

Clerk: Maxi Freeman, Charlwood, Kineton, nr Guiting Power, Cheltenham, GL54 5UG

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MINUTES: of the Naunton Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 7.00 pm.
PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Nicki Gibberson (Chairman), Keith Russell, David Pickup.
GCC Councillor MacKenzie-Charrington, CDC Councillor Wilkins
APOLOGIES: Received in advance from Charles Hanks (Chairman).
IN ATTENDANCE: Maxi Freeman, Clerk
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: One

1. **To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda (Localism Act 2011)** None.
2. **To hear representations from the public** regarding items on the agenda. One member of the public asked to speak to item 6 regarding dog waste.
3. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (November 2024)** The meeting approved the minutes, and the Chairman signed them. **Action: Clerk to post to website.**
4. **Matters arising/ Chairman's Report.** The Chairman asked GCC Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington to deliver his report.
 - GCC's share of Council Tax would increase by only £6.65 for a Band D dwelling as it had low borrowings compared to other councils.
 - Spending on road maintenance had increased and the focus now was on rural roads. Works in Bourton were taking place during the quiet period. A new material – tarmac combined with recycled tyres – is being more effective but could only be done in warmer months. Replacing whole stretches of road surface was still the best solution though expensive and time consuming.
 - Elections may not take place in May, as scheduled, due to the proposed move to a unitary system of local governance. GCC has requested a delay until the unitary system is fully agreed, which may take 2 years. There could be 1 or 2 unitary authorities in Gloucestershire - each must have ½ million residents. A mayoral system must have 1½ million so Gloucestershire does not qualify for this system on its own. However, it may join one or more other authorities to form the required size. GCC will decide over the next few weeks.

The Chairman then invited CDC Cllr Wilkins to read from his report.

- Waste collection was still an issue in some parts of the Cotswolds, although Naunton did not seem to be affected.
- Two waste vehicles had caught fire due to batteries hidden in toys which had been put in the general refuse. Resident were reminded to recycle batteries at the recycling points provided e.g. supermarkets, DIY stores etc. The vehicles are custom made and so have a long lead time.
- CDC's share of the Council Tax would increase by 5% next year. If the Council had agree to large borrowing programme it would have had to raise the tax considerably more due to interest rate rises.

5. Planning applications

To confirm comments made between meetings:

[24/0067/CWMAJM](#) Grange Hill Quarry. Consolidation of current permissions. Councillors to consider comments on the application. Councillors agreed with the comments. **Action: Clerk to post to CDC Planning site.**

[25/00020/TCONR](#) Littons, Church Lane, Naunton. Pollard 2 white poplars for safety reasons. Councillors confirmed that the 'Naunton PC has no objections' comment was correct.

[24/03824/TCONR](#) Sunny House, Naunton Reduce 1 conifer by 3 m, reduce 4 yews by 1m. Councillors confirmed that the 'Naunton PC has no objections' comment was an accurate reflection of their views.

Councillors noted that application [24/02355/FUL](#) Formation of a 3 furlong all-weather oval gallop, Summerhill Farm, Naunton GL54 3AZ had been refused due to failure to show that the biodiversity net gain objective would be met.

6. Dog waste disposal

Councillors considered emails from a resident asking for help in reducing the large number of dog waste bags left beside the Indian trail. Councillors considered various options including providing a bin, but CDC would not collect and there were already bins close to the trail. Although councillors agreed that excessive signage was not appropriate in the village, they decided to provide small signs reminding dog owners to pick up, bag up and take waste to the nearest bin – appx 50 yards away – or home with them. **Action: Clerk to request prices for appropriate signs.**

7. CPRE campaign in support of the Climate and Nature Bill. This bill strongly supports achievement of the 1.5% global warming goal. Councillors decided to support the bill by writing to the local MP. **Action: Clerk to use CPRE template to write to local MP in support of the bill.**

8. Speeding. Cllr Gibberson reported that the village perceptions survey would not be progressed due to likely lead time to implement and future national changes. However councillors approved '20's Plenty' signage on lamp posts and at their end of the village and on the wide section of the road near the village hall. **Action: Cllr Gibberson to provide number of signs required. Clerk to request quotes for suitable signage and fixings.** GCC had not provided a date for speed monitoring at Summerhill (but need to check speed limit) and on the road from the B4068 into the village (also check speed limit). **Action: Clerk to check limits and chase GCC Highways.**

9. Neighbourhood plan. Cllr Gibberson reported that progress on formulating the work required for a plan was continuing. A report would be provided at the next meeting.

10. Internal Financial controls. Councillors Pickup and Russell agreed to complete the form and scan the results to the Clerk by 14th February. **Action: Cllrs Pickup and Russell to complete form.**

11. Financial Regulations. Current Financial Regulations require three signatories for each online transaction. Councillors agreed to change this to two signatories to make approval quicker, and approved the revised Section 7 of the [Financial Regulations document](#). **Action: Clerk to amend bank mandate and post revised regulations to the website.**

12. Bank charge card. Current Financial Regulations permit a bank card with a limit of £500 for the use of the Clerk. Councillors agreed to allow the clerk to have a bank card to make payments easier, and approved Section 9 of the [Financial Regulations document](#). **Action: Clerk to request card from the bank.**

13. Emergency Plan. Details for the draft Emergency Plan needed to be checked. **Action: Cllr Gibberson to check whether using the Village Hall as the main 'place of safety' was acceptable to the village hall committee and to check the contacts on the draft plan.** If adopted at the next meeting, the plan should be forwarded to CDC for use in an emergency.

14. Assets and risk assessment. To receive reports on council assets and decide on any action.

Recreation field (including dog waste) & benches	Councillors noted that the surface of the recreation field needed some attention and that Cllr Hanks would carry out minor repairs.
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Play area (including dog waste)	Councillors noted that the play area was in good condition.
Flood Monitoring	Cllr Russell reported that the river was flowing well and that the sluice was cleaned about every 10 days. The drains at the bridge near the bottom of Grange Hill were blocked again. Action: Clerk to ask GCC Highways to clear them.
Village Hall	Cllr Russell reported that the village hall was well used and that the financial position is sound.

15. Finances

a. To receive current accounts and bank reconciliation

Councillors noted the balances of £20869.91 in the current account and £489.78 in the deposit account. The Chairman signed the reconciliation.

b. To approve payments and note receipts. The following payments were approved:

Epay	M Freeman	Clerk's salary December/January @ £254.67 p m	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)	509.34
Epay	M Freeman	Underpayment for November (new rate)	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)	19.50
Epay	PATA	Additional cost for salary & arrears calculation	LGA 1972 s.111	15.00
The following credits have been received:				
	Deposit a/c	Interest December 2024		0.38
	Deposit a/c	Interest January 2025		0.42
	Current account	VAT		384.00
	Current account	Baptist bench contribution		193.75
Note: Payment of invoice 5/2005 (Paul Johnson rec field hire £50 23/11/24) is still outstanding.				
Payments between meetings:				
Epay	PATA	Quarterly payroll services	LGA 1972 s.111	31.05
DD	St Andrews	Annual rec field lease payment	LGA 1972 s.134(4)	1.00

16. Items for the next meeting:

NOTE: No decisions can be made on items raised in this section. Discussions can lead to items being included on the agenda for the next meeting only.

Cllr Gibberson reported that the defibrillator battery had been showing a fault code and would be investigated. A new battery may be needed and will be bought between meetings if required.

Councillors noted that the Chairman would be unable to attend the next meeting, which was scheduled for 17th March. Councillors agreed to move the next meeting to Tuesday 11th March.

The next meeting will be held on ~~Monday~~ ^{Tuesday} 11th March 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the village hall.