

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J. Bolus, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. J. Morgan,
Mr. G. Walton, Mr. N. Winstanley, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) LGA 1972 s12 para40
County Councillor A. Mellen
District Councillor D. Bradbury

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Lenko

The Council consented to accept the apology and reason, which will be recorded in the attendance register.
District Councillor A. Davies.

1	Welcome and protocol reminder	
2	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests. a) Declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest and personal interest in items on the agenda incl gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 – none b) Declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – none c) Requests for dispensation – none.	
3	PUBLIC FORUM • Member of the public – questions and concerns from those in attendance - none • Members of the public – comments submitted via email. Concern expressed about flooding and blocked drains in Norton Little Green. The Clerk had passed this query to Councillor Mellen, who advised submitting the information on the Highways portal. The Clerk reported that the resident had received a visit and inspection by a Highways officer. This problem was due to ditch maintenance and blocked pipes under the road. Concern expressed about overgrowth on playing field path. Councillors agreed this could be cut back to expose the full width of the path and they would arrange a volunteer day to complete the work. With regard to the car park entrance, it was agreed the road visibility was not good in this area, mainly due to the bend in the road. The hedge could be trimmed back but it was felt the neighbouring hedge was also obstructing the road view. Mr. Morgan stated he had trimmed back the hedge from the entrance to the pole which had helped. Messages have been put on Facebook asking for hedges to be trimmed. The Clerk stated the mirror at Willowwalk could do with replacing. Mr. Walton agreed to check and see what could be put in its place.	Mr. Walton
4	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION • Report from County Councillor Mellen Councillor Mellen commented on chevrons on the sharp bend at Norton Little Green which he has raised with the Community Engineer. A speed limit change from Moss Chase to the bend would be a difficult and expensive process. He has forwarded the ANPR form to the Clerk but there is a backlog accessing the ANPRs. Councillor Mellen stated the proposed road crossing associated with the Suffolk House development states delivery of the footway had to be secured by an agreement by section 278 meaning SCC would need to approve it with conditions with details submitted and agreed by MSDC planning and in place by the time the first house is occupied. The application had been approved in outline but reserved matters need to be put forward and approved. With regard to lorries and vehicles stopping on the A1088 near the garage Highways states no parking within 10m of a junction so photos would help with reporting the parking. Councillor Mellen commented on a liaison group meeting concerning the bridge repair on 31st October at the Ixworth Fire Station.	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2023

	Report from District Councillors Bradbury and Davies. Councillor Bradbury stated he is looking for applications for his locality budget. Mr. Walton stated an application had been made for the solar panel scheme at the village hall but no confirmation received. Councillor Bradbury asked for this to be re-submitted.	
5	MINUTES	
	5.1 To note and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 th September 2023. Mr. Aket proposed and Mrs. Long seconded, with all in agreement.	
6	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 UKPN. The paperwork was still with the solicitor so the Clerk has emailed Birketts.	Clerk
	6.2 Wildflower Scheme – The area was still to be cut.	
	6.3 MSDC Free trees, hedgerows and Wildflower Scheme – Mr. Walton stated there was no interest in trees and hedges. He has mentioned to Mrs Adams about flower strips in the wildflower area. Mr. Winstanley agreed to speak with Mr. Parmee from MSDC.	Mr. Winstanley.
	6.4 Bus Service update – the proposed meeting has been cancelled.	Clerk
7	PLANNING	
	7.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/23/03805 2 Old Forge Close, Norton for erection of single storey detached double garage (retension of) The Council approved this application.	
	7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DDC/23/03866 Norton Pre-school Honeywood Corner, Norton for continued use of land for the siting of unit for preschool for seven years and addition of Hardy Board style cladding insulation. The Council fully supported and approved this application	
	7.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/23/03899 Land west of Ixworth Road, Norton for full planning application for erection of 2 detached dwellings with garages. The Council presented its objection to this application. 9. By applying for the proposed 12 house development on this site in a piecemeal way removed the need to provide affordable housing. 29. The site is situated outside the settlement boundary with currently no residential properties nearby. 31 Applications already approved should commence in the first instance to realise this application. The application in isolation is therefore in open countryside and an isolated location. 31 Being outside the settlement boundary it gives precedence for more development along this stretch of open countryside. 35 Village facilities as listed are some distance away from these properties and would necessitate use of cars especially as the houses are listed as family homes. There is no footway near the development or provision to provide one. To allow ease of access to facilities would require residents to walk along the roadside of the A1088. 37 There are no current bus routes running through the village to allow ease of access to facilities or larger shopping towns	
	7.4 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/23/04414 Crab Apple House, 1 Meadow Acre, Norton Householder application seeking retrospective planning permission for 1 detached cart lodge. The Council objected to the retrospective application as they felt the flat roof of the cart	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2023

	lodge was out of keeping with the surround area and properties.	
	7.5 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/23/04415 2 Meadow Acre, Norton Householder application seeking retrospective planning permission for 1 detached cart lodge. The Council objected to the retrospective application as they felt the flat roof of the cart lodge was out of keeping with the surround area and properties.	
	7.6 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/23/04416 3 Meadow Acre, Norton Householder application seeking retrospective planning permission for 1 detached cart lodge. The Council objected to the retrospective application as they felt the flat roof of the cart lodge was out of keeping with the surround area and properties.	
	7.7 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/04122 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) The Council supported this application.	
	7.7 APPLICATION GRANTED York House, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/23/03161 for erection of two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing extension)	
8	FINANCE	
	8.1 To approve the following accounts awaiting payment HMRC £104.00 - Lloyds Cheque 000007 LGA 1972 s112 Glasdon, dog bin, £351.74 Lloyds Cheque 000008 Litter Act 1983 ss5,6 Playdale £7366.58 Lloyds cheque 000009 Public Health Act 1875 s164 PKF Littlejohn £378.00 Lloyds Cheque 000010 LGA 1972 s112 Payments online: Clerk's salary £416.00 LGA 1972 s112	
	8.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of the second payment of Precept of £14,500	
	8.3 The Clerk confirmed completion of the external audit and presented the External Auditor's certificate for approval. Mr. Aket expressed thanks to the Clerk for the work involved in completing the audit. Mr. Aket proposed acceptance and Mrs. Long seconded. The Council RESOLVED to formally approve and accept.	
	8.4 The Clerk confirmed submission of a recycling claim for Feb-July 2023 for £570.62	
	8.5 Following the recent accident at Norton Little Green, Mr. Lenko confirmed that a replacement sign would cost £425.50+VAT. The Council authorised Mr. Lenko to obtain the sign but Mr. Walton enquired whether it should be an insurance claim on the driver.	Mr. Lenko
	8.6 The Clerk forwarded a receipts and payments with reconciliation statement for the Santander account and the Lloyds account, with accompanying budget statement. The Clerk confirmed £40 had been vired from contingency to the NPCC to cover the increased donation for the church yard. The Council APPROVED the virement.	
	8.7 Mr. Walton presented further details of a proposed Coronation plaque, in the form of a footpath noticeboards. The Clerk will contact Woolpit about their footpath map noticeboard.	Clerk Agenda
9	SPEEDWATCH	
	9.1 Mr. Stone sent an updated report which the Clerk had forwarded to all Councillors. There	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2023

	was still problem trying to contact Jonathan Shaw about the ANPR	
10	VILLAGE HALL	
	10.1 Minutes of the subcommittee pre commencement meeting circulated. Mr. Walton reported a successful pre-contract meeting. The defib will be resited on one of the cabins and the car park lights will be rewired so they can be kept on. He stated he had received comments about the reduction in car spaces and confusion due to the construction work. He explained that ultimately at the end of the project there would be a gain of 10 extra spaces. The contractor has agreed to keep their vehicles in the compound and are mindful of school pick up times. He had advised the school about the parking situation but received no reply. There will be monthly site meetings set for the third Wednesday of each month to which the Council Chair will be invited.	
	10.2 PWLB. The Clerk asked for clarification of when submissions for further payments from PWLB would be required and when payments would need to be made to the Contractor. Mr. Walton and Prof. Jaggard agreed to put together a spreadsheet of payments, when these would be required for payment and whether the payment would come from the Council or from the village hall/CIL money. Mr. Walton stated the Hall application from the Communities Lotteries fund was through to the second stage for a possible £70,000 grant.	Mr. Walton Prof Jaggard
11	PLAY AREA	
	11.1 Play area in Playing field. Mr. Lenko confirmed the Orbit was fully installed and well used. Mr. Lenko enquired about adult equipment, but Councillors felt this would not be used. Mr. Walton commented that the play area was used by families outside of the village. The new red gates do not work as well as they should so will be reinspected by the Company.	
	11.2 Play area in Prospect Road. Mrs. Long stated she would investigate and price a piece of equipment to ensure inclusive for all children, and reminded that the signs still needed to be put up. Mrs. Long asked for thanks to be noted regarding the local help with clearing the play area in Prospect Road.	
12	CORRESPONDENCE	
	12.1 Public Views sought over improvements to A140 - noted	
	12.2 Publications of Inspectors' Report on the Examination of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan - noted	
	12.3 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Media Release: Blueprint for districts' development "sound" - noted	
	12.4 Latest Bulletin and September newsletter – A14 Haughley to Tothill recon scheme - noted	
	12.5 A1088 Stowlangtoft bridge liaison group meeting – date noted.	
	12.6 Suffolk Wildlife Trust Magazine	
	12.7 Clerks & Councils Direct	
	12.8 SALC conference 29 November 2023 – date noted.	
13	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting	
	13.1 Resilience of Electricity supply. With the number of new builds in the village Mr. Aket queried the resilience of the supply to residents and avoidance of outages. Mr. Walton stated that UKPN were looking to bring an underground supply in from Woolpit.	

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2023

	13.2 30mph residential signs. Mr. Aket commented on the large 30mph signs in other villages and felt these would be useful around Norton. National Highways will be approached.	Clerk
	13.3 What3words. Mr. Aket commented on this being a useful tool to pinpoint an area, it was felt residents should be made aware through the Messenger.	Clerk
	13.4 Cricket equipment. Mr. Aket stated he had a bag of equipment and asked for this to be stored at the refurbished village hall.	
	13.5 Coronation Mugs. Mr. Aket stated he had 2 boxes of mugs available. He felt these could be distributed to the churches but also given to the school and pre-school staff. Mr. Walton wondered if they could be retained for the coffee shop at the refurbished hall.	Agenda
	13.6 Expensive Norton. Mr. Aket commented on an article in the EADT that stated Norton as being 9 th most expensive place to live in Suffolk.	
	13.7 Street Lights – Prof. Jaggard commented on several street lights either being out or missing. The Clerk asked for details of these lights to be emailed to her. A full inventory of lights will be checked in order to report problems.	Clerk Agenda
	13.8 Buses. Mr. Winstanley enquired whether there was funding available to local councils to provide a bus service to the village. It was reiterated about the meetings held last year to put a plan together, but despite several attempts nothing had materialised. However, Elmswell, Woolpit, Beyton and Thurston had put together a trial service for a taxi bus service, but this did not include Norton.	Agenda
	13.9 CCTV. Mr. Walton stated the CCTV would be out of service the Hall works. Anglian Security will reconnect when called upon. Mr. Walton enquired whether the Council felt additional cameras would be required. He felt cables could be put in whether or not additional cameras are used.	
	13.10 Newsletter. Mr. Walton stated the Twinning Association had had their notice rejected for the Messenger as there was no room for it. The Clerk stated she was aiming to do compact minutes for the Messenger with reference to see the full set on the web site.	
	13.11 30mph sign hidden in hedge. Mr. Morgan stated the sign entering the village from Norton Little Green is obscured by the hedge. Mr. Bolus agreed to speak with the resident at The Bramleys about cutting back the hedge to allow the 30mph to be visible. Prof. Jaggard felt there should be a note reminding all residents that their hedge should not obscure road signs. Mr. Walton commented some road signs were also in need of repair	Agenda
	13.12 Hedges in the Street. It was commented that some some hedges along The Street were encroaching into the road.	Agenda
	13.13 Remembrance Day Service. The Clerk reminded about the service at The Memorial. She confirmed the wreath had been ordered and she will speak with Revd Valentine. Mrs. Long will ensure the PA system from the Salvation Army is available.	Clerk Mrs. Long
14	To confirm date of next meeting - 6th November 2023, 7.30pm	
15	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.17	