

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2022

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr. Etchells-Butler,

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. R. Lenko, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. A. Sedgwick, Mr. T. Walker,
Mr. G. Walton. Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

District Councillor H. Richardson

Six members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. J. Tottie

The Council consented to accept the apology and reason received, which will be recorded in the attendance register.

Prof. K. Jaggard.

1.	Mr. Etchells-Butler welcomed members of the public and reminded all of the meeting protocol. Mr. Walton offered his apology for his outspokenness at the last meeting and for the upset it may have caused some Councillors.	
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests a)To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) and personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 - none b)To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda- none c)To receive requests for dispensations - none	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM —to receive reports for information Members of the public—to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance - none Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email – none received.	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only •Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen Mr. Lenko enquired about the SCC aim to deliver up to 3000 new homes. Councillor Mellen was uncertain where these would be built but mentioned Mildenhall as a possibility, and various other sites in the County providing much needed low cost housing. Mr. Aket asked about the contractual agreement with a private contractor and if there were safe guards to ensure there were no links with the controlling party. Councillor Mellen agreed to ask this question. With regard to the road crossing Councillor Mellen stated ownership of the Dog carpark is awaited. Mr. Sedgwick enquired about 20mph zones and asked for the criteria to qualify for a 20mph zone. Councillor Mellen mentioned the police were unable to enforce 20 mph limits, but they did enforce 30mph. Only one village in Suffolk has 20mph which was experimental, but with changes to the Highway Code 20mph would appear to have better possibility of enforcement, and in particular he mentioned the centre of Woolpit. He agreed to check the criteria involved for a 20mph limit. Mr. Aket commented on the state of the A1088 which requires urgent work due to the numerous potholes. The Clerk mentioned the path reported to SCC in Woolpit Road which had been narrowed due to grass growing out and trees overhanging. Only the trees had been trimmed back, so a further request was made to skirt back the grass from the path. SCC had replied that paths will not be skirted back unless the entire length of the path is compromised. Councillor Mellen agreed to enquire about this.	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

	•Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson Mr. Aket enquired when MSDC last met. Councillor Richardson commented the last full Council meeting had been held in October, with November and December being cancelled by the Chief Executive due to lack of agenda items. He reiterated it is at the discretion of the Chief Executive about holding meetings. He mentioned that a lot of decisions are made by cabinet or delegated decision-making to officers. Sub-committee meetings had been held. Mr. Aket commented that as the elected council do not meet and powers are delegated there would appear to be a need for far less members. Councillor Richardson mentioned the land development opposite the village hall stating the land behind this had been considered as a potential development site but had not been put forward. The only sites in Norton were along the Ashfield Road.	
5.	To note and approve the minutes of the following meetings: (as previously circulated) Meetings held on 18th November 2021 and 6th December 2021 Mr. Walton commented that no draft article for the messenger had been sent out to the Councillors prior to publication. He had replied to Mr. Etchells-Butler's email, but his comments had not been used and no draft sent out. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated there was an email tagging problem and as no other Councillor had replied and there was a deadline for submission to the Messenger he had had to send it to the editor. Mr. Walton stated he had questioned the £30,000 figure income for the Hall. Mr. Aket proposed acceptance of the minutes, Mr. Lenko seconded. The minutes were approved for signature.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Planters. Mr. Adams stated his willingness to help with the planters at the garage. Being the Platinum Jubilee Year it was suggested red, white and blue flowers. He agreed to submit suggestions and cost to the Council. He was informed that Mrs. Marshall had decided to step back for the time being. It was confirmed that the garage will make water available.	
	6.2 Update on Church Lane – no news	
	6.3 Welcome Pack – As Dr. Mason has committed his help to the vaccination programme there is no update at the moment	Mr.Walton
	6.4 Wildlife Area – no update as an assessment is awaited.	Mr.Walton
	6.5 Update on street lights- no update on replacement and upgrade. SCC had replied concerning biodiversity and light impact from the lights and how this is overcome. Mr. Aket asked Councillor Mellen to follow up the Council's replacement lights with SCC.	
	6.6 Norton Sewage treatment plant. Anglian Water state they do not own the lane or gate, so it is being investigated who the landowner is. Apparently tankering is still going on so the Clerk will ask again when this will cease.	Clerk
	6.7 Facebook page for Parish Council. Mr. Sedgwick commented that if a page is set up in the name of the Parish Council people would have to "like it" and be invited to join. He felt the general village FB page would reach more people, with Council items stating "information only, no discussion entered into". Mrs. Tottie and Mrs. Long will discuss about taking over placing items on FB.	Mrs. Tottie Mrs. Long
	6.8 Update on Road crossing – no update.	
	6.9 Tree officer reply concerning TPOs. MSDC replied that the trees in question are not under threat so due to a limited budget, time and money could only be spent on those trees under immediate threat.	
7.	VILLAGE HALL UPDATE AND DISCUSSION	
	7.1 The consultation box was opened at 7.30pm and all comments reviewed. Comments were read out to the Councillors and the slips were placed in piles of "for" and "against". Each individual person was counted as some slips had more than one person signing the slip. In favour of the project and funding – 74, against the funding	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

	proposal – 36. This represents an 11.8% reply from the village. It was emphasized that this is a consultation to gauge indication of village feeling, not a vote process. Mr. Walton reiterated the VAT implication. If the Council take on sole charge of the loan with repayment, receiving nothing from the Hall, then VAT on payments can be reclaimed, which could amount to £100,000 on the total project. It was noted that a Loan could be taken out just for repair work ie the roof, if necessary, not the whole project. Mr. Walton stated the specification for the roof had been taken to a high spec in order that more work is not require in the short term. The asbestos work would be carried out by a specialist firm. If the Council decided to apply for a loan then certain criteria and paperwork are required – Business Plan, Market Research, Consultation. Mr. Walton stated there are not yet 3 quotes for the work as Building Regs are required. Paperwork has been submitted to Building Regulations and approval awaited before tenders can be obtained. The Clerk commented that some of the Council’s CIL income had been vired into a budget for loan repayment if required. Councillors agreed to support the loan in principle, but noted that additional information is required to submit a loan application. The Hall needs to secure an additional £2-300,000 to complete the whole project in one go, and quotes are required. It is understood that to secure other grants there needs to be an application for the loan as this information would be used for match funding grants. A loan could be agreed and applied for, but held and not drawn on for a year while the Hall look to secure further funding. The Council decided to return to the Village Hall Committee to say the consultation has shown a majority of the village in favour. Mrs. Long questioned whether the open meeting consultation and reply box in the garage was a good way to get villagers to engage and comment, however, Mr. Sedgwick did not feel any more could have been done to publicise the consultation. Mr. Walker made a proposal to go forward with the loan as there is a business plan in place, there is a plan on how the loan would be repaid, and consultation has taken place. Mr. Aket further added that this decision should be taken back to the Hall committee and they are asked to provide an update. The requirements for a loan will be revisited at the next Council meeting. Mr. Walton agreed the Council had fulfilled its requirements, with information on the project being in the public domain for many months. Mr. Walker requested an update on exactly what was required for submission of a loan application. Mr. Aket will forward all information he has to Village Hall and Councillors ready for the next meeting. A working party between Council and Village Hall is required to oversee the project. Mr. Morgan, Mr. Etchells-Butler and Mr. Walker agreed to join as Council representatives.	
8.	PLANNING	
	PLANNING APPLICATION 8.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – Birkrigg House, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/21/05828 Change of use of land to residential amenity land and creation of a natural swimming pond, as amended by revised site location plan.	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

	The Council supported the amendment to the revised plan	
	APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION 8.2 Brook Cottage, Ixworth Road, Norton - DC/21/06622 Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of rear/ side single storey extension (following removal of conservatory). The Council supported the planning application.	
	8.3 DC/21/06333 Full Planning Application - Development of a petrol filling station, a drive-thru restaurant and coffee shop, together with various infrastructure and landscaping works. Land Off A14 Elmswell Suffolk The Council strongly rejected this application. 1. It is felt the area in question is too small for a petrol station, drive-thru restaurant, and café together with the required car park, infrastructure and landscape works. 2. It is considered access and egress from the site would present a grave concern. The surrounding roads are not of a sufficient standard for the likely increased traffic flow. 3. Traffic management of the site gives further rise for concern. There are likely to be queuing vehicles tail-backing onto the A14 or to hinder road users of the roundabout. 4. There are road safety concerns about the volume of traffic this application will generate, given the increased development in surrounding villages which is already impacting on road use. 5. It is extremely likely the proposal will affect local services in surrounding villages 6. Litter associated with fast food, drive thru restaurants and coffee shops would be an inherent problem for the surrounding area and the local environment	
	Permission granted 8.4 Three Bridges, Ashfield Gardens, Norton - DC/21/05985 Planning Application. Erection of 1no dwelling with detached garage following demolition of existing buildings. 8.5 Broad Oak, Woolpit Road, Norton, DC/21/05476 Application for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (MS399) – Remove Deadwood from T1 Oak and reduce overall spread and height by approx 1m to appropriate growth points. Reduce Deadwood on T2 Oak and over extended lower lateral limbs by approx. 1m to appropriate growth points. Prune trees to current industry good practice. (Trees starting to get too big for the size of garden and would like some form of management to commence)	
	Permission Refused 8.6 Rookery Farm, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/21/04065 Planning Application. Erection of dwelling following demolition of existing buildings.	
	Appeal dismissed 8.7 Land off Hawes Lane, Norton - DC/21/00662 - APP/W3520/W/21/3273833	
	To consider new road name 8.8 SN/21/00643/SN - Land at Common Corner Ashfield Road Norton The developer has proposed the road name of St Andrews Place. The Councillors suggested the road name of "Great Ashwarren". Old maps of the area have shown that this was the name given to the field, so it would be good to retain the history of the village by using this name for the development. 8.9 SN/21/00496/SN Land on the west side of Ixworth Road.	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

	After discussion the Council recommended Platinum Close. Mr. Morgan wished to have it minuted that he objected to this decision. N.B. Following submission to the Address Management Team at Mid Suffolk, this name was rejected as there is already a Platinum Drive 3.8 miles away. Further suggestions were submitted: 1. Two Acre Meadow/View/Rise/Drive. The field to the rear of the development was historically known as Two Acre Meadow showing on old maps of the village. 2. Meadow Acre/View. To reflect the historical name of the rear field. 3. King George Close or George Close. The playing field opposite the development is a King George V playing field held in trust for the village. 4. Elizabeth Close/Drive. To reflect the platinum year of the Queen. 5. Ixworth Close.	
9	FINANCE	
	9.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Clerk's salary £227.26 cheque no 522382 LGA1972 s112 HMRC £56.60 cheque no 522383 LGA1972 s112 Compass Pest Management £350.00 cheque no 522384 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Goodlife landscaping (Dan Millyard) £415.00 cheque no 522385 Local Government (Misc. Provision) Act 1976 s19 Vertas £278.10 cheque no 522386 Public Health Act 1875 s164	
	9.2 To receive quote for Bus shelter Mr. Etchells-Butler forwarded examples of a bus shelter, with costing around £1500-£2500 without groundwork. The anticipated site is at the bus stop outside the Salvation Army hall on the Ixworth Road. It may need planning permission and landowner permission. Councillors agreed in principle to the purchase of a bus shelter and this will be investigated further ready for the next meeting. Mr. Morgan asked to have it recorded that he did not believe a shelter was required.	Mr. Etchells-Butler
	9.3 To receive budget statement and suggested Precept for 22-23. Budget statement noted and approved. Suggested Precept noted and will be discussed under Precept heading.	
	9.4 Subscription for SALC will remain unchanged for 22-23, but will increase 23-24 (information to follow). NALC proportion for 22-23 will increase by 1%. - Noted	
	9.5 Dog & Litter Charges 2022/23 The current costs for BDC & MSDC (per annum not including vat) are £37.13 per litter bin and £43.49 per dog bin. There will be no increase to the cost of this service for the financial year 2022/23. Invoices for this service will be raised and sent in April 2022 and will cover the period April 2022 to March 2023. Mr. Walton questioned the difference in price and felt dog mess could be put in litter bins. This will be queried.	Clerk
	9.6 To receive quote to replace current car park lights with LED lights. Mr. Walton has a received a quote of £200 +VAT to replace the car park light. The Council agreed this should go ahead in the interest of safety.	Mr. Walton
10	PRECEPT	
	Councillors discussed the Council's requirement and reviewed the budget, particularly with regard to a Loan. The Clerk confirmed that money from the Council's CIL income had been vired to the hall project which could cover one year repayment, so it was not urgent to consider this in the current precept application. Mr. Aket proposed a small increase to £25000, Mrs. Long seconded with all Councillors in agreement. This will be on next month's agenda to discuss projects the Council wish to undertake.	Clerk Agenda
11	NEIGHBOURHOOD/SPEEDWATCH UPDATE Mr. Sedgwick stated he has 7 authorised volunteers for Speedwatch, and is awaiting a date for Police training. He felt he may have a volunteer willing to take over his role when he moves away.	Mr. A. Sedgwick

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

	The Police crime prevention security marking attendance at The Dog car park was a success, with around 25 bikes being marked. There was good feedback and he felt another session could be arranged.	
12	PLAY AREAS	
	12.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr. Lenko stated all was in a good state. Suggestion of Zip wire for older children. Mr. Lenko felt this would need to be sited outside the current play area. He has a meeting with Playdale at the end of the month so will seek advice from the Company concerning a suitable site and costing.	Mr. Lenko
	12.2 Play area in Prospect Road. Mrs. Long reported a problem with the trampoline collecting water underneath which has been reported to the installer. She has made enquiry to Mid Suffolk about fencing the play area section, but told to speak with the Public Realm section.	Mrs. Long
13	CORRESPONDENCE	
	13.1 The Councillor's Code of Conduct. Mr Etchells-Butler reminded all Councillors of the existing Code of Conduct which can be accessed online.	
	13.2 Structural Weight Restriction, Bridge Farm Bridge, A1088 Stowlangtoft – noted. There will be no exceptions for use, but Councillors expressed concern that lorries may divert along Ashfield Road and other villages to avoid the bridge and diversion.	
	13.3 Pavement Parking. Mr. Aket commented on the number of cars parking on and obstructing the pavement, particularly outside The Old Forge and along The Street. He expressed concern of the hazard to pedestrians, parents with prams, and wheelchair users having to go into the road. He had spoken to the homeowner, but not been received very well. Mr. Etchells-Butler suggested a polite letter to households as he felt it was not illegal to park on a pavement providing there was room to pass. Mr. Sedgwick stated it could be classed as obstruction but stated parking along The Street at school times was a nightmare. Mrs. Long commented on the number of Moore & Stone vehicles parked on the road recently but it was pointed out this was for a short time in order to do the drive entrance. It was felt better to put an item in the Messenger first before more formal action is taken to contact the Community Police to inspect. It will also be asked if a message from the school to parents could be sent stating there had been complaints to the Parish Council which were being investigated and would be reported and enforced if necessary.	
14	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	14.1 Mr. Etchells-Butler stated he had recently seen Mrs. Smart out litter picking and requested a letter of thanks be sent to her.	Clerk
	14.2 Mr. Aket commented that plans for the Platinum Jubilee are progressing with another committee meeting this week.	Mr. Aket Agenda
	14.3 Mr. Walton commented on flooding along Ashfield Road between Norton Hall Lane and Church Lane with a blocked pipe across the road. SCC will be asked to clear.	Clerk
	14.4 Mr. Walton mentioned the footpath in Prospect Road, stating the hedge is obstructing the path width and the road sign is buried in the hedge. MSDC will be informed.	Clerk
	14.5 Mrs. Long commented about some vacant land in Prospect Road that she understands has been sold by the District Council. This will be clarified with MSDC.	Clerk
	14.6 Mr. Walton commented about signs along the Ixworth Road being obscured by the hedge. SCC will be informed.	Clerk.
15	To confirm the date of future meeting: 7 th February 2022, 7.30pm	
16	Close of the Meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.09	