

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

The November Parish Council meeting was a reduced meeting due to having to change it to a ZOOM meeting a few days before, for Covid reasons.

21/1708 PRESENT:

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

21/1709 APOLOGIES:

Mr R.Middleton (Personal – agreed with Chairman)

P. Biddle (work commitments)

Ms. R. Cumberbatch (apologies received after the meeting – family related)

Mike Hewitson (District Councillor) (Running Covid Vaccination Centre)

21/1710 PUBLIC TIME

21/1710/a Public Time

Nothing to report

21/1710/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

21/1710/c District Councillor:

Due to running a Covid Vaccination Centre, District Councillor Hewitson was not present at this month's meeting.

The Clerk reported that recent information had been received regarding two young boys, who could be identified, were seen playing and 'fishing' in the attenuation pond. This was of great concern for the Parish Council, as this is exactly the sort of behaviour they were concerned about, when they were requesting a fence to be erected around the pond. The District Councillor has gone to the Norton Primary School with the details and asked the Heads of the School to speak to the children and also to speak to the parents involved, as a priority.

21/1710/d County Councillor:

A report from Councillor Keating was received and was circulated to all Parish Councillors.

Local Government Re-Organisation: Cllr. Keating reported that he had been trying to find out a bit more information about the make-up of the Local Community Network that will be formed once the Unitary comes into force. He informed the Parish Council that all those decisions will be decided by the new Council and they will consult with other councils but its looking like that someone from the Parish Council will be appointed by the Parish Councillors to that local community network. He also reported that is has not yet been decided as to how they will break up the areas –it could either stay as the current District Council Wards or be the Divisions of County Councils or hopefully a proper review of boundaries will take place beforehand. He spoke about how we need the local community network to be sorted first to then decide what Parishes will lie in each particular area. Within that will need to sit the 4/5 Unitary Council Areas without any irregularities or discrepancies over the boundaries.

21/1710/e CLT Update:

Nothing to report

21/1710/g Hamdon Youth Group:

The HYG annual report will now take place at the December meeting.

21/1711 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.


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21/1712 **MATTERS ARISING**

1. Local Foodbank details for Allotments

The Clerk reported that she had found information on two local foodbanks for the allotments charity. The two Trustees present at the meeting decided to support the most local which was the Martock Food bank called 'Transforming Lives', based at the Martock Christian Fellowship. The Clerk would make the initial contact with the foodbank and pass the details onto the allotment charity in order for them to send a cheque directly to them.

Action: Clerk

21/1713 **PLANNING:**

21/1713/a **Matters for report:**

Complaint of breach of planning approval: The Clerk reported that District Councillor Hewitson is chasing a response.

Action: District Councillor Hewitson

21/1713/b **Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report

21/1713/c **Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report

21/1714 **FINANCE:**

21/1714/a **Matters for report:**

1. Report as required:

a) Budget for 2022/23: The Chairman reported on the 2022/23 budget, that the Clerk had prepared and circulated to all the Parish Councillors. She spoke about how the anticipated surplus of £2,922.83 is not enough to take forward to the next financial year, especially with the rise in costs and the fact that we will be under a Unitary Council in less than 18 months' time. It is very likely the Parish Council will be financially responsible for an awful lot more of the maintenance of the village and we need to build up some reserves in the account in preparation for this transition. It's likely we will soon be charged for services like: dog bin emptying, cutting of verges, road sweeping, drain clearance ... just to name a few, plus the Clerk's workload is likely to expand with all the extra admin that will be required due to the abolishment of District Councils. The Chairman explained how we need to start to budget for these extra costs now. The Chairman explained how the Parish Council had only increased the precept once in the last 10 years, but now it was necessary to do so. The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors for a rise of hands to vote whether to increase it by 10% or 15%. The Parish Council voted by 3/1 in favour of the 15% rise. The agreed precept for 2022/23 would be £24,955.00.

Action: Clerk

b) Replacement costs of play area equipment/upgrade of rubber matting, plus required signage for both the Play Area and MUGA. The Clerk informed that due to ring-fencing £1,500 every year for the last 10 years The Parish Council had built up enough funds to look at replacing some of the play area equipment that was showing signs of aging. All the equipment had passed the recent annual inspection, although the first piece of equipment that looks like will need to be replaced will be the slide as its showing signs of wear with dents, rust and rot in a wooden slat. The rubber matting is probably the most important that needs replacing as it is showing signs of required improvements. The Clerk will look into costs to continuous matting rather than the squares which are currently used. This would initially be more expensive than the squares but the longevity of this product is far better than the current set-up. The Clerk had sent some prices of different equipment to the Parish Councillors to give an approximate idea of costs. Play-ground equipment is not cheap. The Clerk will request a site visit from two well know playground equipment companies and get quotes. The Parish Council will then apply for grants to help with costs for this. Cllr Matraves said he would attend the site visits. The plan would be to whittle the choice down to 2 or 3 items (depending on costs) and then take the choice to Norton school for the children to decide what new equipment they would like to see. Both the MUGA and play area also require new signage, which the clerk will get prices for. The MUGA also requires


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new basketball nets. Again, the Clerk will get prices for this too. The MUGA and the play area also need new safety signs which the Clerk will get prices for. **Action: Clerk**

c) CIL payment: The Clerk reported that she had received notification from SSDC regarding the final instalments of CIL payments that were due in relation to Bramley Fields. The Clerk would inform the Parish Council when both payments had been made. The Parish Council discussed different projects on how it could be used. **Action: Clerk**

2. Matters for Resolution:

a) Budget for 2022/23 – sign off

See explanation above.

A resolution was made to raise the precept to £24,955.00. The budget for 22/23 was accepted.

Proposed: Cllr More

Seconded: Cllr Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

21/1714/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

21/1714/c Cheques Payable

		£	Cheque no:
Louise Brooks	Salary –October 2021	450.93	1554
HMRC	PAYE & NIC - October 2021	29.20	1555
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – October	70.00	1556

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Maunder

Agreed unanimously.

21/1715 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Cole reported that the village hall now have a new sign installed to the front of the building. He also reported that the hall committee is looking to install 2 roof fans to the ceiling area, to help with the issue of condensation and mould in the apex of the roof. This is due to lack of ventilation. The ceiling fans will help to circulate any stagnant air.

21/1716 RECREATION GROUND:

The Clerk reported that she has spoken to SSDC regarding a replacement tree for the one that had been vandalised. SSDC said that he would add us to the list when they placed their tree order. The Clerk also reported that she had contacted Cllr. Cumberbatch's contact about donating a free tree. The Chairman also reported that there were a lot of mole hills appearing which we need to keep an eye on.

21/1717 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

The Chairman reported that she had recently spoken to a resident in the village who had been having an issue with footballs going into his private field and had brought the problem to the September Parish Council meeting. He thanked the Chairman for the efforts that the Parish Council have done to try to stop this and informed the Chairman that the problem had certainly eased.

21/1718 FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report

21/1719 MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Nothing to report

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

The next meeting will be held on MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm, in the committee room inside the village hall.

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