

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:** Mr. A. Burt, Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. P. Croft, Mrs. K. Fullam, Mrs. P. Mathieson, Ms. L. Paris,  
Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)  
Mrs. S. Mansell, Mr. J. Levantis – District Councillors  
Mrs. J. Storey – County Councillor.

## **REPORT FROM MRS. MANSELL - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – appendix A**

Mrs. Mansell stated she had enquired about the work on the Woolpit roundabout and been told that the planting has been done, but she believes there is an issue with the drains. The lights are left on when a lorry has been impounded.

Mrs. Mansell asked MSDC about a hard standing at the grass area at the top of Prospect Road, and been told that there are no plans to create a hard standing. It would need to meet the standards for visibility splay and safety etc. Mr. Burt asked how it would stand if the residents did this job. Mrs. Mansell stated that if in private ownership there is a right to park on the land. MSDC are loathe to become involved as this is an unadopted road. Mr. Burt stated that MSDC had marked out disabled bays for other house residents. Mrs. Mansell has informed Mrs. Burrows of her findings. Mr. Burt commented on the issues with ambulance access.

Mr. Burt asked about the Leisure Centre comment. Mrs. Mansell stated the hall closest to Stowmarket School and part of the playing field were retained in the ownership of SCC and used by the School, but as they have less use of it a long term lease has put it in the control of MSDC.

Mr. Aket enquired about the way of making decisions. Mrs. Mansell stated the Executive Committee will continue to make decisions but as from May 17 there is a move to a leader-cabinet model of governance which means the leader and single party cabinet will be able to make decisions, and the leader and portfolio holders will have some delegated powers. Although it is believed this will make the Council more efficient she was unsure about the scrutiny side. Mr. Levantis stated the Cabinet role has now been adopted by most other Councils and recommended by devolution. The advantages are clear lines of responsibility and stronger scrutiny, greater openness and transparency. It was voted in by 23-9.

## **REPORT FROM MR. LEVANTIS – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Mr. Levantis stated the refugee article means an extra 30 children will be adopted by Suffolk, being an agreed 200 over 5 years. Felixstowe and Woodbridge are additional centres.

He commented that Mendlesham has gone to a Neighbourhood Plan.

He stated a letter from Suffolk NHS said GPs and Hospitals were under immense pressure and asked patients to phone the 111 helpline first.

## **REPORT FROM MRS. STOREY – COUNTY COUNCILLOR – appendix B**

Mrs. Fullam commented on the school admissions arrangements as there had been no information given to parents about when to apply and the deadline.

Mrs. Storey commented that she has a small locality budget still available so application could be made for the war memorial refurbishment.

Mr. Aket stated that the Key Stage 2 results have been published and Stage 4 will be available soon. He asked for a copy of the SCC report on the success of the Schools Programme and the impact on the results.

**APOLOGIES** Mrs. P. Blackmore.

**COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS – none**

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## 1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were agreed and approved.

## 2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 Trees along Thurston Road. The overgrown trees along this road are located near Bayers entrance.
- 2.2 Noticeboards – Ms. Paris stated that from Fitzpatrick Woolmer the cost of recycled material noticeboards would be £1147 (+VAT) or stainless steel £1447 (+VAT). Councillors agreed to keep this as an on-going item.
- 2.3 War Memorial – Mr. Burt will meet with a stonemason next week. Some letters need re-cutting, but he believes grants are available for refurbishment.
- 2.4 MSDC submission of potential street names. The Clerk asked Councillors if they wished for names to be submitted to MSDC for consideration in the future. Councillors felt that each application should be considered at the time the request is made.

## 3. PLANNING

- 3.1 Planning applications received in respect of
  - 3.1.1 Land fronting Stanton Street, Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of detached dwelling and garage (alternative scheme to that approved under planning permission 2251/16) Ref 4742/16.  
The Council object to the siting of the new vehicle access and recommend that the original vehicular access be retained which uses the existing access to the south of the site.
  - 3.1.2 Land opposite Rookery Farm Norton for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 3176/16 (internal changes) Ref 5014/16. The Councillors had no comment to make.
- 3.2 Planning enforcement comments received in respect of
  - 3.2.1 Half Boys, Ixworth Road, Norton. The Officer had visited the property and advised the owner that permission would be required for the access on the opposite side of the house to the approved planning as it opens onto a classified road.

## 4. FINANCE

- 4.1 The following accounts were approved for payments:
  - Clerk, £136.00 (cheque no 001120)
  - Street Cleaner, £140.00 (cheque no 001121)
  - HMRC, £69.00 (cheque no 001122)
  - Tenhats, Dec and Jan, £384.00 (cheque no 001123)
  - Hall Hire £80.00 (cheque no 001124)
- 4.2 Current Bank Statement received for period 13 September to 12 December 2016, showing a balance at close of business of £18545.84.

## 5. PRECEPT for 2017-2018

- 5.1 After further discussion Mr. Aket proposed that the precept should remain at £20,000, Ms. Paris seconded, with all Councillors in agreement.

## 6. NORTON TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

- 6.1 VAS signs – Insurance claim. Mr. Burt stated he is still awaiting a cost for repair/replacement from the firm, before an insurance claim can be made.
- 6.2 Second responsible person for Sign location and data input. Mr. Walton has volunteered to assist Mr. Burt. When asked about the Data facility, Mr. Burt commented the data can be plug in and downloaded onto a laptop. Mrs. Mansell commented that in Elmswell the summary of information had been very interesting and well received by residents. Mr. Burt agreed to move the VAS to the Horseshoes.
- 6.3 Speedwatch – no update.

Signed .....Chairman

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## 7. PLAY AREA

- 7.1 Monthly playground inspection. The area is quite muddy at the moment.
- 7.2 Play area repair quotes. Mr. Burt stated Mr. Walton has paint for the gates and will then work on the other repairs. Mrs. Fullam confirmed that if the work is carried out by volunteers then the Council insurance will cover.  
The Clerk will ask Alex James for advice on the fence fronting the roadway and if deemed necessary, to provide a quote to replace.
- 7.3 Goal posts. It was uncertain if these are being used as the Football Club are not playing in Norton. This item will be put on hold for the time being.
- 7.4 The Clerk confirmed that the bars have been ordered.

## 8. VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT

- 8.1 Mrs. Mathieson confirmed that the refurbishment work will go ahead in February.
- 8.2 Mr. Burt stated that Mr. Walton has clarified that there will be a toddler and parent facility, not mother and baby.

## 9. VILLAGE WALK

- 9.1 Information received from MSDC on Walk Leader Training, showing dates for 4 one day courses. Mr. Burt felt this information could be put on facebook as a villager may be interested in taking up this training for the benefit of the village.
- 9.2 Ms. Paris said she hoped Mr. Aket would take on any walk connected to the National Walking Day. She was willing to do the small village walk and suggested a walk to Pakenham as a community building exercise. Mr. Aket felt the youngsters of the village should be aware of the footpaths in the parish.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE for discussion

- 10.1 SCC temporary road closure of part of Ashfield Road – noted.
- 10.2 Replacement of the capping stone by the village hall entrance – The Clerk will ask Mr. Cracknell if he is able to replace the cap stones.
- 10.3 MSDC forwarded a Ministerial Statement relating to Neighbourhood Plans relating to 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites. Information noted.
- 10.4 UK powernetworks – power cuts emergency plans. Mrs. Storey forwarded information from UKpowernetworks on the priority service register in the event of a power cut.
- 10.5 SALC information on video conferencing - contents noted.
- 10.6 SALC precept referendum and other news. Council tax referendum principles have not been extended to parish and town councils in 2017-18. The Secretary of State states proposals have been deferred while levels of precepts set by town and parish councils are kept under close review. It is expected Councils will demonstrate restraint when setting increases.
- 10.7 Dept of Energy and Climate Control – Salix Finance a not for profit organization which provides 100% interest free loans for energy saving projects. Information noted.
- 10.8 Gritting. The Clerk had requested all drop off sites be replenished, which had been carried out at the beginning of January.
- 10.9 Beacon of Light – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It is planned for 1000 beacons to represent light of hope following WW1 as the guns fell silent on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, and remembering those that died or returned home physically and mentally wounded. So far 320 beacons have registered. Registration for involvement is required by end of March 2017. The Chairman asked the Councillors if they wished to participate. Mr. Aket felt this could involve the 3 churches and proposed registering the Council's intent to participate. Mrs. Mathieson seconded, and Councillors

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

11.1 Mr. Burt suggested that the village has its own permanent “Christmas Tree” planted perhaps near the Village Hall. Mrs. Croft was uncertain about the size available that could be successfully planted now, but agreed to ask a colleague for his advice. Mr. Aket will ask at the local nursery.

11.2 Mrs. Mathieson commented on the state of the road and the number of potholes along Church Lane. Highways will be contacted.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12.1 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017