

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2018

PRESENT: Mr. A. Burt, Mr. B. Aket, Mr. D. Etchells-Butler, Mrs. K. Fullam, Ms. L. Paris,
Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)
Mrs. S. Mansell and Mr. J. Levantis – District Councillors
Mrs. J. Storey – County Councillor
Public - Mr. G. Walton

APOLOGIES: Mrs. P. Croft, Mrs. P. Blackmore, Mrs. P. Mathieson.

PUBLIC FORUM – no comments from members of the public.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Appendix A & B

Mr. Levantis stated the consultation for the merger will go ahead by MSDC, but it is felt that the merger will not happen.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Appendix C

Mrs. Storey commented on the discussion to recycle plastic bottles. A letter is to go to the Secretary of State to get a National Policy on this scheme. When asked how this would work, Mrs. Storey was unsure but felt it would be to return bottles to where purchases to receive money back.

Mr. Aket enquired about the delays at the Rougham junction costing £1/2m due to an error. Mrs Storey commented that there had been a hold up with the Planners due to not enough provision for cycle path and pedestrians, but believed the scheme came in reasonably on budget.

Mr. Etchells-Butler stated there had been complaints from residents about lorries using Heath Road and churning up the grass. He said complaints have been submitted to SCC. Mrs. Mansell stated Tostock has complained about lorries coming through from Norton. Mr. Burt commented that lorries are accessing the Tostock Village Hall development and Mr. Walton stated there is a field of sugar beet so it could be a lorry was used instead of a number of tractors. Mrs. Mansell commented that the lorry watch reporting system should be used if this continues to be a problem.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST - none

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 4th December 2017 were agreed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 School Parking - continues to present an issue.

2.2 Remembrance Day in November. Ms. Paris asked whether a roll call is made of those fallen in the Wars and was informed that in the Church Service the names of those on the memorial are read out. She felt it might be an idea to involve the children by asking them to research 2 or 3 people on the memorial and read out the research at the memorial service. It was agreed this would be an excellent idea and Mr. Burt and Ms. Paris agreed to talk this to Revd Valentine. It was also suggested about a bugler at the memorial. This will be mentioned to the Salvation Army.

2.3 Village Walk. Reminder that this takes place on 21st January 2018.

3. PLANNING

3.1 Planning Applications received in respect of:

3.1.1 Norton Pre-School Honeywood Corner for continued use of land for the siting of unit for pre-school for 7 years – DC/17/04655. The Council was supportive.

3.1.2 Applebury, The Street, Norton for erection of cart lodge – DC/17/05957. The Council had no objection other than to question whether this was in front of the building line.

3.1.3 Land South of Halfboys, Ixworth Road, Norton, IP31 3LE for erection of 3 No. dwellings with vehicular access, parking and landscaping - DC/17/06115.

Signed.....

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The Council objected to this application and made the following statements:

1. Policy SC1 - Although mention is made of "small scale housing to meet local needs" this application is for 1 x3 and 2x4 bed houses, which is not considered small scale. The Norton Parish Plan states the local needs are for small affordable houses for first time buyers
 2. Policy CS9: Density and Mix states that new housing development should provide a mix of house types, sizes and affordability. This application does not provide for affordability and mix of housing types.
 3. The application does not optimise the potential of the site to provide affordable houses to meet local needs.
 4. Through benefit of local knowledge this site was used during WW2 by the home guard as a burial site for munitions and miscellaneous items.
 5. There is no adequate provision for parking on site during construction. The village hall car park is not available for construction vehicles.
 6. The Council would consider an alternative application of six semi-detached dwellings considering this to be housing to meet local needs.
- 3.1.4 Planning Permission granted in respect of:
Barn at Haydons Farm, Ashfield Road, Norton for conversion of barn to dwelling (Applic DC/117/04639

4. FINANCE

4.1 The following accounts were approved for payments:

- Produlic £26371.96 (cheque no 022032)
- Street Cleaner, £166.40 (cheque no 022033)
- Clerk, £136.00 (cheque no 022034)
- HMRC, £75.60 (cheque no 022035)
- Tenhats, Dec and Jan £409.95 (cheque no 022036)
- Prettys, £120.00 (cheque no 022037)
- MSDC, £114.07 (cheque no 022038)
- Local Council Public Advisory Service, £40.00 (cheque no 022039)
- Tenhats, web domain renewal £68.95 (cheque no 022040)

4.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of S106 sports improvement grant from Mid Suffolk for £15901.93.

4.3 The Clerk confirmed receipt of CIL payment from Mid Suffolk for £3566.19

5. PRECEPT

5.1 The Clerk presented a current budget statement showing a balance of £17360.

5.2 The Clerk presented a suggested precept statement for 2018-2019 of £20,000. Mr. Aket proposed acceptance of £20,000, Mr. Etchells-Butler seconded, with all in agreement. A review of the suggested budget heading allocations will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. PLAY AREA

6.1 Monthly inspection report. Mrs. Fullam stated the moles had returned to the play area. Action on this would be deferred until summer. Mrs. Fullam commented that the mid gate area is slippy and muddy, the cone climber is wobbly and there is a chunk out of the slide on the new item. As the new play area sign has not been received Mrs. Fullam will contact the company.

6.2 Play Area Inspection report – deferred to next meeting.

7. VILLAGE HALL

7.1 Report on upgrade improvement. Mr. Walton stated another approach has been made to pre-school and a meeting held which offered the possibility of a place for the group within the hall refurbishment. New plans, toilets etc will be required. It has been decided to use a professional fundraiser to get the

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(cont 3)

maximum funds for the refurbishment. New curtains in the committee room and repainting has been completed due to sponsorship. Frosted glass in the kitchen window is in hand. There are problems with the heating and the Committee is exploring air source heating.

7.2 Update on wi-fi. Mr. Walton reported the wi-fi is up and running. A grant application has been made for a booster and extenders.

7.3 Mr. Walton requested a representative from the Parish Council at the next Village Hall meeting. Ms. Paris agreed to attend.

8. CORRESPONDENCE for discussion

8.1 Thurston Community College consultation on home-to-school travel – noted.

8.2 Road surface water along Ashfield Road and The Street. Mrs. Fullam stated she has received complaint that during heavy rain water runs down the road. It appears some of the drain may be blocked and possibly the culvert is blocked. Highways will be asked to rod the drains and culvert pipe to unblock.

CORRESPONDENCE for information

8.3 Fields in Trust newsletter

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

9.1 Mr. Burt commented that fibre optic broadband will shortly be available to the rest of the village.

9.2 It was reported that on Facebook there are reports of breakins in houses and sheds.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 5th February 2018.