

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

24/2010 PRESENT:

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. J Cole, Cllr. P Gartrell, Cllr C Riley, Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk), Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor). There were 7 members of the public present.

24/2011 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. B. Matraves (Vice Chair)

Cllr. J Harris

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

NO SHOW & NO APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

Cllr. L Holt

24/2012 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

24/2013 PUBLIC TIME

24/2013/a Public Time

A MOP requested an update from Wessex Water on the work they have recently carried out. He reported that once again sewage has been leaking from drain covers in Little Street and Rectory Lane after the last storm. He asked for the Parish Council to speak to Wessex Water and find out what is being done. It was also felt that the last time Wessex Water came out and lifted the drain cover they were not replaced and sealed correctly afterwards. Clerk to get in touch with the Wessex Water Sewerage Manager for Norton and request an update of what they've done so far and what they intend to do in the future. **Action: Clerk**

It was also reported that there appears to be several blockages in the river – firstly alongside the footpath (footpath ref no Y20/14) from Little Street heading downstream. There is a yellow bag which could act as a considerable water catcher, increasing the level of the watercourse back towards Little St. The fallen tree is similar location and adjacent to the Wessex Water pumping station. This fallen tree has been present for 2-3 years, and whilst not preventing the flow of the watercourse entirely it is hindering a smooth flow towards the river on the other side of the A356. Also in Rectory Lane – from the ROW footbridge (Public Footpath ref no Y20/23) down to the junction at Great Street, there is a large tree that has fallen across the river which is preventing the flow of the watercourse. It was requested that the clerk include a piece in the newsletter to reiterate the riparian responsibilities of landowners to ensure the watercourse is fit for purpose and is cleared of obstructions. **Action: Clerk**

A MOP from Rectory Lane also requested it to be minuted that he had recently been flooded yet again and discussed the drain's outfall becoming ineffective once the watercourse's water level reached the drain's outfall height. He is requesting from SC a non-return valve fitted to the pipe. Cllr More has informed the Unitary Councillors and asked them to help the MOP with his request. He would also like the height of the ROW footbridge (Y20/23) that crosses the stream to be raised allowing him to complete a defensive wall around his property to prevent further water entry. There is a public right of way across this bridge which is in increasing need of repair. ROW Area warden has been notified and has requested assistance with this case to the Lead Local Flood Authority and a site meeting.

Clerk also to speak to the Local Flood Authority regarding contacting landowners who need to clear blockages from the river. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, she had written to the agent for The Bath & Wells Diocese regarding the blockages in the river through the Glebe. They had responded that they had undertaken a full site inspection last week and the inspection report stated that the river is not blocked and is flowing. She also said that they had written to the current Tenant to reiterate that any debris from The Bath & Wells Diocese land side that falls across or near the stream is cleared, being the Tenant's responsibility.

A MOP discussed the current defibrillator outside the village shop requiring a new battery. Fund raising has raised enough funds to replace this, but the MOP requested that the PC bank the money raised and 'ring fence it' for when future repairs are required. The Chair informed the MOP that the PC were not able to hold money for other causes other than PC money. The Chair suggested that the fundraiser pays the battery company directly with the money raised and hold the rest for further repairs to the defib. The Chair also said that the PC would look into supplying a second defib for the village that would be installed outside the village hall. She reiterated that she could not determine a timescale for this as the Parish Council were currently having to take on more services at extra cost already. The clerk was asked to investigate costs. **Action: Clerk**

24/2013/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

24/2013/c Unitary Councillor report: Unitary Councillor Mike Hewitson was present at the meeting. He reported on the latest situation with regards to SC hopefully setting a balanced budget and therefore not having to

declare a S114. He was challenged by the PC regarding the Ham Hill visitor centre project, the future of the Octagon, the costs to Yeovil town centre rejuvenation project, and redundancies within the council. The PC informed him that the lack of information coming from SC at this stage was impeding the PC in setting a budget and precept. He then left the meeting.

24/2013/d CLT Update:

The Chairman of the CLT gave a brief but positive update on the shop sales for the year.

24/2013/e HYG Report

Nothing to report

24/2013/f Allotments Report

Nothing to report

24/2013/e Bus update

Nothing to report

24/2014 MINUTES

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Gartrell

Agreed unanimously.

24/2015 MATTERS ARISING

24/2015/a Budget, service costings update (if any) and precept

There have been no further updates on costs of services. The Chair spoke about the difficulties that the PC have faced over the last few months and the fabulous support they have received from MOP. The Clerk had finally received a response from the devolution team, following her enquiry about the future of Minchington Rec and how they would like the PC to be involved. The email was very non-committal from SC and the PC are still no further forward with a response. However, the PC have decided to include Minchington Rec in their budget to cover the grass maintenance, bin emptying, rose and tree care. They are hoping that the play area plus insurance and boundary wall will still be SCs responsibility. Clerk to talk to SC further on this. **Action: Clerk**

24/2015/b Newsletter charges from April 2024

The Chair asked the treasurer of the newsletter to report on the need to charge for all articles that are put forward for submission in the newsletter. The treasurer spoke about the rise in print costs being the main factor. The PC agreed that they would pay £5 per month for their article. The newsletter committee would also be very welcome to apply for S137 grant. The clerk informed the PC that they had already applied. The S137 grant is decided at the February PC meeting. This monthly charge has been included in the budget and will be paid annually in April (£60.00 for the year). Clerk to add it to the April Agenda for payment **Action: Clerk**

24/2015/c Minchington Rec Wall update

The Clerk has been in conversation with SC over the ownership of the boundary wall at Minchington play area. The wall is in need of repair in two or three places now. It is hoped that the PC are a step closer to getting this fixed. Clerk to chase again. **Action: Clerk**

24/2016 PLANNING:

24/2016/a Matters For Report

Nothing to report.

24/2016/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

24/2016/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

24/2017 FINANCE:

24/2017/a Matters for report:

Payment of loan.

The Clerk reported that the loan payment for the village hall had been paid by DD, on the 2nd January 2024.

End of third Quarter Balances

End of 3rd quarter figures

NAT WEST BANK ACCOUNTS:

Current account £ 100.00

Reserve Account £ 9,830.49

Total £ 9,930.49

UNITY TRUST BANK

CURRENT ACCOUNT

INSTANT SAVER £ 0.00

Total £ 20,230.47

TOTAL IN BOTH BANKS £ 30,178.96

There was no cheques outstanding/unbanked: £ 0.00

Total as cash book £ 30,178.96

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

VAT Return

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the annual VAT return for £741.25.

24/2017/b Matters for resolution

Budget and precept sign off.

The Parish Council have had to work on completing their budget using mostly estimated costs for services that they will fund from April 2024 – dog and litter bins-weekly emptying, grit bins – filled twice a year, verges – cut twice a year, footpath maintenance/strimming – twice a year, weed killer on pavements – once a year, road sweeping and fly tipping clearance, plus Minchington Rec maintenance costs – to name a few. The expenditure for the Parish Council for 24-25 is anticipated to be over £48,000.00. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to make a resolution to increase the precept to £45,000. Clerk to apply immediately. **Action: Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

Clerk – contribution towards extra hours worked for October, November and December

The Parish Council agreed to pay the clerk for 20 hours of overtime for the last three months work. Payment to be added to next payslip in February.

Proposed: Cllr. Gartrell

Seconded: Cllr. More

Agreed unanimously.

24/2017/c Cheques Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank

Louise Brooks	Salary – Dec 2023	£	534.57
HMRC	NI & PAYE December 2023	£	36.60
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – December 23	£	70.00
Down2Earth SW Ltd	Playground & general maintenance (inc boundary stones) Oct-Dec 23	£	320.00
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll & pension services Jan, Feb, March 24	£	108.00
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Rec Grounds maintenance Oct-Dec 23	£	459.68
NEST	Pension contributions payment	£	113.05

Proposed: Cllr. Gartrell

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously.

24/2018 VILLAGE HALL:

Nothing to report

24/2019 RECREATION GROUND:

Nothing to report

24/2020 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

24/2021 FOOTPATHS:

The ROW officer is in contact with the landowner regarding the landslide on footpath Ref no: Y20/14

24/2022 MEMBERS' REPORTS.

The wire on the footpath bridge between Minchington Rec and Holloways field is loose. Clerk to report.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2024.