

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2023
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's deep shock and immense sadness at the passing of fellow Parish Councillor and dear friend Cllr. Prue Biddle. The Chair read a very moving statement.

23/1956 PRESENT:

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. B. Matraves (Vice Chair), Cllr. J Cole, Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor), Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk), and 2 members of the public.

23/1957 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. J Harris

Cllr. L Holt

Cllr. P Gartrell

Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

23/1958 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report.

23/1959 PUBLIC TIME

23/1959/a Public Time

Nothing to report.

23/1959/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The Clerk reported that following the retirement of our long serving PCSO Carole Brown we now had a new PCSO called Kelly Frome. She would be covering Norton as part of her patch with our other PCSO Ian Cromey Hawke. They have increased the patrols in the area.

23/1959/c Unitary Councillor report:

Unitary Councillor, Mike Hewitson expressed his sincere condolences at the very sad news regarding the passing of Cllr. Prue Biddle. He spoke of her incredible work with HYG.

Cllr. Hewitson informed the Parish Council that Somerset Council is warning that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to fund the rising cost of both Adult and Children's social care. Papers published ahead of a meeting of the Council's Executive on 6th September describe the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The warning comes as other councils in the UK are raising concerns that their budgets are unsustainable. The papers reveal that the Council drew £18 million from reserves last year to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets in Adult and Children's care services. The Council has a legal obligation to fund these services, which have seen an unprecedented rise in both overall demand and complexity of need since the Covid-19 pandemic.

These two social care services are currently projected to overspend by £21 million again in the current financial year. This is despite significant increases in budgets in the two previous years. Other challenges faced by the new unitary Council include the rising cost of processing an increasing amount of household waste and the cost of refinancing loans taken out by five predecessor councils. The current and next two years will be particularly challenging until the benefits of transformation of services at the new Council can be realised

23/1959/d CLT Update:

Nothing to report.

23/1959/e HYG Report

Nothing to report.

23/1959/f Allotments Report

Nothing to report.

23/1959/e Bus update

Nothing to report.

23/1960 MINUTES

The Minutes from the July meeting were circulated. They were agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Matraves

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

23/1961 MATTERS ARISING

23/1961/a Update on allotments – banking, availability, outstanding invoices, rent payments – any still outstanding?

Cllr Holt was not present at the meeting and no report was received. As Cllr Matraves is also the Parish Councillor responsible for the allotments, he was asked by the Chair to help Cllr Holt with the setting up of the new account and transfer of funds from the old bank account to the new one.

Action: Cllr Holt/Cllr Matraves

23/1961/b Next LCN meeting – Thursday 21st September

The date for the next LCN meeting is 21st September and is being held at Crewkerne.

23/1961/c Signage for Rec

The Clerk has ordered the new signage for the recreation field. There will be 2 new signs – one for each entrance (top and bottom of the rec).

23/1961/d Further village signs in need of refurbishment

It was unanimously agreed to put on hold any further sign refurbishment work until the Spring when the Parish Council should have a better idea of what services Somerset Council will be passing over to the Parish Councils to fund.

23/1962 PLANNING:

23/1962/a Matters For Report

Cllr Hewitson updated the Parish Council on any outstanding issues.

23/1962/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report.

23/1962/c Applications for consideration.

23/02087/HOU - Foxhollow Farm Little Norton Norton Sub Hamdon

Proposal: Single Storey Extension

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

23/1963 FINANCE:

23/1963/a Matters for report:

Unity Trust Bank Account for the Parish Council: The Clerk reported that the Parish Council application has now been accepted. The transfer of funds will now take place.

23/1963/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report.

23/1963/c Cheques Payable

AUGUST PAYMENTS MADE			Chq no:
UNITY TRUST	Transfer of funds to set up Unity Trust bank account	£ 500.00	1678
Louise Brooks	Salary – July 2023	£ 501.56	1679
HMRC	NI & PAYE July 2023	£ 28.00	1680
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – July 23	£ 70.00	1681
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Pension set-up fee	£ 59.40	1682
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Payroll monthly services July/Aug/Sept 2023	£ 90.00	1683
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Pension monthly services July/Aug/Sept 2023	£ 18.00	1684
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fees	£ 378.00	1685
SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS DUE			
Louise Brooks	Salary – August 2023	£ 501.56	1686
HMRC	NI & PAYE August 2023	£ 28.00	1687
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – August 23	£ 70.00	1688
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Village Hall Carpark hedge cut and spray weeds	£ 100.00	1689
S Collier	Fingerpost refurbishment	£ 272.00	1690
P Callaghan	Fingerpost refurbishment	£ 220.00	1691
UNITY TRUST	Transfer of funds to Unity Trust bank account	£ 5,000.00	1692
UNITY TRUST	Transfer of funds to Unity Trust bank account	£ 10,000.00	1693

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves

Agreed unanimously.

23/1964 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Cole reported that they are about to have the hall redecorated throughout.

23/1965 RECREATION GROUND:

Nothing to report.

23/1966 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

23/1967 FOOTPATHS:

The footpath from Highwoods House to Highwoods Close is overgrown with brambles. Clerk asked to write a letter to the property owner asking for it to be cleared.

Action: Clerk

23/1968 MEMBERS' REPORTS.

The Chair reported that the drain at Little Norton still required work. It would appear it needed more than a jetting. Clerk to report again.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman reported that the Clerk will now start the process with regards to the vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2023.