

**MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**  
**AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL**

**22/1756 PRESENT:**

Mrs S. More (Chairman), Mr. S. Maunder (Vice Chair), Mr. B. Matraves, Ms. R. Cumberbatch, Mike Hewitson (District Councillor), Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk), and 3 members of the public.

**22/1757 APOLOGIES:**

P. Biddle – Sickness

Mr. J Cole - Sickness

**No Apologies received and ‘no show’ for:**

Mark Keating (County Councillor)

**22/1758 PUBLIC TIME**

**22/1758/a Public Time**

A member of the public gave a brief update on the proposed jubilee garden. Although they are still waiting for a response from the Diocese who own the land, work has started to clear and tidy the site. The plan is for natural habitat and hedges to be planted that will encourage all forms of wildlife – from insects to hedgehogs. Nesting boxes are also planned. A tree will be planted and in place by the Jubilee in memory of Lord Ashdown and other trees and planting of flowers and shrubs will follow. This will be an area that will also be for the school children to enjoy and learn from. As this site has always been set aside for the school to use, this area will eventually be shared with the pre-school, but there is plenty of room for both. The member of public will keep the Parish Council updated in progress.

**22/1758/b P.C.S.O. Report:**

The Clerk reported that we now have a new PCSO for Norton – Ian Cromey-Hawke who had been brought up to speed by our last PCSO Abby.

**22/1758/c District Councillor:**

District Councillor Hewitson was present at the meeting. He sent a report to the Clerk who forwarded it to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

He discussed how the grant application from the Parish Council that the Clerk had submitted would be heard at the Area North meeting in March.

His report also included:

Full Council. 28th February: SSDC passed its last budget as a sovereign entity. They have put forward a balanced budget which will see significant capital investment of £118m in our area: - £29m to redevelop the Octagon Theatre. This will increase capacity by 50%, as well as add a fly-tower to allow bigger touring productions, create two boutique cinema spaces and two dance studios. This will be a flagship project which will help to bring in outside investment to our area, support our nighttime economy as well as supporting community use. They are also investing £1.6m to support facilities and infrastructure at Ham Hill; £2m to help decarbonise our estate and £4m to improve Yeovil Crematorium. SSDC have voted to increase Council Tax by £5 per year per typical Band D property, which is a much smaller increase than the County Council.

Cllr Hewitson discussed the exciting National Lottery Heritage Fund project that SSDC are proposing for Ham Hill. He discussed the proposal to build a visitor information centre at the back of Lime Kiln car park. The building will be of low environmental impact, utilising green technologies wherever feasible and contributing to Biodiversity Net Gain. The building is subject to planning permission and scheduled monument consent. It would include a welcome and information point, exhibition space, multi-purpose learning space, a café, changing places facility and new public toilets. The Parish Council wanted to highlight their concern that no building from Ham Hill should be seen from Norton

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sub Hamdon and so wanted to make sure that the proposed visitor centre would not be seen. Cllr Matraves pointed out that the Rangers Office could already be seen from the village and that was meant to have been hidden from view when built. The other concern was that with the increase in visitors this would create and how it would mean an increase in traffic on narrow lanes that were already dangerous. The Parish Council felt that there were already too many people parking on the road. Clerk to report these points to Rachael Whaites at Ham Hill, SSDC.

**22/1758/d County Councillor:**

Once again, Mark Keating had not forwarded a report or apologies for non-attendance.

**22/1758/e CLT Update:**

Mrs Maunder reported that they were approaching the end of year. She reported that they would have to start increasing prices, which they have held off from doing for as long as possible. However due to the price increase to them they couldn't hold off any longer. The CLT will once again review the Government's Energy Policy and look to see if it is a viable proposition to consider starting the solar energy generation that was previously approved on the strip of land they own South of Minchington Close.

**22/1758/g Hamdon Youth Group:**

Mrs Maunder reported that attendance figures were now starting to increase again and getting closer to pre-covid times.

**22/1759 MINUTES**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves

Agreed unanimously.

**22/1760 MATTERS ARISING**

a) Parish Council Elections

The Clerk collected all the application forms for Parish Council election and will take them to SSDC offices after the 21<sup>st</sup> March – start of the delivery period.

b) Trees from Brimsmore – update.

The Clerk reported that Brimsmore had now been in touch and had ordered a liquid amber tree as a replacement for one of the vandalised trees. Adam had given the Clerk some days during the week that were best for him. To come out and plant. He's still keen to work with a few children from the school and get them to help with the planting as well as teach them the importance of trees for our environment and reasons why it's not a good idea to vandalise them. Clerk to liaise with Adam over a convenient Thursday morning that suits the majority of Councillors for planting. Also to liaise with Jamie Caswell regarding the involvement of a few school children with the planting. **Action: Clerk**

c) Play-ground update

The Clerk reported that after much chasing of the application for grant funding from SSDC was now on the March Agenda for the Area North meeting. Clerk to inform the Parish Council as soon as she had heard the outcome. **Action: Clerk**

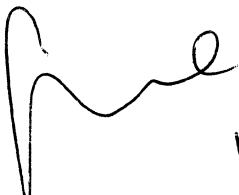
d) School traffic calming signs

The Clerk reported that the signage for the school had started to be installed. She had chased it with Highways and an update from them stated:

The original proposal was for two mains energised installations which proved impractical due to the power supply being inaccessible at one of the sites. Therefore a revised plan was issued to include a single solar powered unit to accompany the planned mains unit.

The mains energised unit is currently being installed by our subcontractor Enerveo (SSE). This is a four stage planned process which starts with the post and sign installation, then trenching and cable laying, followed by mains jointing, and finally, electrical connections are established. Each of these processes are undertaken by specialist teams of engineers in a timely manner. The second unit which is solar powered is planned to be installed in the early part of the new financial year.

Following the installation of both units, the active flashing sequence timings will be programmed to reflect the drop-off and pick-up times as confirmed by the Primary School.

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e) Tennis net – The old tennis net that was owned by the Parish Council and has been situated on the old piece of scrubland for many years was destroyed in the last storm. Down2Earth SW Ltd was asked to remove it and take it to the tip.

f) Tree for Richard. The Parish Council have been discussing planting a tree in memory of Cllr. Rich Middleton, who very sadly lost his battle with cancer in December. Richard was an active member of the Parish Council and in particular one of his many ‘hats’ was Tree Officer for Norton. The Parish Council felt it would be very fitting to plant a tree in his memory. Having already been in talks with Brimsmore Garden Centre over the tree they are kindly donating as a replacement to the one that was vandalised, the Clerk asked them for advise on a suitable tree for Richard. It was decided to go for a ‘handkerchief tree’. Brimsmore have been very generous in donating this tree as well.

**Action: Clerk**

**22/1761 PLANNING:**

**22/1761/a** Matters for report:

**22/1761/b** Decisions Notified:

22/00004/HOU- Netherleigh, Higher Street, Norton Sub Hamdon - To enlarge the front porch.

Approved

**22/1761/c** Applications for consideration.

22/00260/HOU Orchard Lea, New Road Norton Sub Hamdon - Erection of Extensions to Side and Rear of Dwelling, New Roof Construction with First Floor Rooms and Internal Alterations.

The Parish Council had no objections.

22/00467/HOU & 22/00468/LBC Little Norton Mill, Little Norton - Retention of existing decking area.

22/00466/LBC Little Norton Mill Little Norton, Norton Sub Hamdon - Internal alteration comprising the creation of an opening within an internal wall.

The Parish Council had no objections.

**22/1762 FINANCE:**

**22/1762/a** Matters for report:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the April 2021 National pay increase for Parish Clerks had finally been agreed by the Government and Unions – 1 year late. This payment was authorised by Government to be backdated. Clerk will liaise with the Payroll Company to get this done.

**22/1762/b** Matters for resolution

Down2Earth SW Ltd – 3% increase

Due to an increase in running costs, the Clerk informed the Parish Council that she had received notification of a 3% pay increase from Down2Earth SW Ltd for the maintenance of the recreation field and play area. The increase would be from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. This would mean a yearly charge of £1086.65.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept this.

Proposed: Cllr.Maunder

Seconded: Cllr.More

Agreed unanimously.

**22/17362/c** Cheques Payable

		£	Cheque no:
Louise Brooks	Salary –February 2022	450.93	1574
HMRC	PAYE & NIC – February 2022	29.20	1575
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – Feb 22	70.00	1576
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Removal of old tennis net from scrubland	50.00	1577
SSDC	Operational Playground inspections	127.20	1578

Proposed: Cllr.Maunder

Seconded: Cllr.Mataves

Agreed unanimously.

**22/1763 VILLAGE HALL:**

Nothing to report.

**22/1764 RECREATION GROUND:**

Nothing to report

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**22/1765                    CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**22/1766                    FOOTPATHS:**

The Chair and Clerk had received notification from the Footpaths Liaison Officer that the fence had come down between Barn Orchard and Bramley Fields. Clerk had been in contact with the developer who had told her that Hastoe Homes was responsible and the fence has since, been removed.

**22/1767                    MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

The Chairman reported that she had been approached by Bagnell Farm to inform her that they would be organising a ticketed village event for August that would be taking part in the field near the allotments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

**The next meeting will be held on MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022 at 7.30pm, in the committee room inside the village hall, Covid regulations permitting.**

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