

NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 190th meeting of the Parish Council, held on Wednesday 16th August 2023 at 7-30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present :- Councillors Anthony Odhams - Chairman, David Gruncell – Vice Chairman, Babs Channing, Jan Coeshall,, Roger Cooper (clerk), and 2 MOPs.
Apologies Viv O'Dell..

Minutes of the meeting on 17th May were approved and signed.

The PC wished to record the sad death of our friend Councillor Winnie Rookes. Winnie had a remarkable career on the council with 18 years in service as clerk, followed by 20 as a councillor. Her knowledge and cheerful disposition will be much missed. A possible site for a golden rose that was given upon her retirement as a councillor, is on the bank at the Village Hall. The family's wishes will be respected accordingly.

There were no questions from members of the public.

Matters arising:-

- 1) Pothole/road Maintenance. The general state of all the village roads was again discussed. We are waiting to hear from our new councillor Steve Keable on how he believes and will ensure this situation is resolved. A visit and meeting to be arranged.
- 2) Street lighting RC. Despite apparent progress made before the last PC meeting and subsequent new information plus additional photos being submitted, we are now advised that the records file(s) could not be found. An assessment is now promised by 5th September. AO expressed the council's dissatisfaction regarding this further delay.
- 3) Memorial Bench and Tree. In view of the decision to proceed with the repairs in (4) it was decided to postpone this project on grounds of costs and available funds. DG expressed concerns about clarification of the ownership of the actual site proposed. The current prices for a new bench are £350 for the 3 seater and £275 for the 2 seater, both plus VAT.
- 4) Repairs to bench at junction. The quote for the work is £300 for the metal repairs and repainting. A Nymet resident has agreed to fund the replacement of the wooden slats at £150. Most members thought £300 was expensive, but agreed to proceed in view of the donation. The bench was originally a gift to the village by Miss Bird from Nymet House.

Finance report.

Deposit A/C balance is £1,416.73, Current A/C £1,1042.30

New Business.

Lapford Parish Council has produced a Neighbourhood Plan. There was discussion as to the merits of the N.R. PC initiating such a plan. The main benefit of these schemes is intended to ensure parish councils have real input to any proposed development plans. There should also be closer control of these plans, whether welcomed or otherwise. However, production of such a plan is a very time consuming and expensive procedure. DALC have advised RC that the starting costs are around £1,000 from the PC, with grants available of £10,000, and to reach the next level £2,000 and £20,000, but it is difficult to obtain exact figures. RS pointed out that developments currently taking place in Winkleigh have happened because no plan was in place.

There followed discussion, about sites that might potentially be proposed for development within the parish. AO said he would talk to Lapford PC regarding the preparation process and the content of their neighbourhood plan.

There is a new wooden structure generating comments by observers, that has being erected in the field marked by the owner, as Carter's retreat. This backs onto the lane from Nymet Cottage to Nymet Bridge and the A377. The owner has stated the structure is to house new borehole and water treatment equipment. He claimed the Environment Agency state that this does not need planning permission unless a permanent base is installed. However, it should be noted that regulations stipulate that a water extraction license must be applied for and granted by the EA.

AO raised the issue of the care of and a suitable alternative locations for the defibrillator. These are being investigated.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Dates of next meetings Wed 15th November, Wed 7th Feb.2024.