

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2017

PRESENT: Mr. A. Burt, Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. P. Blackmore, Mrs. P. Croft, Mr. D. Etchells-Butler,
Mrs. K. Fullam, Mrs. P. Mathieson, Mr. R Skerry, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)
Mrs. S. Mansell – District Councillor
Mr.J. Levantis – District Councillor.
2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES – Ms. L. Paris.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – appendix A

Mr. Aket asked why the staff only now being consulted when the decision has already been made to move Council offices to Endeavour House. Mrs. Blackmore commented that there may not legally need to be a consultation.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - none

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS - none

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 Site visit with Concertus Mr. Aket and Mrs. Fullam met with the Concertus representative. It was suggested to him that the materials are moved to the site via the side of the hall along the path and access to the site is through the top corner of the field, thereby not needing a compound and track across the field. Further comments are now awaited from Concertus. Mr Aket felt a bargaining tool may be to ask for a new fence along the roadside of the play area, to which all Councillors agreed.
- 2.2 Beacon of Light – Mr. Burt has spoken with Mr. Honeywood who will look for the beacon. If found and it is not viable to use another one will be made.
- 2.3 War Memorial - Mr. Burt stated the locality money from Mrs. Storey for the play area fence and surfacing can be reallocated to upgrading the war memorial.
- 2.4 Rooted Christmas tree. – Mrs. Croft has this item in hand. The tree will be planted around October.

3. PLANNING

- 3.1 Planning Applications received in respect of:
 - 9 Prospect Road, Norton, for erection of single storey and two storey rear extension following demolition of existing; Application of render finish to external face of the existing brickwork to the complete dwelling and all associated works. The Council had no objection to this proposal.
- 3.2 Planning application approved in respect of:
 - Land at Stanton Street, Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of detached dwelling and garage utilising existing vehicular access.
- 3.3 Mr. Aket asked if there has been any information about the Hawes Lane development. The Clerk commented nothing has yet been received. Mr. Aket felt that as a Councillor he was concerned at this potential planning application, but the Chairman felt all Councillors should remain impartial at this point until such time as information is received, at which time all residents should be fully informed.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1 Contract for grounds maintenance received from Vertas for 17-18 for £792.53 + VAT to be invoiced in four installments. Mrs. Mathieson commented that a recent cut had not been up to standard and a strimmer had caused damage to a post on the gym trail.
- 4.2 The following accounts were approved for payments:
 - Street Cleaner, £140.00, (cheque no 001129)
 - Clerk, £136.00, (cheque no 001130)
 - HMRC, £69.00, (cheque no 001131)
 - SCC street lighting. £3070.87 (cheque no 0001132)

Signed.....

43

3rd April 2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2017

(cont 2)

- 4.3 The Clerk confirmed receipt of cleansing grant for quarter ending December 16 of £234.00
- 4.4 When considering street light upgrades the Council felt that those working should be left until such time as they cease working and need replacement. The Clerk stated there is a light along Woolpit Road that has been out for some time and would need a complete new pole as replacement. She is currently awaiting a quote from SCC.

5. NORTON TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

- 5.1 VAS signs – The portable sign has been sited near Church Lane. Mr. Burt stated he has a volunteer to help with battery charging and changing.
- 5.2 Speedwatch – on going.

6. PLAY AREA

- 6.1 Monthly playground inspection – Mrs. Fullam commented that the area is particularly muddy and is again suffering from mole hills. Smaller items of equipment need bolt caps.
- 6.2 Youth Shelter repair – Mr. Burt agreed to inspect. He enquired about the manufacturer as it may be possible to get new seats. The Clerk will check the assets register.
- 6.3 Play area equipment - Following discussion, three new items have been agreed. The Councillors rejected the idea of a zip wire as the area required would be too great. With regard to funding, there is likely to be around £10,000 available from the Council, Mr. Burt will ask Mrs. Storey and Mr. Levantis for any locality funding in the new financial year, and ask Mid Suffolk for sport equipment funding for the trampoline. Mr. Burt agreed to speak with Emma Wilson from MSDC.
- 6.4 Quotes received from Alex James to repair or replace the roadside play area fence. Mr Aket felt this work could be used as a bargaining tool with Concertus.
- 6.5 Section 106 money - Emma Wilson from Mid Suffolk confirmed that there isn't any S106 money available to Norton that could be used for Children's Play. There is some money available for Outdoor Sports and Outdoor Pitches, i.e. £7,216.48 available for Outdoor Sports ie Bowls, Tennis, Skateboarding, MUGA etc, and £12,374.14 available for Outdoor Pitches ie Football, Rugby, Cricket etc. Emma stated that in order to access this money we would need to have a project in mind and be able to evidence the need for the facility. If there is no suitable project the monies could be spent on facilities in any of the following Parishes: Wattisfield, Walsham le Willows, Westhorpe, Stowlangtoft, Langham, Badwell Ash, Great Ashfield, Wyverstone, Thurston, Tostock, Beyton, Hessem, Drinkstone. She confirmed that the money available for Outdoor Pitches is due to expire in June this year if it has not been spent it would return to the developer. Mr. Levantis will be asked to take the matter up with Emma Wilson about whether there is chance to reallocate the money to play equipment which is well used by the school children.
- 6.6 Mr. Cracknell will be asked about replacing the Capping stones.

7. VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT

- 7.1 Mrs. Mathieson stated the work looks to be on task, and confirmed there would be an open afternoon for villagers to attend and view the upgrade.
- 7.2 Mr. Burt asked if there were plans for a social club at the hall. Mrs. Mathieson stated an organizer would need to come forward.
- 7.3 Mrs. Mathieson enquired whether the Council's insurance covered the hall. The Clerk stated the hall needs its own insurance not through the Council.
- 7.4 Mrs. Mathieson stated that changing rooms could be included in the next phase of refurbishment.

8. VILLAGE WALK

- 8.1 Mrs. Hayward has agreed to organize the next village walk, but she is currently unwell.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 SALC Area Meeting 9th March - noted

Signed.....

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2017

(cont 3)

9.2 Better broadband – this information will be placed on the facebook page.

9.3 Funding for community projects – Tesco bags of help. Project noted. Mrs. Fullam agreed to look further into the Tesco project. Similar projects are available from other supermarkets, and Mrs. Croft agreed to ask Waitrose about their fund for community projects. Mr. Burt felt public donations could be used for items, but there needs to be transparency by the Council. He will seek advice from SALC.

9.4 Request received from Pre-School for the path to be cleared and maintained. The Council decided that Mr. Matthews will be allocated more time to allow him to undertake this work.

9.5 Clerks and Councils Direct. Noted.

10. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA

10.1 Mr. Burt commented that there are more than 10 potholes in Church Lane, the number which SCC state they would be repairing, and the road in School Close has been damaged by the buses.

10.2 Mr. Aket stated that a car consistently parks on the pavement near The Dog, thus restricting the width.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 3rd April 2017