

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. J Bolus, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. G. Walton, Mr. N. Winstanley.

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

District Councillor D. Bradbury

Two member of the public

APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Aket, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. J. Morgan, Mrs. T. Long,

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

District Councillor A. Davies.

1.	Welcome and protocol reminder for Councillors to address the meeting through the Chair and not as individuals talking.	
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests a) To receive 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. Mr. Bolus declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.1 b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none c) To receive 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 Email received concerning the bridge at Stowlangtoft and whether improvements to the bridge could result in the restrictions on the A1088 being lifted. Councillor Mellen stated the bridge reconstruction takes place in Summer 2024. When complete the weight restriction on the bridge will be lifted but there will still be an environment restriction on the length of the A1088 of 7.5t unless for deliveries or permit holders of which there are currently 103. No lorries should be using the bridge in its current state. There is no update on alternative routes while the bridge is closed for repair. Any lifting of the weight restriction on the A1088 would require extensive consultation. Councillor Mellen suggested setting up a lorry watch scheme to monitor lorries on a regular basis and reporting lorries that should not be using the road. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and inform residents of any update, probably through Facebook. Mr. Richardson commented on the accident occurring along Ashfield Road on Sunday evening when a car crashed on the corner of a bend at Norton Little Green, hitting the verge, colliding with the NLG sign and ending deep in the hedge. Accidents occur here on a semi regular basis. He enquired about siting a sharp bend sign with potential funding through SCC or PC. It was commented that the 30mph stops and starts again before the bend. Councillor Mellen stated chevrons might not help as the designation of the road would also need to change. He agreed to speak with the Community Engineer to look at the corner and give his suggestion. - Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email Email concerning lorries and cars parking on A1088 for garage/shop. Mrs. Hill commented on the whole problems of vehicles using the road, the A14 upgrade, delivery drivers, volume of traffic, users of the garage and shop all creating problems for households. As lorries and cars stop within 50m of the junction to access the shop/garage and restrict visibility, it was questioned whether this could be highlighted with Highways. Councillor Mellen agreed to speak with the Community Engineer about	Councillor Mellen Councillor Mellen

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	this problem. He felt a letter from the Parish with photos would help when reporting this problem.	Clerk
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only •Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen – noted Mrs. Hill asked Councillor Mellen about speedwatch using an ANPR offered by Jonathan Shaw at SCC. Speedwatch had been unable to contact Mr. Shaw to try and set up the system in Norton. Councillor Mellen agreed to get in touch with Jonathan Shaw. •Report from District Councillors Austin Davies and David Bradbury – noted Regarding the recent planning application at Suffolk House, Councillor Mellen commented that the Council had a good land supply but calling developments “self-build” was a loophole in the planning process, and created no CIL payment to communities. Mr. Walton commented that the requirement for a road crossing for the approved site was likely to be toned down by the developer, so Councillor Mellen agreed to check the requirement for a crossing and whether any amendment by the developer would pass these requirements. Councillor Bradbury mentioned Coronation Woods with grants available to Parish Councils. However, the deadline to apply is 26 September.	Councillor Mellen Councillor Mellen
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To note and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th August 2023. Prof. Jaggard proposed and Mr. Walton seconded, with all in agreement.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 UK Power Network update – The Clerk stated that the paperwork is currently with Birketts. Mr. Walton commented that UKPN was resistant to changing the field transformer that supplies the Hall and Preschool.	Clerk
	6.2 Wildflowers Scheme. Mrs. Hill commented that the rope had been removed and the area will be cut shortly by Mr. Walton.	Mrs. Hill
	6.3 Management of Facebook social media. Ms. Paris had agreed to manage FB on behalf of the Council.	
	6.4 Bus service update. A meeting is awaited between interested parties to take this forward. Mr. Walton commented that a link up had been arranged between Rattlesden to Woolpit, and Dan’s Coaches had put in a planning application for service bays between Rattlesden and Woolpit.	Mrs. Hill
	6.5 To review Messenger. Suggestions for additional items received from Miss Winstanley to include articles from villagers. These will be pursued. Mr. Walton stated a parishioner would like to do a series for the Messenger about “what’s your favourite”. The editor enquired whether she needed to make changes to the Messenger, but it was felt to keep the PC minutes at the current print size, to try and include articles from the village, and for all to be at the editor’s discretion. Professor Jaggard stated he would be doing an item each month concerning the progress with the Village Hall refurb.	
	6.6 D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024 – Revd. Valentine will raise the question of a church service to remember this occasion at the next Church meeting.	
7.	PLANNING	
	7.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/03176 AND APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/23/03177 Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton Erection of detached cart lodge; boundary fencing including changes to landscaping and parking arrangements; Erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage; Conversion of garage and installation of air source heat	

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pump, wood burning stove with flue; and internal works to include replacement/alteration of fenestration and changes to internal layout. The Council had no objection to this application, assuming that all work will be under Listed Building control.	
7.2 APPLICATION FOR OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/03760 Land West Of Suffolk House, Ixworth Road, Norton Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access points to be considered, Landscaping, Layout, Appearance and Scale Reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 8No custom build/self-build dwellings The Council strongly objected to this application on the following grounds: • With the addition of 8 more houses using this small single carriageway access road, in addition to the 9 houses already approved on appeal, there is likely to be in excess of 34 vehicles using this access. • The visibility splay does not allow ease of visibility for vehicles exiting the site, meaning vehicles accessing the site at the same time would be queuing on the A1088 • There is no provision of a pavement within the development which means pedestrians and vehicles will be using the same small single carriageway access road. • It is considered this is overdevelopment of the site • There would not appear to be any provision for affordable housing. • Although the planning statement refers to a regular bus service, this is not the case. There is no bus service in the village during school holidays and restricted service at other times. • Although classed as custom-build/self-build, it is understood this will not be the case, thus meaning no CIL payment to benefit the village. • There is no pavement for pedestrians on the A1088 roadside of the exit road, meaning a dangerous crossing of the road, particularly at peak times, such as school and work times and particularly with regard to the restrictions currently on the A14. • The required provision of a pedestrian crossing as stated in the appeal for phase 1, is understood will not be undertaken in the required safe format. • The Suffolk Wildlife Trust area in close proximity will be at risk from pollution from additional building work and vehicles in this area. • The additional land is not currently amenity land but is understood to be used as agricultural land.	
7.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Former The Old Forge, Ixworth Road, Norton,DC/23/04098 Proposal: Application under S73a for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/19/05754 dated 11/03/2020 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 3no. dwellings and 1no. cartlodge (following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings). Conversion and extension of single storey outbuilding to form 1no.dwelling and alterations to vehicular access/driveway. To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to enable internal and external changes to The Forge only as per revised plans. The Council had no objection to this application for variation of conditions, but would like to see The Old Forge retain the original character of the building.	

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	7.4 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED 1- 5 King George Close, Norton. Erection of 5no. garden sheds. DC/23/03134	
	7.5 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED Land At Stanton Street, Norton, DC/23/02935 Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following approval of DC/18/01239 dated 26/06/2018 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Erection of 4no. dwellings with garages - To Vary Condition Number 2 (Approved Plans & Documents) to provide alternative house designs for Plots 3 & 4 as per plans received.	
	7.6 AMENDMENTS APPROVED Land on The West Side Of, Ixworth Road, Norton - DC/23/03359 Application for a non-material amendment following grant of planning permission DC/20/00734 for the correction to references of documents and drawings on the decision notice.	
	7.7 MSDC Planning - reply to Appeal on land at Suffolk House and definition of Self build and custom build. Email from Planning confirmed definition of self-build and custom build and the need for MSDC to be certain this will be the case and to ensure the application format includes a declaration by the applicant to confirm their input.	
	7.8 MSDC planning public access website - Online Measuring Tool - noted	
8.	FINANCE	
	8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Gadd Bros, trees £1140.00 Lloyds cheque 000001 Vertas hedge cutting £450.00 Lloyds cheque 000002 HMRC £104.00 Lloyds cheque 000003 Norton Baptist Church, Hall Hire, £90.00 Lloyds cheque no 000004 D. Millyard, Prospect Road play area, £90.00 Lloyds cheque no 0000005 St. Andrews Church, donation towards churchyard upkeep, £500. Lloyds cheque no 000006 Payments via online: Clerk's salary £416.00 Messenger, September, £345.00 MSDC Election Charges £154.93	Public Health Act 1875 s164 LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s133 Local Government (Misc. Provision) Act 1976 s19 LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s142 RPA 1983 s36(5)
	8.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of part of the PWL of £99,965.00	
	8.3 To receive, review and adopt updated draft banking internet policy. Following amendments, the Council RESOLVED to adopt the policy	
	8.4 The Clerk confirmed receipt of VAT claim for 22-23 of £5444.41	
	8.5 The Clerk confirmed Locality Budget of £1500 received from Councillor Mellen for the SID to be located at Norton Little Green.	
	8.6 To receive budget statement. The Clerk had circulated a budget statement which was approved by the Council.	
	8.7 To consider Coronation Commemoration plaque. Mr. Walton shared images of the plaque at Isleham and stated Woolpit also had a plaque. The Clerk agreed to contact the Woolpit Clerk for more information.	Clerk
	8.8 To receive request from St. Andrews Church for grant towards upkeep of churchyard. The Clerk confirmed the Council had a budget of £460. Mrs. Hill suggested an increase to £500. The Council RESOLVED to approve £500.	

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	8.9 Dog Bin. The Clerk updated with a cost for a larger bin at the Church. Currently the bin is a Fido 25. The Clerk suggested double size to a Fido 50 costing around £261.87. The Fido 25 could be reinstated elsewhere. The Council RESOLVED to purchase a larger bin for the Church car park.	Clerk
9	SPEEDWATCH	
	9.1 Update on Speedwatch. A new site had been agreed at Rookery Drive. A few speedwatch sessions have been held there, and a number of cars logged speeding. Mr. Walton commented he had been approached about the use of 3 speed guns at Holly Bank which was felt to be excessive. He further commented on the sign at the Thurston Road junction obstructing visibility and an additional sign on the "Norton" sign in Thurston Road felt to be over-zealous use of signage. Some of the new smaller signs appear to have been taken down. Mr. Stone will be informed of these concerns.	
	9.2 Strategy to reduce speeding long term. The first approach will be to secure the ANPR gun.	
	9.3 Update on small solar SID located in Heath Road - ongoing	
10	VILLAGE HALL	
	14.1 Update on joint Village Hall/Parish Council project subcommittee meeting - minutes noted. Mr. Walton stated the contract had been signed by Mrs. Hill on behalf of the Council and a pre-commencement meeting will be arranged. He stated the CCTV will need to be dismantled before work commences. He had spoken to Anglian Security who were happy for the contractor to dismantle the equipment and Anglian Security technical manager will advise where to lay the wires for the reinstatement. It will be housed in the office in a locked cabinet. There may possibly be additional cameras required. The wifi will be dismantled while work is going ahead. Mr. Walton confirmed this will all be covered by the Contractor's insurance. A Contractor has been appointed to supply and fit solar panels on the roof, with batteries in the hall. Mr. Walton commented on a recent Team Meeting with the CIL officers and the request for the grant goes to Cabinet on Tuesday. The Clerk requested a copy of the updated Contractor's quote for Council records, plus the quote for the Solar panels.	
11	PLAY AREAS	
	11.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr. Lenko informed that the Orbit would be installed around 12-14 September.	
	11.2 Play area in Prospect Road – nothing to report.	
	11.3 The Clerk confirmed the request for Annual Play Area Inspection for 2023 under the MSDC scheme.	
12	CORRESPONDENCE	
	12.1 MSDC Free Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme. The Clerk stated that in the previous year any proposed scheme had to be accessible to the public. Mr. Walton agreed to ask landowners, and also wondered if footpaths may be an area to consider.	Mr. Walton
	12.2 No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ) email from Lesley Canham - Noted	
	12.3 Latest e-bulletin and August newsletter - A14 Haughley to Tothill recon scheme - noted. The Clerk will enquire if the scheme is considered to be on target.	Clerk
	12.4 CEO Constables County - Noted	
	12.5 A14 Mid-way Public Information Events for Town & Parish councils - Noted	
13	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting. - none	
14	To confirm the date of future meeting: 2 nd October 2023, 7.30pm	
15	There being no further matters the meeting closed at 21.17	