

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2018

PRESENT: Mr. A. Burt, Mr. B. Aket, Mrs. P. Blackmore, Mr. D. Etchells-Butler, Mrs. P. Mathieson, Ms. L. Paris, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)
Mrs. S. Mansell – District Councillor
4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. P. Croft, Mrs. K. Fullam.

PUBLIC FORUM

Miss Rowland stated her interest in planning application 3.1.2.

Mr. Bauer informed the Councillors of the problems with the trees at the Church. He stated one had been lost in a storm, so all had been inspected and consequently it has been found several are diseased and a risk to the public. He stated Gadd Bros had provided a 3 year plan of requirements which would cost around £7000. The Church are looking to fundraise but he also asked the Council to consider financial assistance. Mr. Bauer confirmed that the Church is not registered for VAT. When asked about locality funding, Mrs Mansell stated that religious funding is not favoured, but she suggested MSDC may have grants available. Mr. Aket enquired about other quotes, but Mr. Bauer stated this current quote had cost £400 so no other quotes had been sought. Mr. Aket agreed to ask Three Trees for a quote for the work.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Appendix A

Mrs. Mansell stated the Thurston Planning application has problem with the Railway Station and pedestrian crossing which is a risk factor. She stated the planning application for the petrol station is going to the June planning Committee for discussion. She commented on the Elmswell Council looking at having the A1088 ban lifted as increasingly the road through Elmswell is being used as a rat run by lorries. She stated lorries cannot be banned from this road as there is a quarry with a licence to extract.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Appendix B

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST – The Clerk declared an interest in planning item 3.1.2

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2018 were agreed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 Format for Remembrance Day - Ms. Paris is still consulting with Rev Valentine and School Head.
- 2.2 Tree Preservation Orders – identification of eligible trees. – reply from Tree Officer awaited.
- 2.3 The Clerk confirmed the current vacancy has been advertised. Mr. Etchells-Butler asked if Mr. Walton would consider cooption, but he declined. The Chairman asked for interested parties to be brought to next meeting.

3. PLANNING

3.1 Planning Applications received in respect of:

- 3.1.1 Kentwell Lodge, Ashfield Road, Norton for erection of first floor side extension (Ref DC/18/00855). The Council had no comment to make.
- 3.1.2 Willowbrook Cottage, Ashfield Road, Norton for erection of 1 detached dwelling (Ref DC/18/01000). The Council asked for MSDC to take the neighbouring comments into consideration.
- 3.1.3 Land at Stanton Street, Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of 4 dwellings and garages (DC/18/01239)
The Council do not support this application and make the following comments:
 1. The character of Norton and The Spinney will be changed as this ribbon development slowly joins the two areas.

Signed.....

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(cont 2)

2. This application will extend the building area along the A1088
3. It will create additional accesses on to the A1088
4. It does not offer affordable housing to the village which was a desirable aspect of future planning as requested by villagers through the Village Plan.
5. It is questioned whether change of use will be required as it is believed this is currently agricultural use.

Although the Parish Council oppose this application on various grounds, should Mid Suffolk decide to grant the application it is requested that hedges and trees are retained.

3.2 Planning Permission granted in respect of:

3.2.1 Dai Dor, The Street, Norton for erection of first floor and single storey rear extensions
(DC/18/00538)

3.2.2 9 Ixworth Road, Norton for erection of rear single and two storey extension and front porch (Ref DC/18/00159)

3.2.3 The Paddock, Heath Road, Norton, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3LR - DC/18/00083

3.4 Mr. Aket stated that trees are being removed at the roadside near Little Haugh leaving a mess on the road verge. Mr. Walton stated this work has been requested as the trees are damaged and there is a risk to the highway.

4. FINANCE

4.1 The following accounts were approved for payments:

Clerk, £136.00 (cheque no 022048)

HMRC, £34.00 (cheque no 022049)

SALC, £30.00 (cheque no 22056)

MSDC (bin), £248.00 (cheque no 22057)

SCC (street lights), £2651.88 (cheque no 22058)

SALC subscription, £368.17 (cheque no 22059)

4.2 The Clerk presented the current bank statements.

4.3 Request received for financial assistance from EACH. The Council declined the request.

4.3 Quotation from Vertas for grounds maintenance 2018-2019 as £816.50

4.4 The Clerk confirmed receipt of street cleansing grant for Dec 2017 and March 2018 for £510.26, recycling grant for £441.54 and 6 month Precept of £10,000.00.

4.5 The Clerk confirmed receipt of Locality Award of £350.00 for cricket equipment.

4.6 The Clerk provided costing from £89.00 for salt bins. The Councillors decided to defer decision until September.

4.7 Mr. Aket stated he has researched cricket equipment and has found a youth size package, plus 2 stumps and a box of 6 balls totaling £352.92. He agreed to place the order. He stated he would keep the equipment at his house and it could be borrowing for a deposit refunded on return. He will place an advert in the Messenger.

5. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

5.1 The Clerk reminded Councillors of the APM on 16th April.

6. PLAY AREA

6.1 Monthly inspection report – Mrs. Fullam will ask about the new sign.

6.2 Play Area Inspection report. The slide mound requires repair. The Clerk will enquire of Urban Forestry for a quote and recommendation of how to sort the repair.

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(cont 3)

7. VILLAGE HALL

7.1 Report on upgrade improvement – reply from FIT. FiIT had replied that currently their own trustees are loathe to consent to changes to any protected field that would result in a loss of open space, particularly if the usage will not be recreational in nature, so an extension without encroachment onto the playing field would be a recommended course of action. The VH Chairman has been in touch with FIT and received further clarification from them. Any major development would be restricted to recreation use so the Committee is limited on the extension size. The stage end would not affect public use, so is being looking at. A local villager who has worked on the Sapiston Hall is being asked for his views and ideas. Further items on the list are sound proofing the committee room doors, shutters in the kitchen linked to a fire alarm, LED lighting, stage LED lighting, an application to Garfield Weston for a grant, and air source heating and air to water heating for which quotes are being sought. The water use is being monitored as the bill was so high. To go forward the Committee will need a digital enhanced survey to include the field and car park and will cost around £1400. It was requested this cost is shared with the Parish Council. The Chairman suggested that as this is not required by the Council this should be for a smaller area of just the Hall to reduce the cost.

7.2 Car park signage – ordered.

7.3 Quote received for entrance upgrade/repair for £3895 + VAT

The Councillors decided to put this on hold for the time being.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 High speed broadband in Norton – correspondence from Mr. Lucas noted.

8.2 Safeguarding training session – 3rd May 2018 at Elmswell -noted

8.3 Suffolk Walking Festival 2018. Noted.

8.4 Local Government Boundary Commission draft recommendations – noted.

8.5 Removal of the weight restrictions on A1088 by Elmswell PC. The Clerk will write to SCC for an update and clarification.

8.6 Trees at St Andrew's Church. – see comments under Public Forum.

CORRESPONDENCE for information

8.7 Suffolk View

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

9.1 Mr. Etchells-Butler commented on the state of the road in School Close. SCC will be contacted.

9.2 Mr. Aket suggested organizing a litter pick/ clear u in the village. Mrs. Mansell stated MSDC can help with equipment and agreed to pass on details to the Clerk.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 14th May 2018 – Annual General Meeting of Council followed by monthly meeting