

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M.

19/1437 PRESENT:

Mrs S. More (Chair), Mr S. Maunder (Vice Chair), Mrs P. Biddle, Mr B. Matraves, Mr C. Campbell, Mr J Cole, Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk), Mark Keating (County Councillor), Mrs E Maunder (CLT & HYG) and 2 members of the public.

19/1438 APOLOGIES:

Mr R. Middleton (Family commitments)

Mike Hewitson (District Councillor) (In London)

19/1439 PUBLIC TIME

19/1439/a Public Time

Nothing to report

19/1439/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The PCSO was not present and no report had been received. However, the Clerk reported that she had had contact with the PCSO over the summer regarding an issue with drugs being used at the recreation field and play area. The PCSO informed the Clerk that they are aware of the situation and have included it on their patrol when on night duty.

19/1439/c District Councillor:

District Councillor Mike Hewitson was not present at the meeting. No monthly report had been received.

19/1439/d County Councillor:

County Councillor Mark Keating was present at the meeting. He had emailed a monthly report before to the meeting to the Clerk, who had forwarded it to all the Parish Councillors'.

19/1439/e CLT Update:

Mrs Maunder reported that the footfall number into the shop was very good. The shop would be in a position to continue to support the Post Office. The AGM will be on 18th September, for members only.

19/1439/g Hamdon Youth Group:

The AGM will be on September 19th.

19/1440 MINUTES:

The Minutes from the July meeting have been circulated. They were agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Campbell

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves Agreed unanimously.

19/1441 MATTERS ARISING:

1. Requirement for 2 more dog bins: Due to an increase over the summer with reports of dog mess being left on footpaths, pavements and on the recreation field, the Clerk has been in talks with SSDC. SSDC have been very helpful and after visiting the area and seeing how bad the situation had become, they then leaflet dropped to every house in Rectory Lane and Broadmead Lane, with New Road next on their list of places to do next. The Clerk has had meetings with Chris Cooper over this and they have agreed we need to add a further 2 bins – both larger. He has also agreed that SSDC will add them to their list for emptying every week with no charge to the Parish Council. The plan will be to replace the bin at the bottom of the recreation field with a new - larger bin (it is always overflowing). The small bin we remove will go to Gross' Wood in Broadmead Lane. A further large bin will go on the entrance to the footpath on New Road that takes you down to the church – another area that has become bad. Matt Orchard to be asked to install all the bins and move the existing one to the new place on Broadmead Lane. The Clerk wished to point out that SSDC have given fantastic support over this growing problem. The Parish Council made a resolution to purchase two large dog bins to the maximum value of £300 each. Down 2 Earth to install at extra cost.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

2. Attenuation pond – fencing: There was never any condition added to this planning application when they were granted permission for this development, even after the Parish Council had requested this to be added to the conditions. Mike Hewitson has challenged this with Simon Fox, head of Planning, as has the Clerk. The reply from Planning was extremely unhelpful and very curt. The Clerk was asked to email Simon Fox to inform him how disappointed the Parish Council are and to raise the concern they have with regards to the proximity of the primary school and the fact that the new development is being aimed at families. **Action: Clerk**
3. Play Area annual inspection and repairs quote: The Clerk is still waiting for a quote for the repairs that are required due to some other repairs that have been highlighted following the annual inspection and risk assessment. **Action: Clerk**
4. The Old School House – the Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the owner regarding maintenance that is required to the garden. The weeds have now gone over the wall and are encroaching on the graveyard. Clerk also asked to see if SSDC will check ownership address is correct. This may not be possible due to GDPR **Action: Clerk**

19/1442 PLANNING:

19/1442/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report.

19/1442/b Decisions Notified:

19/00994/COL – Netherhayes House, Higher St. Certificate of lawfulness for the existing residential dwelling. Approved

19/1442/c Applications for consideration.

Ref. No: 19/02111/HOU & 19/02112/LBC - The Orangery, Great Street - Demolition of existing garage block. New garage block adjacent with auxiliary accommodation above, associated landscaping works and alterations to existing vehicular access.

The Parish Council of Norton sub Hamdon noted the following on this application:

1. The Parish Council would not support a two storey building here and do not support this application like it is. They feel there is no need for a two storey garage and it does not fit in with the village at all. They would only support a one storey garage built in hamstone – like for like.
2. They are concerned that with the plan to have a small studio room providing auxiliary accommodation to the proposed new garage, this will either be used for paying guests, or this whole building will eventually be converted into accommodation, of which they will not support. They would like to see a condition added to make sure this can never be applied for.
3. Another concern is the materials planned to be used. Norton sub Hamdon is primarily a beautiful hamstone village. Ham stone is obviously the local stone and a big part of this village’s heritage. The existing garage is made of ham stone and they would like to see the new garage built of the same material rather than of timber. There are only hamstone buildings in this area. A wooden building does not fit in at all to the area.

THE MAJORITY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NORTON SUB HAMDON HAVE OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION – 4/3

19/1443 FINANCE:

19/1443/a Matters for report:

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been signed off

19/1443/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

19/1443/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks	Salary & Allowances – July & Aug 2019	£	704.24 chq no: 1423
Louise Brooks	McAfee virus protection for Parish Council Laptop	£	59.99 chq no: 1424
PFK Littlejohn LLP	External Audit 2018/19	£	240.00 chq no: 1425
The Play Inspection Co.	Outdoor annual inspection	£	102.00 chq no: 1426

Proposed: Cllr. Matraves

Seconded: Cllr. Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

19/1444 VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Cole reported that a dishwasher was being installed very soon.

19/1445 RECREATION GROUND:

Email request for ticketed public event: The Parish Council had received an email requesting whether the Parish Council would allow the recreation field be used for a ticketed event along with the village hall.

However, The Parish Council had many concerns.

1. The recreation ground is a public space and cannot be fenced off in any way to stop people entering. Therefore, a ticketed event would not be possible on the recreation field.
2. The policing of an event like this would be completely mandatory but also very hard to control. The Parish Council would not allow the access gate and barrier left open at any time, due to having many travellers in the summer months always looking to gain access to recreation fields and other public spaces. They are very difficult to evict. They leave thousands of pounds worth of damage as well, that the Parish Council would be responsible for clearing and sanitising afterwards.
3. Another concern would be the impact an event like this would have on the local residents. Throughout the summer, nearly every weekend the village hall is booked out for weddings or parties. This causes a lot of disturbances for local residents with music and noise of people socialising and leaving late at night. Finally,
4. Parking: parking is very limited here. This would need to be marshalled throughout the night. In the last 18 months a new housing development is in the process of being constructed which has added to the parking issues in this area.

The Clerk was asked to email back raising these concerns.

Action: Clerk

19/1446 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk reported that all correspondence received had been circulated

1. Thank you letter from The Reading Room; A thank you letter had been received from the Reading Room Committee, thanking the Parish Council for the kind grant. Councillor Maunder raised concern about the finances of the Reading Room following their AGM which he attended.
2. Planning meeting: The Clerk reported that she would be attending a training session on how to use the new SSDC website – especially the planning page.

19/1447 FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk reported that a lot of footpath gates are being left open. Clerk to include this in the newsletter, reminding people to shut gates behind them.

Action: Clerk

19/1448 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Councillor Biddle asked what everyone thought to wildflower areas in the village. Councillor Campbell explained that although it was a nice idea, they do take some maintaining and need replanting every year. The Clerk was asked to include a piece in the newsletter to see if there was any interest.

Councillor Maunder reported that the old bus shelter at Minchington had a lot of ivy growing over it. The Clerk was requested to ask Matt Orchard to clear it of the ivy.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th October 2019 at 7.30pm in the COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL