

MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th MAY 2024
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL

24/2061 PRESENT:

Cllr. S More (Chairman), Cllr. B. Matraives (Vice Chair), Cllr. J Cole, Cllr. J Harris, Cllr. P Gartrell, Cllr C Riley, Cllr R Reid, Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor), Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present.

24/2062 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

23/2063 CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR:

Due to no one requesting an election to fill the vacancy that had arisen within the Parish Council, the Parish Council were able to co-opt a new member.

The Parish Council made a resolution to Co-opt Mrs Rachel Reid onto the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr. More

Seconded: Cllr. Harris

Agreed unanimously.

Cllr Reid signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of the Parish Council and handed in a completed Register of Interest form. The Clerk will submit this to the Monitoring Officer at SC.

24/2064 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

24/2065 PUBLIC TIME

24/2065/a Public Time

Nothing to report

24/2065/b P.C.S.O. Report:

The clerk reported that we have a new PCSO – Mike Bell. Emily Brown is our current Beat Manager. However, the clerk reported that Emily Brown is changing roles to cover another team for the summer so for a short period of time there will not be a specific beat manager. This will be covered by beat managers based in Wincanton. The clerk also confirmed that we can expect a new Officer to join the team at the end of the month who will become beat manager for Norton. The clerk will update the details as soon as she knows more.

24/2065/c Unitary Councillor report:

Unitary Councillor Mike Hewitson attended the meeting. He informed the Parish Council that they have embarked on a much wider, deeper, and faster transformation of the new Council, which will reduce the size of the workforce by at least 1,000 full-time equivalents (current size is near 5,000 FTE). Voluntary redundancies are being considered first, then compulsory redundancies. He also reported on the letter that had recently been sent out informing the parish of a new recycling and waste collection day. The Chair expressed her annoyance at what it must have cost for a letter to be sent out with no new collection date on. The clerk questioned him on what was happening with services as it was only November 2023 that Parish Councils were being told that services would be cut to Parish Councils from April '24. The clerk explained that many Parish Councils had been left with the impression that without all the proposed cuts that SC put forward in January '24 they would not be able to put together a balanced budget for 24-25 and therefore a S114 would happen. PCs had been urged by Unitary Councillors to add a significant amount to precepts to be able to cover the future costs of services that they still wanted for their parish. The Chair stated that we are accountable to our parish residents for every penny we raise our precept by. We raised our precept on the advice from SC in preparation of these changes. However, there was still no price list available from SC for services and now they are not able to enforce these changes which will now come into force from April 25. The Parish Council said they would ring fence any funds they had specifically set aside in 24-25 for services to be spent in 25-26.

24/2065/d CLT Update:

Cllr Harris updated the Parish Council with positive news regarding an increase in sales, year on year. The new local fruit and veg supplier had made a great start and was certainly proving a positive addition. A new business plan was currently being worked on. Cllr Harris also reported that The Post Office is still making a loss and the shop is supporting it. However, The Post Office does bring in many people and therefore helps to generate sales in the shop.

24/2065/e HYG Report

Nothing to report.

24/2065/f Allotments Report

Cllr Matraves reported that there was no further update regarding the water installation. The clerk asked for a full set of accounts for the Parish Council records. Cllr Gartrell will be added to the banking details.

24/2065/e Bus update

Nothing to report.

24/2066 **MINUTES**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Matraves

Agreed unanimously.

24/2067 **MATTERS ARISING**

24/2067/a Latest update from SC and Minchington Rec maintenance

The Clerk reported that she now had a quote from Somerset Landscapes for the maintenance work at Minchington Rec. After sending many reminders to SC she was still waiting for a quote for the same maintenance plus further information on devolution of the asset of Minchington Rec to the Parish Council. She will continue to update the Parish Council as things progress.

24/2067/b Minchington Wall update

The clerk reported that she had now received an email stating that the start of the repair work of the wall should be the week commencing 20th May.

24/2067/c Trees in Rec

One of the support posts from a newly planted tree in the rec has been broken off. The Parish Council have instructed Matt Orchard to put in a replacement.

24/2067/d Greenham's Cross

The Chair discussed a complaint she had received regarding the state of the ground at Greenham's Cross. The complainant had offered a sum of money to have pieces of hamstone installed that line the boundary that would therefore protect the land. The Parish Council requested a meeting with Highways to see who owned the land and get their view on this. The Parish Council were very undecided about this and felt that if someone had an accident due to the stones, then we may well be responsible. Clerk to speak to Derek Davies

Action: Clerk

24/2068 **PLANNING:**

24/2068/a Matters For Report

Nothing to report.

24/2068/b Decisions Notified:

Ref. No: 23/03144/HOU - Construction of a new Garden Room/Home Office in the Southeast corner of the existing main property (Norton House) curtilage. Norton House Great Street Norton Sub Hamdon - **Status: Approved**

Applications for consideration

Application Number: 24/00883/S73

Proposal: S73 Application to vary Condition 02 (Approved Drawings) to amend dimensions relating to planning consent number 21/03252/HOU

Demolition of single storey side extensions and rear conservatory and the erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension, provision of enclosed porch

Location: Hunters End New Road Norton Sub Hamdon

The Parish Council have responded – no objection

24/2069 **FINANCE:**

24/2069/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

24/2069/b Matters for resolution

Nothing to report

24/2069/c **Invoices Payable – all paid via the Unity Trust Bank**

Louise Brooks	Democratic services– April 2024 (new hours)	£989.57
HMRC	employee NI April 2024	£13.02
HMRC	employee PAYE tax	£147.60
HMRC	employer NI to pay	£62.48
Louise Brooks	Home office Allowance - April 2024 (Gov set)	£26.00
Louise Brooks	Village History book for the parish council	£19.59
Louise Brooks	PC Stationery, paper, ink and office consumables admin, equipment maintenance	£44.00
ZURICH INSURANCE	Annual insurance policy - April 2024	£738.41
NEST PENSION	Employer contribution - April 2024	£181.61
NEST PENSION	Employee contribution - April 2024	£60.54

Proposed: Cllr. Harris Seconded: Cllr. Riley Agreed unanimously
Cllr Matraves and the Clerk Cllr More will authorise payments on Unity Trust Bank website.

24/2070 **VILLAGE HALL:**

Nothing to report

24/2071 **RECREATION GROUND:**

Nothing to report

24/2072 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

All correspondence received had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

24/2073 **FOOTPATHS:**

The clerk reported that a large bough from a tree had fallen onto a footpath. The Chair requested a letter to be sent to the landowner to make them aware of their responsibilities and have the tree checked by an arborist. Clerk to report it on the Rights of Way website. **Action: Clerk**

24/2074 **MEMBERS' REPORTS.**

Cllr Harris reported on the upcoming Hamdon Medical Centre Open Day which was taking place on Thursday May 16th 2024 2pm-5pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.21pm

The next monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY 10th JUNE 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.