini bus could be used instead and was told that the costs for using a mini bus were very similar to those of using a larger coach. The savings would not be enough.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that at the recent Ncalc AGM, Anna Earnshaw who is the Chief Executive of West Northants Council announced that she has requested a full review of the bus service provision.</p> <p>Cllr Chauhan spoke to the meeting at this point and expressed anger at the lack of compassion shown by Stagecoach who are essentially a profit making company and are showing absolutely no care to the residents who have been using their service for many years. Cllr Chauhan explained that she had spoken to Stuart Timmis the Executive Director of Place, Economy and Environment at West Northants Council, Mr Timmis is having a meeting with Stagecoach this week, Cllr Chauhan will update the council as soon as any update is forthcoming.</p>

	<p>The Chairman then explained to the meeting that the bus service will stop running at the end of October, alternative providers include the Ability Bus Service and Door to Door but it is thought that there are restrictions on the use of these services to older residents.</p> <p>After more brief discussion the following actions were Resolved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to write a letter to Dame Andrea Leadsom MP expressing serious concerns regarding the cutting of the bus service. • Notices are to be placed in as many locations as possible to inform residents of the changes to the bus service. • The Clerk to speak to Cllr Imran Chowdhury regarding financial support from Tesco.
	<p>At this point it was agreed to return to the main agenda.</p>
22/155	<p>To Receive Reports from</p> <p>a) Police Representative. The crime report was circulated to councillors, numbers are as follows – Burglary Residential 1, Vehicle Crime 3 and Criminal Damage 1</p> <p>b) West Northants Councillors. Both West Northants Councillors spoke about the cost of living help and clamping down on rogue landlords, fly tipping outside Parsons Meade was also mentioned.</p> <p>Cllr Chauhan said that she is organising a meeting regarding Green Lane but was waiting for everyone that was relevant to the discussions to become available, it is hoped that the meeting will take place before Christmas. The Chairman mentioned recent posts on Social Media regarding a very vigorous climbing plant called Russian Vine which was covering many of the trees and bushes in one area of Green Lane. Cllr Chauhan said that she would investigate it.</p>
22/156	<p>Councillor Co-option – Resolution to co-op a new councillor following the resignation of Cllr Katie Macey.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the legal process has been followed regarding the current vacancy, the closing date for applications was Tuesday October 18th and there was one applicant, Mr David Garrett. It was Resolved to co-opt Mr Garrett as a parish councillor with a unanimous vote. Mr Garrett signed the Acceptance of Office form and will attend the next meeting as a Councillor.</p>
22/157	<p>To receive brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings on behalf of WHPC and to receive Clerks report.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that she had held an online meeting with the Clerk, Cllr Barker, Cllr Squires and Chris Carvell from West Northants Council regarding the maintenance of the Claystones Open Space. There will be further information on this meeting later in the agenda.</p> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Hook attended the Asset Mapping Conference – What to Consider? There was a lot of information regarding communication and it is thought that this will be useful when working on the parish plan.</p> <p>Cllr Barker and Cllr Squires re visited the Asset Mapping Project instructions.</p> <p>Cllr Barker and Cllr Hook attended the Ncalc AGM and Cllr Barker also attended a local meeting about community ladders and warm hubs.</p>
22/158	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes, for report only</p> <p>1. Observation sent in to WNC planning regarding Whaddon Close</p>

22/159	<p>Finance</p> <p>1. Resolution to approve the following payments for October</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="261 286 1482 470"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Details</th> <th>Amount £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>F Young</td> <td>Salary plus expenses</td> <td>814.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax and NI</td> <td>223.74</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was Resolved to approve the payments listed above.</p> <p>2. Confirmation that the internal controls councillor has completed the checks to the payments. Cllr Moore confirmed that the monthly checks had been completed.</p> <p>3. Resolution to approve the bank reconciliation statement for 30st September 2022</p> <p>The Clerk explained that an error had been found on the figures for the bank reconciliation that are listed on the agenda. An error was made in April when typing out the opening balance figure, unfortunately that error had then been copied over to each agenda and set of minutes since then. The bank reconciliation statement is on an excel spreadsheet, this document is correct, but unfortunately the figures on the agenda had been incorrectly typed and therefore did not add up.</p> <p>The error has now been corrected and the following are the bank reconciliation figures to the 30th September 2022 –</p> <p>30th September 2022 Bank reconciliation – Balance at April 1st 2022 £ 66,667.50 less payments £25,300.48 plus receipts £25,277.34 = £ 66,644.36 Bank accounts at 30.09.2022 £ 21,423.52 plus £45,220.84 = £66,644.36</p> <p>4. Budget 2023/2024 Councillors to note that discussions regarding the budget for 23/24 will begin in November with a view to finalising the figures in December. Councillors were asked to consider all project for 2023/2024 financial year and bring those ideas to the November meeting.</p>	Payable to	Details	Amount £	F Young	Salary plus expenses	814.20	HMRC	Tax and NI	223.74
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22/160	<p>Policy Re-adoption</p> <p>Resolution to re-adopt the following policies for the next 2 years –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct • Freedom of Information • Grant Funding Policy • Correspondence and Media Policy • Document Retention Policy • Bullying & Harassment Policy • Complaints Committee, Terms of Reference • Data Protection Policy • Data Breach Policy <p>The policies above had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, after a discussion it was Resolved that the following policies would be adopted and the remaining policies would be further reviewed and adopted at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document retention policy • Complaints Committee Terms of Reference • Freedom of Information 									

22/161	<p>Planning</p> <p>1. New applications</p> <p>WNN/2022/1099 3 Foxford Close, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 9UH Two storey side extension linking to existing detached garage and single storey rear extension It was Resolved to submit No Comments</p> <p>WNN/2022/1076 19 Three Chimneys Teal Close, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 9XF New side/rear extension to create new master bedroom suite along with new boundary wall to enclose the rear garden It was Resolved to submit No Comments</p> <p>WNN/2022/0943 30 Hunsbury Close, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 9UE Single storey rear and side extension and new front door It was Resolved to submit No Comments</p> <p>2. Decisions</p> <p>11 Whaddon Close, Northampton, NN4 9XS Refused due to the unacceptable impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties. Noted.</p>
22/162	<p>Community Events Committee</p> <p>1. Resolution to agree to the staging of a Fireworks event on Nov 4th 2023 and resolution to book the agreed fireworks supplier. After some discussion it was Resolved to hold a Fireworks event on November 4th 2023 and to book Titanium Fireworks at a cost of £4312.00 inc vat.</p>
22/163	<p>Bus Service This agenda item was moved up to the beginning of the meeting.</p>
22/164	<p>Claystones Open Space</p> <p>1. Update council following a meeting with Chris Carvell and Idverde Cllrs Barker, Squires, Hook and the Clerk held an online meeting with Chris Carvell from West Northants Council regarding the maintenance of the open space at Claystones. The parish council wanted to know what level of maintenance the open space should have been receiving as the grass has been kept very long all year. Chris Carvell agreed that the level of maintenance from Idverde didn't appear to be at the right level and that he would have a meeting with them at the beginning of next years mowing season and make sure that the frequency of cuts was increased.</p> <p>2. Resolution to agree the supplier and arrange the installation of the simple bench in the Claystones Open Space. The Clerk provided two quotes for a simple bench to be installed in the open space, the council Resolved to ask JS Potter to supply and install the bench, this is the same company that has previously installed a bench in Ladybridge Park for the council.</p> <p>3. Resolution to cultivate a wildflower area and to agree further actions (deferred from September) It was Resolved that Cllrs Garret, Hook and Barker would meet at the open space to look at the area and that Cllr Barker would send a photo of the proposed area to the Environment & Sustainability Manager at WNC for feedback.</p>

22/165	<p>Remembrance Event.</p> <p>1. To agree any further actions required in readiness for Remembrance Day. It was Resolved that JS Potter would take delivery of the Remembrance Bench on our behalf and would install it in position with Cllr Wilmshurst attending the installation to ensure that the bench goes in the right place.</p>
22/166	<p>Update on the installation of the Jubilee bench – Cllr Hook to update</p> <p>Cllr Hook explained that she had liaised with Rev Griffiths and had cut back an agreed amount of brambles so that the bench can be installed in the correct position. The Chairman will arrange installation with EM Pell.</p>
22/167	<p>To receive an update following an audit of the waste and dog bins in the parish, to include a resolution to purchase new waste and dog bins as required. Clerk to provide costings.</p> <p>It was agreed that more work needed to be done on this project and that it would be discussed again at the November meeting.</p>
22/168	<p>1. To engage with the parish seeking their suggestions as to what they would like the parish council to do in order to improve the parish.</p> <p>2. Resolution to agree that we will use our social media channels to seek suggestions from the parish.</p> <p>It was agreed that both of the above items would be included in discussions about the Parish Plan review which will start in January.</p>
22/169	<p>Parish Planters – Resolution to consider the purchase of or rental of Self watering maintained planters from Planstcape (IdVerde)</p> <p>The Clerk explained that she had received some information about self watering planters but was still waiting for the costings. Cllr Matthews mentioned that his wife has offered to help maintain the existing planters and perhaps they could be planted up with drought tolerant plants which would help with the watering. This would be deferred to next meeting.</p>
22/170	<p>Correspondence and actions when needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WNC Cost of living advice – Clerk posted on website • Electoral roll form – Clerk to respond • Election Services – permission to co-opt
22/171	<p>Next meeting date November 17th 2022</p>