

Northleigh Parish Council

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Minutes of 6th Parish Council Meeting of 12th December, 2023

1. **Present:** Cllrs Lear, Driver, Rich, Todd, Workman, Cllr Helen Parr, Public Andrea Wood, Steven Allen.
2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Signed as correct.
4. **Matters Arising:** See below
5. **DCC Report:** None
6. **EDDC Report:** Cllr Parr reported that the report from the external auditors was now released. It found that there were poor working relationships within the council amongst other things. The closure of various public toilets is contentious in that there is disagreement as to which should close and which should be kept. Any decisions have been extended for 12 months. There are currently 341 homeless people in the area.
7. **Clerk's Report:** The council discussed 24/25 Precept requirements and agreed that it should be raised to £3,400 due to inflation, budgeting for future elections, clerk's wages. Capital expenditure for this financial year has been for a coronation bench and a new parish noticeboard. It was agreed to transfer £1,500 from the current account over to the special reserve account. 3 invoices were passed for payment. DRCS, computer £38.00; Gordon Ellis & Co, Noticeboard, £974.84; Village Hall Hire, 3 months to Dec. 4.1/2 hours £56.25.
8. **Planning:** 23/2373/PIP, 23/1379/FUL refusal. Two others still pending
9. **SWW:** SWW visited on 11th Dec with a summary of the discussions sent by email on 12th Dec. SWW will check the water currently going down Deepcut. Yesterday's discussion was in addition to what had been agreed previously. They plan to do the work at the same time as the Northleigh Hill work in January 2024.
Highways. The drain at the end of St Giles' Cottage is blocked. It should go under the road into Suddons Farm. Elizabeth has been contacted to see if she could help with the unblocking/re digging the ditch on her side of the hedge/road as she is responsible for its smooth running. It was suggested that she should contact Julian Hurford who may be able to help. The barrier beside the bridge at Collins Farm has broken. Several drain covers are in need of cleaning out completely. The road on the Offwell side of Offwell brook has been washed away, making using that lane hazardous.
10. **Fibre:** Andrea reported that there had been no further movement forwards. She is going to contact Richard Foord MP for his help. Perhaps involving Spotlight. Andrea has asked for Job No and a contact name for the remaining 41 residents still needing connection to

superfast fibre. The council will support her wholeheartedly and thanked her for all her hard work. The necessary telegraph poles have yet to be ordered by Openreach.

11. Chilcombe: No progress.

12. Correspondence: A letter from Natwest suggested transferring funds from one account to the other in order to qualify for monthly interest payments. The sum of £1,500 was agreed to do this. The Clerk will organise this and look into internet banking.

13. AOB: The new noticeboard has been agreed and paid for before Christmas.

Date of Next Meeting: 13th February, 2024

Meeting Ended: 9 pm