

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J Bolus, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. G. Walton,

Mr. N. Winstanley, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

District Councillor D. Bradbury

Three members of the public

APOLOGIES: Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. R. Lenko.

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. Winstanley declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.2 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 Concern expressed by members of the public about problems crossing the A1088 from Heath Road, particularly at school times, which have been exacerbated by the work on the A14. Request made for a road crossing or a lollipop person. Councillor Mellen explained the investigation that had taken place concerning a road crossing and the problems around the various options at or near the crossroad junction i.e that the road did not have pathway either side of the road, the road was not wide enough to take mid-road refuge and could not be widened. He commented on the condition of the Suffolk House development to provide a road crossing. This crossing would be located further along the road near the playing field entrance, but would have no path on one side of the road to access it from Heath Road. Although the cost would be around £120,000 the main problem is the road width itself. He was unsure of the criteria for a lollipop person and will approach the Team responsible. Crossing problems also involve the senior children trying to access the bus stop for the Upper School. A further problem was crossing the A1088 and then needing to cross The Street to access the path to walk to school. Mrs. Hill felt the initial investigation should be the lollipop person and ask Councillor Mellen to undertake this with the utmost urgency. Mr. Aket felt that if the problem was financial, perhaps the Council could consider funding a person. The Clerk was asked to contact National Highways to see if there are funds available to assist with problems exacerbated by the A14 work. - Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email Report of incident at War memorial. The Clerk had forwarded details to Councillors. She had contacted the Insurance Company with photos, and car details, and had sought quotes for the work to repair as requested by the Insurance Co.	Councillor Mellen Clerk Clerk

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4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only •Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen. Councillor Mellen confirmed that Highways had been out regarding flooding in Norton Little Green, and agreed to clear gullies and jet to the outfall. Mrs. Hill thanked Councillor Mellen for chasing the ANPR cameras for speedwatch, but unfortunately some of the cameras have been damaged, but as the person is away on paternity leave there is no cover of his work. With regard to the Bridge repair, the diversion routes were discussed at the liaison group meeting with the preferred diversion being the A14. The work will take around 4 months. Mr. Walton commented on the problems with the under surface of new road on the A14. Mrs. Long commented on having the signs as in other villages. The Clerk stated she had written to National Highways requesting 20mph, 30mph signs and use of the camera van. •Report from District Councillors Austin Davies and David Bradbury Mr. Walton questioned why Thurston CIL award had been given to replace windows and doors, but Norton's had stated for new footprint only. Councillor Bradbury agreed to investigate, but wondered if rules had changed. The Clerk commented on the locality budget submitted by the Hall for the solar panels on the Hall and Councillor Bradbury agreed to check this had been actioned. He commented both Councillors are happy to support and help in any way to reduce speeding in villages.	Councillor Bradbury
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To note and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd October 2023. Mrs. Long proposed, Mr. Winstanley seconded, with all in agreement	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 UK Power Network update. The Clerk outlined that the proposal required advertising, but was seeking advice from SALC on details. As the land is Open Space it cannot be dispersed without advertising. The solicitor had quoted £800-1200 for this work. Mr. Aket proposed asking the solicitor to do the work, but Mr. Walton felt he should go back to UKPN in the first instance. The amended plan did not appear to be correct so this was being questioned.	Clerk Mr. Walton
	6.2 Playing Field Path and Hedge. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Bolus and Mr. Morgan for clearing back the path and cutting back the front hedge. Mr. Morgan has also skirted back the path along the A1088 at the play area.	
	6.3 Wildflowers Scheme. Mr. Winstanley had met with Mr. Parmee. Nothing more can be done to the area until next Spring when it will show what is growing. Mr. Parmee agreed to provide more wildflower seed once any preparation had taken place, and was happy to support anything around the Hall.	
	6.4 Footpath walk leaflet. Mr. Walton stated this has been printed and available on line. A supply will be delivered to Mrs. Smart in the near future.	
	6.5 Traffic Mirror opposite Hall entrance. A donation to the village hall and preschool should be forthcoming from the Contractor and then Mr. Walton will ask about a mirror replacement.	Mr. Walton
	6.6 Bus service update and emails received. Funding for Bus Network improvements. Mr. Winstanley had found the bus times during term time, but there was no Saturday service. He has given details to the Messenger for publishing. The village falls short of a service during school holidays and Saturdays. Mr. Winstanley agreed to log in to the Bus forum meeting next week. The Clerk questioned whether a survey should be undertaken of usage. It was commented that maybe joining with another village, ie Tostock, may be the answer.	Mr. Winstanley Agenda

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	6.6 Street Lights. The Clerk asked for details of any lights out or missing to report on the SCC portal.	
	6.8 Hedges in the village. The hedge mentioned last month has now been cut and the 30 mph sign cleared, but it was felt that there are several hedges around the village that require cutting back from the road and path.	
	6.9 Road signs for repair. Mr. Walton agreed to send details to the Clerk for reporting on Highways portal.	Mr. Walton
	6.10 Remembrance Day – review of service. All appears to be in hand.	
	6.11 Street Cleaner. The Clerk reported the street cleaner had been back in the village this week.	
	6.12 Flooding in Ashfield Road. Mr. Walton reported flooding along the Ashfield Road due to a pipe under the road being blocked. He agreed to report it on the flood website and the Clerk will report on the Highways portal.	Mr. Walton Clerk
	6.13 A1088 Stowlangtoft bridge liaison group – see Councillor Mellen’s report. The Clerk had the proposed diversion maps, with another meeting proposed in January.	
7.	PLANNING	
	7.1 PLANNING APPLICATION AND LISTED BUILDINGS Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton -DC/23/04959 Changes to landscaping and parking arrangements, erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage. Conversion of garage, form enclosed porch, installation of air source heat pump and wood burning stove with flue. Replacement/alteration of fenestration. The Council objected to the change of colour to brown as adjacent barn properties are currently black, and it was felt it should remain in keeping with the area.	
	7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION 4 Honeywood Grove, Norton, - DC/23/05013 Erection of a single storey side and single storey rear extensions. The Council approved this application but commented they would not like to see this set a precedent for adjoining properties.	
	7.3 APPROVED Springfield, Halls Lane, Norton. Proposed re-submission of application DC/23/00265 (Reduced scheme) Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (Following demolition of existing rear extension and garage)	
	7.4 APPROVED Feld House, The Street, Norton DC/23/03864. Discharge of conditions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.	
	7.5 APPROVED 2 Old Forge Close, Norton, DC/23/03805 Householder Planning Application - Erection of single-storey detached double garage (Retention of).	
	7.6 APPROVED Norton Pre-school - DC/23/03866 Continued use of land for the siting of unit for pre-school for seven years and addition of Hardy Board style cladding and insulation.	
	7.7. LISTED BUILDING GRANTED Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton DC/23/03177	

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	Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage, conversion of garage, installation of air source heat pump wood burning stove with flue and internal works to include replacement/alteration of fenestration and changes to internal layout.	
	7.8 PLANNING APPEAL REF: APP/W3520/W/22/3312743 Land off A14, Elmswell for Development of petrol filling station, a drive-thru restaurant and coffee shop, together with various infrastructure and landscaping works.	
	7.9 PLANNING REFUSED Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/23/03176 Householder Application - Erection of detached cart lodge; Changes to landscaping and parking arrangements; Erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage; Conversion of garage and installation of air source heat pump, wood burning stove with flue; Replacement/alteration of fenestration	
	7.10 PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED - DC/23/03899 Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton, Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No detached dwellings with garages.	
	7.11 Mr. Aket commented on the advertisement for the houses behind Suffolk House which did not indicate self-build.	
8.	FINANCE	
	8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Payments via online: Clerk's salary £416.00 & Expenses (Apr-Nov) £122.69 LGA1972 s112 Street Cleaner £72.00 LGA1972 s112 TenHats, October & November, £690.00 LGA1972 s142 SALC, training, £144.00 LGA 1972 s112 Vertas, grounds maintenance, £332.03 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Tectonic,(Web site) £165.00 LGA1972 s142 HMRC £122.00 (Lloyds cheque 000011) LGA1972 s112 British Legion,Poppy wreath, £50 Lloyds cheque 000012 LGA 1972 s1388 M. S. Oakes stage payment for village hall work £37340.76 – Santander cheque no 522542 Local Government Act 1972 s133	
	8.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of CIL payment of £24,451.58 and recycling £570.62	
	8.3 To receive budget statement. The Clerk had circulated a budget statement which was approved by the Council.	
	8.4 Coronation commemoration The Clerk will contact Woolpit about their footpath board.	Clerk
9.	SPEEDWATCH	
	9.1 Update on Speedwatch. There is a delay in obtaining the ANPR camera. 9.2 To consider small solar SID located at Heath Road - ongoing	
10.	VILLAGE HALL	
	10.1 Update on Project and monthly site meeting. Mr. Walton confirmed work was progressing well both inside and outside, majority of the footings are poured, and drain rerouting has been approved by Building Control. There will be a roof tin hat put on while the roof is taken off and replaced. Full Fibre connection is being investigated. Mrs. Hill commented on the flagpole holders which could not be	

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	reinstated on the hall. Mr. Walton will speak to the contractor about an alternative place to locate the holders.	
	10.2 Mr. Walton confirmed that the CIL payment from MSDC can now be paid to the Parish Council, and covers the new footprint of the build. MSDC will only pay 25% of the invoice (excluding VAT) with the rest expected to be paid from the Council Loan. This will allow the Council to reclaim VAT on paid invoice. The Clerk questioned when the next portion or all of the Loan should be claimed. Mr. Aket commented on claiming the remaining £400,000 and putting this on deposit to earn interest until required. This will be discussed at next month's meeting. The Clerk questioned the PC budget of £46000 allocated by the Council. This had originally been set up to help offset the forthcoming loan repayments for a year or two, to allow the precept to rise steadily and not in one large leap. Mr. Walton explained that in order for the Hall to access other funding it had to state what was being match funded by the Council, so this figure had been used as Council input into the project. The Clerk felt that part of the general CIL fund should therefore be reallocated to a loan repayment budget. She stated that this would be put on the budget for next month for approval by Councillors.	Budget Agenda.
11.	PLAY AREAS	
	11.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr Lenko stated the gates appear to be working correctly, and he has asked Mr. Millyard to re-do the bark under the swings.	
	11.2 Play area Prospect Road. Mr. Walton stated the sign would be put up next week	
12.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	12.1 MSDC Review of Polling Districts - noted	
	12.2 SALC Conference 29 th November 2023 - noted	
	12.3 Bulletin Oct 2023 A14 Haughley to Tothill Reconstruction Scheme – lane closures. A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme - Contraflow Switch Update E-bulletin - noted	
	12.4 PC dates for 2024.- received and confirmed as correct.	
	12.5 New operating model information Suffolk Constabulary - noted	
	12.6 Councillor training dates -noted	
	12.7 Reopening of Fitness Suite for Community Use at Thurston Community College – noted.	
	12.8 Clerks & Councils Direct	
13.	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	13.1 Mr. Aket commented about the flooding of the Tostock Road after the bridge, and felt Tostock Council should be contacted. Mr. Walton commented the water is not coming off the field but off the SWT water meadows. Mrs. Hill stated the whole of the SWT area has been flooded.	
	13.4 Mr.Aket commented on the adult play equipment near Tesco Express in Bury which could be investigated if the Council was considering items.	
14.	To confirm the date of next meeting: 4 th December 2023, 7.30pm	
15.	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45	