

Motion on the News & Views publication.

March 2024 | Cllr. June Lee

Following many months of feedback from members of the council and parishioners within our parish regarding the editorial content and management of the N&V, budgeting and reconciliation of income and expenditure issues and gaps in the service to the PC, I have been working with the news and views team, at the request of the Parish Council to find a solution going forward.

N&V was set up by Peter Byng nearly 20 years ago, and whilst it is clear the publication offers some value to some of our residents, the PC has changed since then, the way people absorb and access information especially during and since covid, the landscape is shifting in people's expectations to be kept up to date by various methods and forums.

In principle, and whilst the PC and N&V team are strategically in different places, the governance issue remains that the PC finance the N&V like it is an official service of the PC, however, we have no control or authority to influence and evolve it as we see fit.

It's not a community group that seek a grant in the normal way as the Church or other community groups do, yet it is not a council service that we formally run, appoint people to run, finance and decide matters on either.

After some guidance on the matter by the Chair and NCALC, I have presented News & Views with two proposed options:

1. To become an integrated part of the Parish Council. With terms to be agreed, but in principle we will finance, oversee, underwrite and appoint persons to produce the N&V.
2. It will become it's own entity. It will handle it's own finances, affairs and make it's own decisions on it's strategy. It will seek it's own funding arrangement. If it were to seek a discretionary grant from the PC, it would need to satisfy certain criteria.

The N&V team have decided to proceed along the lines of option 2. I propose we agree and support this.

In addition I am proposing the below 5 motions, seconded by Mark Bladon:

1. We accept the N&V team desire to seek their own arrangement, divesting any perception or agreed role the PC has. We will be invited to participate content from the PC as we have been. This will be effective immediately to enable clear separation before the new fiscal year.
2. There is an outstanding financial matter that the Clerk will need to advise us on. The News & Views team are requesting the sum of £1561.28 which they describe honours a commitment made by the PC in 2006, owing to the end of our printing & distribution of the N&V.
3. To decide if the April edition (new year) will be funded by the PC or taken from the amount requested
4. The PC will instruct the Clerk (new, once appointed) to arrange, print and organise distribution of a Parish Newsletter. This will become the official printed communication for important PC and Community matters. It will not feature paid-for advertisement.
5. Silverstone Circuit will agree the F1 Residents Information Booklet with us, print it and pay for it. We will then support them by arranging delivery

A Vote will be taken on the above at the meeting.