

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

25/2177 PRESENT:

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. B. Matraves (Vice-Chair), Cllr. J Cole, Cllr. C Riley, Cllr. J Harris, Cllr. P Gartrell, Cllr R Reid, Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Somerset Councillor) and Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were 2 members of the public present.

25/2178 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Somerset Councillor) – ongoing apologies

25/2179 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

25/2180 PUBLIC TIME

25/2180/a Public Time

Nothing to report

25/2180/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

25/2180/c Somerset Councillor report:

Cllr. Mike Hewitson was present. He updated the parish council on the financial situation at SC and informed us that a balanced budget had now been agreed for 2025-26. He asked Cllr Riley if Minchington wall had been repaired to an acceptable standard. The Chair and clerk discussed the many issues they are having with the lack of communication with SC and the lack of workmanship to any of the jobs that are being carried out including potholes and drain clearance. He asked us to report any issues we were having. The clerk reiterated that we wanted to move forward with the devolution of the asset Minchington Rec to the parish council and the main concern being if a S114 was issued and where the parish council would stand. He said he would try to push our application forward.

25/2180/d CLT Update:

Cllr Harris gave an update regarding the shop. She informed the parish council of the new till system now in place. She thanked the parish council for their recent generous grant funding (£137) and informed the parish council that this grant would go towards a new counter. She also reported that the house sale at Minchington was going through.

25/2180/e HYG Report

Cllr Riley gave a thorough update to the PC following the recent AGM. New committee members were welcomed, and the meeting was well attended. 3 committee members attended the February Stoke PC meeting regarding grant funding for 2025-26 which had still not been secured. Stoke want to split their grant over three stage payments with conditions set over numbers attending, with a reduction in grant money implied for 26/27. Cllr Riley reported that the committee felt this was unacceptable and had written to Stoke PC informing them of this. Cllr Riley informed the PC that attendance at the youth group meetings had increased to over 30 young people, enjoying a variety of activities, arts and crafts and cookery. She also reported that it would be necessary to recruit more adult volunteers to provide adequate supervision.

25/2180/f Allotments Report

Cllr Matraves updated the PC on the allotments. Cllr Cole agreed to become a Trustee for banking purposes. He informed the PC that a recent quiz at the pub had raised £350.00, to be used for the running of the allotments. He thanked Cllr Riley for the generous donation from The Flower Show. All the plots had now been allocated.

25/2180/g Bus Service Report

Cllr Harris updated the parish council on the bus services.

25/2181 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Reid

Agreed unanimously.

25/2182 MATTERS ARISING

25/2182/a Minchington rec – grass maintenance for 2025

The clerk updated the PC after receiving confirmation from SC on the grass cutting schedule for 2025-26. SC have confirmed that they will only be cutting the grass at Minchington rec once a month. Norton PC agreed that this was not enough and would have to step in and fund a second cut per month. The clerk informed the PC that she had asked SC for a quote per cut to do the extra cut per month. She

would also speak to Somerset Landscapes and get a quote per cut from them. She had also asked SC for their cutting schedule and when they planned to start so that the grass was cut regularly at 2 weekly intervals and a pattern could be achieved. A boules committee member had approached the clerk as they would like to mow the area surrounding the boundary of the boules court. The clerk would arrange a site meeting with the SC manager and try and get the boules court committee member there as well.

Action: Clerk

25/2182/b Allotment footpath landslide – new RoW Officer

The clerk informed the PC of the new RoW Officer for Norton – Eve Wynn. The clerk explained how she had now had confirmation back from the RoW senior manager of the strimming schedule for 25-26. The clerk had previously suggested to him that with SCs reduced budget for strimming, they carry out the first cut and the PC is responsible for funding the second cut. However, Rob Coate (senior RoW manager) informed the clerk that their preference would be to agree certain paths that can be removed entirely from their scheduled works that the PC would be responsible, rather than splitting the early & late cuts between two parties. The clerk had responded that she felt this was completely unworkable as no one would know who was cutting what as well as being an expensive way of doing it as contractors would already be onsite cutting certain footpaths anyway, so may as well cut them all. She felt that this plan would not work and asked them to reconsider. The clerk reported that the signage and blockade have been torn down again on the closed footpath. The clerk will have a site meeting with Eve Wynn.

Action: Clerk

25/2183 PLANNING:

25/2183/a Matters For Report

Nothing to report

25/2183/b Decisions Notified:

Application Number: 25/00197/HOU - 12 Barn Orchard New Road Norton Sub Hamdon

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. Proposed loft conversion - APPROVED

25/2183/c Applications for consideration

Listed Building Consent Application Number: 24/03004/LBC - Location: Thatchings, Great Street, Norton Sub Hamdon.

Proposal: Replace rotten timbers & provide additional support where required, repairs to thatch, repoint existing stonework, install a shower to existing ground floor WC (includes moving a doorway), form a serving hatch between dining room & kitchen, form an en-suite to bedroom 1, reinstate the bricked-up window, install heritage roof light to rear kitchen.

Although the Parish Council supported this application, they wished to highlight one concern - impact on neighbouring property- overlooking or Loss of privacy.

With regards to the reinstatement of the bricked-up window, the Parish Council felt this would overlook the neighbouring property, creating loss of privacy for Tudor Cottage (next door).

25/2184 FINANCE:

25/2184/a Matters for report:

The clerk informed the Parish Council that the end of the current financial year was 31st March, and the audit would be starting on the 1st April.

25/2184/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report.

25/2184/c Invoices Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank

Louise Brooks	Democratic services – Feb 2025	£ 1,002.80
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – Feb 2025	£ 285.75
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – Feb 2025 – Government set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	February Parish Council Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 44.00

Proposed: Cllr. Reid

Seconded: Cllr. Gartrell

Agreed unanimously

25/2185 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Cole and Cllr Harris reported that the AGM had recently taken place and the committee would stay the same.

25/2186 RECREATION GROUND:

Nothing to report.

25/2187 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received has been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

25/2188 FOOTPATHS:

See Matters arising

25/2189 MEMBERS' REPORTS.

Cllr Matraves reported the gate not working correctly at the entrance to the play area at the main rec.

Clerk to ask Mr Collier to have a look.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Matraves reported that no progress had been made at Sandy Lane with regards to the tree that had come down in the storm in January and also the 30mph sign which had been knocked down by a separate tree coming down. The clerk had reported this, first to Rachel Whaites, manager at Ham Hill and also to SC Highways who had apparently initially removed the tree from the road. Clerk will report again.

Action: Clerk

The Chair, Cllr More updated the PC on the recent AGM for The Reading Room.

Cllr Harris reported that a large branch had fallen in the carpark and needed attention: Cllr Cole said he would remove it.

Action: Cllr Cole

The clerk reported that there were some potholes forming in the car park. The clerk was asked to speak to Matt Orchard and get them marked. Cllr Cole and Mr. Orchard would then fill the holes with tarmac.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Cole

There being no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 14th APRIL 2025 at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.