

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2024
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

24/2101 PRESENT:

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. B. Matraives (Vice-Chair), Cllr. J Cole, Cllr. J Harris, Cllr R Reid, Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor), Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were 5 members of the public present.

24/2102 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. C Riley
Cllr. P Gartrell
Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

24/2103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

24/2104 PUBLIC TIME

24/2104/a Public Time

Speeding in Great Street (The Reading Room to the pub area). A MOP voiced his concern regarding the speed that some drivers are driving through at the bottom of Great Street (between The Reading Room and the pub). The road signs have faded. Clerk to speak to Highways and include something in the newsletter. Clerk will report back at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

24/2104/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

24/2104/c Unitary Councillor report:

Unitary Councillor Mike Hewitson was present. He updated the Parish Council on the financial situation at Somerset Council and the redundancies.

24/2104/d CLT Update:

Cllr Harris gave the Parish Council a positive update with regards to the shop and the need for more volunteers.

24/2104/e HYG Report

Cllr Riley was away and there was no report. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that The Chairman of HYG will be at the October PC meeting to give an update on their year.

24/2104/f Allotments Report

Cllr Matraives gave an update on the allotments finances and reported that they are now Wessex Water compliant.

24/2105 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Matraives Agreed unanimously.

24/2106 MATTERS ARISING

24/2106/a Street signs refurb:

The Chair gave a report to the Parish Council on the fabulous pledges of donations that have been received from residents in the village. She reported that both herself and the clerk had gone round to all the signs to assess them. They felt there were 12 in total that required a full refurbishment and the remaining 6 that had been highlighted as requiring a clean would be done by either Cllr Gartrell (Minchington Close) and the Clerk (Higher Street). The clerk will now write to all the generous donators and get the money pledged paid directly into the UTB account. The clerk will write to Mr Callaghan and Mr Collier with an updated list of what signs which are left to complete the project. The Parish Council agreed to pay the difference between the raised amount and the final cost of the project. Clerk to write a piece for the newsletter. **Action: Clerk**

24/2106/b New bench for Greenham's Cross

The Parish Council decided on a new bench for Greenham's Cross. The bench will come from Glasdons and be delivered to the clerk's address. Councillor Cole said both he and Down2Earth would do the installation between them. Clerk to make the purchase via UTB. **Action: Clerk**

24/2106/c Goal posts – any update from Cllr Matraives

Cllr Matraives would speak to the grounds man at Stoke Rec for some advice. Cllr Harris reported that her husband who used to be very involved with the football club had taken a look and reported that they were safe and firmly in the ground. Any work to them would have to be done in situ.

Action: Cllr Matraives

24/2106/d Minchington Rec update

The clerk reported that SC had finally accepted liability and ownership of the wall and the repair work. They had asked the clerk for the stone mason's details which she had forwarded. The clerk reported that once again she had emailed the devolution team requesting information on the transfer of ownership of Minchington Rec to the Parish Council through their devolution of assets scheme. Again, she had not had a response. She reported she would chase again by the end of the week.

24/2106/e Services price list

Prices for services, starting with the emptying of dog and litter bins had started to filter through from SC, although the price they were discussing was the current price, which would no doubt be increased before it came into effect from April 2025. The current price is £7.82 per bin per week. This is for litter and dog bins (dog waste can be placed in litter bins as well). In total NSH has 6 litter bins and 9 dog bins. The annual cost at the current rate would be in the region of £5,693. Hopefully more service costs will start to filter through in time for the setting of budgets.

24/2106/f Grit Bins

The grit bins will all be emptied by Down2earth as the grit/salt mix has gone very hard. They will then be refilled by Highways in early October, ready for the coming winter. This will probably be the last winter that they will be filled FOC. Clerk to liaise with Highways.

Action: Clerk

24/2106/g Highways pricing

Highways have announced their price list for non-statutory services. The clerk will find out more information about the pilot scheme, but wasn't sure how we would be expected to sign up to something when we had no idea how much we would require from it. The clerk spoke about how a few local clerks from neighbouring parishes were going to meet and form a group so any highways work that was required that did not come under statutory work, could be shared between the parishes to reduce the cost.

Action: Clerk

24/2107 PLANNING:

24/2107/a Matters For Report

Nothing to report.

24/2107/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

24/2107/c Applications for consideration

OUTLINE Planning Application Number: 23/02859/OUT

Location: The Stables Land Behind Highwoods North Street Norton Sub Hamdon

Proposal: Outline Application with some matters reserved except access for the construction of up to 5 dwellings, parking, landscaping, ecology areas and associated works utilising a modified existing highways access

The Parish Council discussed this in detail. They agreed to support this application but only if the following conditions were met:

Condition - A maximum of 5 dwellings – 2 bungalows and 3 houses. In the last census the population in Norton was 727. With Norton having an older age demographic (Over 34% are aged over 65), there is a shortage of bungalows. Approx. number of properties in Norton 325 of which approx. 31 are single storey dwellings (= 9.5% are single storey dwellings)

Condition - Plot 5 needs to be a bungalow to avoid any loss of privacy to residents in Highwoods Close PLUS 1 other – suggest plot 1 as this would help with visibility at the entrance to the site.

Condition - To install a pavement giving access to village amenities. This road is dangerous to walk on. The lack of a pedestrian footpath between the proposed development and the village amenities creates an unacceptable level of risk to pedestrian users along North Street where the national speed limit applies (60mph) and a blind bend in the road which is less than 100ft from the proposed entrance.

Condition - An agreement must be in place regarding the continued maintenance of the proposed ecology site after the development has been built.

24/2108 FINANCE:

24/2108/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

24/2108/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

24/2108/c **Invoices Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank**

AUGUST PAYMENTS – PAID ON 8TH AUGUST

Louise Brooks	Democratic services – July 2024	£ 963.48
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – July 24	£ 261.30
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – July 2024 Government set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	Parish Council Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 44.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External auditors charge 23-24 accounts	£ 252.00
Peter Callaghan & Steve Collier	2 x fingerpost refurbishments	£ 845.00
The Somerset Association of Local Councils Ltd	Affiliation Fees For April 2024 – March 2025 SALC - £184.45 NALC £50.66	£ 235.11

SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS

Louise Brooks	Democratic services – August 2024	£ 963.48
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – August 24	£ 261.30
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – August 2024 – Government set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	Parish Council Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 44.00

Proposed: Cllr. Matraves

Seconded: Cllr. Reid

Agreed unanimously

24/2109 **VILLAGE HALL:**

Cllr Cole gave an update to the PC.

24/2110 **RECREATION GROUND:**

Nothing to report

24/2111 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

All correspondence received had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

24/2112 **FOOTPATHS:**

Nothing to report

24/2113 **MEMBERS' REPORTS.**

Cllr Cole reported that the main gate had been closed at The Glebe for safety reasons due to the sheep in the field next to it that kept escaping.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.