

MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13th December, 2021,
at 7.00pm at Minchinhampton Baptist Church office, Tetbury Street.

As the evening began it was informed of the unexpected absence of the chair Cllr N. Hurst, who had sustained a medical emergency on the way to the meeting, and of Gloucestershire County Cllr C. Turner who had gone to his assistance and taken him to hospital.

163/21: Present: Cllrs S. Hemmings (chair), M. Allen, P. Howarth, C. Morriss, A. Nicholls, L. Reid, P. Schwartz, L. Woakes, the clerk, deputy clerk.

164/21: Apologies: Cllrs A. Bathe, A. Mylechreest, S. Waddington, Gloucestershire County Cllr S. Robinson. Cllr G. Ford was understood to have entered hospital and was therefore unable to attend.

165/21: Public questions/participation. None.

166/21: Declarations of interest/requests for dispensations: None.

167/21: Minutes: The minutes of the council meeting held on 29th November, 2021, were proposed by Cllr Morriss, seconded by Cllr Schwartz, and approved.

168/21: Planning minutes: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6th December, 2021, were received for information only. Cllr Nicholls then drew attention to the recent resubmission of a planning application for 35 homes at The Knapp in Minchinhampton for which the committee had already obtained an extension for the deadline to comment until immediately after its 10th January, 2022 meeting.

169/21: Appointment of deputy chair: Cllr Hemmings reiterated his decision to stand down at the next elections and repeated that his decision had been announced in good time to enable a successor to be appointed and become familiar with the requirements of the role in order to ensure continuity for management of the council's business. No nominations were however received. The matter would therefore again be placed on the next agenda.

170/21: County and district councillors' reports: Gloucestershire County Cllr Robinson had informed the council he had nothing to report. Fellow GCC Cllr Turner was unable to report due her absence assisting Cllr Hurst. There were no reports from Stroud District Council members.

171/21: Financial matters: a) Earmarked reserves – The deputy clerk had circulated a report on the various types of reserves parish councils could hold. With reference to relevant legislation, it made clear earmarked reserves with which to finance genuine and intended future plans could be held, but might not be spent in that financial year, should be separately identified and enumerated in the accounts, and should be subject to regular review and justification (at least annually). Cllr Nicholls said examples at Minchinhampton included monies for Traffic Regulation Order(s) and for the refurbishment of Amberley Playground. Members accepted their previous inaccurate categorisation of such reserves

as ring-fenced which instead meant monies allocated for a specific project that must not be used for any other purpose; **b) 2022-23 budget** – Finance Committee chair Cllr Hemmings said a final decision on the budget, which recommended a standstill precept of £110,000, was not expected until the council’s January meeting. A proposal that followed from Cllr Reid, that the precept should be increased by the rate of inflation in order to progress the NDP Implementation and road safety measures, was however not widely supported.

172/21: Council payments: Cllrs Morriss and Hemmings declared interests in the below payments’ list which was proposed by Cllr Reid, seconded by Cllr Schwartz, and approved.

SLCC	Deputy clerk training fee	£144.00
Softlink Computer Systems Ltd	Various IT support	£152.40
A. Bullock	Office cleaning	£30.00
PATA (UK)	Payroll admin	£41.45
C. Morriss	Fence post repairs	£17.99
H. R. Wilson	Locum accounts work	£180.00
S. Hemmings	Zoom	£14.39
Minch Life	Christmas lights grant	£200.00
Staffing	Staffing	£2,555.10
(Credit received from Chalford Building Supplies, £39.60)		

173/21: Reports: **a) Graziers’ meeting** – A report from Cllr Schwartz had been circulated and was available on request from the clerk. In summary about 220 cattle grazed the commons in 2020, about half the normal number due to TB restrictions and there had been only one death in collision with a vehicle – the best for many years. Council granted £500 towards a scrub clearance “Flailbot”, Members agreed a formal letter of appreciation should be sent to hayward Mark Dawkins who was retiring after 25 years’ service. Informal inquiries would also seek to establish a suitable gift of thanks; **b) Neu-Lindsey progress** – Cllr Reid reported Minchinhampton CAN (Climate Action Now) had received the parish council’s letter detailing requirements before it reconsidered CAN’s request for MPC to become custodian trustees if CAN took over the Neu-Lindsey nature reserve from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Dialogue continued but was limited in public by CAN’s original request for discussion to be confidential; **c) Public rights of way** - Cllr Morriss had advised landowners, who were “deeply unhappy” about the council’s application, to provide evidence to refute its claim to add the route at The Roundabouts to the Definitive Map. Progress with the Spinney Court steps had proved problematic due to its marginal use as a Right of Way and the difficulties of tracing former developers. Additionally, a route from Brimscombe Cemetery through to Knapp Lane was seemingly wrongly shown on maps; **d) Speeding/VAS results** – Updated figures on traffic speeds and volumes at various parish sites were presented and were available on request from the clerk. Cllr Morriss was particularly concerned by a maximum speed of 82mph on Brimscombe Hill. The figures were to be used as part of the parish’s requests for Traffic Regulation Orders. Brimscombe Hill and the road past the Old Lodge towards Nailsworth had attracted the highest number of speeders. It was agreed to write to the Police Chief Constable expressing the council’s deep concern about speeding and requesting further police surveillance at those two sites; **e) TRO consultation** – Cllr Schwartz reminded members it had been agreed the consultation would be via organisations such as schools, the library and similar. She had

received mixed messages from GCC about its 20mph policy. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold back the consultation to await a clear policy from GCC; **f) Minchinhampton CAN** – Cllr Reid reported ongoing work on the adoption of the Neu-Lindsey nature reserve, successful recent events and plans for further activities to both raise funds and public awareness.

174/21: Clerk’s report: Council agreed to support any modest celebration proposed by Nailsworth Town Council to celebrate the 30th anniversary of town crier Tony Evans’ voluntary service. Members recognised the achievement of the new deputy clerk who had successfully passed her ILCA – Introduction to Local Council Administration. A member of the public who had offered to enliven the bus shelter at the top of Brimscombe Hill would be told its redecoration should be the extent of any works, which would necessarily have to follow future repairs to its flooding problem. Other bus shelters within the council’s ownership should also be swept/cleaned.

A report on the potential re-launch of the council’s Tom Long’s Post parish newsletter had been circulated and was available on request from the clerk. Cllr Hemmings proposed, and it was widely agreed, that the council’s former media group should be revived to consider the re-launch the proposed recommendations.

175/21: Items for future discussion: Amberley Playground, Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons’ Advisory Committee report; Staffing Working Group report.

The meeting closed at 8,.25pm.

Signed: Date: