

**MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**  
**AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL**

**24/2023 PRESENT:**

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. B. Matraves (Vice Chair), Cllr. J Harris, Cllr. P Gartrell, Cllr C Riley, Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk), Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor). There were 4 members of the public present.

**24/2024 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. J Cole

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

**NO SHOW & NO APOLOGIES RECEIVED:**

Cllr. L Holt

**24/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report

**24/2026 PUBLIC TIME**

24/2026/a Public Time

Two MOP asked the Parish Council whether they knew that their roadside boundary hedge in Broadmead Lane had been cut by Highways without permission? They had been informed that the Parish Council are always notified about this prior to it happening. Both the Chair and Clerk informed them that The Parish Council had no idea about this and are not informed and never have been. The MOP had already been informed by Cllr Patrick that Highways had cut the hedge and that Highways are legally entitled to do so if they see fit.

24/2026/b P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report.

24/2026/c Unitary Councillor report:

Cllr Hewitson reported on the latest regarding the financial crisis at Somerset Council. He explained that SC had received confirmation that the Council's request to increase Council Tax by more than 5% has been rejected by Government. Government were still considering SC's request for a capitalisation direction – where the council is allowed to borrow money or sell assets to pay for day-to-day running costs. Executive had voted in support of proposals to balance the budget by making significant savings, increasing Council Tax by the maximum allowed, selling council assets, and using reserves (a council's equivalent of savings). It also relies on the Government approving the capitalisation direction.

24/2026/d CLT Update:

Cllr Harris gave a positive update regarding sales at the shop.

24/2026/e HYG Report

No report was available.

24/2026/f Allotments Report

Cllr Matraves reported that the manager of the allotments was now collecting the rent for the year ahead. He also reported that he was going back to Santander bank to arrange a change to the secretary details as the application to Unity Trust Bank had been incorrectly completed by Cllr Holt. He reported there was an issue with the water tap which may have to be locked until a non-return valve had been fitted to make it compliant.

**Action: Cllr Matraves**

24/2026/e Bus update

Cllr Harris reported that the Somerset Bus Partnership were working hard to fight the proposed cuts to the services. She encouraged more people to use the service.

**24/2027 MINUTES**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Gartrell

Seconded: Cllr. Riley

Agreed unanimously.

**24/2027 MATTERS ARISING**

24/2027/a Parish Councillor absence

Cllr Holt has now missed 6 meetings and has not been responding to emails. The Chair reported that she would write to her to inform her that her position as a Parish Councillor had now ended due to lack of service. Clerk to include in the newsletter an advert for a new Parish Councillor and to inform Somerset Council of the vacancy.

**Action Chair/Clerk**

**24/2027/b** Defibrillator

The clerk reported that after requests from MOP to fund a second defibrillator for the village, she had been offered a defibrillator and cabinet at a cost of £750 plus VAT, to be installed on the outside of the village hall. The village hall would be the desired location as this is the place where most people congregate for events in the village and would be a good location for people who live in New Road. It would also be near the recreation field and play area, which are areas where it might prove beneficial. It would be situated at the front of the hall under the security light with CCTV above. However, Cllr Harris who is also on the hall committee was against the idea of a defibrillator outside the hall for fear of vandalism. Cllr Harris also felt it would not be seen from the road in this position. The Clerk was asked to contact the school to find out what happened to the one that was 'promised' 2 years ago to be installed on the outside wall of the school for residents to always have access to it 24/7. Cllr Harris will include this on the hall AGM agenda. **Action: Clerk**

**24/2027/c** Wessex Water

The clerk reported that this was being chased as she still was not getting any response from Wessex Water. To be added to the March agenda. **Action: Clerk**

**24/2027/d** Minchington Rec - Wall update

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Riley had had a meeting with a Somerset Council representative and the contractor who would be responsible for repairing the wall. The clerk had chased an update and was informed that due to the repair being larger than first thought the contractor was working out a new quote which would then need to be approved by SC before they could start the repair.

**24/2027/e** S137 grant – two applications received for consideration.

The grant available was split between the two applications the Parish Council had received – the Norton newsletter received £250, and the Yeovil Freewheelers also received £250. Clerk to arrange payment for both. **Action: Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Gartrell

Agreed unanimously.

**24/2027/f** Mobilus funding update

The Clerk reported that they had been unsuccessful with their lottery funding bid for a new mobilus. She would continue to look for other grants available. **Action: Clerk**

**24/2028** **PLANNING:**

**24/2028/a** Matters For Report

Nothing to report.

**24/2028/b** Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

**24/2028/c** Applications for consideration.

23/03144/HOU Norton House Great Street Norton Sub Hamdon, Somerset, TA14 6SJ

Construction of a new Garden Room/Home Office in the Southeast corner of the existing main property (Norton House) curtilage.

The Clerk asked Councillors to respond to this application. The two Parish Councilors that had responded, had no objections.

**24/2029** **FINANCE:**

**24/2029/a** Matters for report:

VAT Return – The Clerk reported that the VAT return for £741.25 had now been received and had been paid into the Unity Trust Instant access account.

**24/2029/b** Matters for resolution

Nothing to report.

**24/2029/c** Invoices Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank

Louise Brooks	Salary – January 24 plus contribution for extra hours worked between Sept- Jan	£	754.17
HMRC	NI & PAYE January 24	£	107.00
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – January 24	£	70.00
Somerset Council	Operational Playground inspections for 23-24	£	127.20
The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd	Annual church clock service	£	234.00
SES Fire & Security	Annual service/maintenance of CCTV system	£	98.40
CPRE	Annual membership renewal	£	36.00

Proposed: Cllr. Gartrell

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves

Agreed unanimously.

24/2030 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Harris reported that their AGM was due in a couple of weeks.

24/2031 RECREATION GROUND:

The clerk reported that she would get in touch with the late Prue Biddle's family regarding a suitable date in March for the planting of the trees. **Action: Clerk**

24/2032 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

24/2033 FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk reported that she has spoken to the Rights of Way Manager at SC and grip strips were being installed on the bridge going into the field at Minchington Rec.

24/2034 MEMBERS' REPORTS.

Cllr Harris reported a post in the post and rail fencing by the village hall/rec entrance that needed replacing. Clerk to speak to Matt at Down2Earth **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Matraes reported a branch that needed attention to a tree and the rear of the MUGA. Clerk to speak to Matt at Down2Earth. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024.