

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/1648 PRESENT:

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

21/1649 APOLOGIES:

Mr R.Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

Ms R.Cumberbatch (work commitments)

Mark Keating (County Councillor) – NO APOLOGIES RECEIVED

21/1650 PUBLIC TIME

21/1650/a Public Time

Ham Hill: Cllr More raised her concern regarding the limited access in open spaces for people to walk dogs currently on Ham Hill with signs up saying no access due to sheep and animals and three out of four fields are currently not accessible due to wildlife. Cllr Matraves raised concern about the parking on the road on Ham Hill instead of people using the car parks. Cllr Hewitson said he would speak to the Rangers regarding both issues.

Action: District Cllr. Hewitson

Cllr Matraves also asked what Ham Hill's view was on the riding of E-scooters at the ancient site. Cllr Hewitson felt they probably wouldn't be too keen due to the damage they cause with erosion to the footpaths and the ancient monument.

21/1650/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Police regarding the concerns raised at the April Parish Council meeting about young children riding E-scooters, Segways and hoverboards on roads and pavements. The Police informed the Clerk that they had already spoken to a couple of children they had seen riding E-scooter on New Road and informed them it was illegal. The Clerk was asked to include a piece in the newsletter informing residents that children can ride these vehicles on the Rec but only in a responsible manner as it is a public space for all. Cllr Cole asked that it also be mentioned in the piece in the newsletter that E-scooter etc were not to be ridden on the decking of the village hall.

Action: Clerk

21/1650/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:

District Councils give local electors a vote on the future of local government in Somerset

A local poll on the two proposals for the future of local government in Somerset currently under consideration – One Somerset and Stronger Somerset – will now go ahead later this month.

The poll, which will be independently run and verified by Civica Electoral Services, will take place from 18 May to 4 June.

Every elector in Somerset will be issued with a ballot paper and invited to vote by post or online.

The local poll was agreed by each of Somerset's four District Councils at meetings on Friday 30 April. The report considered at the meetings said holding a poll would "give residents a voice in the debate and help the Secretary of State in understanding and determining the level of support amongst residents for each of the options".

The District Councils approached Somerset County Council to take part in the poll. Somerset County Council has informed the District Council Leaders that it will not be participating in or endorsing the poll. The District Council Leaders have written to the Secretary of State to inform him of the poll and its dates and ask that the result of the poll be properly considered as part of the decision-making process on the future of local government in Somerset.

The Youth and Family Centre is now open for business again. It is going to have some new toilet and kitchen facilities and is currently going through a grant application with SSDC for funding.

21/1650/d County Councillor:

A report from Councillor Keating was received. Once again, Councillor Keating was not present at the meeting and it was noted by the Parish Council that he has not been present at any meeting for over a year now.

21/1650/e CLT Update: Nothing to report

21/1650/g Hamdon Youth Group: Cllr Biddle reported that the groups are now able to meet again but are happy to meet outside.

21/1651 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder

Seconded: Cllr. Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

21/1652 MATTERS ARISING

1. Attenuation Pond – Cllr Hewitson has now made contact with Mr Trott the developer. He has agreed that a Parish Councillor can be present at the meeting. The Chairman Cllr. More said she would attend.

District Councillor Hewitson would arrange a convenient time by all to have a site meeting.

Action: District Cllr. Hewitson

2. Consultation on the future of local Government in Somerset – See above in District Councillor report.

3. The Continuation of Virtual meetings update – The Clerk reported that following the decision the Government had made informing Councils that virtual meetings would no longer be acceptable after 8th May, this was taken to the High Court on the 27th April.

The High Court has ruled against allowing Council meetings to continue virtually after the 8th May.

However, this news has not been well received. Logistically many Parish Councils have nowhere suitable to hold meetings safely within the guidelines being set, unless they move the meetings out of the village and to a large location. Like Norton, approximately 90% of Parish Councils have already made a resolution at either their April meeting, or will be doing so before the 8th May, to carry on holding meetings virtually until they can safely hold meetings in the village hall. Before the first lockdown, all the Parish Councillors signed a Business Continuity Motion to allow the Clerk to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget.

<https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/files/2020/03/Business-Continuity-Motion-to-Council-Ref-Covid-19.pdf>

Norton sub Hamdon Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to continue with Zoom meetings for the time being and will reassess the situation month by month. There is no Parish Council meeting held in August.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

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

1. Boules Court

21/1653 PLANNING:

21/1653/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/1653/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

21/1653/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

21/1654 FINANCE:

21/1654/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/1654b Matters for resolution

1. Church Clock annual service: The price remains the same as last year at £185.00 + VAT.

A Resolution was made to accept this quote from the Cumbria Clock Company.

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

2. Clerk's pay scale review

The Clerk's pay scale has not increased since she started in 2010. Pay scales should be reviewed each year with each year's experience gained. This was discussed at the September 2020 Parish Council meeting and a rise in pay scale was included in the budget for this financial year. It was agreed to increase the pay scale at the May meeting 2021 to SCP 10 with a review in pay scale increase set for the May meeting every year.

A Resolution was made to accept this increase

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

21/1654/c Cheques Payable

Louise Brooks

Salary –April 2021

£ 416.53 chq no 1520

Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – April 2021	£	70.00	chq no 1521
Louise Brooks	Zoom Account for PC Meetings-monthly cost April	£	14.39	chq no 1522
Zurich Insurance	Annual insurance cover	£	604.21	chq no 1523
Yeomarks Lining Ltd	Re-lining of the MUGA	£	588.00	chq no1524
Proposed: Cllr. More		Seconded: Cllr. Maunders		Agreed unanimously.

21/1655 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Cole reported that they are waiting for the Covid regulations to change before they can start to reopen things. They have more weddings booked than in a normal year due to the fact that all the weddings that were booked for last year have re-booked and also weddings that have been booked for this year as well. They will keep residents who live locally to the village hall informed and the aim is to keep the noise to a minimum.

21/1656 RECREATION GROUND:

The Clerk reported that the lines on the MUGA had now been re-painted

21/1657 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

21/1658 FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk discussed the issue at Blackspur hill and people walking in areas where there are no footpaths.

The Clerk reported that there is a bridge collapsed on the path that runs by the side of the allotments towards Bagnall Farm. She would report it to County. **Action: Clerk**

21/1659 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Cllr Maunder reported that the 30mph sign has now lost its '30'. Clerk to report it to Highways.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Maunder reported that the 30mph painted on the road has never been replaced after the road had been resurfaced. Clerk to report to Highways. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Biddle updated the Parish Council on the latest meeting regarding the 'Solar Street'. Cllr Biddle had written an article on it and included it in the May newsletter. The Clerk said she would share the information on the Parish Council Facebook page.

Cllr More reported that Lynn Orchard was now retiring from hairdressing. The Clerk will get a card for everyone to sign. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on TUESDAY 14th JUNE 2021 at 7.30pm . THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD BEFORE THIS STARTING AT 7.10PM