

**MINUTES OF NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**  
**AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORTON VILLAGE HALL**

**24/2088 PRESENT:**

Cllr. B. Matraves (Vice Chair – Acting Chair), Cllr. J Cole (Acting Vice-Chair), Cllr. J Harris, Cllr C Riley, Cllr R Reid, Cllr. Mike Hewitson (Unitary Councillor), Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were 3 members of the public present.

**24/2089 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. S More (Chairman)

Cllr. P Gartrell

Cllr. Oliver Patrick (Unitary Councillor)

**24/2090 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report

**24/2091 PUBLIC TIME**

**24/2091/a Public Time**

Nothing to report

**24/2091/b P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report

**24/2091/c Unitary Councillor report:**

Unitary Councillor Mike Hewitson was present. He informed the Parish Council that Sarah Dyke was now the MP for our area.

**24/2091/d CLT Update:**

Cllr Harris gave the Parish Council a positive update with regards to the shop. A new EPOS system will be installed soon. She discussed the situation with the community shop at Stoke and explained that both herself and the Chair of the CLT would be attending a meeting that was being held. She also updated the PC regarding the tenant of the field behind Minchington Close.

**24/2091/e HYG Report**

Cllr Riley gave the Parish Council a very thorough report on HYG following a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. She spoke about the current shortfall in funding for this year but explained that hopefully funding from Stoke Parish Council would resume at the original amount from April 2025. She reported that the group were currently meeting more at Norton than Stoke and although the numbers were slightly lower than they have been, the children were enjoying the activities on offer.

**24/2091/f Allotments Report**

Cllr Matraves gave an update on the allotments finances, charity status and Wessex Water sign off.

**24/2092 MINUTES**

The Minutes from the June meeting was circulated. They were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Cole

Seconded: Cllr. Reid

Agreed unanimously.

**24/2093 MATTERS ARISING**

**24/2093/a Finger post refurb**

The Parish Council discussed the refurbishment of the two remaining finger posts in the village that require work – Great Street and Turnpike junction. They unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Mr Callaghan and Mr Collier and gave them the go-ahead to start the work. The Clerk will email the landowner to get permission for access to the Great St sign. **Action: Clerk**

**24/2093/b Street signs refurb**

The Parish Council discussed the quote for the street sign refurbishment. The clerk was asked to include a piece in the newsletter to see if any residents would like to donate to/sponsor a street sign where they lived. The Clerk would then report back at the September meeting and a decision would then be made. **Action: Clerk**

**24/2093/c Goal posts**

Cllr Matraves will speak to the Stoke Rec groundsman for advice.

**Action: Cllr Matraves**

**24/2093/d Minchington wall update**

Unitary Councillor Hewitson was still at the meeting to discuss this. The clerk explained that SC had requested Cllr Riley who is the neighbour of Minchington Rec, to take her copy of deeds into SC office in Yeovil to confirm ownership of the wall. A copy of the documents were taken and logged with the legal team at SC. Cllr Riley said that Dan Bennett at SC was under no doubt when he saw the deeds that SC were the owner and therefore responsible of the wall. U.C. Mike Hewitson said the process

now would be that the legal team would need to go through it to decide for themselves before a decision would be made. Cllr Reid asked U.C. Hewitson how long that would take. He responded that there was a shortage of legal representatives at SC and they were very busy with the devolution of assets. Therefore, it would take a few months. The Clerk said that this had been going on for months already. She reported that she had had conversations with Dan Bennett who had told her that due to the quote for repairs now at £25,000 and given the Somerset Council's financial situation this expenditure will be heavily scrutinised. Cllr Cole thought that quote was ridiculous and asked U.C Hewitson for a copy of the spec sent out to contractors. Cllr Cole felt that he could get the repair work done a lot cheaper. U.C. Hewitson said he would speak to Dan Bennet to see if he could get a copy but thought it unlikely, plus speak to a member of the legal team to see if he could hurry up the process. The clerk stated that the repair work was holding up the Parish Council's plan to take over the ownership of Minchington Rec. She said she was concerned that this was just another ploy to stall the repair work that SC knew they were responsible for, and it should be classed as a priority now as it has been going on for months.

She also discussed the boules court and the fact that she had now been told that no contract existed between SSDC and the boules group when it was originally given the go-ahead. Previously Cllr Cole and the clerk had originally been told there was a contract which included the wording that if the boules group folded then they had to re-instate the grass area to its former state. U.C Hewitson said he would discuss with Adrian Moore who originally agreed to the boules court. Clerk to keep chasing.

**Action: Clerk**

**24/2094 PLANNING:**

**24/2094/a Matters For Report**

Nothing to report.

**24/2094/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report

**24/2094/c Applications for consideration**

Nothing to report

**24/2095 FINANCE:**

**24/2095/a Matters for report:**

End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter accounts

**NAT WEST BANK ACCOUNTS:**

<b>Current account</b>	£ 100.00
<b>Reserve Account</b>	£ 7,694.62
<b>Total</b>	£ 7,794.62

**UNITY TRUST BANK**

<b>Current Account</b>	£ 7,891.61
<b>Instant Saver</b>	£ 45,964.43
<b>TOTAL IN BOTH BANKS</b>	£ 61,650.66

There was no cheques outstanding/unbanked: £ 0.00

**Total as cash book** £ 61,650.66

The clerk informed the Parish Council that the accounts would now go to the internal auditor for checking and approval.

**Action: Clerk**

**24/2095/b Matters for resolution**

Agreement ref Payment of August invoices without a meeting (a list of all invoices for payment sent to Parish Councillors at the beginning of August).

Proposed: Cllr. Reid

Seconded: Cllr. Cole

Agreed unanimously

