



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Duston Parish Council
Duston Community Centre
Pendle Road
Duston
Northampton
NN5 6DT

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY 11th JANUARY 2024 7PM

Chair: Cllr P Enright-King

Councillors Present:

Barnes, Craven, Dickinson, Ennis-Clark, Golby, Ingram, Liddon, Littlewood, Maitland, Mumford, Roper

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

Alison Grantham – Business and Community Development Manager

121/24. To receive apologies for absence

- No apologies were received. All 12 councillors are present.

122/24. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

123/24. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda

- Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests in the items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. There were no interests declared.

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124/23. Public Participation Session

- There were two members of the public present. One member spoke upon item 132/24. Voi Scooters. They highlighted all of their major concerns with the scheme alongside serious rider violations that they have commonly seen and consistently reported over an 18-month period such as:
 - Riders riding on the pavement.
 - Riders lacking concern for fellow members of the public when riding on the pavement.
 - Nuisance parking that blocks pavements, restricting movement of pedestrians.
 - Multiple riders on the scooter, ranging from 2 to 4 riders.
 - Young people who look below the age of 16 riding on the scooters.
 - The lack of transparency, openness and communication from West Northamptonshire Council, Voi and the Police in relation to VOI Scooters
 - The absence of reference numbers when reporting the issue through the app, which makes following-up on the report impossible.
 - The lack of options when making a report on the app.
- The other member of the public spoke upon multiple issues effecting the St. Giles Park Estate. They highlighted the ongoing negative impact caused by the Berrywood Road work diversion route through Weggs Farm Road, the fly-tipping on the Old Sandy Lane due to the lack of barriers, the desire trail create through the hedge as a shortcut via Vienne Close and the lack of a direct bus route to St. Luke's Primary Care Centre on the other side of Duston.

125/24. To receive any information update on Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy

- Cllr Ingram, in a private capacity, submitted two Freedom Of Information Request (FOI) to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). One of the FOI's surrounded the S106 agreement for the Duston Gardens Estate and the other asked more generally about the amount of unspent S106/CIL monies WNC currently held.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That Cllr Ingram's verbal update was received.
 - b) That Cllr Ingram is thanked by Council for his consistent and persistent work on this issue.

126/24. Councillor Reports – Information Only

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- Cllr Maitland shared with the Council that they and Cllr Golby will be conducting the first resident Surgery on the 20th of January 2024, with the following surgeries taking place on the third Saturday of each month. Cllrs Craven and Roper have volunteered to conduct the next Surgery.

127/24. Bank Reconciliations

- **RESOLVED:** That the bank reconciliations for October 2023 (APPENDIX B) was approved.

128/24. Payment of Invoices

- **RESOLVED:** That the invoice payments for October 2023 (APPENDIX C) was noted.

129/24. Committee Updates

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the report in the form of the minutes of the Planning Committee (APPENDIX D) was received, discussed and noted.
 - b) That the report in the form of the minutes of the Resources and General Purposes Committee (APPENDIX E) was received, discussed and noted.

130/24. Councillor IT Provision & Equipment

- There was a discussion about what kind of IT provision would be most suitable. A desire was expressed that councillors should be able to access their agenda and accompanying documents via a cloud using a laptop or tablet rather than receive piles of paper. Going paperless would be more environmentally friendly it was argued.
- The Clerk advised that our current website provider is leaving the market so it is a good opportunity to do something different. There are a few providers that specialise in providing websites to town & parish councils. This would be done in conjunction in changing our IT provision.
- The Clerk also advised that there is no allocated budget for this and it would need to be paid from General Reserves. A view was expressed by the meeting some savings could be made by reducing printing costs and cancelling webmail accounts.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the report on Councillor IT provision (APPENDIX F) was received, noted and discussed.

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- b) That purchasing laptops (ideally Quote 2 – ASUS Vivobook 174.17 excl. VAT per device) for individual Councillors was agreed. The Clerk would see what laptops are most appropriate.
- c) A full migration from the present webmail email accounts to outlook for both staff and councillors.
- d) That Councillor IT Provision (laptops, MS 365 accounts) is paid from General Reserves.

131/24. Tree of Hope

- The Community Development Manager gave an overview and history of the Tree of Hope project and how it can be taken forward. The Clerk is currently seeking permission from WNC Highways for the project.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the proposed Tree of Hope design (APPENDIX G) was received, discussed and approved.
 - b) That the project be funded via Community Infrastructure Levy monies once quotes are received, discussed and approved.

132/24. Voi Scooters

- West Northamptonshire Council Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee are conducting a review of Voi Scooters Trial and inviting submissions from local Parish Councils. Their report will be presented to WNC Cabinet later this year.
- The current Voi Scooter trial comes to an end this coming May.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That Council agrees to response to the Voi Scooter trail, highlighting pedestrian safety concerns, abandonment issues, safety concerns for riders, the lack of feedback mechanisms and transparency from the involved organisations to the public, issues surrounding reporting violations, the proliferation of illegal scooters and the lack of consultation with Parish and Town Councils in which the scheme affects.
 - b) That the Clerk drafts and submits a response for WNC Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee and NCalc (APPENDIX H). The Clerk will circulate a draft response to all Councillors before submitting to WNC.

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133/24. Budget and Council Tax Precept 2024/25

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the budget (APPENDIX I) was received, discussed and approved.
 - b) That the council tax precept demand of £635,313 for the financial year of 2024/25 was approved.

134/24. Corporate Risk Assessment for 2024/25

- **RESOLVED:** That the Corporate Risk Assessment for 2024/25 (APPENDIX J) was noted and approved.

135/24. Hire of DPC Land & Parks

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Clerk draft a Policy for Hire of Parks & Open Spaces Policy for Council approval.
 - b) That a policy be in place before considering the request to hold a public event on DPC Park (APPENDIX K)

136/24. Repairs to Duston Community Centre Roof

- The Clerk advised that during the Christmas and New Year the roof at Duston Community Centre leaked. The Facilities & Operations has got various quotes to carry out the urgent repairs.
- **RESOLVED:** A quote to repair the roof at Duston Community Centre was approved.

The meeting closed at 8:57pm

