

NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Mrs C Adam (Clerk)

3 members of the public were in attendance.

	Action
1 - To receive and approve (if requested) apologies for absence. • None received.	
2 - To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. • None received.	
3 – Comments and questions from the public: • Why is this extraordinary meeting necessary? ○ The meeting was considered necessary as the project represents a significant financial and structural undertaking. As the project is to take place at Napton Sports Field, which NPC leases from the Coventry Diocese, any works on this land require NPC to have full knowledge and input to ensure the Council's asset and parishioners' interests are protected. This topic would take too long to discuss in the monthly PC meeting.	
4 – Padel Courts: • All documents required for the planning application have been completed. • Grants and funding: ○ HS2 Grant – unsuccessful due to Napton Sports Field not being overly affected by the rail route. (This is being challenged.) ○ Sport England Grant – unsuccessful at present (may be possible once planning permission is secured) ○ National Lottery Grant – awaiting response ○ Lawn Tennis Association & Warwickshire Tennis – loan possibilities of £100,000 (LTA) and £20,000 (WT) ○ Private sponsorship/loan – around £17,000 secured and a undisclosed significant amount to be provided in the form of a 0% interest loan.	

○ Note: all grants and loans require private funding to be demonstrated • Several quotes obtained (including for automatic bollards) • Access statement completed • Estimated cost is approximately £200,000 (without roofs, which would be an additional cost of about £70,000 per court). Running costs for two courts are estimated at £10,000 per year. Napton Padel Club have consulted with other padel court owners and coaches suggesting the project is viable. • Drawings of the proposed courts were shared. • Suggested that the NSA and Napton Padel Club hold an open day for the village at the Village Hall to provide parishioners with information on the project. • Noise concerns: Two parishioners have raised concerns, so Cllrs JV and RP visited the Kenilworth courts where no apparent sound barriers were in place. Noise was described as very loud when standing next to the courts and was still audible at about 250m away. Napton has lower ambient noise; however, the acoustic assessment confirms noise levels would remain within the ambient zone for all residential areas. The assessment was carried out without sound barrier mitigation; if issues arise, barriers could be installed. • Tenure requirements: LTA & WT require a guarantee of tenure. NPC have a lease with The Coventry Diocese for 99 years, with 75 years remaining. The lease does not allow sub-leasing, which is why NPC licence the sports field to the NSA annually. The guarantee of tenure requires at least a 15-year licence agreement for the loan application to be considered. • Resolution: Agreed to approve submission of the planning application in the NSA's name. NSA or Napton Padel Club to pay for the application at point of submission and invoice NPC for costs, noting VAT cannot be reclaimed. • Further points to investigate: ○ Whether NPC can decide not to proceed with a loan that has been granted by the Secretary of State. ○ Whether a third party can take on repayment of a loan taken out in the Council's name, where the third party manages the finances of the courts. ○ Whether the NSA is willing to accept a 15-year licence. ○ What legal implications may arise from altering the licence. • October Agenda Item: ○ Change of licence and implications. ○ Which option will be pursued in the three options provided during the meeting. ▪ Option 1 – NPC take out the loan. ▪ Option 2 – NSA take out the loan. ▪ Option 3 – No loan taken; rely solely on private funding and grants.	
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6 – Close	
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The meeting closed at 20:52.

Signed: _____

Date: _____