

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th JUNE 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/1660 PRESENT:

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

21/1661 APOLOGIES:

Mr R.Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

Mr J Cole (work commitments)

21/1662 PUBLIC TIME

21/1662/a Public Time

A member of the public raised her concerns regarding the way people are driving in and out of the school and along New Road outside of the school. It has now become very dangerous for children to cross the road to access the pedestrian school entrance and she fears if some traffic calming measure is not installed there will be a fatal accident. She asked for either a zebra crossing, school signs, warning lights, speed bumps be considered. County Councillor Keating spoke to the resident. The Chairman requested another site meeting at school drop off time to see what the issues are so they can be addressed in the best possible way. The meeting will be with Rebecca Vaughan from Highways present, along with The Chairman, Councillor More, County Councillor Mark Keating and the member of the public. Councillor Keating to arrange the date and inform the Clerk who will then pass the information on to the relevant people attending. **Action: Cllr Keating**

21/1662/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The Clerk reported that she has been in contact with the Police over recent vandalism in the Recreation ground. There was broken glass left over the MUGA and also broken glass was found in the grass surrounding the MUGA but pushed into the grass in a very dangerous upwardly pointed manner. Trees have also been snapped off. Broken glass has also been left on the school playground. The Clerk reported that there had also been problems at Minchington recreation ground, with spray paint cans set alight (which exploded), trees snapped off and spray paint painted onto some of the equipment. The Police were also informed of this. There have also been reports of bullying at the school. The Police have visited the school and are aware of who is responsible. Pane of glass was also shattered at the old telephone box which The Clerk reported to BT and was subsequently replaced by them.

21/1662/c District Councillor: There was no report from Councillor Hewitson this month. However, Cllr. Hewitson was present at the meeting and reported on the following:

He reported that they are looking for a new CEO after the current person is immigrating to New Zealand.

He also reported on the recent online/postal poll that was run by all four district councils. The results were: 65.3% voted for two Authorities delivering services close to the communities of Eastern and Western Somerset. Just 34.7% supported a proposal for a single unitary with a turnout of more than 111,000. He hopes the secretary of state takes note of the results and will make the right decision and listen to the people of Somerset. Councillor Hewitson also reported that at a recent Governor meeting he brought up the issues with antisocial behaviour. The school informed him that they have been in contact with the Police and are considering CCTV for the site. They will keep in touch with the Police if this issue develops further.

Cllr Hewitson also reported that the Youth Family Centre in Stoke will be bringing forward a grant application for the second phase of their work to improve the building.

Recycling not collected: Cllr Hewitson informed the Parish Council that the reason the recycling was not collected was because there is a shortage of HGV drivers following Brexit. They will hopefully collect the following day.

Solar panels on the ranger station at Ham Hill. Cllr Hewitson informed the Parish Council that photovoltaic panels were going to be installed on the Rangers office at Ham hill.

Councillor Hewitson also reported that the Boundaries Commission has published their proposals for Westminster Constituencies from 2023 onwards. Norton would move into the new constituency of Glastonbury

and Somerset and out of the Yeovil Constituency. This would actually mean that the Hamstone villages would be split up by this new boundary with Stoke, Norton and Montacute all moving into the new constituency and Chiselborough and The Chinnocks staying in the Yeovil Constituency.

21/1662/d County Councillor:

A report from Councillor Keating was received.

Unitary: Cllr. Biddle asked him why SCC did not take part in the poll? Cllr Keating said it was because the Secretary of State said it would not be appropriate for a poll to be undertaken as the secretary of state had already undertaken their own consultation. He was asked why there was not a referendum undertaken earlier instead of the consultation which many found very confusing. He said it was because neither of the council had advocated a poll in their business plans so the referendum was not an option that was put in front of the Secretary of State to consider. Cllr Biddle, said she felt it was important to hear the voice and opinion of the people. Cllr Keating said it was a poor turnout with only 16% of people deciding to vote. Cllr More said that the results still showed a two thirds majority and if it was a general election then you'd still have to abide by the results. He felt it was a waste of money to hold the poll.

Cllr Biddle asked him how many people had responded to the consultation. He did not know the answer although he said that had been low as well.

Cllr Maunder made the point that on a previous occasion a few years ago, the County Council were in favour of having a single Council Authority. A referendum was held then, which Somerset people voted against, the same as they have this time. He discussed how the people of Somerset have spoken for the second time now saying that they do not want a Unitary Council Authority for Somerset, but would like to have two smaller councils that are more local to the people that they deal with. North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset have already got their own authorities and it is strongly felt that it would be better if we had two Councils for the remaining area of Somerset.

Cllr. Keating said that the main thing that needs to happen is that we get a council that is functioning for the people of Somerset especially the vulnerable. Cllr More argued that it was every citizen of Somerset and not just the vulnerable who the council needed to work for.

21/1662/e CLT Update:

Nothing to report

21/1662/g Hamdon Youth Group:

Cllr Biddle reported that meetings are taking place again but children are preferring to meet outdoors as they do not have to wear masks outside. Cllr Biddle is forwarding a copy of the youth workers report to everyone.

21/1663 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr.Biddle

Seconded: Cllr.Mataves

Agreed unanimously.

21/1664 MATTERS ARISING

1. Attenuation Pond – Cllr Hewitson has now made several attempts to contact the developer, Mr Trott, to try and arrange a site meeting. He is still waiting for him to come back with a date. He will email him again.

2. Face to Face Meetings: The Parish Council agreed to hold a virtual meeting in July and get back to face to face meeting in September, subject to the current Covid situation at that time.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr.Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

3. BT Telephone box – The Clerk has sent out information to all Parish Councillors regarding the purchase of the old telephone box. It was suggested as a book exchange. However, The Reading Room have started a successful second hand book sale and the Parish Council feel it should be used for something else. No decision was made on this. The Clerk was asked to include a piece in the newsletter to ask if anyone had any ideas. It will be added to the July meeting for further discussion.

Action: Clerk

4. Dog Fouling in Rectory Lane: There has been an increase in dog fouling in Rectory Lane again. SSDC have been informed and will be coming out for a site meeting. Clerk to add this to the newsletter

Action: Clerk

5. Speed Sensor: The cost of a speed sensor is approx. £3,500 - £4,000. The Parish Council felt this was a lot of money to spend on a device that only monitors speed. The Clerk and Chair are looking into whether it's possible to hire one from another Parish Council and the costs involved for doing so.

Cllr Matraves felt it would be better to have a traffic calming device such as speed bumps installed as this would at least slow the traffic down. This will be added to the July meeting when we should know more from the other Parish Council regarding hiring.

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

1. Boules Court

21/1665 PLANNING:

21/1665/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/1665/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

21/1665/c Applications for consideration.

21/01358/HOU Hill Top, Ham Hill, Stoke Sub Hamdon TA14 6RW - Erection of Car Port (Revised application 20/03041/HOU). No Objections

21/1666 FINANCE:

21/1666/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/1666b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

21/1666/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks	Salary –May 2021	£	445.53 chq no 1525
HMRC	PAYE & NIC May 2021	£	22.20 chq no:1526
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – May 2021	£	70.00 chq no 1527
Louise Brooks	Zoom Account for PC Meetings-monthly cost May	£	14.39 chq no 1528
Town & Parish Websites	Annual website hosting and maintenance (01/07/2021 to 01/07/2022)	£	140.00 chq no:1529

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Maunders

Agreed unanimously.

21/1667 VILLAGE HALL:

SES training 21st June.

21/1668 RECREATION GROUND:

Vandalism on MUGA – broken glass and trees- reported under Police report.

21/1669 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

21/1670 FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report

21/1671 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Cllr Biddle reported that the Solar Street scheme launch date is the 22nd June. This will give people an opportunity to find out more about the scheme. This is now going out to a wide area including South Petherton, Odcombe, The Chinnocks, Montacute. Cllr Biddle reported that many people have expressed an interest to date. Clerk to include a post on Facebook. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Matraves reported that people need to be reminded about the issues with lighting bonfires, especially in the hot weather. There have also been reports of people burning items that are illegal to burn, like plastics, packaging and rubber. The Clerk was asked to include a piece in the newsletter reminding people to have respect for others and the environment, when contemplating lighting a fire. People like to have their windows open at night, dry washing outside and sit in their gardens in the evening and all of these simple pleasures are being spoilt by others. It is also extremely dry everywhere at the moment so there is a huge risk to bonfires getting out of control very fast. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on MONDAY 12th JULY 2021 at 7.30pm .