

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M.

19/1482 PRESENT:

Mrs S. More (Chair), Mr S. Maunder (Vice Chair), Mr C. Campbell, Mr B. Matraves, Mr J Cole, Mr R.Middleton, Mrs L.Brooks (Clerk), Mike Hewitson (District Councillor), Mark Keating (County Councillor), Mrs E Maunder (CLT & HYG) and 9 members of the public.

19/1483 APOLOGIES:

Mrs P. Biddle (holiday)

19/1484 PUBLIC TIME

19/1484/a Public Time

A resident asked for an update to the recent flooding at Turnpike. He was informed that SCC and a member of the Local Flood Authority Team have been out on numerous occasions to assess the situation. The Clerk responded the same evening the flooding occurred by informing the authorities at Highways to erect signs to warn people of the flood. SCC closed the road with road closed signs. The main problem was reported as blocked drains from leaves, silt and other debris. Once the drains had been located and cleared the water did subside. A request has been sent to Highways for jetting of the drains in the village that are blocked. Pot holes were also reported at the same time- most have now been filled in.

ACTION: CLERK

The Chairman also asked the Clerk to include a piece in the newsletter regarding the responsibility of riparian owners. As a riparian owner, responsibilities include a duty to maintain the bank and bed of their section of the watercourse or culverted section, to avoid it becoming blocked or overgrown.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk was also asked to contact the agent for the church regarding the Glebe and trees blocking the river.

ACTION: CLERK

The Chairman reported that she had emailed Adrian Moore at SSDC regarding the boules court proposal but had still not received a response. Mike Hewitson reported that he would chase this up.

19/1484/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

19/1484/c District Councillor:

District Councillor Mike Hewitson was present at the meeting. He had no monthly report due to Christmas and New Year. He reported about the Unitary Authority and the future of the Local Government in Somerset.

19/1484/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. He reported about the future of the Local Government in Somerset and their ideas for a unitary Authority. Councillor Middleton discussed how he had witnessed something similar with the fire service a few years ago and was not in favour. Councillor Biddle (who was not present at the meeting) had written to the Clerk, informing the Parish Council that she opposed a unitary authority. A public consultation would follow at a later date.

The Clerk also reported that she had received many reports now of parking issues opposite the school on New Road, where people have moved into the new development. The Clerk was asked to contact Gary Warren at Highways and request a site meeting. There were also reports from residents at Hamdon View that they are now struggling to exit from their entrance to their close due to parked cars. Clerk to report to Gary Warren and copy Mark Keating in who will also follow this up.

ACTION: CLERK

19/1484/e CLT Update:

Nothing to report

19/1484/g Hamdon Youth Group:

Nothing to report

19/1485 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Matraves

Seconded: Cllr. Middleton

Agreed unanimously.

19/1486 MATTERS ARISING:

1. Trees for Norton: SSDC are running a scheme offering free trees for planting in February. The Clerk has been in touch with the SSDC Environment Team and expressed our interest as a Parish Council. They

have confirmed our interest and asked us to come up with a planned planting area. A date will be set in February/March for planting.

ACTION: CLERK

2. Drain jetting request: The Clerk reported that she has requested the drains to be jetted in New Road and Great Street – the road to the Turnpike junction - A356.

3. CCTV at village hall update: The Clerk and two members of the village hall committee had a further meeting with SES on the 18th December regarding CCTV being installed at the village hall. The Clerk has also been in touch with Mike Hewitson regarding the possibility of a grant from SSDC towards this.

ACTION: CLERK

4. Play Area repairs update: The Clerk reported that she is now in touch with a local company she has found to quote for the repairs. She is currently arranging a site meeting with the company.

ACTION: CLERK

5. FONS – request for jobs suitable for the children – The Chairman reported that she had a request from FONS regarding getting the primary school children involved with any village activities (e.g. Litter pick). The Clerk pointed out that the litter pick might not be suitable due to a parent having to accompany each child and following the drug related items found in the village recreation ground in December. It was suggested that they could play apart in the tree planting scheme for the recreation field.

19/1487 PLANNING:

19/1487/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

19/1487/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

19/1487/c Applications for consideration.

19/03251/LBC Number 1, Rectory Lane. The conversion and extension of a stone barn for a one bed annexe. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

19/03241/OUT Land East of Keepers Lodge, Little Norton. Outline application for the erection of no.1 dwelling with all matters reserved except access.

Firstly, many complaints were received regarding the fact that there was no public notice on display for this planning application. Another complaint received was that only 6 residents in Little Norton actually been included on the neighbours list with many being left off who would be affected by the application – including next door neighbours and other properties in this narrow lane.

The Parish Council discussed this at the January 2020 Parish Council meeting.

THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS PLANNING APPLICATION

The reasons are as follows:

1. The lane is not suitable for more development. It is very narrow and is totally unsuitable for future development of any kind.
2. The lane is more of a farm track – it is used predominantly for farm machinery, walkers and horse riders and is not suitable for any more traffic. It is not well maintained.
3. It is a very wet area – surrounded by natural springs. There is a very large flow of water continually flowing from the valleys. Anymore development will effect flooding.
4. The drainage system at Little Norton is already at its limit and can take no further building.
5. This is a historic village in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Ham Hill sits above this site and further development would have a huge negative impact on this beautiful rural area. The proposal would seriously harm the character of the area and any building would fail to enhance or preserve the character or appearance. Any building here would be visible from Ham Hill.
6. Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council do not like outline planning applications and in the past have not accepted them. Again, this is due to the history of this ham stone village.
7. The roots of the ash tree near the entrance would be destroyed. The Parish Council would like to see a TPO placed on this tree.
8. Allowing this application would open up further planning opportunities in this area which the Parish Council would also not support. It is very important that this does not set a precedent for any other planning proposals in Little Norton.
9. There is no further requirement for more properties in Little Norton. It is a small hamlet and should be protected and remain as this – part of the local history. There is already a bed and breakfast in Little Norton plus self catering at Little Norton Mill.

10. The Parish Council would not support a planning application on this site.
11. This is greenbelt land. This land should remain agricultural land.
12. Very concerned about wildlife in this area. This is a well known area for badgers, foxes, deer, slow worms and toads.

19/1488 FINANCE:

19/1488/a Matters for report:

1. Payment of loan for village hall has been paid £2,280.81 on 02/01/20.
2. End of third Quarter Balances.

Current account	£	100.00
Reserve Account		<u>£ 35,198.89</u>
Total		£ 35,298.89
There were 2 cheques outstanding:		£ 132.00
Total as cash book		£ 35,166.89

3. VAT Return - £849.20 (online 07.01.2020)
4. Precept – the precept was applied for on the 6th January 2020.
5. Wayleaves Payment – Western Power Distribution £45.67 received.

19/1488/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

19/1488/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks	Salary & Allowances – December 2019	£ 352.12	chq no:1438
Down2Earth	Grounds Maintenance Oct-Dec 2019	£ 256.00	chq no:1439
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Grounds Maintenance Oct-Dec 2019	£ 390.19	chq no:1440

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder Seconded: Cllr. Matraves Agreed unanimously.

19/1489 VILLAGE HALL:

See above ref CCTV

19/1490 RECREATION GROUND:

Nothing to report

19/1491 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk reported that all correspondence received had been circulated. The Chairman updated the Parish Council regarding the resident that is still complaining about the positioning of the dog bin on New Road. The Parish Council have received some fabulous feedback and thanks regarding the placement of the new bin and the Chairman explained how much it's helped with the issue of dog fouling in this area. Councillor Hewitson reported that the complainant had now been informed by himself, Chris Cooper - the SSDC Environment Services manager, The Clerk and the Chairman, that after much discussion and many site visits, the bin was in the correct position and would not be moved. He felt that enough time had been spent on this matter and it was now closed.

19/1492 FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk reported that head of Footpaths at SCC Les Braunton had informed John Forrest that he has now spoken to Mr Wood at Little Norton regarding the footpath behind the allotments, and the positioning of his boundary fence. They both held a site visit and have agreed where his new fence will go, which is slightly in from the last fence.

19/1493 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Nothing to report

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55.pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL