

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/1623 PRESENT:

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

21/1624 APOLOGIES:

Mr R.Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

Mark Keating (County Councillor) – Council redeployed commitments

21/1625 PUBLIC TIME

21/1625/a Public Time

Nothing to report

21/16125b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

21/1625/c District Councillor: A report from Councillor Hewitson was received. The Clerk forwarded it to all Parish Councillors. Councillor Hewitson reported on the following:

£10 million grant in Budget paves the way for Octagon Theatre redevelopment: The Government's Budget announcement this week featured a major boost for South Somerset with £10 million being pledged to support a regional cultural infrastructure project in Yeovil.

The investment will help to fund the refurbishment and development of The Octagon Theatre and transform it into a flagship venue for arts and entertainment, fit for the people in towns and villages across South Somerset. Helping to boost the local economy as well as the physical, social and cultural regeneration of South Somerset, the Octagon Theatre project will cost up to £23.01 million and the £10 million grant confirmed goes a long way to help reach that target.

Phosphates: SSDC has passed a motion calling for Government to take action to unblock the phosphates problem. A full Council approved a Phosphate Calculator which will allow developers to set aside an appropriate amount of land to offset against the increased phosphate that their development will generate. Thousands of planning applications will remain in limbo until this issue has been resolved.

Future of Local Government in Somerset: The formal Government Consultation is now live, and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-locally-led-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-cumbria-north-yorkshire-and-somerset>

More information on the SSDC bid can be found here: www.strongersomerset.co.uk.

SSDC proposals aim to keep decision making close to our communities, as well as providing a fresh start for services such as adult and children's social care - services which have consistently failed under the Conservatives for many years. Councillor Hewitson reiterated that it is vital that communities and individuals have their say on the two competing proposals. **The Closing date for the Consultation is 19th April at 11:45pm.**

Budget: SSDC passed a balanced Budget despite the impacts of COVID. Their budget supports the regeneration of our towns, and their response to the Climate Emergency.

Council Tax for 2021/22 has been agreed with SSDC asking for a modest increase of 2.9% this equates to £5 per Band D property per year (vs 4.99% or £64.33 extra for Somerset County Council).

SSDC approved changes to its Scheme of Delegation for planning that are aimed at streamlining homeowner, Listed Building and '2-star' (large strategic sites) applications.

21/1625/d County Councillor:

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

21/1625/e CLT Update:

Nothing to report

21/1625/g Hamdon Youth Group:

The Youth Worker is once again furloughed. HYG are paying the remaining 20% of her furlough pay.

21/1626 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Biddle

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves

Agreed unanimously.

21/1627 MATTERS ARISING

1. Attenuation Pond – Councillor Hewitson reported that the developer has so far not responded to any of the emails that have been sent. He will send another one and chase it up. The Clerk was also asked to email the developer and ask him the same questions, plus ask for confirmation on who has access to the valve to make any adjustments to the rate of flow if there is ever a need to increase or decrease this? The Parish Council want clarification on who they would call if it was required after the development has finished and who is maintaining that the pipes are kept clear? **Action: Clerk**

2. Environmental issues – Solar Power offer – Cllr. Biddle reported on the South Somerset Solar Streets Project, where PV Installer IDDEA is making discounted panels available to homeowners and businesses by offering bulk savings on installation and donating to a community fund for each scheme. They need a community of around 1000 houses minimum to try to get this scheme going and a minimum uptake of 10 installations to make it worthwhile so we would have to do this in conjunction with other villages - this Grant Morley suggested a 'Ham Hill Villages' group. For a basic installation, without a battery it would cost £4,000 for a 12 panel installation compared to between £4,800 - £5,500 for an individual installation. Extras can also be added if required. Clerk requested to email the other Ham Hill Villages and add a piece in the newsletter to see if there was any interest. **Action: Clerk**

3. Consultation on the future of local Government in Somerset – NOW OPEN (The consultation will run until 22nd April 2021. See above under District Councillor report for more details. Clerk to include link in both the newsletter piece and on Facebook. **Action: Clerk**

4. Face to Face meetings – update. The Clerk reported that Parish Councils had been informed that as from 7th May all meetings needed to be face to face again. This means that, without any further action from the government, all local authorities including local councils must return to face to face meetings from 7th May. However, NALC is working with a number of national bodies to press the Government to extend these regulations beyond this date and will continue to stress the urgency and importance of this issue. The Parish Council would not be able to hold meetings in the committee room, as they would not be able to comply with the restrictions that would be place. The only option would be to use the main hall, or hold meeting in another location (i.e. another village). It is thought the Government will extend this date. NALC will update the Parish Clerk as soon as they know more on this. Clerk to keep the Parish Council informed. **Action: Clerk**

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

1. Boules Court

21/1628 PLANNING:

21/1628/a Matters for report:

Ref. No: 20/01645/HOU - Ref. No: 20/01646/LBC

Rose Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon Somerset TA14 6SN

Status: Application permitted with conditions | Case Type: Planning Application

The erection of a single storey rear extension garden room to dwelling to replace existing lean to extension.

APPROVED

Appeal in respect of application decision reference: 19/03241/OUT

Planning inspectorate appeal reference - APP/R3325/W/20/3258176

Appeal by - Mr & Mrs M.McKellar

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 1 no. Dwelling with all matters reserved except access.

Location: Land East Of Keepers Lodge Little Norton, Norton Sub Hamdon, Stoke Sub Hamdon

Somerset (gr:348086/115657)

With reference to the above, I have been informed by the Planning Inspectorate that the appeal is Dismissed.

21/1628/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

21/1628/c Applications for consideration.

Application No: SCC/3798/2021 – Norton sub Hamdon pumping station, Higher St. Change of use to operational land (sewage pumping station), fencing and hard-standing. – No objections from the Parish Council.

21/1629 FINANCE:

21/1629/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/1629b Matters for resolution

The Clerk requested to attend a course via Zoom on responding to Planning applications. The cost is £25.00. The Parish Council made a resolution to pay for the course.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously

21/1629/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks	Salary – January 2021	£	431.73 chq no: 1507
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – Jan ‘21	£	70.00 chq no: 1508
Louise Brooks	Zoom Account for Parish Council Meetings Jan	£	14.39 chq no: 1509
SSDC	Quarterly playground checks for the year	£	127.20 chq no: 1510

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

21/1630 VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Cole reported that the hall is still closed until an update is received from Government. The Clerk asked for consideration for Parish Council meetings to be held in the main hall for the foreseeable as they will not be able to be held in the committee room due to the restrictions that will be in place. Councillor Cole also reported that they have tried to accommodate all the weddings that were booked for last year that have reapplied to hold their wedding this year. Councillor Cole informed the Parish Council that there is one month that has a wedding on every weekend of the month (either June or July). The Chairman suggested they should pre-empt any complaints this may cause and leaflet drop all the houses nearby that would be effected so they have notice of this. Councillor Cole explained that the reason there was a wedding booked for every weekend in one of these months was because of all the cancellations from last year. They normally limit it 8 weddings a year. Councillor Cole would highlight all of this at the village hall meeting next week. **Action: Cllr. Cole**

21/1631 RECREATION GROUND:

Trees have now been planted. The Clerk also reported that she had received many reports of horses being ridden on both recs. The Clerk had reported this to SSDC regarding the Minchington rec which they own. On Minchington Rec, it's been reported that horses have been ridden many times and also 'free grazed' i.e. allowed loose on the recreation ground to graze freely.. On the big Rec there are a lot of hoof prints. A horse has been seen. CCTV footage will be checked. The Clerk also reported that a quad bike had also been seen being ridden in the big Rec as well. Clerk to include a piece in the newsletter. Signs may have to be considered if this carries on. **Action: Clerk**

21/1632 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

John Bailey - Norton Show Safari 2021. The Clerk had received and forwarded to all Parish Councillors the request from John Bailey to allow the Norton Players to have the use of the Rec (like last time), on the 12th June. The Parish Council discussed this. They were unanimous in their decision that although they are happy for the event to take place in 2021, they will not support it and allow use of the recreation ground until after 21st June - this is the date that Lockdown will hopefully be lifted allowing groups of more than 30 to meet. After this date the Parish Council gives them their full support to use the Recreation Field (as long as the Covid restrictions have not changed by this date).

The other point that was raised was by Cllr Cole (Chair of the village hall committee) regarding them using the verandah outside the hall (like they did last time). Cllr Cole said they would need to speak to Sam Lewis as

there were a lot of pre-booked events happening around that time (obviously, again, as long as Covid regulations allow), and therefore they would not allow the event to take place if it clashed with one of these events. Clerk to inform Mr Bailey.

Action: Clerk

21/1633 FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk reported that she had emailed Richard Holloway regarding a tree that is blocking the stream, which looks like it has come off his side of the river. The level of the water has not dropped along the path by Mr and Mrs Holm. She has asked Mr Holloway to take a look. He responded that he had taken a look and understood the issue. He would speak to Mark Parsons as they would need access on the other side of the stream.

The Clerk reported that the bridge made from sleepers on the footpath between Norton and Stoke (through the Old Fruit Farm) has been looked into and Somerset County Council are responsible for all repairs. They will be carried out as soon as possible.

The Chairman reported that the handrails on two footpaths going up to Ham Hill were still broken as well as the one at the back of the Mill in Little Norton. Councillor Matraves also said the rubbish had not been picked up in the top 'ice-cream' layby. Clerk to check with Cllr Hewitson whether he had reported this to the Ranger after the last meeting. If he hadn't, Clerk to report it to The Rangers at Ham Hill.

Action: Clerk

21/1634 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Reading Room: The Chairman reported that the refurbishment had now been completed and updated the Parish Council on the new tenant coming into the café at The Reading Room. The start date would be Wednesday 10th March.

Pumping Station: Cllr Biddle reported dirty suspicious water coming from the pipe leading from the pumping station at the weekend. Clerk to email Wessex Water to ask for clarification.

Action: Clerk

Broadmead Lane: Cllr Cole reported that at the entrance to Broadmead Lane the 'No Through Road' Sign had disappeared. They seemed to be getting more cars being driven down and then having to reverse back when they realized it was a no through road. Cllr Cole reported that the post was still there. Clerk to speak to Highways and request a new sign to be installed.

Action: Clerk

Dog Waste on Pavements: Cllr Cole requested a piece be included in the newsletter regarding the amount of dog waste not being picked up from pavements throughout the village.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Cole reported that the dog bin by Gross' Wood had still not been emptied.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm