

Telephone 07725 843 505
Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

Website <http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home>

Ninfield Full Council Minutes 21st March 2024

Cllrs Present:

Chair K Williamson (KW), J Cheshire (JC), S Guard (SG), J Langley (JL), G Pharo (GP), S Venner (SV).

District and Parish cllr P Coleshill (PC),

In attendance: J Scarff Clerk & 1 members of the public (MOP).

Public Questions:

In accordance with standing orders ten minutes are available for the Public to express a view or ask a question on **relevant matters on the following agenda**.

There was one member of public present.

There were no questions.

In relation to 6a, a statement from MOP that agenda item should be deferred to the next PC meeting.

The public session was closed.

Chairman's welcome to the meeting.

KW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S 85 (1).

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Holland and Collins for personal reasons.

Disclosure of Interests

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of the interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Revised Code of Members Conduct.

To consider granting any dispensations.

Any changes to register of interests should be notified to the clerk.

There were no disclosures of interest and no requirements to grant dispensations.

Exclusion of the Public

To exclude the public for a particular agenda item the following resolution must be passed.

Resolved that

'Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business 6f, g and h as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'

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Minutes of previous meeting to be considered for approval and signed as a true record.

Full Council Meeting of the Full Council 17th February 2024

Extraordinary Council meeting Friday 15th March 2024

SG Proposed, GP seconded. All agreed.

Resolved The minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Full Council 17th February 2024, Extraordinary Council meeting Friday 15th March 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

- a) **To discuss a request from the bonfire society to use the recreation ground for the annual village bonfire and fireworks and agree any actions required.**

Resolved that subject to there being no issues identified at the mediation meeting that require the council to reevaluate its position, permission be given for the Bonfire Society to use the recreation ground Friday 18th October for set up until Sunday 20th when clearing up will take place, for the annual village bonfire and fireworks event as requested. In the event of inclement weather on the Saturday the event may be moved to the Sunday instead.

- b) **To discuss the two recent planning appeal hearings and agree any actions required.**

The cllrs considered that the support from WDC in person did not match the comprehensive document written by the case officer for the application on land behind The Green and the Potmans Lane application. The parish council's representatives involved in the two appeals felt that the officers at the appeals were not fully appraised of the cases. The appellants had consultant and legal representation at the hearings and WDC did not. The cllrs commented that at a hearing WDC should have a barrister to support the officers. In his DC role PC commented that he had taken the comments made on board and was discussing with lead planning officers. PC agreed to ask why the S106 agreement had been uploaded on to the WDC planning website today.
Resolved that the clerk write to WDC to ask questions regarding the defence of the refusals.

- c) **To receive an update on the Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan and agree any actions required.**

JC reported that the examiner has indicated that the final report will be ready before Easter.

JC explained some of the main comments from the examiner which can all be read in her report.

The cllrs wished to record their thanks to JC for all the work to get the plan this far and the positive examiners report.

- d) **Finance Matters**

- i. To receive the Statement of Accounts to 31st March 2024 for noting.

Noted

- ii. To receive the bank statement and corresponding bank reconciliation to 31st March 2024 for noting.

The bank reconciliation was noted and showed a balance of £140,879.20 as at 31st March 2024.

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- iii. To receive and agree payment of the schedule of invoices.
The payments were agreed as presented. SG proposed, KW seconded, all agreed.

e) **To receive reports from Parish Councillors.**

SG asked for permission to use the recreation ground for the summer solstice fete from Thurs 20th June for set up through to Sunday 23rd for clearing up. **All agreed.**

SG commented that the container on the recreation ground has now been cladded and planting will take place in due course. Once the inside has been fitted out and the planning conditions signed off.

SG reported that the pram race will take place Monday 6th May at the Blacksmiths, with Manchester Road closed for the event.

GP reported that there would be a table at the heart of Ninfield annual parish meeting to promote the traffic calming project and collect views from residents. GP will also attend the June village market with a view of collecting more information.

The Chair closed the meeting for the district cllr to give a brief report.

PC explained that the Local Plan had been produced and urged the PC to respond to the Regulation 18 consultation.

The clerk commented that revision to the NPPF states a 4year land supply is able to be used once the emerging Local Plan is at Regulation 18 stage.

PC commented that officers had told him that areas of the emerging LP which were positively received or had no objections have some force in decision making. The clerk commented that the advice at one of the local hearings from a barrister and the inspector was contrary to this.

PC reported that all existing planning applications would count toward the growth target requirements.

GP asked if it would be possible to have some form of consultation event in Ninfield, as the nearest one is in Hailsham. PC committed to organise for the planning portfolio holder and any other relevant people to come to his ward to make a presentation of the LP.

The chair reopened the meeting to explain that **The following items will be discussed in a closed session due to the confidential nature of the content as per the resolution above. MOP were asked to leave the meeting.**

f) **To discuss the Ninfield Boundary review and agree any actions required.**

The clerk explained that this item was on the agenda to allow discussion with one of our district cllrs who was unavailable for the last meeting. There was a discussion about the decision at the audit and finance committee. PC committed to discuss with TS and other colleagues and report back.

g) **To discuss the clerk's hours and salary and agree any actions required.**

The clerk left the room during the discussion.

Resolved that the clerks salary band would move up 1 point (£0.36 per hour) and hours would increase by 3 hours per week backdated to 1st December 2023.

h) **To open the tenders received for the children's playground and agree any actions**

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required.

The clerk had hosted 9 different visits, each of approx. 90 mins. Four tenders had been received. The tenders were opened.

Resolved that a sub committee would meet to evaluate the tenders against the scoring sheets and present back to an extra ordinary council meeting. All information would be kept confidential until all companies that had submitted a tender were informed of the outcome.

Date of next meeting.

To note the date of the next meeting is The Full Council Meeting Thursday 18th April 2024, 6.30pm at the Methodist Hall.

Correspondence – to note for possible inclusion on next agenda.

The clerk highlighted that she and other residents had received information about a proposed battery storage site on green field off the B2095.