

North Nibley Parish Council Meeting - Minutes

Recorded by: Clerk

Date: 6th November 2024

Meeting Commenced: 19:30

Meeting ended: 21:30

Present:

Parish Councillors:	Lisa Carr (Chairperson) James Smith (Vice-Chairperson) Liesl Smith George Harper Roland Brown Deborah Artingstall
District Councillors:	Catherine Braun, Gareth Kitchen, Linda Cohen
County Councillor:	Linda Cohen
Clerk:	Mandy Rossiter
Other:	No other attendees

Agenda Items

1. To receive and accept any apologies for absence
There were none

2. To invite and receive any declarations of interest
There were none

3. Meeting for public discussion and questions
No members of public present

4. To receive an update on actions from previous meetings
A summary of actions taken and outstanding was noted

Action: Clerk to share the action tracker excel report via PDF to council

5. To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the council's October 2024 meeting
The minutes were approved and signed by the chair. It was noted that the last sentence from appendix 1 was missing.

Action: Clerk to correct appendix 1 and reshare to Parish Council and Parish Council website

6. To receive and approve applications for co-option (if any)
There were none.

7. The Council to receive the following reports:

- Written report from district councillors
Councillor Kitchen summarised his report.
Councillor Cohen highlighted that fuel funding support can be applied for, despite the September deadline.
The new government plans to make changes to local authorities were discussed.

Action: Councillor Cohen to circulate the winter fuel information so that clerk can share via social media and website

- Written report from county councillor

Councillor Cohen discussed her report and highlighted the traffic concerns around the local road closures, noting that Highways will support where they can.

Councillor Cohen provided an update on the Parish Council request for a road crossing at the Black Horse junction of the B4060. Councillor Cohen is raising it further and asking for a separate review to be carried out.

Action: Councillor Cohen to see if the signage for road closures in Wotton can have an indication to not follow sat nav or state “unsuitable for heavy good vehicles”.

Action: Consider Lengthsman work on the throat

The Parish Council thanked the District and County Councillors for their reports and ongoing support

8. To review and comment on the following planning applications, enforcement notices and appeals:

- S.24/1815/AFP|Widening of track entrance and maintenance of existing track|Access Track To Park Wood North Nibley Gloucestershire

Parish Council noted that they had sent their comments on the plans to the planning officer following discussion at the October 2024 meeting. Clerk confirmed that the planning officer had received comments and had been advised that they were considered when making a decision on this application.

- S.24/1894/AGR|Erection of a two bay extension to existing barn.|Ashen Plains Golf Course Road Dursley GL11 6AD

The Parish Council agreed the following comment to be sent to Stroud District Council in **objection** to the application:

Whilst a form of justification for the building has been attempted, it has no bearing on the amount of area being farmed. There has been no attempt to justify how the numbers of cattle proposed to be kept can be supported by the land area involved. If there is no connection between the land area and the farming enterprise then what is to stop any number of buildings being erected which would change the nature of the landscape? On the basis of insufficient controls being in place to prevent the unnecessary sprawl of buildings in a sensitive site, we object to the application.

- S.24/1895/AGR|Erection of a hay barn|Ashen Plains Golf Course Road Dursley GL11 6AD

All agreed the following comment to be sent to Stroud District Council in **objection** to the application.

In Appeal decision APP/C1625/C/21/3286145, relating to this site, the Inspector stated as follows:- 'the appeal site lies within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and within the Secluded Valleys Landscape Character Area identified by Stroud District Landscape Assessment (SDLA).

The National Planning Policy Framework4 (the Framework) states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in the AONB which has the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.

In accordance with the Framework, Policy ES7 of the LP requires priority to be given to the conservation and enhancement of the natural and scenic beauty of the landscape whilst taking account of biodiversity interest and the historic and cultural heritage. Furthermore, Policy ES7 requires consideration to be given to conserving or enhancing the special features and diversity of the different landscape types found within the District and will only permit development where the location, materials, scale and use are sympathetic and complement the landscape character, and natural features that contribute to the landscape

character and setting of the development are retained and managed appropriately in the future.

Whilst that decision allowed the appeal, great weight was given to the fact that Barn 2 was located within the existing range of farm buildings.

The justification for this separate hay barn is, as with application S.24/1894/AGR, about an over-intensification of a relatively small farmable area, for more livestock than it appears the holding can reasonably stand. Notwithstanding the agricultural justification, or lack thereof, it appears that the location of the proposed new building breaches the aims laid out by the Inspector in reference to ES7.

The council therefore objects to the proposal on the basis of the lack of identifiable need and also due to the inappropriate location proposed. If the council was minded that the justification for a building exists, then a more appropriate location would be nearby the existing buildings. This could still be far enough away for any fire risk concerns to be addressed.

9. To note decisions on planning applications, enforcement notices and appeals since last meeting of the council as per planning report

Parish Council confirmed receipt of report which was updated to show all open applications

10. To agree to delegate authority to clerk to respond to planning applications where response times fall outside of meeting scope

The Parish Council resolved to delegate authority to clerk to respond to Stroud District Council on planning matters which require a response outside of meeting times, where the case officer can't make a suitable extension and where the council considers there to be no significant impact on residents

Action – Clerk to update standing orders accordingly for review next month

11. To receive an update on Play Area planning and funding and agree any actions

Councillor J Smith and Councillor L Smith provided an update and noted that following a key stakeholders meeting an agreement was made that the Parish Council would look to site the play area at "site proposal A" (Behind the School, on the existing Basketball Court).

A 2nd quotation for work is being obtained, further grant applications being made and arrangements are in place to instruct a non-biased, external contractor to carry out risk assessments on the location.

Biodiversity concerns were raised about the installation of a play area and the impact on the Edna Purnell tree, hedgehogs and the other wildlife. Member of the public has asked to be kept involved so that they can share their expertise and knowledge. **Action: Councillor L Smith to communicate accordingly.**

The poor condition of existing benches were raised. **Action: Councillor Smith to raise concerns to recreational field trust**

It was noted that the recreation field trust will be trialling a removal of the bins on the site, which are currently emptied by volunteers.

Councillor Cohen reminded the Parish Council that the project must be proceedable to qualify for the build back better scheme.

Action: Councillor L Smith to confirm details to Build Back Better Application Team of the spendability of the grant

Action: Councillors L & J Smith to try and arrange a meeting with the headteacher of North Nibley School

Action: Councillor Artingstall to support Councillor J Smith on amendment requirements for the current lease of the playing field

Chair expressed the urgency to move forward with this project.

12. To discuss Parish Council responsibility for Closed Churchyard Maintenance including review of quote(s) for works and agree any actions

An initial quote was circulated for review, two more quotes are to be obtained

Action: Councillor Brown to seek further quotes

13. To discuss Parish Council responsibility for maintenance of trees on Parish Council owned land, including review of quote(s) for works and agree any actions

Two quotes were reviewed. It was agreed that surveys should be obtained for all three pockets of land owned by the Parish Council, and should be carried out in a staggered manner over the next three years. 2024/2025 Closed Churchyard, 2025/2026 Quarry, 2026/2027 Cemetery.

Action: Survey quotes for the Closed Churchyard to be obtained

14. To receive an update on Biodiversity Planning and agree any actions

Councillor Brown gave an update and noted that the public meeting was well attended, and that members of the public have volunteered their expertise and support as part of a working party. The working party will look at clean energy and eco "open house" options. The Parish Council noted their thanks to landlord of the Black Horse for hosting the meeting.

15. To consider the draft Council Plan for the Stroud District and agree response or action

A proposal and information had been circulated to Parish Council in advance of the meeting.

Action: Councillors to send their comments to clerk for compilation before the 25th November so that a draft response can be circulated with the December meeting papers for review and agreement on the 4th December.

16. To receive an update on ongoing Parish Council projects not already covered by the agenda

Update provided to note that the Speedwatch project has been deferred to Q4 due to availability of volunteer(s)

Third defib has been obtained and the Parish Council are looking at site options for it

17. To review and agree Parish Council Policies and Procedures as per review timeline:

a. Winter Action Plan

The plan was approved

b. Grant Policy

Policy was approved pending the addition that recipients are required to provide a presentation on grant expenditure at the following annual meeting.

Action: Clerk to upload new policies to website

18. Parish council finances

a. To review draft budget

A review of the budget for 2025-2026 was noted.

Action: Clerk to add explanatory notes to support newer council members and recirculate.

Action: Councillors to provide feedback on proposed draft by 20th November. Clerk to amend accordingly and recirculate by 29th November for approval in December meeting.

b. To review and agree payments on the payment schedule

The following payments were approved:

Clerk – A Rossiter	
Salary (Local Government Act 1972, S112 (2) (2A))	
HMRC	
Salary (Local Government Act 1972, S112 (2) (2A))	
NEST	
To pay employer pension contributions: (Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, Regulation 67)	
North Nibley Congregational Chapel	
Room hire (LGA 1972 s111)	
North Nibley Village Hall	
Room hire (LGA 1972 s111)	
Water Plus	
Water (Local Government Act 1972, S214)	
Parish Online (Local Authority Technology CIC)	
Webhosting (LGA 1972 s142)	
Grand Total of November Expenditure	£1,627.12

c. To note any receipts

The following receipts were noted:

Lloyds	18.6
Bank Interest (Local Government Act 1972, S111(1))	
Stroud District Council	10250
To receive precept: (Local Government Finance Act 1992, Section 41)	
Nibley Knoll Trust	637.38
To receive rents from land: (Local Government Act 1972, Section 124)	
Cemetery Income	1475
To receive income from cemetery: (Local Government Act 1972, Section 214)	
Grand Total of Income	12380.98

d. To review and agree bank reconciliation

The Parish Council agreed ratification of the accounts

e. To carry out internal finance risk management check

Deferred to December. Councillor Brown has been provided with Parish Council statements to perform an internal check

19. To receive an update from clerk on Parish Council correspondence not included within agenda

Clerk provided a summary report. Copy will be shared on Parish Council website

Action – Clerk to write to Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council for formal clarification on ownership of street furniture in North Nibley

Action – Clerk and Councillor Brown to discuss responsibility of benches on Knoll

Action – Clerk to call insurer regarding cover of closed churchyard

20. To receive and approve written cemetery report from Burial Clerk and agree any actions/requests
Chair summarised report and thanked burial clerk for her report

21. To note any risk assessments carried out

It was noted that the exercise equipment and both defibrillators were checked on the 6th November 2024. No actions required

22. To receive verbal update from councillors on their activities since last meeting

Councillor Harper – No further update

Councillor Artingstall - Reviewing risk assessments and insurance with Clerk

Councillor Brown – Attended Monument Trust meeting. It was noted that the trust needs to raise circa £40,000 to re-guild the cross. Also, that the Tyndale Trust have noted that there may be a pilgrimage in celebration of 500 yrs since translation of bible.

Upcoming Meeting - Purnell Charity trust

Councillor Carr - Supported colleagues at play area meeting. Working on Speedwatch and Tourism survey

Councillor J Smith – Updates covered within agenda

Councillor L Smith - Updates covered within agenda

23. To note date of next Parish Council Meeting

4th December 2024

24. Confidential staff matter (Item closed to public and press)

Changes to Clerk's employment package were noted. It was agreed that Clerk's 2024/2025 appraisal would be held by Councillor Brown and Councillor J Smith.

Action: Clerk to arrange mutually convenient meeting date

Meeting Closed