

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 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

One 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

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 Emailed received concerning the amount of litter from Norton Service Station. Mr. Etchells-Butler agreed to speak with the owner and suggest a litter bin is located nearby. Breach of Planning at Suffolk House, Ixworth Road. (DC/22/01941). Noted by Councillors. This has been passed to the District Councillors to follow up with the Planning Department.	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only - Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen. Mrs. Long enquired about the comment of making Council properties more energy efficient, and asked about solar panels on properties. He stated the District has currently put aside £2m for insulation etc. Councillor Mellen commented on the state of the School Close road surface and he agreed to raise repair again with Highways. He stated he had been asked for locality money for St. Andrews Church for electrical work. Councillors fully supported this donation. - Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson, Austin Davies - noted	
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 6 th February 2023. Mrs. Long proposed acceptance, Mrs. Hill seconded. Minutes approved for signature.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme 2022. Mrs. Hill felt the next stage was to mark out the two sections not to be cut by the grass cutter. Once these are marked out the Clerk will inform Vertas not to cut these areas.	Mrs. Hill Clerk
	6.2 Water pump for allotments. Mr. Walton had had a quote from one company but his research had found a positive displacement diaphragm pump would sort out the problem of accessing water from the borehole. The cost for 2 pumps plus pipes and fitting etc. would be around £500 + VAT. The Council agreed for this to go ahead.	Mr. Walton
	6.3 Update on street light replacements. The Clerk confirmed that the new light in The Street was up and working, and two lights had been reinstated along Ashfield Road. Some of the other repairs were still awaited.	

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	6.4 UK Power Network. Mr. Walton confirmed Mr. Spooner had agreed to act on behalf of the Council and UKPN had accepted his hourly rate, travel and misc. costs. A meeting has been arranged between all parties on Friday.	Mr. Walton
	6.5 Use of village hall car park by local contractors. Mr. Walton confirmed he had spoken with the site manager, and then with the Director of the firm. He was hopeful of a donation to the village as recompense for using the car park during the work.	Mr. Walton
7.	PLANNING	
	7.1 APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS - DC/23/00739 Land West Of Ixworth Road, Norton. Application for approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/19/05860 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of 2no. detached dwellings with garages. The Council had no comment on this application, but expressed concern that the dwellings were advertised as self-build which would not appear to be the case. No CIL would be incurred so there would be no benefit to the District or Parish.	
	7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - DC/23/00781 Land At The Rear Of The Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton, Application under S73a for Variation or Removal of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/17/03668 and subsequent DC/21/01170 - Erection of 5No detached dwellings. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - To Vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to lower roof pitches and ridge heights of single-storey dwellings; and amendments to approved external wall finishes. The Council had no comment or objection on this application	
	7.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/00866 Land to North of, Ashfield Road, Norton. Full Planning Application - Siting a container to provide storage for agricultural equipment serving smallholding (retention of) The Council objected to this planning application on the following grounds: • The container is sited near to the road and is bright yellow in colour. It is considered visually intrusive and out of keeping with the surrounding area of open countryside. • Retention of the container is considered detrimental to the amenity of the adjacent properties. • As two proposed dwellings have been rejected on appeal on this site, the Council believe retention of the container would set a precedent for the future. • The Council consider the enforcement notice to remove should be imposed.	
	7.4 Correspondence from Walsham le Willows Parish Council Land at Shepherds Grove, Bury Road, Stanton Planning Consultation DC/22/2190/HYB, noted. Councillors expressed solidarity with their concerns. Mrs. Hill commented on lorries still using the A1088 despite the Stowlangtoft Bridge closure and was informed the Police were monitoring. Councillors approved a contribution of £50 towards their cost of the professional consultation.	
8.	STANDING ORDERS	
	8.1 The Clerk had forwarded Code of Conduct, Financial Standing Orders and Risk Assessment for review. Mr. Aket commented that the financial standing order mentioned an order book and felt this needed more investigation to ensure the Council is working correctly. It was felt the Orders should be fully reviewed by the new Council when elected in May.	
9.	FINANCE	

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9.1	The following accounts were approved for payment: Deposit to band for Coronation dance £97.00 cheque no 522429 LGA1972 s145 Street Cleaner £67.20 Cheque no. 522430 LGA1972 s112 HMRC £73.40 cheque no. 522431 LGA1972 s112 Clerk's salary £227.26 cheque no 522432 LGA1972 s112 Clerk's expenses for 2022-2023 £143.50 cheque no 522432 LGA1972 s112 Messenger, March, £351.00 cheque no. 522433 LGA1972 s142 MSDC Invoice additional dog bin £17.38 cheque no 522434 Litter Act 1983,ss5,6 T. Edwards, hedge etc. £3180.00 cheque no 522435 Public Health Act 1875 s164 SCC electric light, £1434.98 cheque no. 522436 Parish Councils Act 1957, s3: Highways Act 1980 s301 Playdale 50% deposit for gates £2525.88 cheque no 5224 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Mr. Lenko, £30.00 cheque no 522438 LGA 1972,s111 Norton Baptist Church, hall hire, £75.00 cheque no 522439 LGA1972 s133 MSDC play area inspection £199.22 cheque no 522440 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Legend Services, Church Lane, £338.40 cheque no 522441 Highways Act 1980 ss43,50 T. Edwards, Church Lane Drainage £612.00 cheque no 522442 Highways Act 1980 ss43,50 Legend Services, dog bins £124.20 cheque no 522443 Litter Act 1983,ss5,6 Ceramic Designs Coronation Mugs £2467.97 cheque no.522444 LGA1972 s145 Action Play, zipwire, £14160.00 cheque no. 522446 Public Health Act 1875 s164	
	9.2 Coronation. Mugs - Mr. Aket produced a sample mug which Councillors approved to order. It was agreed to order 400 – one for each child at the primary school and pre-school, plus children in the village attending other schools. Events – During the day the event will be watched by people at home, there will be an evening dance on the Saturday, and a community lunch on the playing field on the Sunday. Mr. Walton stated the group had confirmed, playing 7.30pm – 9 pm, then a break, then 9.45pm - 11.30pm. The burrito van will park in the car park on Saturday evening. After discussion it was agreed to charge £10 a ticket, with children year 8 and under free. Professor Jaggard has applied for a drinks licence and either the VHM or NTA will run the bar. People will be encouraged to decorate their house. Dr. Mason has designed a poster logo to use on the information going in the Messenger and posters. Mr. Walton commented he had seen the foreman of the building site and subsequently emailed the director concerning parking at the village hall. He expressed gratitude for being able to use the car park and agreed to discuss some recompence for use. Mr. Walton suggested that the Council request funding for the mugs or funding the coronation band by way of the firm's charitable donation to the village.	
	9.3 Quote for bollards. Mr. Lenko confirmed bollards requirement, which the Clerk will order from Glasdon.	Clerk
	9.4 To receive budget statement- noted and approved.	
	9.5 Update on Bus shelter. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated this will be approved once written permission on the use of the additional land is received, for which he is in discussion with Mrs. Mathieson.	
	9.6 Access to preschool via playing field. Mr. Walton has been asked about gated access from the playing field onto the additional land procured by Pre-school. He commented this could be put in by UKPN when they undertake their work. Councillors agreed to this action.	
	9.7 Mr. Lenko reported the fence behind the recycling bins was rotten. He requested that Mr. Millyard be asked to repair. Councillors agreed.	Mr.Lenko
10.	SPEEDWATCH	

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	10.1 Mr. Stone forwarded an update on Speedwatch and it was agreed this could be put on Facebook and the Messenger. He had suggested moving the SID at Rookery Farm to another location so this area could become another speedwatch site. However, it was agreed to leave for the time being and to concentrate on the Ixworth end of the village where some 3000 vehicles had been reported speeding. Mrs. Long commented that Prospect Road area would benefit from a speedwatch site and it was stated a site there had been identified, but the home owner and the Police need to agree to this area. Mr. Etchells-Butler had some speedwatch signs and it was discussed where these could be placed, ie either end of the village on the A1088 and in Heath Road and Prospect Road area as a reminder to vehicles to keep within the limit. Mr. Walton agreed to put up.	
11.	VILLAGE HALL	
	11.1 Update on Borrowing approval application. The Clerk confirmed that the loan approval had been received. Mr. Walton stated the tenders need to be requoted.	
	11.2 Update on Village hall meeting and Village Hall project. Mr. Walton stated the Committee were looking at prioritizing the project in stages, with the main priority being the roof to allow for solar panels. UKPN will put in a low voltage feed-in to the network to allow for selling power back generated during the day. He commented that Mr. Jefferson will resign as VHMC Chair but has agreed to remain as project coordinator.	
12.	PLAY AREAS	
	12.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr.Lenko stated the Zip wire had now been installed. The Play Inspection Report indicated the wooden posts at the top of the slide were rotten and he would like to ask Mr. Millyard to replace them. Councillors agreed.	Mr. Lenko
	12.2 Play area in Prospect Road. Following receipt of the inspection report, Mrs. Long stated the swing chains needed changing, with other minor requirements. Mr. Walton suggested the chains are replaced as soon as possible.	Mrs. Long
13	CORRESPONDENCE	
	13.1 Stowmarket District Scouts - looking for advice and help. Noted	
	13.2 Bus service update – Noted	
	13.3 Spring litter picks 2023 - Noted	
	13.4 New Greenest County Community Network - Noted	
	13.5 A14 junction 47a Haughley to junction 49 Tothill reconstruction scheme - Start of works information - Noted	
14.	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	14.1 Mrs. Long commented on the potholes in the verge along Ashfield Road and the fire hydrant post knocked down on Ashfield corner. The Clerk will report these to Highways and the Water Board.	Clerk
	14.2 Mr. Aket asked for Election information to be forwarded when received.	Clerk
	14.3 Mr. Aket asked for the King Charles III Coronation Event Risk Assessment forwarded by the Insurance Company to be reviewed at the next meeting.	Agenda
	14.4 Mr. Walton commented that Mr. Mathieson and Mr. Howes had been very helpful in removing the spoils from the hedge cuttings from the playing field and asked for a letter of thanks to be sent.	Clerk
15	To confirm the date of future meeting: 3 rd April 2023, 7.00pm followed by A.P.M. at 7.30pm	
16	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.13	