

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2020
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

20/1579 PRESENT:

Mrs S. More (Chairman), Mrs P. Biddle, Mr B. Matraves, Mr J Cole, Mike Hewitson (District Councillor), Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk), and 1 member of the public.

20/1580 APOLOGIES:

Mr R. Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

Mr S. Maunder (Vice Chair) (technical issue with joining Zoom)

Ms R. Cumberbatch (Family/personal reasons)

Mark Keating (County Councillor) – Council redeployed commitments

20/1581 PUBLIC TIME

20/1581/a Public Time

Nothing to report

20/1581/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The Clerk reported that Minchington Close had now been added to the nightly patrol as well as the recreation ground.

20/1581/c District Councillor: District Councillor Mike Hewitson was present at the meeting. He updated the Parish Council on the following:

SSDC can now demonstrate a 6 year Housing Land Supply which means that the presumption in favour of sustainable development is no longer in force.

You can see the full report and schedule at <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-policy/local-plan-review-2016-2036/>

please scroll down the page and click on the tab which states: Housing (including Five-Year Housing Land Supply).

This is fantastic news for the Council and means that the tilted balance towards the presumption in favour of sustainable development will no longer apply in respect of the lack of a five year land supply. However, going forward the Council must continue to try and maintain this positive position. Over the coming year officers involved in the Accelerating Housing Delivery Programme will be working with developers and agents operating locally to help facilitate the delivery of new homes in Yeovil and our Market Towns, this will be a positive step towards helping to ensure that we continue to meet the government's Housing Delivery Test going forward.

Unitary Authority progress

SSDC's submission, with the three other Somerset district councils, will go to the Secretary of State by 9th November; he is expected to decide early in 2021 whether to create one or two unitary authorities.

It is unclear whether B&NES and North Somerset (already unitary authorities since 1995) will be included. It is also uncertain whether the County Council elections due in May 2021 will go ahead.

20/1581/d County Councillor:

A report from Councillor Keating was received. The Clerk forwarded it to all Parish Councillors. Councillor Keating was not present at the meeting.

20/1581/e CLT Update:

Nothing to report

20/1581/g Hamdon Youth Group:

Councillor Biddle reported that the Youth Worker had been furloughed again due to the second lockdown.

20/1582 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Biddle

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves

Agreed unanimously.

20/1579 MATTERS ARISING

1. Presentation by Hamdon Youth Group – Mrs E Maunder: The Parish Council had received the presentation prior to the meeting. They were pleased to see that they had had another successful year in 2019-2020. Financially it has been one of their more stable years, with success in attracting additional

fundings to help replace the lost County funding, allied with cost savings. Their new home in Stoke (the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre), is still awaiting refurbishment.

There have also been increased attendance numbers with a thriving group of young people, some of whom attend both at Norton and Stoke. They have been engaged with projects on graffiti, media and arts alongside the social aspects and work with their specific issues.

However, they continue to find it difficult to recruit new volunteers and have lost 2 highly valued volunteers. In order to stay open in Norton they have had to employ a Youth Support Worker (YSW) to support the Youth Worker.

With the effect of Covid-19, they had ceased indoor sessions on 18/3/20 but continued with detached work until the end of April when staff were furloughed. They were able to restart detached work on 20/7/20 with the introduction of partial furlough. As nights draw in, they are investigating ways of getting back indoors.

Councillor More reported they will have the agreed 10% increase in grant (agreed in 2017), which would bring the annual grant to £1996.50 for 2021/22. This would be paid in April 2021. Clerk to confirm this in writing. **Action: Clerk**

2. CIL payment (Community Infrastructure Payment) £567.60: The Parish Council had received a payment in relation to the planning application for the erection of 5 dwellings at Bramley Fields which was approved in 2019. The planning application was liable for a levy under the CIL regulations. The Parish Council discussed the CIL regulations and what the money can be spent on. They have a time limit of five years to spend the money and must publish on their website the amount of CIL received and explain how it was spent.

Money has to be spent on anything that deals with the demands that development places on the area, such as sporting and other recreational activities. It was agreed to use £367.60 towards the cost of relining the MUGA. This would leave £200.00 remaining, to be spent on another project in the future.

Proposed: Cllr. More Seconded: Cllr. Cole Agreed unanimously.

3. Allotments - changes to the Trust Agreement – update: The two trustees of the allotments, Councillor Maunder and Councillor Matraves reported that they have further looked into this. Councillor Maunder had drafted a letter to the Charities Commission to request an amendment to the Trust Deed. Councillor Maunder and Councillor Matraves to discuss the letter further before sending off.

Action: Cllr. Maunder & Cllr. Matraves

4. Fencing of farmland – barbed wire: There has been concern raised about the number of footpaths that have barbed wire fencing running alongside them in this area, plus barbed wire that has been left on the ground. This problem was highlighted recently when a deer was found caught up on a barbed wire fence that very sadly could not be saved. The Clerk was asked to include a piece in the newsletter asking landowners to consider using plain wire instead. The official guidance for landowners states:
Barbed wire can be a particular hazard to PROW users and is not acceptable on or near a public right of way if it is likely to be injurious to persons or animals using the highway. This is especially important on bridleways where horses need space to safely pass each other and to turn when going through gates. Barbed wire should not be fixed on the public right of way side of the fence. It should always be on the field side. In addition, barbed wire should never be wrapped around any post which forms part of a gate or stile. Barbed wire can also cause damage to clothing and other accessories if a public right of way is narrow and weather conditions are windy.

Action: Clerk

5. Under 14's Football Club at Norton – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the club had folded due to a lack of children wanting to play. The football posts will be removed as soon as they can and the ground will be left in the same state as to when they found it.

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

1. Boules Court

20/1580 PLANNING:

20/1580/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

20/1580/b Decisions Notified:

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. APPROVED

20/1580/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

20/1581 FINANCE:

20/1581/a Matters for report:

1. Budget 21-22. The Clerk reported that due to a rise in costs in admin, Clerk's hours increasing, website, plus expensive repairs that were required to the play area, and the relining and cleaning for the MUGA it would be required to raise the precept for 21/22. This is the first time the precept has been raised since 2013. The precept would need to be raised by £2,500.00

A resolution was made to raise the precept to £21,700.00. The budget for 21/22 was accepted.

Proposed: Cllr More Seconded: Cllr Biddle Agreed unanimously.

2. MUGA – Quotes for moss killing and intensive clean: The Parish Council discussed the quotes and decided to go with Down2Earth. **Action: Clerk**

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

20/1581/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

20/1581/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks Salary – October 2020 £ 431.53 chq no: 1485

Louise Brooks Expenses & home office Allowance – Oct '20 £ 70.00 chq no: 1486

Louise Brooks Zoom Account for Parish Council Meetings £ 14.39 chq no: 1487

Proposed: Cllr. More Seconded: Cllr. Biddle Agreed unanimously.

20/1582 VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Cole reported that following the 2nd lockdown the village hall was now completely shut again.

20/1583 RECREATION GROUND:

MUGA: The Clerk reported that she has informed Yeomarks Lining Ltd that they had been successful with their quote for the job of relining the MUGA. Before it can be re-lined it requires de-mossing and intensive cleaning. See quotes above under Finance.

Play Area: It has been announced that the play area and MUGA can remain open during the second lockdown.

20/1584 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. Drones at Little Norton: A report of a drone that has been flying over private property on many occasions was received. Clerk to once again write a piece in the newsletter. **Action: Clerk**

2. Christmas Tree Recycling: Unfortunately SSDC will be unable to offer this service this year as their workload won't allow for the loss of the staff or wood chippers following the loss of production during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

20/1585 FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report

20/1586 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Nothing to report

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Monday 14th December 2020 at 7.30pm