

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2026
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

26/2319 PRESENT:

Cllr. B. Matraives ((Vice-Chair and Acting Chair for this meeting), Cllr. J Cole, Cllr. J Harris, Cllr. P Gartrell, Cllr. C Riley, Cllr R Reid, and Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were two members of the public present.

26/2320 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. S More (Chairman)

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Somerset Councillor) – ongoing apologies

Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Somerset Councillor) – no apologies received

26/2321 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

26/2322 PUBLIC TIME

26/2322/a Public Time

A MOP reported the handrail was loose at the footpath coming down the steps. Clerk to report to landowner. **Action: Clerk**

26/2322/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The Clerk reported that she has received an update regarding the dog attack that occurred on 9th February, which has been under police investigation. She also informed the meeting of a further incident on 28th February, witnessed by another resident of Norton. This incident was reported to the police by both the couple involved and the witness. The police are currently following up on the matter. Clerk to follow this up. **Action: Clerk**

26/2322/c Somerset Councillor report:

A report had been received prior to the meeting. No Somerset Councillor was present at the meeting.

26/2322/d CLT Update:

There was nothing to report. The Parish Council discussed the possibility of appointing a future representative to the CLT. As none of the Parish Councillors currently sit on the CLT committee, it was suggested that the committee could provide periodic reports to the Council following their meetings to keep members informed of ongoing projects and issues. Cllr Harris agreed to speak with the CLT chairman to explore if this could be arranged. **Action: Cllr Harris**

26/2322/e HYG Report

Cllr Riley provided a report commending the excellent work of the new youth worker. Cllr Harris also congratulated the youth worker, noting both her achievements with the group and the proactive communication she has established with the village, keeping everyone informed of the group's progress and successes.

26/2322/f Allotment Report:

Cllr Matraives reported that there appeared to be some tenants who had still not paid for this year. He informed the Parish Council he was meeting with the retired manager of the allotments to go through his contact list. **Action: Clerk**

26/2322/g Bus Service Report

Nothing to report

26/2323 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Harris

Agreed unanimously.

26/2324 MATTERS ARISING

26/2324/a Minchington Rec & Barn Orchard Green

The Clerk reported that, after nearly two years of work, the transfer of Minchington Rec and Barn Orchard Green was successfully completed on 25 February 2026, and the sites are now under the ownership of the Parish Council.

The Clerk noted that the verge at Minchington, which the Parish Council is also responsible for, had not been cut. This is likely due to it being a late addition to the Heads of Terms, after Somerset Landscapes Ltd had already submitted their quotation. The Clerk advised that she would contact Somerset Landscapes Ltd to request that this area be included in the fortnightly cutting schedule, which may well incur an increase in their original quote. This may result in an additional cost. Down2Earth has supplied and planted nine new cherry trees at the site. In addition, Ham stone boulders are expected to be delivered within the next week to improve security along the open side of the recreation ground.

Down2Earth has also cut back the rose bed and will apply mulch to suppress weed growth, as part of their 2025–2026 contract. The Clerk further reported that one of the original cherry trees has died, and Down2Earth will remove it immediately.

Down2Earth has been awarded the rose and tree maintenance contract for 2026–2027.

26/2324/b Tree survey results for both recs – (carried out on 19th February)

The Clerk reported on the recent tree survey conducted by Howe Tree Consultants, which identified several issues at both recreation fields.

At Minchington Recreation Field, one tree was found to be diseased and rotten, with a large cavity extending through the trunk and main union. The tree has been classified as high priority for removal.

At New Road Recreation Field, two horse chestnut trees were identified with similar concerns. These included flaking bark, bark necrosis, a major hanging primary branch on the west side, and fungal fruiting bodies throughout the crown. The fungus was identified as *Pleurotus ostreatus* (oyster mushroom). Both trees have been classified as high priority for removal.

The survey also recommended that several other trees undergo height reduction.

The Clerk will obtain quotations for the necessary works.

Action: Clerk

26/2324/c Minchington Rec – footbridge

The Clerk reported that signs of rotting have been identified in one of the boards on the footbridge leading from Minchington Recreation Field into the adjacent field. The matter has been reported to the Rights of Way (RoW) team, and the issue has been formally raised. The Clerk is currently awaiting a response.

Action: Clerk

26/2324/d Barrier for main rec

The Clerk has emailed two companies. One company has not yet responded despite two emails being sent. The other company requested further details, which have now been provided. The Clerk is awaiting responses and will follow this up.

Action: Clerk

26/2324/e Future food van visits to school carpark – responses from public

The clerk reported on the results following an article that she had included in the newsletter and a poll on the Norton WhatsApp community group. The response from both has been Norton had been overwhelmingly positive, with a huge majority saying they would support the idea of having food vans visiting on a Monday. The clerk will approach some different food vans to see if they would be interested.

Action: Clerk

26/2325 **PLANNING:**

26/2325/a Matters For Report

Nothing to report

26/2325/b Decisions Notified:

20/01915/FUL Erection of two dwellinghouses.

Land To The West Of Barn Orchard New Road Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon Somerset Somerset Council planning officers have approved this application, despite the Parish Council raising multiple objections on several occasions.

26/2325/c Applications for consideration

Application Number: 26/00317/HOU Location: 19 New Road Norton Sub Hamdon, TA14 6SB
Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension and existing single storey side structure extended to form two storey side extension.

The Parish Council supported this application.

26/2326 **FINANCE:**

26/2326/a Matters for report:

The clerk reported that we were now approaching the end of the year and accounts would now be prepared for our internal auditor to check and verify.

26/2326/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

26/2326/c Invoices Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank

Wellers Law	Inv no 839434 solicitor's fees for transfer of assets Minchington Rec and Barn Orchard Green	£ 1,800.00
Wellers Law	Indemnity insurance policy for Barn Orchard Green ref 59171.001	£ 120.00
Wellers Law	Indemnity insurance policy for Minchington Recreation ground ref 59171.001	£ 125.00
Geroge Montague Countryside services	Post and rail fencing and new gates at the main rec inv no 469	£ 2,040.00
Howe Tree Consultants	Tree condition survey Both recreation fields (£250 per rec plus VAT) inv 0748	£ 600.00
Louise Brooks	Democratic services – February 2026	£ 1,198.30
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay Feb	£ 216.03
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – FEB 2026 – Government set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	February Parish Council Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 44.00
Down2Earth SW Ltd	MINCHINGTON REC - To supply, collect and plant 9 cherry trees inc. stakes and supports – Minchington Rec	£ 1,500.00
Down2Earth SW Ltd	MINCHINGTON REC – annual maintenance payment for trees & roses (hard prune, remove all dead woods and mulch), cut back brambles from footpath gate	£ 150.00
Harvey Ham Hill Masonry Works	5 large boulders of ham stone plus delivery and installation – Minchington Rec	£ 1221.36

Proposed: Cllr.Matraves

Seconded: Cllr.Reid

Agreed unanimously

26/2327 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Cole reported that the CCTV service was due and had been booked in for the coming week. The invoice had been paid by the Parish Council. The hall very kindly would be making a donation.

26/2328 RECREATION GROUND:

Cllr Cole raised concerns regarding the recently installed post-and-rail fencing at the recreation field entrance, expressing dissatisfaction with its height and workmanship. The Clerk noted that the installation had been completed two weeks earlier and that any concerns should have been raised sooner. Cllr Cole requested that the section near the hall be lowered so that it aligns with the veranda fencing, noting that the hall is contributing towards the cost of this section. The Clerk explained that the veranda fencing height would be too low for the main boundary fencing and that the current height was specified for security purposes. However, the Clerk agreed to contact the contractor to enquire whether the bottom rail could be adjusted or removed altogether.

It was also confirmed that the fencing had been installed with a gravel board, in accordance with the original specifications that were issued to all contractors who submitted quotations. **Action: Clerk**

26/2329 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received has been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

26/23230 FOOTPATHS:

Cllr Matraves reported damage to a footpath sign on New Road.

Cllr Reid reported damage to the footpath sign at the end of Higher Street.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Reid reported that there was an increase in dog mess on many paths, even near dog bins.

26/2330 MEMBERS' REPORTS.

Nothing to report

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.