

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr. D. Etchells-Butler

Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. R. Lenko, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. J. Morgan,

Mr. G. Walton, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

District Councillor H. Richardson

Four members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mr. T. Walker.

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

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 from those in attendance - none - Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email 1.Mr. Etchells-Butler commented on an email received concerning speeding in The Street/Ashfield Road and the lack of speedwatch surveys. He had replied outlining the current speedwatch programme, stating the Police have to authorize the survey sites. He had outlined the number of surveys, the areas that can be covered and the work of the team, and informed Andrew Stone, speedwatch coordinator, who had also replied to the email. 2.Email concerning use of village hall car park by contractors. Mr. Waltons stated he had visited the site and spoken to the Foreman. He had further emailed the construction director and awaiting a reply. The foreman had stated the village hall sign and Mirror would be reinstated when the boarding comes down.	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only - Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen Councillor Mellen stated the A14 resurfacing had been delayed for a few weeks. Vertas proposed a bus service during the day after their school runs. This is being investigated. Mr. Aket enquired about budget transformation schemes. Councillor Mellen stated this is terminology used for efficiency initiatives, which could be via unfilled vacancies. Mr. Aket enquired on the number of unfilled vacancies and was informed it stood at 5-15%. - Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson, Austin Davies – noted Councillor Richardson confirmed the refusal of the Hawes Lane development. He confirmed a donation of £2000 from his locality budget for the zip wire. Mr. Aket enquired about self-build and custom build as neither appear to attract a CIL payment. Mr. Walton stated he understood a self-build plot had to be purchased as a separate entity.	
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To note and approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 9 th January 2023. Mrs. Long proposed acceptance, Mrs. Hill seconded. Minutes approved for signature.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme 2022 – no update	
	6.2 Water pump for allotments. Following discussion with Tostock, it would seem that a hand powered water pump with a one-way valve would be the best. This will cost around £1000 + VAT but there is an 8 week wait. Mr. Etchells-Butler proposed acceptance, Mr.	

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	Lenko seconded, with all in favour as the Council holds a budget for this project. Mr. Walton stated it would be difficult to get further quotes for the work.	Mr. Walton
	6.3 Coronation arrangements. Mr. Aket commented that the national arrangements have now been published with the Coronation on Saturday, ideas for street parties on Sunday and community activities on Monday. Norton will hold a whole village street party on the playing field. There could be possible viewing of the coronation on a large screen in the hall on Saturday. However, the cost for a large TV screen is around £6000, which Councillors agreed was too expensive. Mr. Walton suggested projecting the service on to the back wall of the village hall, but this would require IT knowledge. This was felt to be a good idea if someone could be found to help set it up. It would need to be by ticket as the hall limits the seating numbers. Two bands are available for a dance on Saturday evening - £975 or £1275. Mr. Walton proposed the cheaper band, Mr. Lenko seconded with all in agreement and to pay the deposit when known. This would need to be a ticketed event, with a later decision about cost. Food could be provided by a street vendor in the car park – burger van or burrito van. It was agreed to invite the burrito van as he had agreed to donate 10% of takings to a charity. The evening bar could be organized by a village charity able to keep the takings. Mr. Aket stated the mugs will cost in the region of £2500.	Mr. Walton Mr. Aket
	6.4 Update on street light replacements. The Clerk had received correspondence from street lighting that replacement of Units 37 and 38 would commence on 30 th January with the remaining units to follow. The Clerk commented that to date only the new lighting column had been put up so she will contact the department again for an update. Mrs. Long commented on having another light in Prospect Road.	Clerk
	6.5 UK Power Network. UK Power enquired about a decision from the Council about land. Mr. Walton commented he had been in touch with Richard Spooner as a professional with expertise in this field. He had agreed to act on the Council's behalf to ensure all necessary paperwork is drawn up to protect the Council and suggested a 40-year lease of the land. He would need to be engaged by the Council to have authority to work between the Council and UK Power and his charge is £95 per hour. Mr. Walton felt all costs could be met by UK Power. Councillors approved this action.	Mr. Walton
	6.6 Highways speed limit reduction between Spinney and Norton Following the request for a 40mph limit between the Spinney and Norton, Highways had forwarded the required criteria, none of which applied to this area. Councillor Mellen had requested flexibility in applying the criteria to this area and agreed to discuss further with Highways.	
7.	PLANNING	
	7.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/00178 Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton, for erection of 4No detached dwellings with garages The Parish Council agreed with the comment from Highways regarding the local footway network. This development would be disconnected from the main village requiring residents to walk along the A1088 to join the existing footway. They requested the provision of a suitable footway joining the development to the existing path should be a condition of approval. The provision of effective fire protection for these proposed properties must be a condition of planning approval due to the distance from the nearest fire hydrant.	
	7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION DC/23/00265 Springfield, Halls Lane, Norton - Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing rear extension and garage) The Council supported this application.	
	7.3 GRANTED - DC/22/04664	

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	Land West of Ixworth Road, Norton. Erection of 1 No. detached self-build dwelling and garage (Plot 2).	
	7.4 GRANTED DC/22/05294 Feld House, The Street, Norton, Erection of a single storey rear extension, partial demolition/reduction of outbuilding and widening of gateway in garden wall.	
	7.5 GRANTED DC/22/06050 Land to North of Honeywood Grove, Ashfield Road, Norton, Retention of change of use of agricultural land to residential garden land and provision of surface water drainage attenuation basin (to serve adjacent development of 9no dwellings, previously approved under PP ref: DC/20/05106).	
	7.6 APPEAL DISMISSED Land to North of Ashfield Road Norton APP/W3520/W/21/3285040-DC/21/03909 Outline erection of 2 no dwellings.	
8.	ELECTION	
	8.1 The Clerk outlined the time lines for the election and the requirements by those standing. The Clerk reminded of the new arrangement of requiring photo ID to vote.	
9	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 9.1 After considering various days and dates, the APM was arranged for 3 rd April, with a Council meeting first to cover urgent business.	
10.	FINANCE	
	10.1 The following accounts were approved for payment: Clerk's salary £227.26 cheque 522421 LGA1972 s112 Street Cleaner £254.40 cheque 522422 LGA1972 s112 HMRC £120.20 cheque 522423 LGA1972 s112 TenHats, January & February 2023, £702.00 cheque 522424 LGA1972 s142 Dan Millyard, bark area £480 cheque 522425 Local Government (Misc. Provision) Act 1976 s19 Compass mole treatment £375.00 cheque 522426 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Legend Services £106.34 cheque 522427 Local Government (Misc. Provision) Act 1976 s19 SARS £170.00 cheque 522428 LGA1972 s137	
	10.2 Quotes for hedge, ditch clearance and piping of ditch. Three quotes had been received. It was agreed to accept T. Edwards who will also trim the hedge near the recycle bins.	Mr. Walton
	10.3 Confirmation of precept, band D amount and percentage increase. Mid Suffolk confirmed receipt of precept request stating the Council Tax for a Band D would be £62.65, giving an increase of 15.52% on 2022/2023	
	10.4 To receive request for support from SARS. The Council agreed a donation of £170.	
	10.5 To receive budget statement. The Clerk commented she had moved £20,000 from CIL general to the Village Hall loan/improvement fund, and £3000 to the Coronation budget. This leaves £17,143 in the unallocated CIL fund, some of which may be required for the additional street light improvements. Mr. Aket requested the Coronation budget is increased to £5000 to account for the evening function. Noted and approved.	
	10.6 Bollards along Ashfield Road and near SID. Mr. Lenko stated the verges are being cut away, so it is important to protect the SID along Ashfield Road. He further commented that the verge at the sharp bend at Norton Little Green is being cut away, so protection is required for the houses nearby. He agreed to investigate suitable bollards for these areas.	Mr. Lenko Agenda
	10.7 Jubilee Village Hall funding. Mr. Walton stated the VPMC had submitted a funding request for the main roof repair and passed the first two stages. However, this funding is provisional on match funding. He stated the roof will cost around £92,000. He stated the Village Hall has a budget of £30,000 which could be put towards the roof repair. He requested a commitment from the Parish Council to fund £40,000 towards this project if the	

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	Public Works Loan application fails. He stated the CIL approved funding could not be applied to this part of the project because it is not new work but classed as repair. A new roof would allow solar panels to be erected. Mr. Lenko proposed that the Council should show support and agree the requested funding, Mrs. Hill seconded. Upon review of the budget and various virements all Councillors agreed to the request.	
	10.8 To confirm SALC as internal auditor for 2022-2023. Confirmed.	
	10.9 Update on Bus shelter. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated he had a reference number for his application (387834), but as a new person had taken over he was still awaiting a reply.	
	10.10 The Clerk stated a new salt bin would be £120.61 + VAT. Before committing to approval, a suitable site would need investigating.	
	10.11 The Clerk confirmed Vertas grass cutting for the coming year will be £1106.76+VAT	
11.	SPEEDWATCH	
	11.1 Update on Speedwatch. Mrs. Hill stated the Police had recently spent time with the group, and commented how well the group were supporting speed reduction.	
12	VILLAGE HALL	
	12.1 Update on Borrowing approval application. Confirmation of approval is still awaited.	
	12. 2 Update from Village Hall on project progress. The VHMC is looking at ways the project can be split to identify urgent work. Mr. Walton confirmed the current VHMC Chair will be resigning at the end of March, and he is unsure of a replacement at this time. Mr. Lenko suggested a joint meeting between VH and PC to discuss the way forward.	Clerk Agenda
13.	PLAY AREAS	
	13.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr. Lenko stated the bark area had been sorted by Mr. Millyard and should not require a tidy up for a few months. He had sought other quotes for a zip wire and presented three to the Council. The cheapest is Action Leisure £11800 and he has a locality grant of £2000 towards it. On a vote it was 5 to 2 to accept this quote and progress with the work. Mr. Lenko commented the red gates will cost £2000 each as they need to be made to measure. The Council confirmed this work should go ahead.	
	13.2 Play area in Prospect Road. Mrs. Long confirmed the paint had been received and the swings will be painted during better weather. Mr. Walton presented a quote for various signs, which included a new sign for the recycling area and a new sign for Prospect play area. He agreed to confirm which signs are required for the Clerk to order.	Clerk
14.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	14.1 MSDC Street Name and Numbering Policy 2023 review of policy- noted	
	14.2 Parish Biodiversity Action Plans & Ecological Assessments - noted	
	14.3 Citizens Advice Bureau, Zoom meeting on 24th February - noted	
	14.4 Update to West Suffolk Local Plan timeline - noted	
	14.5 Suffolk Wildlife magazine. Taken by Mrs. Long	
15.	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	15.1 Mr. Aket enquired about the Norton sign before Norton Little Green. Mr. Lenko said this would be put up shortly.	
	15.2 Mr. Morgan asked about the location of a property that had left an amount of rubbish at the Recycling Centre. He will call and speak with the homeowner.	
	15.3 Mr. Lenko asked the Council to present flowers to the Messenger editor. Agreed.	
16.	To confirm the date of future meeting: 6 th March 2023, 7.30pm	
17.	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15	