

NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

6 Russell Close
Long Itchington
Southam
Warwickshire
CV47 9QG

Telephone: 07526 144576
E-mail: clerk@napton-pc.gov.uk
Web: www.napton-pc.gov.uk



Minutes of the meeting of Napton on the Hill Parish Council held on **Monday 4th August 2025** at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Cllr J Veasey (Chair)
Cllr R Pelter (Vice Chair)
Cllr W Watson
Cllr I Williams
Cllr R Woodcock

SDC Cllr N Rock
WCC Cllr A Crump

Mrs C Adam (Clerk to the Council)

5 members of the public were in attendance.

Abbreviations: (NPC) – Napton Parish Council; (SDC) – Stratford District Council; (WCC) – Warwickshire County Council; (Cllr) - Councillor	
1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr B Alsop has submitted a written notice of resignation, which was received by the Proper Officer and the Chair on 04/08/2025. This resignation is effective immediately, and a casual vacancy has therefore arisen in the membership of the council. Resolved: To acknowledge the resignation of Cllr B Alsop and initiate the process to fill the resulting casual vacancy.	Action
2. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. - Item 13 – Cllr J Veasey - Item 10 – Cllr R Woodcock (Application 25/01546/COUQ)	
3. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 7th July 2025: Approved by the Council & signed by the Chair.	
4. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only: Street Lighting Noted that two streetlights have been replaced—one located near the bungalow on Howcombe Lane and the other outside of The Stone Weir. Sports Field Floodlights The illumination levels of the floodlights have been accepted, but the uniformity of the lighting remains an issue. The recent scheduled test was unsuccessful due to the lifter failing, and an alternative date will be arranged to recheck the levels. Emergency Plan	

The current version of the Emergency Plan is complete until the next scheduled revision, at which point a new format will be adopted. It was agreed that hard copies will be issued to all cllrs and the clerk. Grass Mowing The grass has been cut again, and all areas appear to be covered adequately. The Hackwell Bank area was noted as having been done well. The small verge along School Hill was mentioned, and it was agreed to check the mowing map to confirm whether this area is included. Residents and councillors are encouraged to notify the Parish Council if any areas are being missed. Warwickshire Highways Community Action Fund The application has been submitted, and a response is currently awaited. Neighbourhood Development Plan Noted that a couple of meetings have taken place to review the relevant documents, with a focus on identifying any potential wording changes or improvements. SDC Cllr N.R. has been invited to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, 12th August 2025 at 4:00pm in the Committee Room, Napton Village Hall to contribute to the ongoing review process. Mobile Phone Mast The survey has been published on the NPC website, Facebook, and on the noticeboard. The survey will remain open until Atlas determines that sufficient data has been collected. Padel Courts Several grant applications have been submitted and are currently under consideration. We are awaiting formal approval from the Coventry Diocese before proceeding further with the planning application. A topographical and acoustic survey has been completed. It was suggested that a crowdfunding page be launched on an "all or nothing" basis to support the project. This proposal will be added to the September agenda.	
5. Councillor Updates: Allotment Water Tank Leak – A water leak has been identified on the left-hand side of the allotments, located beneath the slabs. In order to access and repair the leak, hedgerow and brambles in the affected area will need to be cut back. School Hill Important View - Noted that the bench on School Hill is located within one of the important views identified in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). To preserve this view, vegetation in the area requires attention. - All hedgerow and vegetation works will only be carried out following an inspection to confirm that no nesting birds are present in the proposed works area, in line with wildlife protection regulations. Citizen of the Year Award: Call for nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award 2025; details of the nomination process can be found on the NPC website, Facebook, or by emailing clerk@napton-pc.gov.uk. Deadline 30th September 2025.	

• New Street Sign Cost: Noted that the cost of new street signs for the unnamed road may fall to NPC. The matter will be forwarded to SDC Cllr N.R. for investigation and clarification. • Blocked Footpath – No correspondence has been received from WCC since the last meeting between NPC and WCC. WCC Cllr A.C. will follow up and, if no response is received by the end of the week, will escalate the matter to the Head of Highways. • Booker Incident: Seek an update. • Roles and Responsibilities Session: The Council held a session to review and allocate roles and responsibilities among cllrs. The updated list will be published on the NPC website.	
6. Update from District/County Councillors: • Reports circulated in advance and are available on the PC website. • HS2 Road Closures: HS2 has confirmed that the road between Wormleighton and Priors Hardwick will be closed between the 26/08/2025 – 23/09/2025. • Local Government Review: All districts and the county council are required to submit their responses by November as part of the government's local government reorganisation review. ○ The Warwickshire County Council consultation is currently open until 25th August. ○ The Stratford District Council consultation is expected to be released shortly. • Health Screening Events: A health screening event will take place on 13th September at Stratford Leisure Centre, running from 10am to 2pm. The tests offered cost £14 each but are subsidised by Stratford District Council. ○ For men over 40: PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) screening. ○ For men and women aged 18 and over: diabetes and cholesterol screening. • Severn Trent: It was requested that a community update be received from Severn Trent to better understand the broader infrastructure issues and the progress of their ongoing project in Napton, particularly in light of a further burst pipe on Tomlow Road. • Community Speedwatch: A site visit is scheduled in Napton on Thursday 7th August 2025. It was noted that there is potential to share a speed gun across local parishes to support joint speed monitoring efforts. • Warwickshire Highways Community Action Fund: A road safety audit for the A425 will be developed and submitted as part of a funding application by WCC Cllr Crump. • Aldi Store Opening: The new Aldi store is scheduled to open on 27th November 2025, with a speed limit of 40mph confirmed at the site entrance.	
7. Comments and questions from the public: • Emergency Plan: It was noted that M. Thomas will be stepping back from his role as a volunteer supporting the Emergency Plan. The Parish Council expressed its thanks for his past contributions. A redacted version of the Emergency Plan will be made available on the Parish Council website.	

• VJ Day Commemoration: A VJ Day remembrance event will take place on Friday, 15th August at 11:00am on the Memorial Green. All are welcome to attend. • Brickyard Development – Sewage and Access Concerns: Concerns remain regarding the long-term suitability of the sewage infrastructure. It was noted that Severn Trent Water is not a statutory consultee, meaning they are not legally permitted to object to planning applications, and are required to manage any system impacts following development. Additional concerns were raised about the lack of defined footpaths and cycleways linking the site to the village, which are considered essential for safe and sustainable access.	
8. Finance Matters RESOLVED: Bank Reconciliation: Unity Trust: July 2025 £89,299.73 (Total held in all accounts: £169,766.48 Signed by Cllr WW. All payments approved, and payment list can be found under supporting documents.	
9. Highways Matters UPDATE: Several previously identified issues have been referred to the Highways Area Surveyor, and many have now been resolved. Potholes on The Poplars, Hackwell Street, Chapel Lane, and Church Road. The cycle track feasibility study will proceed, with Cllr R.W. liaising with SDC Cllr N.R. on the matter. RESOLVED: Agreed that the top section of Church Road still requires attention, and Cllr R.W. will follow this up. Additionally, it was noted that two small 40mph repeater signs on Dog Lane are missing, along with up to three 50mph repeater signs on the A425.	
10. Planning Matters: Application(s) reference: 25/01546/COUQ Proposed: Prior Approval Notification for conversion of an agricultural unit into 1No. dwelling and associated operational development under Class Q. At: Tunpike Field, Southam Road, Napton-on-the-Hill For: Mr A Dollar RESOLVED: No Representation • Various unspecified activities have been reported taking place on this agricultural unit and there are concerns that these might be to secure its suitability for a COUQ. • The current access to the site is in a dangerous position and is unsuitable from a highway's safety perspective, due to poor visibility and potential risks to road users. • It is believed that the proposed extension may not be permissible under existing planning policy or permitted development rights. Application(s) reference: 25/00830/REM	

Proposed: Application for approval of Reserved Matters relating to layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the erection of 100 dwellings, open space and ancillary and enabling works pursuant to outline Planning Permission 18/03435/OUT

At: Napton Brickworks, Brickyard Road, Napton-on-the-Hill

For: St Philips Land Ltd

RESOLVED: Holding Objection

Upon reviewing the current planning application, NPC agreed to submit a holding objection due to the following:

- The developer has not engaged with the Parish Council, contrary to the specific requirements set out in Section 9.22 of the MADE Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which requires direct liaison for this specific site. This lack of engagement also fails to align with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in terms of promoting local engagement and sustainable development.
- The application contains insufficient information, and the access to the available documents, for such a complex and large-scale development, is not user-friendly, making it difficult for both councillors and members of the public to fully assess the proposal.
- Sound barriers are not shown on the planning documents, despite being a critical noise mitigation measure, discussed at length during the outline planning stage. Their absence, along with the lack of other environmental harm mitigation measures; is unacceptable given the site's proximity to industrial areas as well as the local SSSI at the quarry face.
- There is no clear information on the adoption and future maintenance of internal roads and communal areas within the development.
- There is no clear information regarding sewage management and associated infrastructure. The issue is of particular concern given that sewage handling is already an ongoing issue in the Napton area where NPC have had engagement with the local MP and Severn Trent due to the number of spillages (reportedly the worst in the country), and a development of this scale will place additional strain on the existing systems.
- NPC agreed to invite both the case officer and the developer to attend a future NPC meeting or to conduct a stand-alone meeting to discuss these concerns in more detail.

Application(s) reference: 25/00046/FUL

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: APP/J3720/W/25/3369462

Proposed: Proposed enclosure for existing porch and canopy.

At: Lock Cottage, Folly Lane, Napton-on-the-Hill, Southam CV47 8NZ

For: Mr Nigal Wood

RESOLVED: No further comment.

Application(s) reference: 25/00032/LBC

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: APP/J3720/W/25/3369461

Proposed: Proposed enclosure for existing porch and canopy.

At: Lock Cottage, Folly Lane, Napton-on-the-Hill, Southam CV47 8NZ

For: Mr Nigal Wood

RESOLVED: No further comment.	
11. School Field UPDATE: Carlton Contracting has confirmed that the works can commence within the next two weeks and are expected to take a couple of days to complete. The field will remain out of use until the October 2025 half-term break to allow sufficient time for recovery. Appropriate signage will be posted to advise residents not to use the field during this period. RESOLVED: Agreed that the proposed timeframe is appropriate and that the works should be commissioned accordingly.	
12. Granton Playing Field UPDATED: An independent post-installation inspection of the new play equipment took place on 31st July 2025. The inspection identified that the installed grass mats pose a safety risk. The contractor has been contacted and requested to return to rectify the issue. The Parish Council is currently awaiting a response from the contractor regarding their proposed course of action and an estimated timeframe for the remedial works. In the meantime, the fenced-off area remains closed and is not safe for public use. RESOLVED: Agreed to purchase two of the octagonal picnic tables from NBB Recycled Furniture. Also agreed to obtain quotations for the installation of a suitable base (pad) and relaying of the brick path leading to the tables.	
13. Naming Unnamed Road RESOLVED: Cllr JV left the room for the duration of this item. Correspondence was received from the resident indicating they are currently unable to make a decision regarding NPC's offer, as they are still gathering information. Agreed to defer the matter until further correspondence is received from the resident. SDC Cllr N.R. will investigate why NPC are potential required to cover the costs of the new street signs.	
14. Allotments RESOLVED: Agreed to defer the matter until the September meeting and to investigate the insurance implications in the meantime.	
15. Climate and Environment UPDATE: No updates at this time but a meeting of the C&E Working Party is scheduled for the 14 th of August.	
16. Close The meeting closed at 9:19pm . [Note: The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council (7:15pm) will take place on Monday 1st September 2025 Napton Village Hall (main hall)]	

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Copies of all council papers are available to download at

www.napton-pc.gov.uk

(*) indicates that a supporting document is available on the website

