

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/1636 PRESENT:

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

21/1637 APOLOGIES:

Mr R.Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

Mark Keating (County Councillor) – NO APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Mr B.Matraves – sent late apologies – work commitments

Ms R.Cumberbatch – work commitments

21/1638 PUBLIC TIME

21/1638/a Public Time

A member of the public asked again for the Parish Council to reconsider the date for The Norton Safari Show to be held on the recreation ground before the 21st June. The Chairman explained that they were in full support for the show to take place but not until after the 21st June. She explained that it was only a further 9 days to wait from the date they were asking for. She also explained that the reason for this was because Norton had an elderly population and they needed to make sure with everything starting to open up again that there would not be a rise in numbers of Covid again and put residents of Norton at risk unnecessarily. All the Parish Councillors were in full agreement.

The same member of the public asked if we would consider adopting the old telephone box and creating a book exchange or something similar. This will be added to the May Agenda.

21/1638/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

21/1638/c District Councillor: A report from Councillor Hewitson was received. The Clerk forwarded it to all Parish Councillors. Councillor Hewitson reported on the following:

Future of Local Government in Somerset:

The four District Councils, working cross-party have proposed to give residents of Somerset a Referendum on their preferred option for the re-organisation of Local Government in Somerset. He explained that it would be likely that there would be a postal and online ballot of all residents eligible to vote on 6th May 2021.

The poll would run from 7th May 2021 to 28th May 2021.

The question would be: “Which of the two options for change in local government in Somerset to replace the existing five councils do you support (select one only):

1. One council for Somerset (“One Somerset” - the plan for a single council proposed by Somerset County Council).
2. Two Councils for Somerset: Eastern Somerset and Western Somerset (“Stronger Somerset” the plan for Two Councils for Somerset) –proposed by the South Somerset District Council / Mendip District Council / Sedgemoor District Council / Somerset West and Taunton Council and the other district councils of Somerset.

Attenuation Pond: Councillor Hewitson reported that finally Robert Trott had replied to his email. He would arrange a site visit with himself and the Chairman, Sue More to discuss this further with him.

Action: Cllr Hewitson

21/1638/d County Councillor:

No report from Councillor Keating was received. Once again, Councillor Keating was not present at the meeting.

21/1638/e CLT Update: Nothing to report

21/1638/g Hamdon Youth Group: Nothing to report

21/1639 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Biddle

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

21/1640 MATTERS ARISING

1. Attenuation Pond – As reported above by Cllr. Hewitson, the developer has finally replied to his email and has agreed to a site meeting between himself, Cllr. Hewitson and The Chairman, Cllr. More.
Cllr. Hewitson will arrange a time that is convenient for all parties. **Action: Cllr Hewitson**

2. Consultation on the future of local Government in Somerset – The Clerk reported that she had now sent an email reply to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Hewitson added that the four District Councils, working cross-party have proposed to give residents of Somerset a Referendum on their preferred option for the reorganisation of Local Government in Somerset. It is likely that this will be a postal and online ballot of all residents eligible to vote on 6th May 2021. The poll will run from 7th May 2021 to 28th May 2021.

3. Face to Face meetings – update. The Chairman and Clerk updated the Parish Councillors that the current situation is that the Government are still saying that all Parish meetings have to be Face to Face after May 8th. Parish Councils Nationwide are currently fighting this as they feel until people have had their second vaccination it is still unsafe to do so. In fact, some of the Parish Councillors have not even had their first vaccination. The Parish Councillors are all volunteers and it is not fair to ask them to put themselves or their families and colleagues at risk until this time. The Parish Council would not be able to hold meetings in the committee room in the village hall due to its unsuitability - it would not comply with the restrictions that have been put in place by Government. The only other location would be in the main room of the village hall. However, this is currently still closed and when it reopens has other obligations with contracts for other groups on the same night. The other option would be to find somewhere outside the village that is free where meetings could be held. However, it was strongly agreed that if this happened we would not be allowing the members of the public to attend as they would have to drive to the location and be unable to share transport.

Many associations and Local Government officials are still fighting the decision by Government for the return of Face to Face. It is due to go to the High Court at the end of April.

A Resolution was made to carry on with Zoom meetings until September 2021 where it will be reviewed depending on latest Covid figures.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

4. May meetings – Annual and Monthly: The Chairman discussed with the Parish Council the option to bring the May meetings – both the Annual and the monthly meeting forward a week to TUESDAY 4TH MAY. (The Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday)

A resolution was made to hold both the Annual and monthly May meetings on Tuesday 4th May 2021 starting at 7.10pm for the Annual, with the monthly following at 7.30pm.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

5. Complaints received regarding E-scooters, Segways and hoverboards being ridden on roads and pavements
The Clerk reported that many complaints have now been received regarding young children riding E-scooters, Segways and hoverboards on public roads and pavements, in New Road and Great Street (junction with the shop). There have been reports of many near misses with cars on New Road and there is concern that an accident will happen – sooner rather than later. Complaints have also been received about E-scooters travelling at great speeds on the pavements in New Road and some elderly residents have felt very unsafe and had to move into the road to avoid being hit by them.

While e-scooters are legally available to purchase, it's currently against the law to ride a privately-owned e-scooter in any public place in the UK. This includes roads, pavements, parks, town centres or promenades. The only place a privately-owned e-scooter can be used is on private land.

The road laws apply to self-balancing mini scooters, hoverboards, and Segways. They are illegal to use in such cases and completely banned from deployment on a public footpath in the United Kingdom.

If your electric scooter goes over 30mph it is classed as a full road vehicle, and follows the same rules as a 50cc petrol scooter. This means you need a valid CBT at the very minimum, but that you can also hold a full motorbike licence.

The Parish Council requested the Clerk report this to the police as well as request the police speak to the school regarding this issue.

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

1. Boules Court

21/1641 PLANNING:

21/1641/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/1641/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

21/1641/c Applications for consideration.

21/00670/LBC - Nundle Higher Street. Erection of a log cabin at the rear of the property – no objections

21/1642 FINANCE:

21/1642/a Matters for report:

1. Following receipt of final bank statement - end of 4th and final quarter for 2018/19 financial year

Current account £ 100.00

Reserve Account £ 30,105.17

Total £ 30,205.17

There were no cheques outstanding: £ 0.00

Total as cash book £ 30,205.17

2. End of year audit

The Clerk reported that she was currently working on the end of year audit.

21/1642b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

21/1642/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks	Salary –March 2021	£	431.73 chq no 1511
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – March 2021	£	70.00 chq no 1512
Louise Brooks	Zoom Account for PC Meetings-monthly cost March	£	14.39 chq no 1513
SALC	Clerk’s training – responding to planning applications	£	25.00 chq no 1514
Cox and Co Payroll	Payroll Services April, May & June 2021	£	90.00 chq no 1515
Down2Earth	Grounds Maintenance Jan-March	£	256.00 chq no1516
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Grounds Maintenance Jan-March	£	319.87 chq no1517
Hamdon Youth Group	Grant for HYG	£	1,996.50 chq no1518
CPRE	Annual Membership	£	36.00 chq no 1519

Proposed: Cllr. Biddle

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

21/1643 VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Cole reported that the blood donors were due in this Friday and he had emailed Mr Trott regarding finishing the drain at the entrance to the village hall. He also reported that soon the regular contracted groups would be returning as long as they could keep to the covid restrictions.

Councillor Cole also spoke to District Councillor Hewitson regarding a restart grant available from SSDC. Having received the second grant last month, which they wished to thank SSDC for, as it has helped with maintenance, they would like to pursue the idea of funding for solar panels for the village hall. Cllr Hewitson said SSDC would be very keen to help.

Action: Cllr Cole

21/1644 RECREATION GROUND:

The Clerk reported that the lines on the MUGA will be repainted on the 21st May, weather permitting.

21/1645 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence the clerk has received has been circulated to all Parish Councillors

21/1646 FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report

21/1647 MEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Councillor Biddle reported that she had had one member of the public show interest in the solar scheme. They were waiting to her from a couple more villages. Cllr Biddle will include some more information in the next newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on TUESDAY 4THth MAY 2021 at 7.30pm . THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD BEFORE THIS STARTING AT 7.10PM