

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2023

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Mr. D. Etchells-Butler

Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. R. Lenko, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. G. Walton,

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

District Councillor A. Davies

One member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. T. Walker.

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

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 Request received from Beverley Smith for a salt bin at the Horseshoes. The Council agreed in principle to this request, but will obtain price of a bin and installation cost before making a final decision. - Members of the public – to receive questions submitted via Facebook - none	Clerk
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only - Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen. Mr. Etchells-Butler enquired about electric buses. Councillor Mellen stated these were still being investigated and it was likely to be at least one year away before any decision. - Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson, Austin Davies - noted. Mr. Aket asked Councillor Davies about Norton information as most of his report appeared Thurston based. He also asked about the number of full council meetings of MSDC in 2022. Councillor Davies agreed to check but stated sub-committees do meet regularly. He further commented there was no formal link between MSDC and SALC. Councillor Davies stated he still has some of his locality budget available and he needed requests as soon as possible.	
5.	MINUTES	
	To note and approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 th December 2022. Mrs. Long proposed acceptance, Mrs. Hill seconded. Minutes approved for signature.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Parish Council assistance with drainage problem in Church Lane. Due to the weather the work is still pending	Mr. Walton
	6.2 Welcome Pack - pending	Mr. Walton
	6.3 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme 2022. Mrs. Hill stated she had taken delivery of 300 very small shrubs for this area. She asked for Mr. and Mrs. Adams to be thanked for help to plant these taking around 3 hours. The rest of the area requires marking out to stop people walking on it, and the grass not to be cut.	Mrs. Hill Clerk

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	6.4 Water pump for allotments. Mr. Walton stated he has a small submersible pump at home that he will trial.	Mr. Walton
	6.5 Norton & District Twinning Association. Mrs. Hill stated the Twinning Association would be very grateful for a donation of £1000 and agreed to open the reception to all the village. Mr. Aket formally proposed the donation of £1000, Mr. Lenko seconded with all in agreement.	
	6.6 Hedging at Village Hall/Preschool – coppicing and ditch clearance. Mr. Walton highlighted the rodent problem at the Hall and Pre-school due to the overgrown ditch. He requested that the Council clear the ditch, reduce the brambles and pollard the hedge stating SWT were in support of this action. Mr. Honeywood owns the ditch and has agreed to this work plus the possibility of piping the ditch. The hedge is the responsibility of the Council. Mr. Walton will obtain quotes for the work.	Mr. Walton
	6.7 Housing provision in Norton particularly of 2 bed houses. Mr. Walton commented on the lack of availability of small houses being detrimental to the village as first time buyers could not afford to buy in Norton. He felt pressure should be put on Mid Suffolk planning to allow this type of development. Councillor Mellen advised speaking with Councillor Richardson, and Councillor Davies.	Clerk
	6.8 Coronation arrangements. As this is a one day event on 6 th May, Mr. Aket proposed villagers watched the event at home and then came together on the playing field for a communal tea party, with children's sports. Mr. Walton is enquiring about the cost of a band for an evening dance. Coronation mugs are now available costing £4.55 + VAT. Mr. Aket suggested the purchase of 450 mugs, costing £2500, giving one to each village child, leaving a few remaining to sell. There could also be a best decorated house competition. Mr. Walton agreed to book the hall.	Mr. Aket Mr. Walton
	6.9 Messenger. Mr. Aket commented on the Bardwell article at the beginning of the Messenger with the Norton School article being relegated to the last page. Mr. Aket felt perhaps more information from Norton would help fill the pages.	
	6.10 Update on street light replacements. SCC replied that dates are still awaited from the contractor to undertake the works. Their G39 team will also need to arrange dates for cutting electricity to replace the lights. The Clerk received a request for the light outside Quarry House to be upgraded as it is beginning to fail. The Council agreed to this request. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated he had been approached about the light at the school being on the whole time. Mr. Aket stated this was a security light at the school and not Council responsibility. Mr. Walton stated he had been asked about the lights at the village hall being very bright. He informed that the lights were on a timer going off at midnight with a light sensor to turn on at dusk.	Clerk
	6.11 The Clerk was pleased to inform Councillors that the new street cleaner had commenced work. Although the cleaner had not found much dog excrement, Mr. Walton stated this was a problem along one footpath in Ashfield Road.	
7.	SPEEDWATCH	
	7.1 Update on Speedwatch. Mr. Stone presented a table showing data collected from the speedwatch sessions between June 2022 and December 2022. The team operate from 7 sites in the village, 5 along the A1088, 1 along The Street and 1 in Ashfield Road. Of the 108 sessions, there were 2132 vehicles travelling over 34mph. All recordings have been sent to the Police who write a letter to the owner. On the third letter the Police take action. He stated it clearly showed a problem at the Ixworth end of the village, for instance at Hollybank the average catch was 36 vehicles an hour with up to 60 an hour at times. Vehicles appeared to gather speed travelling out of the village once they pass The Gardens. He enquired how the Council would like to proceed with this data. Mr. Etchells-Butler felt providing data to the Police and being proactive had caused the	

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	Police to place their speed van at Hollybank a couple of times which caught over 40 vehicles. Councillor Mellen enquired whether additional 30mph signage was required, but Mr Stone felt there were enough repeater signs. Traffic calming was mentioned but as an 'A' road there were limits on what could be done. When asked about HGVs and the weight restriction on the bridge, Mr. Stone stated some were coming through and at times speeding and these are reported to the Police. Mrs. Long enquired about larger 30mph signs. Mr. Lenko stated the flashing sign at Woolpit end of the village appeared effective in slowing the traffic. Mr. Walton commented on the additional planning to be undertaken at this end of the village which should be highlighted to Highways but Mr. Etchells-Butler felt this may be referred to the Developer. When asked if speeding vehicles were local or passing through, Mr. Stone stated he was unable to ascertain this information. Mrs. Hill felt the 40mph leading to the 30mph does help to slow traffic, and she felt the section of road from Stowlangtoft to Norton should also be 40mph. It was felt that with the data available this should again be requested with Highways. Councillors asked for the team to be given thanks for their superb work.	Clerk
	7.2 Speed Kills signs. Mr. Lenko stated these are £13 each but was uncertain where they could be located. Mr. Stone stated he had taken delivery of 4 speedwatch signs so these could be put up. Mr. Walton offered to help when sites had been decided.	
8.	PLANNING	
	8.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/22/06050 Land to North of Honeywood Grove, Ashfield Road, Norton Planning Application - 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). The Council objected to the retention of change of use of agricultural land to residential garden and provision of surface water drainage basin. The Council felt this set a precedent for the adjacent development to increase their residential land and garden and should not become part of the garden land to the existing properties. The area in question is on agricultural land and currently collects the surface water. The Council stated it should be regarded as a wildlife haven and developed, retained and protected as such.	
	8.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/22/06158 Three Bridges, Ashfield Gardens, Norton Proposal: Erection of 1no detached dwelling with detached garage. Demolition of existing buildings (in lieu of that approved under planning permission DC/21/05985 for the erection of 1no dwelling and detached garage). The Council had no objection to this application.	
	8.3 GRANTED Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton Application Reference: DC/22/03881 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.	
	8.4 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) Halls Farm, Halls Lane, Norton Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/05831 Conditions 5 (Great Crested Newt Method Statement) 6 (Biodiversity Enhancement Layout) 14 (Construction Management Plan) 16 (Access Surface Treatment) 19 (Surface Water) 20 (Refuse Bins and Collection Areas) and 22 (Heat Pump Screening)	
	8.5 REFUSAL OF NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT	

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	Land at The Rear of The Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton, DC/22/05824 Application for a Non-Material Amendment relating to DC/21/01170 - Reduction in height of single storey dwellings (Plots 1, 2 & 5) together with amendment in external finishes as shown on drawings.	
	8.6 REFUSAL OF OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION Land West of Suffolk House, Ixworth Road, Norton - DC/22/01941 Erection of 9No self-build/custom build dwellings. Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access points to be considered, Appearance, Layout, Landscaping and Scale reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990	
	8.7 Manor Barn Lodge, Norton Little Green. Mr. Lenko informed the Council of issues regarding Building work at Norton Little Green. The house was higher than the approval and there was dispute over the access road. Councillor Richardson had been informed and enforcement was being investigated.	
9.	PRECEPT 9.1 The Clerk provided a suggested budget of £33,000 stating this would allow a gradual build-up of funds to support the village hall project if the Public Works Loan did not materialize. Mr. Aket proposed the figure is reduced to £29,000 having concern for the current financial crisis. After discussion, the Councillors agreed to the precept for 2023-2024 being set at £29,000.	Clerk
10.	FINANCE	
	10.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Clerk's salary £227.26, Cheque no 522411 LGA1972 s112 HMRC £56.60. Cheque no 522412 LGA1972 s112 Citizens Advice Bureau £50.00. Cheque no 522413 LGA1972 s137 Village Hall upkeep and wifi £1900.00 Cheque no 522414 Local Government Act 1972 s133 Glasdon, dog bin, £153.82. Cheque no 522415 Litter Act 1983,ss5,6 Vertas £296.40. Cheque no. 522416 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Amazon, speedwatch battery £36.87. Cheque no 522417 Highways Act 1980 s274A Mr. J. Adams, £18.31 cheque no 522418 and £13.98 Cheque no522419 LGA1972 s112 Norton & District Twinning Association £1000.00. Cheque no 522420 LGA1972 s137	
	10.2 SCC - Unit 10 Ixworth Rd Norton Quotation. This Unit is damaged and obsolete and a quote of £848.11 + VAT to replace. The Council approved this work to be added to the list of lights requiring upgrade.	Clerk
	10.3 To receive budget statement – noted and approved	
	10.4 Update on Bus shelter. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated he had received an email from Highways. There is a discrepancy between the shelter and hard area so there needs to be land from the landowner, Mrs. Mathieson. She had agreed to the use of some land but this needs to be a formal written approval for Highways.	Mr. Etchells-Butler
11	VILLAGE HALL	
	11.1 Update on Borrowing approval application. The Clerk stated the person she had been dealing with in respect of the additional form, queries on the form, and the Clerk's explanation, had been on holiday and was now off sick, so another person had been allocated to review the application. A reply was still awaited by the Clerk.	Clerk
	11.2 Update from Village Hall. Mr. Walton stated the planning permission needs to be re-applied for. Bookings continue to grow but heating was now expensive. Mr. Jefferson, as chairman, has stated he will resign from the Village Hall committee at the end of March. The Committee has had discussion on how to piece-meal different parts of the works required if the loan was not forthcoming. The Platinum Jubilee village hall fund has now opened with £75m to cover all the country, so an application will be	

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	submitted. DEFRA and CIL have offered funding but this is dependent on PWLB funding.	
12	PLAY AREAS	
	12.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr. Lenko stated the zip wire could be sited in a different area parallel to the main play area so this will be investigated. Concerning the cost, Mr Lenkos stated it had been felt there needed to be something for older children so he asked for clarification in principle if Councillors were in favour of the zip wire. It was felt that three quotes should be sought having regard to the cost, and the proposed alternative site was preferred by Councillors. Mrs. Long expressed concern about health and safety if the wire is used at night. Mr. Lenko confirmed that the play area inspector had stated a zip wire is no more dangerous than any other piece of equipment.	
	12.2 Mr. Lenko confirmed the two new gates for the play area have been ordered.	
	12.3 Play area in Prospect Road. Mrs. Long stated she had obtained one quote for a sign for £219 which she considered too expensive. Mr. Walton stated he was still chasing his contact for a quote. Mr. Lenko will also ask Mr. Millyard for a quote. Mr. Walton agreed to get the paint and brushes for the swings. Mrs. Long asked for bright colours and it was agreed as red, white and blue for the Coronation year. The Council thanked Mrs. Polley for volunteering to undertake this task and for storing the football nets until Spring when they will be put back.	Clerk
13	CORRESPONDENCE	
	13.1 MSDC Formal Consultation of revisions to the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Planning Local Validation List (LVL) - noted	
	13.2 Laptops for Digital Inclusion from XMA Ltd - noted	
	13.3 Town & Parish Liaison Meetings - 1/2/23 and 7/2/23 - noted	
	13.4 Councils & Clerks Direct - noted	
14.	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING.	
	14.1 Mr.Aket commented a new hedge is being put in along the Ixworth Road between Norton and Stowlangtoft Spinney.	
	14.2 Mr. Etchells-Butler stated he would be stepping down from the Council and not standing in May for election.	
15.	15.1 To confirm the date of next meeting: 6 th February 2023, 7.30pm	
16.	16.1 There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.33.	