

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr. D. Etchells-Butler

Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. G. Walton,

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

One member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. T. Long, Mr. T. Walker.

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

District Councillor A. Davies

District Councillor H. Richardson

1.	Mr. Etchells-Butler reminded of the meeting protocol	
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests a) 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) Declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none c) 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 Email received from Mrs. Taghi concerning the generic letter she had received about fireworks. She stated she had informed neighbours of her intention to have a firework party and also posted a notice on Facebook. Councillors acknowledged and noted her concerns and comments, and commented the letter went to all the village via The Messenger. Members of the public – to receive questions submitted via Facebook - none	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only - Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen. Councillor Mellen commented on recruitment and retaining care workers being a problem. He also stated that Hosts for Ukraine Refugees was again being posted. He commented on the recent Bus Meeting at Woolpit. - Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson, Austin Davies- noted. Mr. Aket commented that Councillor Davies report appeared to be mainly Thurston centred. Councillor Mellen agreed to speak with him.	
5.	MINUTES	
	To note and approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 7 th November 2022. Mr Aket proposed acceptance, Mr Lenko seconded. Minutes approved for signature.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Parish Council assistance with drainage problem in Church Lane. Mr. Walton commented the weather had been too wet for the contractor but it should be completed before Christmas.	Mr. Walton
	6.2 Welcome Pack – ongoing.	
	6.3 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme 2022. Mrs. Hill had met with Liz Adams and a plan drawn up. She is awaiting confirmation from Richard Parmee on the number and types of plants available and the time of delivery so preparation work can commence. Mrs. Adams will contact Mr. Parmee. An Information board for the wildflower area will be considered when the area is cultivated and ready for planting.	Mrs. Hill

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2022

	6.4 Water pump for allotment. Mr. Walton stated he had left messages with the drilling company and was awaiting a reply.	Mr. Walton
	6.5 Update on Bus Service – Report from Woolpit PC meeting on 30 th November by Mrs. Hill. Being a private Bus Company the route was designated financially unviable, with low numbers using the bus following COVID and bus passes only producing half fare income. Running at school time for school children would subsidise the Service. Representatives of numerous villages affected by the reduced bus service discussed how they could work together for their communities. It was questioned where there was a need, i.e. to Bury, to Stowmarket, to the GP, or elsewhere, and the age group mainly affected. Connecting Communities Transport and BSEVC were mentioned, and discussion on running an on-demand service with volunteer drivers. Information will be sought from MSDC Travel Officer for a survey of need and a further meeting was arranged for end of January 2023.	
	6.6 Update on meeting with UKPower Networks about underground cabling. Following the meeting Mr. Walton stated this would provide more power to the village, probably from Woolpit, and increase the overall supply to the village. In the long term this would give the village a better power supply. A plot of land would be required at the village hall for the new transformer ground mounted box. The land could be leased or sold to UKPower network. Mr. Walton mentioned to the planner about a low feed-in cable from the village hall if the roof had solar panels, so this will be put in the plan. He agreed to investigate costs and viability about compensation for the disruption when work is undertaken which would probably be undertaken in 2-3 years time.	Mr. Walton
	6.7 Coronation arrangements. Mr. Aket stated he is investigating the cost of mugs. A quote for outdoor TV screen would possibly be around £3000+ VAT, but it was questioned about weather conditions on the day. Mr. Walton stated he had been asked about a dance in the evening with a live band, so he will get a quote.	Mr. Aket Mr. Walton
	6.8 Website. The Clerk stated this would appear to now be up and running, so she is getting to grips with inclusion of more information.	Clerk
	6.9 Update on new Norton sign on road from Great Ashfield. Mr. Lenko stated he had taken delivery of the sign and had arranged a meeting with the landowner and Mr. Walton about putting it up.	Mr. Lenko
	6.10 Street Cleaner. The Clerk confirmed the advert had been placed in The Messenger and she had received an enquiry to take on the post.	Clerk
	6.11 Mr. Aket reminded Mr. Etchells-Butler about putting an article in The Messenger about the Election in May next year.	Mr. Etchells-Butler
7.	PLANNING	
	7.1 GRANTED DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) Land at the rear of The Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton DC/22/05385. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/01170- Condition 7 (Provision of Roads and Footpaths) DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) Land at the rear of The Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton, DC/22/05395 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/17/03668- Condition 5 (Contamination). Action required prior to commencement of development – pre-commencement condition: contamination.	
8.	SPEEDWATCH	
	8.1 Update on Speedwatch. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated 8 sessions are planned for next week and Norton is always near the top for Suffolk for the number of sessions held and the amount of people caught. There appeared to be an increase in traffic on the A1088,	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2022

	particularly at the Ixworth End of the village. The Police had carried out speedchecks and caught 47 speeding vehicles. Mr. Etchells-Butler explained that 35mph or over means a letter from the Police, if caught a second time there is another letter, but caught a third time will mean a visit and caution from the Police. When asked about the small speedwatch sign, he stated it was the official Police sign for speedwatch. The Council expressed grateful thanks to Mr. Stone and his team.	
9.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
	9.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Clerk's salary £227.26 cheque no 522404 LGA1972 s112 HMRC £56.60, cheque no 422405 LGA1972 s112 Tenhats, November & December 2022 £702.00 Cheque no 522406 LGA1972 s142 A.Stone, Speedwatch, hi vis jackets. £37.93 cheque no. 522407 Highways Act 1980 s274A Harry Stebbing, Norton sign, £501.90 cheque no 522408 Highways Act 1980 s274A Tectonic, Web site £165.00 cheque no 522409 LGA1972 s142 Suffolk Wildlife Trust, membership £38.00 cheque no 522410 LGA1972 s142 (2A)	
	9.2 Update and request for donation from Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk. Mr. Lenko proposed a donation of £50 in consideration of the enquiries they are likely to receive during to the Cost of Living crisis. Mrs. Hill seconded, with majority in agreement.	Agenda
	9.3 Request for donation from Headway. This request was declined at this time.	
	9.4 To receive budget statement. Received, noted and approved.	
	9.5 To consider Precept requirement for approval at January 2023 meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the Precept for 2023-2024 will require to be approved at the January meeting for submission to MSDC by end of January 2023	Agenda
	9.6 MSDC Dog and Litter bin emptying service - price increase 2023/2024 – Noted.	
	9.7 Update on Bus shelter. Information awaited	
	9.8 Norton Twinning Association. Mr. Aket commented on the lack of organisations in the village, but stated the Twinning Association had been going for over 35 years. In recognition of this achievement and to assist with the organization's continued existence, he proposed a one-off donation of £1000 to show support. He suggested that possibly the reception, when the French return, could be opened to the wider village. Councillors agreed in principle, and Mrs. Hill, a twinning committee member, agreed to take this suggestions to the next committee meeting.	Agenda Mrs. Hill
10.	VILLAGE HALL	
	10.1 Update on Borrowing approval application. The Clerk reported that yet another form had been sent for completion. Some of the details required were unclear so she had sent an email detailing her queries but had not yet had a reply from the Levelling up Dept. When clarified is received the form will be completed and returned.	Clerk
	10.2 Update from Village Hall on project progress. Mr. Walton reported that funding through CIL had to be deferred, the tenders have expired, and planning permission will expire next year. He has a committee meeting this week when it will be discussed how to obtain money for repairs if the full work cannot go ahead. It was suggested to contact the MP, and copy in MSDC about the delay imposed from the Levelling Up Dept.	Clerk
11.	PLAY AREAS	
	11.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr. Lenko forwarded the quote for the zip wire and two new gates in the region of £18,000 +VAT after the saving of nearly £1000 with Mr. Walton's help. The gates would be specifically made for the play area with part of the fixing being underground. Concern expressed about the cost of the zip wire for one age group, with mention of safeguarding issues regarding the remote placement of the zip wire and unsupervision of children, and the implications for insurance. Mr. Walton felt the	Mr.Lenko

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2022

	CCTV could be extended to cover this area. The Clerk agreed to contact the Insurance Company to clarify the position. Councillors agreed to the new gates at £1834+VAT as the old ones constantly cause a problem. Mr.Lenko asked for reconsideration of agreeing to the maintenance of the bark area under the swings. He anticipated 6 visits a year at a cost of £30 per visit. Councillors agreed to the regular maintenance of the bark and to have minor works undertaken by Mr. Millyard. The Clerk agreed to enquire about additional play bark.	Clerk Clerk
	11.2 Play area in Prospect Road. Mr. Lenko confirmed that a resident will paint the metal work on the swings when the paint and brushes have been purchased. The goal nets were also ready to go back up with new pegs and notices for the grasscutter.	
12	CORRESPONDENCE	
	12.1 To receive PC Dates for 2023. The Clerk presented meeting dates for 2023 showing amendments due to Bank Holidays. These were approved by the Councillors.	
	12.2 Suffolk Wildlife Trust Magazine. Taken by Mr. Lenko	
	12.3 Clerks & Councils Direct. Taken by Mr. Lenko	
	12.4 Suffolk View. Taken by Mr. Aket.	
	12.5 Street lighting - Reply to reduce lighting saving and other enquiry. SCC confirmed that by changing to LED lighting saving would be made, and some lights could be turned off during the night if the Council felt this would create more saving.	
	12.6 Safety inspection and assessment of memorials in burial grounds course – noted	
	12.7 Sizewell C: Announcement of Government Investment – noted.	
13	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	13.1 Mr. Morgan agreed to place an item in the Messenger next year regarding Fireworks and animals.	Mr. Morgan
	13.2 Mr. Morgan stated that as there is no bus service he would be willing to help with transport if he could. He was advised to place this information on Facebook.	Mr. Morgan
	13.4 Mr. Walton stated the hedge alongside the playing field path requires coppicing and the ditch clearing to reduce the problem of vermin both to the Village Hall and Preschool. He felt Mr. Honeywood could be approached about piping the ditch, although this could be Council responsibility. He asked if the Council could be responsible for this work, but it may be able to use volunteers to do the work. He also mentioned the hedge adjacent to the recycling bins requires coppicing.	Agenda
	13.5 Mr. Walton stated the draft footpath leaflet has been submitted for proof reading and will require a payment from the Council. This will be added to next month's agenda. Mrs. Smart was thanked for her hard work in putting this together.	Agenda
	13.6 Mr. Walton expressed concern there were no first time buyer 2 bedroom houses in Norton and felt Local Authority Councillors should be lobbied to address this concern.	Agenda
	13.7 Mr. Lenko asked for Vertas to cut the grass in the play area as it was now so long.	Clerk
	13.8 Mr. Aket enquired why an item from Badwell Primary School had been accepted for the inclusion in the Messenger. Mr. Lenko agreed to speak with the editor.	Mr. Lenko
14	To confirm the date of next meeting: 9 th January 2023, 7.30pm	
15	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.08.	