

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th JULY 2022
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

22/1802 PRESENT:

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

22/1803 APOLOGIES:

Oliver Patrick (County Councillor)

22/1804 PUBLIC TIME

22/1804/a Public Time

Nothing to report

22/1804/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/1804/c District Councillor report & County Councillor report:

A report was received from Councillors Oliver Patrick and Mike Hewitson which included the following:

The new administration has been busy setting the pace of change at the County Council. We are driving forward with our plan to deliver a greener, fairer Somerset. We have established the Council's first ever Environment Scrutiny Committee, and are committed to delivering for communities right across the county.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): In April 2023, Somerset Council will take over all services provided by the County Council & the 4 District Councils. Cllr Liz Leyshon, Lead Member for Finance, has been poring over the Council's finances. She has serious concerns about the so-called "unitary bonus" promoted by the previous administration. This "bonus" was sold as an annual saving of £18.5m which could be invested in local services. However, this saving is looking increasingly unlikely. The budgetary pressures as we go unitary are enormous, driven by increased demand upon our services but also by inflation. The County Council has a vital role to play in supporting people through the cost of living crisis, and whilst we are committed to supporting our communities there's no denying the fact that this comes at a cost.

Highways: We've been pursuing officers re: Chinnock Hollow (left) ever since we were elected. A second geotechnical report on the Hollow is due w/c 4th July, after which we should be able to start making decisions. The A30 roadworks at Haselbury (centre) are on track to finish at the end of July. In addition we're both busy getting minor highways issues fixed, such as this subsidence in Hardington (right). If you notice a highways issue in your area which needs our attention please get in touch. And finally, its good news for local businesses as the scheduled A30 closure (West Coker) has been postponed until next summer.

Environment: Following on from No Mow May, some verges in South Somerset are enjoying a reduced cutting schedule. Verges at junctions will continue to be cut more frequently in the interests of road safety, but in areas where road safety isn't compromised - the increased biodiversity is clear for all to see! One volunteer sent in a picture (right) of some rare bee orchids that now inhabit what was once a barren landscape

22/1804/d CLT Update:

Date set for the AGM – 12th Oct 2022

22/1804/e Hamdon Youth Group:

Both Cllr Cumberbatch & Cllr Holt have a meeting arranged to be briefed with the history and set up of the HYG.

22/1805 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

22/1806 MATTERS ARISING

22/1806/a Finger post refurb – Highways regs

The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Highways to inform them that there are two traditional finger post signs in the village that require attention. Highways are responsible for these signs. They said that although they knew they were responsible for the fingerposts, continuing budgetary constraints and falling government funding has meant that they have had to divert our limited resources to the mandatory safety and hazard signs on our principal network. Fingerpost signs are non-mandatory and are classed as 'nice to have' rather than essential. The Parish Council got a quote for the work and it was unanimously agreed that the work to restore the finger posts was important for the Parish's heritage. The Parish Council informed Highways that they would be willing to pay for the work. Highways responded by saying that SCC had facilitated a scheme whereby Parish Councils can, under the guidance of the county council, voluntarily carry out condition surveys on the finger post signs in their area and undertake certain maintenance and refurbishment works using local volunteers who have successfully attended a training workshop provided by SCC. (the cost of this course is picked up by SCC) However, only volunteers who have successfully completed a training workshop will be allowed to carry out survey and refurbishment works on finger post signs. Work involving major refurbishment and/or in a dangerous location will be carried out by suitably qualified and approved contractors' only.

The reason for this stance is that it is the council's responsibility to ensure that all its employees and this includes volunteers and members of the travelling public are covered by our Health and Safety policies and that any works and volunteers are covered by the council's insurance which will be invalidated should the repairs be carried out by an unqualified person.

Highways then informed us that they are unsure as to when they will be running another course due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Parish Council felt this was an unacceptable response from Highways and the Clerk suggested she would write back and ask them to consider removing the finger posts that were in disrepair and giving them to us for repair. Once the work had been completed, the posts could be reinstated by Highways, therefore removing any safety issues for the resident who would carry it the work. Clerk to email Highways.

Action: Clerk

22/1806/b Manufacture of gate to match existing railings and kissing gate

The Parish Council is delighted with the refurbished kissing gate and railings by the church. The Parish Council felt that it would be good to complete the area next to the kissing gate with the addition of a large pedestrian gate that could be used by wheelchairs and pushchairs. The Parish Council felt that the maximum amount available for this project would be £700.00 due to the costs of other projects they have already committed to. They discussed the quote and whether this work should be carried out. The Clerk was asked to go back to the resident regarding the quote and see if the work could be carried out for that amount rather than the amount quoted. The resident agreed to this. The Parish Council agreed to pay the amount in two instalments of £350.00.

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Biddle

Agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

22/1806/c Allotments

Mrs Maunder had written to the Clerk to inform her that at the end of this year she will be terminating her contract with the allotments and will therefore no longer be able to manage them for the Parish Council. She has however persuaded Kath Crouch to manage the allotments and report back to the Clerk with any problems.

22/1806/d Boules Court sign off

The boules court in Minchington Rec has now had sign off from SSDC, which meant that the agreed Parish Council donation of £230.00 would now be paid. However, the Parish Council felt rather disappointed that the court has been built in a different position to where they'd been informed it would go, as well as being built a lot larger than stated on the plan they had received back in January. The area it has now been built on is where the local children have always played football on and the Parish Council felt very sorry that SSDC had not contacted the Parish Council and consulted with them before agreeing to the new location. If they had asked the Parish Council for their comment then they would

have informed SSDC that this was not a suitable location. Clerk was asked to email Adrian Moore at SSDC to let him know that the Parish Council has received complaints from local parents regarding the location. **Action: Clerk**

22/1806/e School anti-social behaviour presentation

Councillor Cumberbatch attended the Norton Primary School presentation on anti-social behaviour. The project was facilitated by Yeovil Town Football Club and the year 5's were very keen to be involved as they were unhappy with some of the anti-social behaviour that has been occurring in the village.

Our local PCSO also attended and is very keen to help reduce ASB in Norton and the surrounding villages.

The year 5's had explored all aspects of ASB, and put together a really good presentation.

YTFC look forward to coming back next year to do another project.

22/1806/f Update on the 20mph signs at the school

The Clerk explained that the delay in installing the second of the two 20mph school warning signs is due to finding out that there is not a suitable electrical connection for the second one, so it will now be a solar panel sign. This is currently with the team who deal with solar panel signs and we are waiting for further information as to when it will be fitted.

22/1806/g Ham Hill consultation reminder – Norton village hall Thursday 14th July

The Clerk reminded everyone that the SSDC open afternoon at the village hall is this Thursday the 14th July. Both Katy Menday and Rachel Whaites will be present to answer anyone's queries they may have.

22/1806/g September meeting

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the September meeting will be held a week earlier than normal due to her availability. The date for the meeting will be – Monday 5th September.

22/1807 PLANNING:

22/1807/a Matters for report:

Breach in Little Street: County & District Cllr. Hewitson advised the Parish Council that this was currently with the SSDC Planning Team Leader and Listed building specialist.

22/1807/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

22/1807/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

22/1808 FINANCE:

22/1808/a Matters for report:

1. End of 1st quarter figures

Current account	£ 100.00
Reserve Account	£ 54,987.99
Total	£ 55,087.99
There were 2 cheques outstanding/unbanked:	£ 141.00
Total as cash book	£ 54,946.99

The books will now be given to the Internal Auditor for examination

22/1808/b Matters for resolution

Payment of August invoices without a meeting:

August payments are to be approved by email at the time the August PC meeting would normally take place, by a minimum of 2 Parish Councillors. Cheques will be signed by two signatories and then paid by the clerk to the relevant payees and reported at the September meeting. They will be included on the September Agenda as paid with the relevant cheque number against each payment. This is only relevant for any payments that have either been signed off in the last budget, or where a resolution has been made at a meeting. This includes salaries, grass cuttings, land maintenance (budgeted items), plus play equipment and gate for the church (items where a resolution has been made).

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

22/1808/c Cheques Payable

July Payments			Chq no:
Louise Brooks	Salary – June 2022	£ 494.13	1598
HMRC	NI & PAYE June 2022	£ 4.20	1599
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – June 22	£ 70.00	1600
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Grounds maintenance April – June 22	£ 271.66	1601
Louise Brooks	Norton 360 protection for pc laptop inc. GDPR monitoring and cloud backup	£ 84.00	1602
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Payroll services July, Aug, Sept	£ 90.00	1603
Norton Boules	Grant for boules court construction	£ 230.00	1604
SALC	Councillor Training	£ 50.00	1605
Steve Collier	Half of the payment for new gate for footpath by church	£ 350.00	1606

Proposed: Cllr. Maunder

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

2/1809 VILLAGE HALL:

Nothing to report

22/1810 RECREATION GROUND:

Nothing to report.

22/1811 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk reported that all correspondence had been circulated.

The Chairman also discussed that part of the last Parish Council article for the newsletter/parish magazine had not been published due to an issue the committee had with part of the content regarding CCTV on private property.

The Chairman also discussed the reasons for not donating any further money for the installation of the defib case for the school, after already being generous with their support for the purchase of the case in the first place. (With the village hall committee). Cllr Cole reported that the village hall committee were in complete agreement with this decision as well and would not be donating anymore funds towards it.

22/1812 FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the landowner of the footpath that runs behind the church, requesting that the overhanging trees are cut as the Parish Council felt that they were a hazard. She has been given 30 days to complete the work, after which it will be reported to SCC Rights of Way for enforcement. The Footpaths Liaison Officer for the village reported on Sunday that the work had still not been done. The Clerk was in discussions with the Rights of Way Warden over this.

22/1813 MEMBERS' REPORTS.

Cllr Biddle again raised her concern over the increase in parking on New Road outside the Bramley Field houses, right opposite the school and the zigzag markings. This has been raised with Highways before and the response had been an increase in the zigzag lines. The Parish Council will keep an eye on this when the school restarts in September.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

There is no meeting in August

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 5th September 2022 starting at 7.30pm.