

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr. D. Etchells-Butler

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

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

One member of the public.

District Councillor H. Richardson

County Councillor A. Mellen

APOLOGIES: District Councillor A. Davies

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 Mr. Flannigan commented that the new bus timetable had commenced which meant a lack of bus service for Norton. Councillor Mellen stated there was no anticipated change to the new bus timetable set up which is for term time only. He confirmed that although the Government had allocated £130m for buses to support rural communities none of this had been allocated to Suffolk, however, following bidding £50m had gone to Norfolk. He stated Stephenson's run a commercial service and made the decision it was not viable to continue, due to decline in passengers following COVID. He confirmed that the 384 and 385 which serve Tostock, Beyton, Elmswell, Woolpit and Thurston were affected by Stephenson's but obviously Elmswell and Thurston are served by the train line. Mr. Etchells-Butler suggested a letter of protest be sent to Stephenson's with Jo Churchill being copied in. It was mentioned about a community bus financed by the Parish Council and run by volunteers but this would take a lot of organizing and financing. It was questioned how the new bus timetable has affected other local villages, ie Tostock, Woolpit, Elmswell and Beyton, so they will also be contacted for views. - Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email - none	Clerk Clerk
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION	
	Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen – noted Councillor Mellen commented that the Stowlangtoft bridge was on timetable to be rebuilt around Summer 2024.	
	Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson, Austin Davies – Noted Mr. Aket commented that reports appeared to be generic with less focus on Norton. Councillor Richardson stated a few months ago he had changed the format and would precis in future.	
5.	COOPTION	

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	5.1 To consider cooption to the Council Vacancy. The person who had expressed an interest in cooption has now declined.	
6.	MINUTES	
	6.1 To note and approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1 st August 2022 and 22 nd August 2022. Mr. Aket proposed, Mrs. Long seconded. Minutes approved for signature.	
7.	MATTERS ARISING	
	7.1 Parish Council assistance with drainage problem in Church Lane. Mr. Walton stated he is awaiting a meeting with the Contractor for a plan and quote. Public Health Act 1936 s260	Mr. Walton
	7.2 Welcome Pack – quote still awaited.	Mr. Walton
	7.3 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme 2022. Mrs. Hill stated she had met with Richard Parmee from MSDC who had approved the proposed site. He suggested shady plants, with a pathway meandering through the area. He further suggested a wild flower semicircle area 2m out from the trees which would allow for sun loving plants and a contrasting habitat. Mrs. Hill asked for agreement on this additional area to take things forward. All Councillors agreed to this proposal. Mrs. Hill has liaised with Liz Adams for advice on plants required.	Mrs. Hill
	7.4 Update on street lights. The lights in Prospect Road and Heath Road have now been upgraded. The new column and light is still awaited.	
	7.5 Facebook. Mr. Walton felt comments should not be entered into on the Council facebook page, and Mr. Walker agreed to use it as a noticeboard only for communicating to the village.	
	7.6 Update on Bus Service – see comments in Public Forum.	
8.	PLANNING	
	8.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/22/03881 Land West Of Ixworth Road, Norton Proposal: Full Planning Application - Construction of access road to serve self-build dwellings approved under planning permissions DC/18/01239, DC/19/02021 and DC/20/02990. The Council strongly objected to this access road application for the following reasons: 1. It would create another access closely sited to the already approved three accesses for the development of Norton Rise. 2. It would be another access on the busy A1088, and would be sited close to or on the brow of the hill. This gave rise to serious safety concerns as vehicle visibility would be poor and cars would not have yet slowed down to enter the village at the 30mph sign. 3. There was no pavement in this area, giving further concern for pedestrian safety. 4. The self build dwellings served by this access road bring no CIL money into the village to improve facilities.	
	8.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/22/04005 Manor Farmhouse, Ashfield Road, Norton Proposal: Householder Application - Loft conversion of existing cartlodge, insertion of three new roof lights and construction of external stairs with new access door. The Council approves this application assuming that Listed Buildings are in agreement with the proposal.	
	8.3 GRANTED	

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	Norton Service Station, Woolpit Road, Norton - DC/22/03409 Proposal: Planning Application. Amendment to existing approval (DC/21/04801) in order to supply and fit 2no new underground fuel tanks. Peach Barn, Halls Lane, Norton DC/21/05832 Listed Building Consent - Works to facilitate change of use of barn to form 1No dwelling; Erection of a two storey extension and detached outbuildings (following demolition of existing) as described in Planning Statement; as amended by revised plans received 31st May 2022. Peach Barn, Halls Lane, Norton - DC/21/05831 Full Planning Application - Change of use of barn to form 1No dwelling; Erection of a two storey extension and detached outbuildings (following demolition of existing) as amended by drawings received 31st May 2022. Martindale, Halls Lane, Norton, DC/22/02777 Planning Application - Erection of garaging and storage, with home office in loft space above. Solar array to South with two car charging points. 15 Prospect Road, Norton, DC/22/03468 Householder Application - Erection of two storey side and part single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey structure).											
	8.4 Address management SN/22/00315/SN - The Old Forge Ixworth Road Norton . Council requested to suggest a name for this development. Suggestions made were Old Forge Close, Smithy Close and Anvil Way. The Clerk will forward these suggestions to Mid Suffolk.	Clerk										
	8.5 Appeal dismissed Rookery Farm, Ashfield Road, Norton - Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/22/3295335											
	8.6 Mr.Aket enquired about the delay of decision regarding the Hawes Lane development. Councillor Richardson agreed to check.											
	8.7 Mr. Walker enquired about the delay in decision on the proposed service station at Elmswell/Woolpit. Councillor Richardson agreed to check.											
9.	SPEEDWATCH											
	9.1 Update on Speedwatch. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated that Mr. Stone thanked the Council for their support, and for the offer of additional speed guns which will give the group more flexibility in carrying out checks. Additional signs have been requested from the Police, and extra volunteers have come forward. Highways Act 1980 s274A											
	9.2 Purchase of additional speed guns. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated Locality budget agreement had been made by Councillor Mellen and Councillor Richardson for the purchase of two speed guns.											
10.	FINANCE											
	10.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: <table><tr><td>Clerk’s salary £227.26 –cheque no 522481</td><td>LGA1972 s112</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC £56.60 cheque no 522482</td><td>LGA1972 s112</td></tr><tr><td>SALC Play Inspection course £120.00 cheque no 522483</td><td>Public Health Act 1875 s164</td></tr><tr><td>Vertas, Hedge cutting £342.00 cheque no 522484</td><td>Public Health Act 1875 s164</td></tr><tr><td>Speedwatch, Bushell Speed Gun £200.90 cheque no522485</td><td>Highways Act 1980 s274A</td></tr></table>	Clerk’s salary £227.26 –cheque no 522481	LGA1972 s112	HMRC £56.60 cheque no 522482	LGA1972 s112	SALC Play Inspection course £120.00 cheque no 522483	Public Health Act 1875 s164	Vertas, Hedge cutting £342.00 cheque no 522484	Public Health Act 1875 s164	Speedwatch, Bushell Speed Gun £200.90 cheque no522485	Highways Act 1980 s274A	
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	10.2 Mr. Etchells-Butler confirmed he was meeting with the printer of the Messenger, including the editor and distributor about the whole system of the Messenger, ie being											

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	late with printing, late with distributing etc. There will be an analysis of the system to help improve it.	
	10.3 The Clerk confirmed VAT receipts for 2021-2022 of £8495.23	
	10.4 To receive budget statement – noted and approved.	
	10.5 Quotation of £1767.89 + VAT received to replace Units 13, 14 Ixworth Rd Norton. The Council agreed to these lights being replaced.	Clerk
	10.6 To receive Internal Audit Report. Circulated to all Councillors. The Council approved the report received.	
	10.7 To reappoint Clerk as RFO. Mr. Aket proposed, Mrs. Long seconded with all in agreement for the Clerk to continue as RFO.	
11	VILLAGE HALL	
	11.1 Update on Borrowing approval application. The Clerk asked for clarification as to whether the Council would opt for EIP payment or Annuity payment. An explanation of both had been sought from the levelling up department which was read out. Councillors agreed to opt for Annuity payment. The precept could be increased gradually over the course of a few years to equal the PWLB loan payment per year. The Clerk reported that the queries are being addressed and will be forwarded to Mr. Etchells-Butler and Mr. Walker for comment and amendment before being forwarded to the Levelling Up Department. LGA2003 sch1 p2	Clerk
	11.2 Update from Village Hall on project progress- ongoing. No current update.	
12.	PLAY AREAS	
	12.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall Update on Zip wire for older children, quote for replacement gates and replacement swings and safety surfacing – quotes still awaited. The weeds under the Monkey bars have been reported to Vertas to clear.	Mr. Lenko Clerk
	12.2 Play area in Prospect Road. Mr. Millyard still due to sort out the goal post netting. The matting is with Mr. Walton. Mr. Walton stated the play area and Prospect Road could be completed as one job. Mr. Lenko is awaiting a cost to install it. Mr. Walton said he would chase up the dog signs for the area.	Mr. Lenko Mr. Walton
13.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	13.1 Suffolk Enhanced Partnership - Passenger Interest Group - noted	
	13.2 Suffolk Bus Passenger Interest Group - 18 th October - noted	
	13.3 Police Public meeting on 6th October in Stowmarket - noted	
	13.4 Discussion on possible assistance for Norton residents in case of power cuts and other issues during the coming winter. Mr. Lenko was concerned about the situation for residents with the winter coming. He has spoken to the Salvation Army about help for Norton villagers. It could, for example, be providing a warm space for people to go to, i.e. Council hiring the village hall for people to go to for tea and coffee. Mr. Aket reminded the Council about the United Charity in the village able to assist with urgent need. Mr. Walker asked for information to be forwarded to him to put on Facebook to inform villagers. The Clerk also mentioned about the Still Good Food shops and the food banks.	Clerk
	13.5 Clerk & Councils Direct	
14	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	14.1 Mr. Walton commented on SCC having funds available for car charging points in public areas and felt this should be considered for the car park. He agreed to report further at the next meeting.	Mr. Walton

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	14.2 Water at allotments. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated a better pump is required and Mr. Gatward is investigating.	
	14.3 Mr. Lenko reported the Norton sign has been ordered.	Mr. Lenko
	14.4 Mr. Aket commented on the number of road closures happening around Norton.	
	14.5 Mr. Walker stated he would use the Facebook page on the public forum to place the regular monthly agendas and approved minutes. He also asked for a regular FB agenda item to answer questions put to the Council as sometimes this is the preferred method of communicating.	Mr. Walker Agenda
	14.6 Mr. Walker stated the footpath next to the school is overgrown. The Clerk will report it to the Footpath Officer.	Clerk
	14.7 The Clerk commented on registration of title of the playing field with Land Registry. The Council felt this was worth looking into.	Clerk
	14.8 The Clerk commented on investigating cutting off the street lights in the early mornings.	Clerk
15	To confirm the date of future meeting: 3 rd October 2022, 7.30pm	
16	There being no further business the Meeting closed at 21.00	