

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:** Mr. A. Burt, Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. P. Blackmore, Mrs. P. Croft, Mr. D. Etchells-Butler, Mrs. K. Fullam, Mrs. P. Mathieson, Ms. L. Paris, Mr. R. Skerry, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) Mrs. S. Mansell and Mr. J. Levantis – District Councillors  
Mrs. J. Storey – County Councillor  
3 members of the public.

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS - APPENDIX A**

Mrs. Storey presented the SCC key stage 2 results – Raising the Bar. She stated that Suffolk Local Authority Schools at GCSE are doing better than other areas, and the actions taken in the last 4-5 years now seem to be bearing fruit.

She stated there had been a decrease in grant funding but had been informed that this would happen over 3 years. When asked she stated that Age UK Suffolk is not a major beneficiary of Age UK.

Mr. Burt enquire what areas would be cut in the budget. Mrs. Storey commented that the Adult Social Care budget would be kept the same, but there would be job losses within the support services.

Mr. Aket asked about the Education figures, the lack of infrastructure, and accountability. Mr. Aket commented that Suffolk Authority is ranked 136 out of 150. However, Mrs. Storey commented that there are a number of good teachers within the schools which has shown in the improved results.

## **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – APPENDIX B**

Mrs. Mansell commented that although offices are moving to Endeavour House there will be customer access points as advice centres. In Stowmarket it will be at 54 Ipswich Street, and an office in Sudbury.

She stated that as the opposition party The Green Party is concern at the amount of funds held in reserve, around £10m.

Mrs Mansell explained about the Civil Parking Enforcement which would take over from the Police to enforce parking restrictions. It is due to come into force in April 2019 and will cost around £10,000 a year.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

A Planning Consultant brought to the council two proposals he is currently looking into. The first is a single house in Norton Little Green to which Mid Suffolk may reject, but could be taken to appeal. He asked for the Council's views on the stand-alone house, which he confirmed would not be back garden development. The Councillors declined to comment at this stage.

The second site is adjoining Suffolk House and Hawes Lane. It consists of a 1.3 hectare paddock, with access via Hawes lane and Heath Road. He stated it was at an early stage but could be a mix of houses. He recognized Hawes Lane as a single track lane. Mr. Aket asked for a possible housing density. The Consultant stated it would be around 20, probably 1-2-3-4 bed ranges, however the mix would change if a lower density was agreed. Mrs. Croft commented on the need for affordable housing in the village, but was told that developers are looking for a return on their investment so a high percentage of affordable properties may not be possible. Mr. Aket felt concerned at the Council being asked to give an opinion at this stage and felt a response was not appropriate. The Consultant stated that he had worked with other Councils who had appreciated being able to comment early on any proposal. Mr. Aket asked about the proposed pedestrian access, the infrastructure, and the number of heavy lorries using the single track road.

Councillors' Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests for matters on the agenda – none.

## **1. MINUTES**

1.1 The minutes of meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 were agreed and signed.

Signed.....Chairman

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### 2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 Beacon of Light – Mr. Burt will contact Mr. Honeywood to see if he still has the beacon.
- 2.2 War Memorial. Mr. Burt has met with Spencer Wix who has quoted £1670 + VAT to refurbish the memorial. This involves £700 to clean, £470 to hand cut the letters and £500 to repaint. The Council agreed to go ahead with the work. Mr. Burt will contact him.
- 2.3 Rooted Christmas tree – Rougham Estates could supply a tree but would not guarantee a successful planting of a large tree. Mr. Aket stated his contact had also stated a tree would need to be small to survive replanting. The Council agreed to Mrs. Croft taking this item forward.
- 2.4 Noticeboards - this item has been put on hold and can be removed from the agenda.
- 2.5 Church Lane – Highways stated that there are currently 10 potholes listed for repair which would be carried out on or before 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.

### 3. PLANNING

- 3.1 Planning Application received in respect of  
Land opposite Rookery Farm, Ashfield Road, Norton for Variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 3176/16 – Ref 5014/16 – The Council had no further comments to make.
- 3.2 Planning appeal lodged in respect of  
OPP for the erection of a detached dwelling at Manor Lodge, Ashfield Road, Norton - Planning Inspectorate Ref APP/W3520/W/16/31617459

### 4. FINANCE

- 4.1 MSDC confirmed receipt of precept application for 2017-18 for £20,000. This amounts to a Tax Band D amount of £50.02, a decrease of -2.76% on 2016/17.
- 4.2 Request for financial donation received from Suffolk Age UK. The Council declined on this occasion.
- 4.3 The following accounts were approved for payment  
Clerk, £136.00 (cheque no 001125)  
Street Cleaner, £140.00 (cheque no 001126)  
HMRC, £69.00 (cheque no 001127)  
Command Pest Control £102.00 (cheque no 001128)
- 4.4 The Clerk presented the current statements and a brief statement of account, showing the approximate figure in hand at the end of the financial year, after taking off the earmarked reserves.

### 5. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- 5.1 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm at Norton Baptist Church.

### 6. NORTON TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

- 6.1 VAS unit has been repaired and is currently sited at the Horseshoes. It was felt it should point the other way, as currently the bend slows oncoming traffic. Mr. Burt stated the signs can be moved but need charging up regularly. It was agreed that individual Councillors would be responsible if the sign is sited near them.
- 6.2 Speedwatch – no update.

### 7. PLAY AREA

- 7.1 Following the monthly playground inspection Mrs. Fullam reported the youth shelter seats are damaged. Mr. Burt agreed to sand down.
- 7.2 Councillors felt new catalogues should be obtained to seek additional play equipment and Mrs. Fullam and Mr. Aket agreed to meet and review items.
- 7.3 The Clerk was asked to find out how much is held in Section 106 with MSDC and what this can be used for.
- 7.4 Mr. Burt stated the bars have been installed.
- 7.5 The Clerk will chase up repair to the capping stones and quote for the front fence.

Signed.....Chairman

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(cont 3)

## 8. VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Mrs. Mathieson stated the work had commenced and it is anticipated to take 8 weeks. Three car spaces in the front of the hall are being used by the contractors.

## 9. VILLAGE WALK

9.1 Mr. Aket commented he could organize a walk in October, but not during the walking festival week.

9.2 Ms. Paris felt a request on facebook could find a leader.

9.3 Mr. Burt stated he had received an email from Lynda Haywood asking if the Ramblers could use the car park and toilets for an organized walk in August. The hall committee had been approached about using the toilets. The Council had no objection. Mr. Burt will ask her about being a village walk leader. He will also approach Mrs. Burt.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Brantham Parish Council enquired whether any Council had experience of working to fund a road crossing. Councillors were unable to help but Mrs. Fullam commented that if the development in Hawes Lane goes further perhaps Norton could pursue a crossing of the A1088.

10.2 Rural Coffee Caravan enquired about attending the village in April and July. Councillors agreed to this request and suggested school times would be popular with residents.

10.3 Street lights. Following enquiry by the Clerk about a street light outage, SCC confirmed that the unit is classified as a G39 conflict unit which hinders repair. He further stated that the pole mounted light is sited in a residential garden, so any replacement unit would ideally be installed in the highway. This would require a new column lantern and underground supply. The new supply would need to run in the residents garden so approval would need to be sought by the Parish Council prior to any work. He will also supply an estimate to upgrade 4 units to commence a programme of upgrade.

10.5 Concertus had forwarded a plan and request to access the School's new playground via the playing field. The Councillors rejected the proposal and Mr. Aket offered to act as the Council contact for an on-site discussion. This will be relayed to Concertus.

Correspondence for information

10.4 Clerks and Councils Direct.

## 11. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA

11.1 Mr. Aket informed the Council that the Primary School Head will be retiring.

11.2 Mrs. Fullam stated Pre-School had received a good ofsted report. She asked about a banner on the front fence.

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.1 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 7pm, Norton Baptist Church.