

Northleigh Parish Council

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Minutes of the general Parish Council Meeting of 14th January, 2025

1. **Present:** Cllrs, Lear, Todd, Rich Driver, Cllr H Parr, S King, and 1 member of the public.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Workman
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the November 2024 meeting and the special precept meeting on 6 January 2025 were approved and signed as correct..
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - 1) Cllr Lear contacted the owner of Suddon's Farm re deepening the ditch on her side of the road opposite St Giles Cottage to improve drainage flow. This was acknowledged. Cllr Lear agreed to make another approach and recommend that Julian Hurford could possibly help..
 - 2) Cllr Lear talked to the owners of Leigh House about putting a sign on their side of the hedge at the entrance to the footpath off Bucknole Hill Road to deter those using Sat Nav from using it as a shortcut to Old School House. They are not happy about this and would not agree to a sign.
5. **DCC Report:** None
6. **EDDC Report:** Cllr Parr reported that there had been an Extraordinary DC meeting to debate the White paper published in Dec by the govt. It announced the abolition of the 2 tier system of County and District councils and creation of Unitary Authorities. This will lead to saving money, fewer politicians so better decision making and reduced fragmentation of services.. Strategic Authorities are also planned After a long debate the DC voted to recommend dividing Devon into 2 Unitary Authorities based around Exeter and Plymouth. However, DCC has voted to work towards a single Devon Unitary Authority and requested to postpone 25 May CC elections. Exeter City has expressed the wish to be a unitary Authority. Plymouth and Torbay are already Unitary Authorities. Therefore, there is no consensus at this stage.
7. **Clerk's Report:** Bank balances:

Current A/C	£1820.41	(including P3 £386)
Bus. Res. A/C	£2965	
Capital A/C	£18207	

The parish council agreed at a special meeting on 6th January to set the Precept Payment at £3,000. This is a reduction of £400 from this current financial year. This was minuted

The legalities over the use of interest accrued by the savings account above were discussed and it was agreed that the council may use the interest accrued as it wishes.
8. **Planning:**
 - a) Applications: None
 - b) Pending: Bagwells Cottage 24/2037
 - c) Decided: None.

The council had received an email from the Gittisham Clerk who had written a letter of complaint to EDDC regarding the behaviour of the strategic planning section, giving insufficient time to reply to proposals and the ignoring of their own planning rules. Cllr Parr explained that there will be further consultation when the new draft Local Plan is produced. It was therefore agreed that NPC would not become involved at this time.

- 9. Highways:** The Clerk has contacted Highways on a number of issues – mainly potholes but also the drain across the lane leading down to Fairview Farm. These will be assessed by early February. The Clerk was requested to add the state of the lane/road leading up from Offwell brook past Sutton Barton as it is almost non drivable. Two cars have had to be pulled from the ditch by the turn off to Rull Cottage. The road from Three Corners to the brook is also becoming unsafe for driving and needs to be reported.
- 10. NERT:** Sheena King, NERT co-ordinator reported that 120 questionnaires were sent out to NPC residents late last year. 45 replies; 35 have equipment that could be used if necessary. The council find that the information and weather alerts etc sent out to responders useful. Sheena met with Mr Birtles who said that she had enough information to make an interim 'incident Management Plan', which she will do. Sheena has also made a list of possible equipment that could be useful for volunteers. Cllr Todd raised the question of security and Data protection for those with specialised equipment and what the form was for putting this information on the 'map'. Sheena will investigate.
- 11. Chilcombe Field:** There is a Starting on Site ceremony on Monday 20th January, meeting at the village hall at 10.30, going up to the site followed by refreshments back at the village hall. Cllr Rich stated that as the current gateway into the field is no longer available there will have to be a new gate at the end of the current space near the septic system,
- 12. Capital Expenditure: Chilcombe Field** It was agreed that the parish council offer the St Church a contribution of £6000 to the cost of roof works; to be paid on completion of the works. Cllr Todd will word a letter to the PCC.
- 13. Correspondence:** A Pearsall, not a resident, had asked for details of this meeting but did not attend the meeting .
- 14. AOB:** There will be 2 road closures during April. 14-16 April, Road from Northleigh X to Coombe Lane – SWW. 9 April, road to Rockerhayne X. 9.30am – 15.30. Replace pole. Cllr Lear to contact Julian Hurford a dead tree on Northleigh Hill Road but on his land which is dangerous and needs to be removed.

Meeting ended 9.00pm

Date of next meeting: 11th March, 2025