

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2024
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

24/2114 PRESENT:

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. J Cole, Cllr. J Harris, Cllr. C Riley, Cllr. P Gartrell, Cllr R Reid, Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were 2 members of the public present.

24/2115 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. B. Matraves (Vice-Chair),

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

No apologies received: Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor)

24/2116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

24/2117 PUBLIC TIME

24/2117/a Public Time

A MOP spoke about her concerns regarding the parking on New Road around school drop off and pick up times. In particular the parking around the junctions to nearby housing estates is very dangerous. The Chair asked the clerk to write to the school Head Teacher and add a piece to the newsletter.

Action: Clerk

24/2117b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

24/21017/c Unitary Councillor report:

Unitary Councillor Mike Hewitson was not present. No update was received.

24/2117/d CLT Update:

Cllr Harris reported that the shop sales were still good. The AGM was being held the following week, which she would report on at the next meeting. The CLT put a lovely evening on last week to say a big 'thank you' to all the volunteers. More volunteers were still needed.

24/2117/e HYG Report

Please see Matter Arising for the annual report.

24/2117/f Allotments Report

Nothing to report

Bus Service Report

Nothing to report

24/2118 MINUTES

The Minutes from the September meeting were circulated. They were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Harris

Agreed unanimously.

24/2118 MATTERS ARISING

24/2118/a Hamdon Youth Group Annual report

John Bailey presented his annual report to the Parish Council. He spoke about the difficult year they have had with reduced funding from Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council and the resignation of the youth worker. This has had a knock-on effect regarding the services they have been able to provide the young people. . However, through all of this they have increased the number of young people attending sessions at Norton village hall and have built up good relationships with primary schools. Mr Bailey also spoke about the need for more volunteers to come forward and help in any way they can. The Parish Council wished to thank Mr. Bailey and his team for 14 years of fabulous work which has certainly seen an improvement to ASB in the village. They asked the clerk to write a 'thank you' to the youth worker who did an incredible job.

Action: Clerk

The Parish Council discussed funding for the next financial year. Up until last year funding has always seen a 10% increase YOY from the PC. Last year the funding was kept at the same amount as the previous year due to entering a period of uncertainty with the future costs of services for the Parish Council following Somerset Council's financial emergency revelations.

The Parish Council were unanimous in their decision this year to return to the 10% annual increase for 25-26. This would make funding for 2025-26 stand at £2,416.00, which the clerk will include in the budget figures.

Action: Clerk

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Reid

Agreed unanimously.

The clerk was also asked to include an appeal for more volunteers in her monthly article for the newsletter and parish magazine.

Action: Clerk

24/2118/a Speeding in Great St – response from Highways

The response from Highways had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. Highways said that having assessed speed data records held for Great Street, they informed the parish clerk that the mean speeds recorded between the Reading Room and The Lord Nelson ranged between 16.41mph and 17.84mph. She explained that Somerset's speed compliance data comes from hundreds of thousands of connected vehicles that have GPS devices installed such as vehicle trackers & sat nav devices. The data is captured across a 12-month period from April to March aligning with financial years and analysed to produce annual average speeds for seven individual time periods. The speed values are based on vehicle speeds along an entire link, rather than spot speeds at the most free-flowing point along a link. This data is used to gain an understanding of existing vehicle speeds.

The clerk had also asked for the road markings around the Pill Bridge area to be repainted. The Highways engineer informed the clerk she would arrange for an inspection to be undertaken of the existing highway signage and road markings to ensure they are clearly visible by all highway users. Any defects identified, would be added to our maintenance programmes.

The Parish Council were not happy with her response and asked the clerk to go back to Highways again asking for further information on when (times) that this data is captured, as it certainly was not what the parish councillors and residents had witnessed.

Action: Clerk

24/2118/c Defibrillator for outside the hall

The Parish Council were delighted to be able to secure a defibrillator on the latest scheme run by the government offering partially funded defibrillators. The government pay half the cost of the defibrillator and locked cabinet, with the Parish Council paying the other half. Due to the Parish Council addressing the need for a defibrillator for outside the village hall at a previous PC meeting, the clerk was able to act fast in securing one from this round of the scheme being re-open, as there are only a limited number of defibrillators available.

The defibrillator will be installed on the outside of the village hall under the CCTV and outdoor light. This will be available to the community 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The village hall committee have very kindly agreed to pay the installation costs and the small amount of electricity that is required to run it. It will be registered with the ambulance service via The Circuit online registration as soon as it has been received and installed – hopefully within a month! The Parish Council will own the defibrillator and cabinet and be responsible for the replacement of batteries and pads. It will be included on the Parish Council asset list.

Action: Clerk

24/2118/d Minchington update

The clerk was able to give some positive news for a change on Minchington rec. The repair works for the wall will be started at the beginning of December and she was delighted to report that local stonemason Ben Lewis had won the contract. With regards to the devolution of asset of Minchington Rec from SC to the Parish Council, she reported that this would be a long process. In the latest response from the Devolution Team, she was informed that they do not have the resources to deal with all the interest from Town and Parish Councils. They had logged the Parish Councils interest and would get round to it as soon as they can. Clerk to keep pushing with the devolution team.

Action: Clerk

24/2118/f Clerks update

The Clerk gave a report on recent discussions with other clerks from surrounding parish councils. She reported that many Parish clerks and Councils are unhappy with the LCNs, the lack of support, how little they are achieving and how much that is discussed that is irrelevant to our area. It was also felt that there is a lack of communication between SC and parishes. Many parish councils are also extremely wary about the proposed costs that Kier has announced for Highways related issues and many smaller parishes just wouldn't be able to afford to contract them for more than one day a year due to their precepts being so small. The clerk spoke about how the response to a suggestion that we form our own clerks' group as an alternative to the LCN was met with a unanimous 'yes' and at the last count there were approx. 15 clerks who'd expressed an interest. An initial meeting between 3 clerks and a Town and Parish Councillor happened on the 30th September. This was to discuss the Terms of Reference of the group and what we would like to achieve.

It was agreed that the purpose of the group was to form an active Clerks group between local parishes, where information/contacts and cost of services could be shared, to enable greater efficiency at better costs and to give us greater buying powers. It was hoped that forming a group would give parishes a stronger voice on local matters, including planning and highways as it was felt that lone Parishes are often ignored, and all the focus seemed to be on Town Councils. It was hoped that a group of like-minded Parishes may have more chance of influencing the Local Plan Review and housing quotas etc. especially on shared knowledge on planning applications.

It was agreed that one of the clerks would be writing an email to the Service Director for Partnerships and Localities informing her of our plans.

24/2118/e Update on Dog and Litter Bins

Dog/litter bins PC responsible for (from April '25)

The clerk reported that the number of litter and dog bins that were on Parish Council land were less than SC had listed. She explained how she had gone back to SC with the following details.

The total number of litter bins in Norton: 5

3 x litter bins are Norton PC responsibility / 2 x litter bins are SC responsibility

1 x Bus stop (Norton PC), 1 x large rec play area (Norton PC), 1 X MUGA (Norton PC),

2 x Minchington Rec (SC responsibility – Rec owned by SC)

The total number of dog bins in Norton is 9.

2 x dog bins are Norton PC responsibility - 1 x village hall (Norton PC owned land),

1x bottom of big rec (Norton PC owned land).

7 x dog bins are SC responsibility - 1 x New Road (Stoke sub Hamdon end) (SC responsibility – roadside), 1 x New Road (By footpath to jubilee garden) (SC responsibility – roadside),

1 x Skinners Lane (by Minchington Close entrance (SC responsibility – roadside),

2 x Minchington Rec (SC responsibility Rec owned by SC), 1 x Little Norton (SC responsibility roadside by the entrance to the footpath), 1 x Broadmead lane (SC responsibility - entrance to footpath Gross' Wood).

The clerk reported that she had received a confirmation email from SC that Norton PC would be charged for a total of 5 bins from April 2025.

24/2119 PLANNING:

24/2119/a Matters For Report

Nothing to report.

24/2119/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

24/2119/c Applications for consideration

Nothing to report

24/2120 FINANCE:

24/2120/a Matters for report:

End of 2nd quarter accounts

NAT WEST BANK ACCOUNTS:

Current account	£ 100.00
Reserve Account	£ 5,436.22
Total	£ 5,536.22

UNITY TRUST BANK

Current Account	£ 10,230.13
Instant Saver	£ 36,219.75
TOTAL	£ 46,449.88

Total in both banks £ 51,986.10

Total as cash book £ 51,986.10

The clerk informed the Parish Council that the accounts would now go to the internal auditor for checking and approval.

Action: Clerk

24/2120/b **Matters for resolution**

Nothing to report

24/2120/c **Invoices Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank**

Louise Brooks	Democratic services – September 2024	£	963.48
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – Sept 24	£	261.30
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – September 2024 – Government set	£	26.00
Louise Brooks	Parish Council Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£	44.00
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Play area maintenance, grass cut, weed control, drain inspection. July-Sept 24 & boundary stone maintenance	£	328.50
Glasdon Ltd	New bench for Greenhams Cross	£	702.00
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Remove old bench from Greenhams Cross and clear site, install new bench, supply fixings	£	85.00
PATA UK - PAYROLL	Payroll and pension management July-Sept 24 (£13.15 per month)	£	39.45
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Main Rec - Grounds maintenance July-Sept 24	£	936.31
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Emergency tree storm damage in rec	£	50.00

Proposed: Cllr. Gartrell

Seconded: Cllr. Reid

Agreed unanimously

24/2121 **VILLAGE HALL:**

Cllr Cole gave an update to the PC on the installation of the defibrillator.

24/2122 **RECREATION GROUND:**

Nothing to report

24/2123 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

All correspondence received had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The clerk reported on an email she had received from a MOP in Little Street who asked if it was possible to raise the issue to motorists who drive through Little Street when it is flooded. This causes a swell of water to enter garages and front doors. The MOP asked if the PC could raise the awareness to the public. Clerk to include a piece in the article for the newsletter.

Action: Clerk

24/2124 **FOOTPATHS:**

Nothing to report

24/2125 **MEMBERS' REPORTS.**

Cllr Riley reported on the irresponsible parking at the Rectory Lane junction – outside the pub.

Clerk to include in the newsletter article.

Action: Clerk

The Chair reported on the recent influx of posters and signs which have been attached to the refurbished fingerposts. Clerk to include in the newsletter article a piece asking people not to do this.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Cole reported on the state of Minchington Rec with the long grass. Clerk to email SC asking for another cut.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.