

NORTH CLAINES PARISH COUNCIL (NCPC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on Monday October 7th 2024
Held in Okeys Lane Baptist Church Hall at 19:30hrs

PRESENT

Cllr Megan Farmer (MF)
Cllr M Tubby (MT)
Cllr Vicky Nelms (VN)
Dst Cllr Daniel Birch (DB)
Dst Cllr Nicolas Wright (NW)

1. **To receive apologies for absence** and to approve reasons for absence.
Cllr P Morgan (PR) Cllr S Challoner (SR) Cllr A Harris (AH) and Cllr J Robb (JR) sent their apologies to the Council.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a) Register of interests; Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - b) To declare any other Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Cllr JR declared an interest in the application at Daniels Farm.
 - c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.
Councillors who have declared an interest must leave the room for the relevant items as per the code of conduct and the North Claines Parish Council standing orders.
Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence.
3. **Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council**
 - 3.1 The minutes were signed as correct with a note that all of the events as organized under the events advisory group would be North Claines Parish Council events and under the Parish Council umbrella. (minute 5.2 from September 2024)
4. **Public Question Time**

This is an opportunity for members of the public to ask any questions of the parish council, time to be at the Chairman's discretion. There were no members of the public present.
5. **Public areas in North Claines Parish.**
 - 5.1 The Brum Recreation ground.

- It was noted that the Clerk was discussing a playground maintenance schedule with P Hughes as recommended by the Wychavon Parks and Green Space Officer who visited the Brum in September.
- It was noted that Andy Farmer would clean all the playground equipment when the weather was dry.
- There was confusion regarding the technical drawings of the rocking ball on the Brum and MT is to look at them in detail to work out what is causing the rocking ball to be so bouncy.

5.2 Bull Meadow

- Wildflower meadow. Proposal from Cllr PM.
"To sow wildflower seeds this year only in a reduced area in front of the ponds. Seeds to be sown in week commencing 21 October. Cost should therefore be no more than £500. The success of this, or otherwise would help us decide whether we want to try it around the fruit trees next year"
MF noted that this area is where the access for the tractor was, and this would therefore not be a suitable area for wildflowers. But it was agreed to sow wildflowers on the unplanted bund and around the ponds. This was hoped to be done this Autumn. MF to ask Top Cut for maintenance costs.
- Tree planting. Proposal from Cllr PM
'To obtain 400 free saplings from the Woodland Trust, plant about 300 adjacent to the road and about 100 in an area to the south of the ponds. The latter area is important for wildlife which generally likes to tree-hop. Also, in time it will provide a shadow area to help limit the amount of evaporation from the ponds. At the moment we have a completely useless field of grass which costs us money to mow and is of negligible benefit to wildlife. This would aid wildlife to spread from the existing treeline on the west side'
The Council noted that this area was originally designed as an open space and more trees would interfere with the vista. It was noted that a few more mature trees may be acceptable.
- Maintenance. Proposal from Cllr PM. "To spend about £500 on a petrol strimmer plus PPE. I am happy to store it and do some regular strimming, but we do need other volunteers to share the maintenance load generally"
This was approved by the Parish Council.
- Sensory Garden. Proposal from Cllr PM is "to develop a sensory "garden" in the area to the immediate right of the entrance gate, between the path and the hedge - as this is the most accessible area immediately available. We will obviously need volunteers to help/advise with this, but I believe we could make a start this winter"
The Parish Council agreed to this sensory garden and look forward to seeing more detailed plans.
- Meadow – Costs. Proposal from Cllr PM.

That the PC are advised at the following meeting of a simple breakdown of the costs of the Bull Meadow,

1. The full costs of purchasing it
2. the annual costs spent in developing and maintaining it to date.

- Progress on advice re Bull Meadow parking suggestion. MB agreed to progress this suggestion of using the verges as parking.
- It was noted that the padlock on the gate was a potential issue for access and a keycode box could be more appropriate with a key in it.

5.2 Report from Events Advisory Group

Scarecrow event.

- Appointment of Councillor responsible for the management of the event. MF agreed to this role.
- AH to provide risk assessment review on the Scarecrow event to ensure the Council is aware of potential risks and can address ways to mitigate these.
- The pop up café is to go ahead alongside the scarecrow event.

Fun on the Brum 2025

- Arrangements to be confirmed to date.
This has been booked for July 19th 2025. The inflatables have been booked and the police band is to be confirmed.

5.3 Opportunity for Councillors to raise matters regarding other open recreation areas in the Parish.

6 **Highways, Footpaths and Lighting.**

6.1 Update from Highways/lengthsman Councillor. Nothing reported.

6.2 Lighting problems in the Parish. Nothing reported.

6.3 Other highways information or problems.

- The road sweeper has been requested.
- It was noted that Highways have sided out the hedging on the approach to Bull Meadow and it was noted that a fantastic job had been done.
- Highways is to attend the raised ironwork.
- To ask for the replacement of the finger sign to the Brum from Dilmore Avenue.
- Parking vehicles around Agatha Gardens. It was agreed to keep an eye on this situation and that parking within 10m of a junction was not allowed under the highway code. MB to visit concerned resident.
- It was noted that the small piece of pavement not finished by Taylor Wimpey on Dilmore lane was to be rectified in January.
- It was noted that the mud on the road caused by farm traffic was the responsibility of the farmer to clear.

6.4 Drains reported as blocked. Grange Lane (w3w obey.hook.kicked)

7. **Correspondence.**

Discussion on correspondence received.

Emails from parishioners unhappy with the Locksley development at Britannia Gardens.

Email from parishioner re bridleway Nc545. Information from planning enforcement re enf/24/0295

Emails re car parking on and around Agatha Gardens

Dst Cllr DB letter to residents about the 40 houses planning application on Dilmore Lane.

Land behind A38 bus stop.

Bull Meadow facilities feedback – suggestion of a skatepark.

WCC - Information re the DMMO Sling Lane.

Wychavon peer challenge information.

Copied into emails re mud on the road outside School Bank.

2 parishioners interested in bat survey as volunteers.

8 Planning

8.1 Planning applications for consideration.

Report to be received from the planning advisory group on plans that have been submitted.

W/24/01672/HP

Location;39 Dilmore Avenue, Fernhill Heath, Worcester, WR3 7TQ

Description of proposal: Provision of single storey flat roofed side extension and new front porch.

There was no objection to this application.

W/24/01902/FUL

Heathside Guest House, 172 Droitwich Road, Fernhill Heath, WORCESTER, WR3 7UA

Variation of condition 11 (Approved Plans) of Planning Permission reference W/15/01183/PN) - amendments to internal layouts and external elevations.

This was withdrawn by the applicant.

W/24/01708/LB

Location: Bevere Bridge, Bevere Green, Bevere

Description of Proposal: Maintenance and repairs to Grade II listed structure.

There was no objection to this application.

W/21/02974/FUL

Proposal: Development of 40 dwellings, including 40% affordable homes, and associated access, drainage and green infrastructure.

Location: Land At (Os 8623 5933), Dilmore Lane, Fernhill Heath.

The Parish Council noted their previous objections to this ongoing applications and are awaiting additional plans to be resubmitted regarding the allotments and attenuation pond. It was noted that the pathway had been dropped due to privacy issues with local listed cottages.

W/24/01664/HP

25 Shrawley Road, Fernhill Heath, Worcester, WR3 7TW

Erection of single-storey front and rear extensions and internal alterations.

Amendment to W/22/01655/HP.

There was no objection to this application

8.2 Planning applications approved by Wychavon.

9 **Report from County and District Councillors.**

9.1 Report from M Bayliss.

- MB and MF to visit overgrown hedges with B Barnes.
- Cllrs MF and JR met with MB to discuss infrastructure, school pressure and other matters related to the potential increase in housing in Fernhill Heath. They had been assured that this was provided for.

9.2 Report from N Wright/D Birch.

- DB noted that the planning department was now fully staffed, and planning applications should proceed with more speed.
- W/23/ 01323/OUT – 130 houses on Dilmore lane. DB is to speak at the planning inspectorate examination on behalf of the parishioners re this application that Wychavon had previously refused.
- Britannia Gardens, it was noted that this enforcement issue was ongoing, and DB would keep the Parish Council informed.

Newsletter and social media

10.1 Update on newsletter.

The newsletter had been delivered with many thanks to a lot of volunteers who delivered the newsletters around the Parish.

10.2. Proposal from Cllr PM that someone from the Social Media group who has knowledge/use of social media offers to be responsible to sending Facebook etc. messages.

It was agreed that this would be carried forward until the Council met in full.

11 **Finance.**

11.1 Invoices for consideration and payment at the Council meeting were approved as per the schedule.

11.2 Monies received by the Parish Council. Nothing received this month.

11.3 The finance committee to arrange a meeting to consider the second quarter of 2024-25 finance and to begin to prepare a budget for 2025-26.

Any groups within the Parish Council who wish to submit a budget request to do so by the finance meeting.

11.4 Council to consider Gill Lunghey as Internal auditor for 2024-5. Gill is a recommended auditor from CALC.

The Council approved Gill Lunghey as their internal auditor for 2024-25.

12 **Parish Maintenance**

This is an opportunity for Councillors to raise matters re parish maintenance.

- Tree Tamarisk Close – necessary work to be done on the 9th December 2024.
- Christmas trees on Agatha Gardens and outside the Cedars. It was agreed to provide a tree at Agatha Gardens only this year.
- Graffiti was noted on the Heddon Gardens sign.

13 **Councillors additional items for consideration** or for matters to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

There was nothing additional to note.

14 Date of the next Parish Council meetings.

4th November 2024 and 2nd December 2024.
6th January 2025.

Abbreviations

Clr – Councillor

NCPC – North Claines Parish Council

WCC – Worcestershire County Council

WDC – Wychavon District Council