

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER 2020
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

20/1567 PRESENT:

Mrs S. More (Chairman), Mr S. Maunder (Vice Chair), Mrs P. Biddle, Mr B. Matraves, Mr J Cole
Ms R.Cumberbatch, Mike Hewitson (District Councillor), Mrs L.Brooks (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

20/1568 APOLOGIES:

Mr R.Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

Mark Keating (County Councillor) – Council redeployed commitments

20/1569 PUBLIC TIME

20/1569/a Public Time

A resident thanked the Parish Council for the amazing foot bridges that have been installed on the footpath across to Chiselborough.

20/1569/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

20/1569/c District Councillor: District Councillor Mike Hewitson was present at the meeting. He updated the Parish Council on the following:

Future of Local Government in Somerset:

- The letter of invitation was received by all of the Somerset Authorities on Friday 9th October.
- In addition to the 4 District Councils and County Council which have put forward proposals for Local Government Reform, the letter was also sent to BANES and North Somerset Councils.
- It is difficult to see how either of the North Somerset Authorities could be combined with either the County's proposal or the Stronger Somerset proposal.
- Government has frozen other Unitary bids elsewhere and is perceived to be softening on its push for abolition of District Councils. October 2020
- The outgoing Minister was very keen on this idea, but there are signs that the Secretary of State and the incoming Minister are less keen on this upheaval at this time.
- Somerset, North Yorkshire and Cumbria are seen as test cases which may potentially proceed.
- The timetable and likelihood of moving forward with either a single or two Unitary Authorities for Somerset is now more unclear than ever.

Planning

Councillor Hewitson reported that he had now submitted a motion to Full Council on 16th October to object to the Government Planning Consultation: Planning for the Future.

- These proposals are a major concern which have the potential to:
- Reduce democratic input in planning.
- Increase the density of existing settlements.
- Reduce the construction of Affordable Homes by up to 20%.
- Water down environmental impact assessments.
- Remove the power to raise local developer contributions e.g. CIL/s106, which has benefitted Stoke and Norton to the tune of £150k in the last 3 years. They propose replacing this with a nationally set levy.
- Taken together these proposals are the biggest centralisation of the Planning Process ever undertaken.

Ham Hill:

- The development stage of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project is continuing to progress. Traffic consultants have been on site to measure volumes and speeds of traffic, as this is something that the project will look to address. Ecological surveys have also been underway in areas that may be impacted by future works. Good numbers of slow worms have been found across the site and Dormouse surveys continue through the start of autumn. We hope to be able to carry out some more consultation activities next year, as government guidelines allow. All of our planned events for the rest of this calendar year
- The volunteers have made a welcome return to Ham Hill after an absence of nearly 5 months! They are currently working in groups of 5 over several days to help the rangers to catch up on works missed during their absence.

20/1569/d County Councillor:

A report from Councillor Keating was received. The Clerk forwarded it to all Parish Councillors.

20/1569/e CLT Update:

Nothing to report

20/1569/g Hamdon Youth Group:

Nothing to report

20/1570 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Matraves

Seconded: Cllr. Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

20/1571 MATTERS ARISING

1. The Retirement of Charles Campbell. The Chair visited Charles before the meeting to present him with a card and gift from the Parish Councillors. He joined the meeting in order for the Parish Council to formally thank him for all his work over the many years of service on the Parish Council.
2. Proposed Unitary – any updates from County Councillor and District Councillor? See above under report from our District Councillor, Mike Hewitson. County Councillor Mark Keating was not present.
3. Allotments - changes to the Trust Agreement – Due to a rise in costs to maintain the allotments, it was agreed at the September meeting to support a rise in rent charges. It was also felt that it was time to see if we could change the Trust Agreement regarding the dispersal of any profit. Councillor Matraves suggested we obviously cannot identify ‘poor widows’ these days and we may even be seen to be making unfounded judgements on residents and may even offend them if we did. But if we could seek a slight change to the charity so that any profits go to a local food bank (or banks) then this would be very much in line with the allotments use; in that it generates food, which after all allotments were always managed by the poorer members of the community in the past who did not have their own (or enough) land to grow food. Now of course most allotment owners are not on the poverty line and we could once again ensure food goes to the needy. This would set the Charity's purpose for the foreseeable future and it would be in the spirit of the original intent. The Parish Council were in total agreement with this idea. Both Councillors Maunder and Matraves will look into this further and update the Parish Council at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Cllrs. Maunder and Matraves

Footnote: The third Trustee for the allotments is normally the vicar. The Parish Council were informed that a new Vicar called Nick Clarke will be starting at Norton in November.

4. MUGA – relining of MUGA – The lines on the MUGA need to be relined. The Chairman asked the Clerk to produce a minimum of 2 quotes for the work. The quotes were discussed at the meeting.
: Cllr. Maunder Seconded: Cllr. More Agreed unanimously.
The MUGA needs a deep clean before the lines can be redone. The Chairman suggested getting quotes from Down2Earth, SSDC and Simon Harris. **Action: Clerk**
5. Friends of Norton Church – request for a page on the Parish Council website. The Clerk reported that she had been approached by Friends of Norton Church to ask if they could have a page on the Norton Parish Council website? The Parish Council agreed to this. The Clerk will create and design a page for them, as soon as she has finished the budget for the Council. **Action: Clerk**
6. Climate Emergency Community Fund – Village Hall interest? Councillor Cole reported that this had been discussed at the last village hall meeting. They were currently getting quotes for solar panels and car charging points outside the hall and will know more by the November meeting.

Action: Cllr. Cole

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE HALL:

1. Boules Court

20/1572 PLANNING:

20/1572/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

20/1572/b Decisions Notified:

20/01646/LBC Rose Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon TA14 6SN
Rose Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon TA14 6SN - The erection
of a single storey rear extension garden room to dwelling to replace existing lean to extension.
Waiting a decision.

20/01971/HOU 1, Barn Orchard, New Road. Conversion of Integral garage into home office.
The Parish Council had no Objection to this application. APPROVED

20/01915/FUL - Erection of two dwellings/houses. Land To The West Of Barn Orchard New Road Norton Sub
Hamdon – waiting a decision

20/1572/c Applications for consideration.

APPEAL REFERENCE: APP/R3325/W/20/3258176 Location: Land east of keepers cottage, Little Norton,
Somerset. Proposal: outline application for the erection of 1 no. Dwelling with all matters reserved except
access. The Clerk has emailed the Appeals Board to reiterate that the Parish Council DO NOT support this
application, for the reasons already given.

20/02549/LBC Nundle, Higher Street. Alterations and repairs to a rear lean-to, removal of a first floor
partition. The Parish Council had no objection to this.

20/1573 FINANCE:

20/1573/a Matters for report:

1. End of 2nd quarter accounts

Current account £ 100.00

Reserve account £ 36,740.31

£ 36,840.31

There were 0 chqs

outstanding £ 00,000.00

Total as cash book **£ 36,840.31**

The accounts will now be going to our internal auditor Mike Orchard for approval.

2. Budget 21-22. The Clerk reported that she would now be working on the budget for 2021/22

20/1573/b Matters for resolution

Zoom Account – The Parish Council agreed that due to having to carry on with virtual meetings, they would
need to sign up for a Zoom Account. The cost would be £11.99 a month. The Clerk would have to set the
account up in her name due to Zoom only taking payments via credit card. The Clerk would then invoice the
Parish Council on a monthly basis and add it to her expenses.

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder

Seconded: Cllr. More

Agreed unanimously.

20/1573/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks Salary – September 2020 £ 480.18 chq no: 1480

Louise Brooks Expenses & home office Allowance – Sept '20 £ 70.00 chq no: 1481

DOWN2EARTH SW LTD Grounds Maintenance July-Sept 2020 £ 256.00 chq no: 1482

Cox and Co Ltd Payroll services Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 £ 90.00 chq no: 1483

Somerset Landscapes Ltd Grounds Maintenance July-Sept 2020 £ 589.68 chq no: 1484

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

20/1574 VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Cole reported that the regular hirers are back but with restrictions in place in line with Government regulations. They are not taking any new business or hiring for the time being. They will be getting their own NHS QR code that will be displayed. They will also have a visitor's book to sign and leave contact details. He also reported that there still has not been any training for the CCTV as yet due to Covid-19 restrictions. As soon as this is possible it will be arranged.

20/1575 RECREATION GROUND:

See Matter Arising above - MUGA

20/1576 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence that the Clerk has received had been emailed to all Parish Councillors.

20/1577 FOOTPATHS:

The Chair reported that Austin Harding had offered to be the tree Officer and Footpaths Liaison Officer for the next 6 months, whilst Councillor Middleton is off. Clerk to email Austin a footpaths map and contact details of new Sarah Cresswell, Area Warden - Rights of Way who is replacing Les Braunton. **Action: Clerk**

20/1578 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Councillor Cole reported a fatal accident regarding a deer on some barbed wire on the fencing to the footpath leading up to Sandy Lane. Councillor More said she would speak to the landowner and ask for the barbed wire to be taken down. **Action: Cllr. More**

Councillor Matraves informed the Parish Council that he virtually attended the Gigaclear Meeting and was quite impressed with their proposal

Councillor Cumberbatch reported concern regarding a car in the centre of the village, and asked if it could be reported to the Police for the area to be included on their patrol. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor More reported that the new footpath gates installed around Whitcombe valley have a large gap underneath, allowing dogs to get underneath. District Councillor Hewitson said he would report it to The Head Ranger.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.30pm