

**NORTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2020**

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 at 8.00pm by VIDEO CONFERENCE.

**PRESENT (by video)**

**In the chair:** Mr. D. Etchells-Butler,

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. C. Fakes, Mr. R. Lenko, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. S. Sadler.

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

District Councillor Wendy Turner

County Councillor Jane Storey

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

One member of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. R. Belham

District Councillor H. Richardson

Public – Mr. G. Walton.

1.	<p><b>OPENING</b></p> <p>The Chairman opened the meeting advising all that the Video Protocol had now been adopted by the Parish Council. He reminded Councillors to raise a hand if they wished to speak.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests</b></p> <p>2.1 To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) and personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25</p> <p>– Mr. Etchells-Butler declared a non-pecuniary interest in an item 5.2 submitted by a member of the public concerning water to the allotments.</p> <p>2. To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - None declared.</p> <p>3. To receive requests for dispensations - None received.</p>	
3.	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>3.1 To note the minutes of the following meeting: (as previously circulated) and to agree that delegated authority be given to the Chair to sign the minutes outside of the meeting.</p> <p>•Virtual email Parish Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020</p> <p>Agreed as a true and accurate record, and as such to be signed by the Chair of the meeting outside of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><b>REPORTS FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>•Report from County Cllr Jane Storey – noted by Councillors</p> <p>•Report from District Cllrs Harry Richardson and Wendy Turner – noted by Councillors.</p>	

So approved at the meeting of 06.07.20 with agreement for minutes to be signed by the Chairman away from the meeting.

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<p>5. <b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>—to receive reports for information</p> <p>5.1 Members of the public—to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance via Zoom – none received.</p> <p>5.2 Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email.</p> <p>Email received from Mr. Walton on a number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety fencing around railway was not stable with substandard cable ties and with some lacking feet. Some panels lay singly or stacked on the ground causing a safety hazard. He had agreed to mow the area when panels were moved, but Mr. Sadler was working and Mr. Etchells-Butler had not been available. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated he had offered his help but Mr. Walton had not got back to him. Mr. Fakes stated he had observed that the fence had been deliberately torn down and distributed. (see action in 8.1)</li> <li>• Water on allotments. Now that all plots are taken he asked if the PC could consider laying on water. This matter would be taken to the Charity Trustees who manage this area, however, Mr. Etchells-Butler felt the PC could perhaps help to sponsor installation with allotment holders paying yearly charges. District Cllr Turner stated her locality fund could possibly help. Mr. Etchells-Butler agreed to seek costs involved from Anglian Water and felt Mr. Walton may also be willing to help with installation. County Cllr Storey stated the cost would be required for any funding from locality budget.</li> <li>• Car Park entrance. This continues to deteriorate.</li> <li>• Car park hedges overgrown making junction dangerous. Vertas will be asked if they are able to carry out this work.</li> <li>• Recycling bins are full. The Clerk stated these have been reported to MSDC. Mr. Etchells-Butler commented that now the gates had been removed and the area was open, this meant the bins filled up very quickly.</li> <li>• Speed control and monitoring. The traffic is getting heavier and this needs to be put back on the PC agenda (see item 7.2). Mr. Sadler stated he hoped to get speedwatch back, but more people are required with training from the Police. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated that there are only two speed cameras in the village and this may need to be addressed.</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Etchells-Butler will investigate.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Vertas</p>
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### 6. PLANNING

To consider matters relating to Planning for Norton:

6.1 To note guidance received from the Local Planning Authority on the planning and building control functions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillors felt this was a shortcut to passing planning applications, but District Cllr.

Turner stated this was needed to keep things moving, the Planning committee would meet for developments over 15 or if the application is contentious. Mr. Fakes commented that in Thurston fields are disappearing to housing developments but the parishioners are not listened to. District Cllr. Turner stated there is a push from

the Government for big developments which can set a precedent. Mr. Aket also commented that a number of applications now are self-build which has no CIL and therefore detrimental to villages, so Mid Suffolk need to be aware of self-build proposals.

6.2 To consider the following planning applications:

- DC/20/01784 –Application for planning permission for erection of 2 detached cottages at Land at Little Haugh Hall, Ixworth Road, Norton.

**The Council rejected this application on the same grounds as previously stated, namely that it was considered the proposed scheme dwellings are too large for the site. The dwellings are sited close to a listed building. It would create another access onto the A1088 near the brow of a hill. If approved the Council requested an imposed condition for farm workers only**

6.3 To note responses to previous planning applications submitted as statutory consultees – approved:

- DC/20/00734 – Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for DC/19/00549 for variation of condition 2(plans and Documents) – Land on the South Side of Halfboys, Ixworth Road, Norton.

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7.	<b>FINANCE</b>	<p>To consider and review Financial Matters</p> <p>7.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Mr. A. Taylor – plants for planters at Service Station. £41.00 cheque no.022249  <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Clerk’s salary £140.10 cheque no 22250  <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">HMRC £35 cheque no. 222251  <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Reimbursement to Clerk for Zoom Account (21.5.20-20.5.21) £143.88 (cheque  <span style="float: right;">no 22252 LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Norton Baptist Church, Hall hire, Jan-Mar 20 £30 (cheque 222530)  <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Clerks and Councils Direct subscription £12 (cheque no 22254)  <span style="float: right;">LGA1972</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">s112</p> <p>Mr. Etchells-Butler asked for a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor for their work on the planters.</p> <p>7.2 To acknowledge CIL payment of £18,785.60 and consider projects to fund.          After discussion the following possible projects were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request from Pre-School to financially support an artificial grass area. One quote received for between £9275 and £11767. It was felt more quotes should be sought but in principle the Council supported part funding this project or a grant to help towards costs during the current crisis or towards their need for a new building.</li> <li>• Improve train fence. Mr. Etchells-Butler felt concrete posts would be better long term. Mr. Fakes and Mrs. Long felt the fence should be robust and hard wearing. However, Mr. Aket was not in favour of spending additional finances on a private venture. When put to the vote this funding was passed by majority. Mr. Aket commented this had been voted and agreed by Councillors on inadequate information and without having the exact cost involved. When asked Mr. Etchells-Butler stated the additional cost is around £2000.</li> <li>• Street Lighting. Mr. Aket felt the street lighting requires upgrading. In principle this was agreed so Mr. Aket will investigate which lights should be included and whether additional columns are required in any dark area.</li> <li>• Path. Mr. Sadler felt a path was required between Church Lane and Prospect Road as many families walk this area to school and there had recently been a near miss car incident. County Cllr Storey felt a footpath along the road was not feasible due to width and perhaps another route could be found but local landowners may need to be approached. If it was a cycle way as well the path would need to be wider. It was questioned whether 20mph restriction would work, but Cllr Storey felt this would be difficult to enforce, the Police would need to assess, but are currently reluctant for new speed limits. Mr. Aket enquired about speed bumps along the road. The Clerk will enquire of</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Etchells-Butler will approach.</p> <p>Mr. Etchells-Butler to provide additional cost.</p> <p>Mr. Aket to investigate.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Highways.</p> <p>Mrs. Long</p>
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