

## These minutes remain draft until approved at the April meeting of the Council

### Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 10th February 2025

Meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Rachel Dickinson, Claire Flower, Dave Wherrett

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 2

*The passing of Mervyn Ross is noted with sadness by the Council. Those among us of long memory can recall the shop and petrol station in Severnleigh, at the head of the mobile home park along a sleepy Coast Road between Redcliffe Bay and Walton. Mervyn was a Parish Councillor from July 1979 to April 1983: he also served as Chairman of the Council from October 1980 to May 1982. Our thoughts are with Esme - herself a Parish Councillor during the early 1990s - and to Mervin's wide circle of relations and friends.*

#### 010/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr Claire Flower, NSC Ward Cllr Nigel Ashton

#### 011/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Dispensations apply to Cllrs re the setting of the precept, and to Village Hall matters)

None

#### 012/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Meeting minutes of the November 11th were agreed and signed.

#### 013/25 PLANNING (The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)

**New:** 25/P/0187/LDP **Old School House** Skylights (for information). 25/P/0188/FUH **Old School House** Extension. These applications were reviewed and no objections were raised. **Clerk to so report to NSC Planning.**

**Approved:** 24/P/2484/MMA: Sea View Farm, Walton Bay: reduction in size of extension.

#### 014/25 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** There are signs of activity re the connection of the light.
- ii. **Traffic Speed Issues:** Progress is being made on this complex issue, albeit slowly.
- iii. **Village Notice Board:**
  - **Chemical cleaners** will be used to clean the perspex surface.
  - **Church use of the Parish notice boards:** Cllr Cannell is concerned that legal proprieties are taken account of re the separation of church and state. After discussion the consensus was that use for social notices - eg the Flower Festival - would be appropriate. Notwithstanding the extensive canvassing that led to the decision not to replace the noticeboards, it was suggested that the Council may choose to revisit that decision with residents when the life of the existing boards comes to an end. **Clerk to check any legal parameters that may exist re parish owned noticeboards.**
- iv. **Parish Maintenance:** A local contact may be able to carry out needed work on an ad hoc basis. We await progress.
- v. **Walton Brook retaining wall repair : Gabion in brook :** Despite causing flooding, these problems still await attention from NSC.
- vi. **Walton Bay Bus Stop erosion:** There is *still* no feedback from NSC. Responsibility for outcomes clearly lies at their door.

- vii. **B3124 Speed Limit Signage From Clevedon:** Overgrowth cleared.
- viii. **2026 Centenary Village Fete:** A possible Parish Council contribution to this very special event was discussed. As an example, a marquee would cost some £2-3k. The meeting was supportive in principle, and Cllr Cannell suggested that we be supplied with contribution cost points at 1k, 2k, and 3k to work with. This information will be submitted to the Clerk for the April meeting in preparation for the matter to be discussed at the May Annual Parish Meeting. **Clerk to sound out residents via the Cross Tree Chronicle March minutes entry and to check Governance documents - Standing Orders/Financial Regulations - to ensure conformity to its operational remit.**
- ix. **NSC Waste Collection Plans:** Cllr Cannell joined an NSC webinar on this topic. He presented the key points as set out in the annexe to these minutes. He also stressed the need for improvements in recycling and what those improvements can contribute to NSC income that can be put to use in improving financially starved essential services. The main messages from the webinar are the need for improved **'quality recycling'** and Parish and Town Council help in promoting this need via a publicity drive that will begin at the end of February and run through to an anticipated start of new 'quality' waste collection at the end of June. A summary of the webinar information outcomes is attached as an annexe to these minutes.

**Clerk to post webinar summary to our website and highlight the NSC plans in the April edition of Cross Tree Chronicle.**

**015/25 GOVERNANCE**

Governance documents for the financial year 2025-26 were pre-circulated to Members for their scrutiny. The meeting approved the documents and the Chair and Clerk signed the Risk Assessments. **Clerk to update the Governance file and post the documents to the internet.**

**016/25 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

**Cllr Wherrett** reported that the Walton Bay bus group's application for grant aid to establish a community bus service was not successful.

**017/25 FINANCE**

- i. **2024-25 Accounts to date:** were reviewed and noted against the bank statements.
- ii. **Payments to Authorise:** none
- iii. **2025-26 Budget:** NSC has confirmed receipt of the precept request.

**018/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Cllr Cannell will be away with his work during early March. Due to possible quorum problems Members decided that the March meeting would be cancelled and the next meeting will be held on: **Monday April 14th 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm**

## Annexe to the February 10th meeting minutes re Minute 014/25 ix

# NSC implementation of three-weekly bin collections

The amount of our waste that we recycle has not been increasing, but the amount of our waste going into black bins has been increasing. This is worrying, so NSC have been looking to our neighbouring Councils to see how they are responding to the problem: they also got over 9,000 responses to a waste consultation in spring 2024. The call was for increased bin capacity and easier way to sort recycling : improved training for collection crews : additional support from waste minimisation officers : additional waste capacity for larger households and those with medical needs.

During 2025 NSC will spend £5 million to dispose of black bin rubbish Last year households in North Somerset generated 90,000 tonnes of waste, of which 40,000 tonnes was put in black bins. 18,000 tonnes of this black bin waste - a staggering 45% of the total - could have been recycled instead – and generated an income.

Black bin waste disposal costs are rising and are currently £138 per tonne. Every tonne we recycle doesn't cost us money but, if well sorted as 'quality' recycling, earns us £30. If the 18000 tonnes of black bin waste that could be recycled was recycled it would save us £1.1 million a year that could be put towards the funding of vital local services.

We *have* to get back to better recycling and this is the impetus that will make three weekly black bin collections successful and profitable. Central to this is 'quality' sorting by households this is key to speed of collection and 'best price' for the recycled items.

Food waste has been collected in North Somerset for 15 years. However, **27%** of black bin content has been found to be **food waste** and **half** of this was **unopened! Recycled food waste generates £22 per tonne: if put in our black bins it costs £138 per tonne to dispose of.** Proper food recycling saves us £168 per tonne.

There will be No change in frequency of recycling and garden waste collections - Most households will switch from a fortnightly to a three-weekly collection of non-recyclable (black bin) rubbish - Routes are being re-designed and most properties will have a different collection day - The new service will not be suitable for certain properties which already have slightly different collection arrangements in place - There will be update training for NSEC collection crews - NSC contractors have ordered 33 new specially purposed recycling vehicles to manage the 'quality sorted' kerbside collections - Collection of soft plastics from kerbside will start to be introduced, as will an additional large capacity recycling bag.

The new recycling bag is in wide use by other authorities: it has a weighted base to ensure that it doesn't get blown away by the wind and a velcro top closure to ensure that the contents remains in the bag and does not litter the highways during stormy weather. NSC have trialed this bag with 6,000 households and will introduce it for use in the collection of plastic and metal packaging.

### NSC will provide help for households who may struggle with the changes

Officers will **help** people **reduce** their waste and **recycle** as much as they can. They will also help with flats and communal properties that are moving to a three-weekly frequency.

There will also be support for those with **medical needs**, children in disposable **nappies** or a **larger** household. If necessary, additional waste **capacity** can be offered. **An updated and simplified process** for requesting additional waste capacity is being developed, as is a new app for residents to use in connection with NSC related needs, including the streamlining of waste collection management.

Hard plastics will still need to be taken to recycling centres.

To encourage increased recycling comparative measurement of waste achievements by parishes may be developed - with community awards for excellence being a possible result of successful efforts!