

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Mr. A. Burt, Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. k. Fullam, Mr. R. Skerry, Mrs.J. Rowland (Clerk)
Mrs. S. Mansell and Mr. J. Levantis – District Councillors
Mrs. J. Storey – County Councillor
Public - Mr. A. Taylor

APOLOGIES: Mrs. P. Blackmore, Mrs. P. Croft, Mr. D. Etchells-Butler, Mrs. P. Mathieson, Ms. L. Paris.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Taylor addressed the meeting as Chair to the Village Hall Committee. He stated the hall required a lot of work and money to bring it up to standard. The next phase was to add on to the hall which would encroach on the car park and fill in around the building. Storage is a big problem. The roof requires replacing and the overall appearance to be improved. Heating improvements are required – ground source is considered too expensive, so air source and convectors would be a better option. Mr. Taylor stated that as all this work costs a lot the committee would be employing a fundraiser. An application to the Lottery has been turned down. He was therefore asking for the Council to approve the proposals in principle so further investigation and plans could be undertaken. Mr. Taylor commented that the Committee are investigating broadband for the hall and the District Councillor has offered support through the locality budget, however the monthly costs would be about £30-50 and help from the Parish Council would be required. This could be a village facility as a broadband hotspot. Mr Burt commented this would be a good idea if access splays out and could be used on the field and in the Youth shelter.

Mr. Burt commented on the lack of storage and asked if the committee had considered using a shipping container which could be placed at the back of the hall and be relatively inexpensive. Mr. Taylor stated under the stage has been cleared and the front opened up but woodworm has been discovered which required treatment. A couple of regular bookings store items in the store room.

Mrs. Fullam considered the proposal for a shower and wash room to be excessive for the hall needs. Mr. Taylor stated the hall lacks smaller meeting rooms and occasionally changing rooms are required by those using the stage.

Mrs. Fullam asked about the hall usage and the running costs. Mr. Burt felt the hiring costs needed to be available with more advertising to hire the facility. Mr. Taylor stated the hire changes have been put in this month's Messenger. The hall AGM is to be held on 10th October when he hoped Councillors would attend. He stated the hall does not make a profit and just covers running costs but to improve more funding is needed.

Mr Burt asked about regular bookings and was informed that bookings have improved and the hall is booked most evenings, but during the day it would only be children based clubs, so safeguarding raises issues.

Mr. Taylor stated consultations and Business Plans have been drawn up in the past.

Mr. Aket felt building into the car park would take away the disabled spaces and reduce parking spaces, and the car park is a tremendous asset.

Mr. Taylor asked for Council agreement in principle to the proposed improvements, but Mr. Burt felt a working party of Councillors and Committee should be set up initially, which could be agreed at the AGM.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR – appendix A

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – appendix B

Mrs.Mansell stated the School Close meeting room change of use has been deferred due to parking issues, and she had no update on the proposals at the Elmswell roundabout.

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(cont 2)

Mrs. Mansell commented that Norton has been listed as a core village in the Local Plan with only 2 small land applications. The rest would be infill. The Chair felt the Council could give input into housing needs and development so that the village gets what is needed and required. Mr. Levantis commented that local landowners needed to be on board to release land. The Chair felt the Council needed to have a plan, endorsed through the minutes.

Mr. Levantis commented on the volunteer website whereby volunteers could be accessed to help with projects.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS - none

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2017 were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1. Concertus and access to school grounds – no further correspondence from Concertus. Information awaited from Pretty's solicitor.

2.2 Boundary Review – The Council had no comment to make at this time.

3. PLANNING

3.1 Planning Applications received in respect of:

3.1.1 33 Prospect Road, Norton for erection of one and one half storey side extension (DC/17/03525).

The Council has no objection to the proposed application

3.1.2 Land on the west side of Barton Road, Thurston for erection of 138 dwellings. Construction of new vehicular access and provision of cycle/pedestrian link to Barton Road. Provision of road and drainage, infrastructure, landscaping and open space (4386/16). The Council felt their previous comments were still relevant.

3.1.3 Bumble Cottage, Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of rear single and two storey extension and detached garage, following demolition of existing extensions/outbuildings (DC/17/04288). The Council commented that the raised roofline was not in keeping with the adjacent properties and needed to be lowered.

3.1.4 Birch House, Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of two and a half storey side extension (replacing existing garage) and erection of detached garage with accommodation over first floor (DC/17/04328) The Council has no objection to this proposed application.

3.1.5 Land at rear of Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton for Outline Planning Application (All matters reserved except access) - Erection of 5 No detached dwellings (DC/17/03668). The Council has the following observations to make:

1. The access to the site would be disadvantageous to the Salvation Army, which is an important group within the village.

2. The outline application is for 5 large houses, which, according to the Village Plan, is not the requirement for Norton to be a sustainable village. Smaller, affordable housing would be the needs of the village.

3.2 Planning permission granted:

3.2.1 Halfboys, Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of garage and creation of new vehicular access (1564/17)

4. FINANCIAL

4.1 The following accounts were approved for payments

Street Cleaner, £166.40 (cheque no 022010)

HMRC, £75.60 (cheque no 022011)

Clerk, £136.00 (cheque no 022012)

Tenhats, £191.00 (cheque no 022013)

Signed.....

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(cont 3)

Vertas, £699.40 (cheque no 022014)
Upson Downs, £31.40 (cheque no 022015)

- 4.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of cleansing grant for 1st quarter 2017/18 of £255.13
- 4.3 Project application to Locality Budget. The Council supported the request from the Village Hall for wifi as a worthwhile application. The additional on-going running costs would be considered at the next precept setting for 2018/19

5. PLAY AREA

- 5.1 Monthly playground inspection. The see-saw requires attention, the bark requires racking and moles have appeared again. The Council is awaiting the inspection report to undertake any repairs.
- 5.2 Mrs. Fullam enquired about the cricket wicket use. Mr. Aket stated he is trying to encourage the school to use the facility.
- 5.3 Mr. Aket stated he has e-mailed the Head for an invite to talk to the children about the new equipment and the need to look after the facility.

6. VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 Invitation received for AGM on 10th October 2017 at 7.30pm
- 6.2 Mr. Skerry stated the hire charges have been advertised in the Messenger and on web site.
- 6.3 Mr. Burt felt a working group with Councillors and Committee should be set up to take the improvements forward.

7. CORRESPONDENCE for discussion

- 7.1 MSDC joint local plan consultation – 5th September 2017, 6.30pm, New Green, Thurston. Mr. Aket and Mr. Burt stated they would be attending.
- 7.2 Babergh and MS joint local plan consultation document. The Chairman stated there appeared to be only two areas identified for Norton, but he had identified other areas in Norton that could be developed, subject to landowners agreement, and he felt the Council could influence requirements. However, MSDC Planning Policy did not feel Ashfield Road to be viable for any development as there was no pedestrian link, but Mrs. Mansell commented the creation of a footpath could be considered for accepting any development.
- 7.3 Scarecrow Festival. Mrs. Fullam brought this suggestion to the Councillors. Mr. Burt enquired whether this would be a fundraiser but Mrs. Fullam felt this could be a free event with organisations and individuals taking part with perhaps a competition to collect tokens and receive a prize. She felt the outlay would be minimal and suggested the Council could subsidise the event. Mr. Burt commented this could be a Guy competition if it could be organized in time.
- 7.4 SALC Mid Suffolk South Area Meeting - 7 September 2017, 7.00 pm – noted.

8. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENDA - none

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 2nd October 2017.