

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2020

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.30pm by ZOOM 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. J. Morgan, Mr. S. Sadler,

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor Jane Storey

One members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. J. Tottie

District Councillor Wendy Turner

District Councillor H. Richardson

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| 1. | OPENING The Chairman opened the meeting reminding all of the Video Protocol | |
| 2. | Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests 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. None. 2.2 To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – none 2.3 To receive requests for dispensations. None | |
| 3. | PUBLIC FORUM –to receive reports for information Members of the public–to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Walton commented on the amount of litter in the village. He stated the boxes left at the recycling bins had been cleared and contained a name and address, which he had forwarded to the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed she had written to the person concerned. Mr. Etchells-Butler thanked Mr. Walton for clearing the area and felt, when able, a litter pick should be arranged. Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Etchells-Butler read out an email from Mr. Williams commenting on the amount of dog faeces not cleared up and asking for more dog bins near footpaths. Mr. Etchells-Butler has replied to him asking for his suggestion of where to place additional bins. Mrs. Storey commented that in some villages her locality funding has been used to purchase additional bins. | Mr Etchells- Butler |

So approved at the meeting of 04.01.21 with agreement for minutes to be signed by the Chairman away from the meeting.

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Signed

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| 4. | REPORTS FOR INFORMATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Report from County Councillor Jane Storey - noted Mr. Aket enquired about C.C. funding to help families in need over the Christmas period. Mrs. Storey stated there are advice lines set up, but she felt help would be set up but this had as yet to be confirmed. Suffolk Community Foundation can give grants, i.e for heating oil. Mrs. Storey outlined her reply to the email from Councillor Turner about the Highways Locality Budget. She replied that a dedicated pedestrian crossing on the A1088 is not something the Speed and Safety Dept could fund at this time. Such a crossing would need to be traffic light controlled and not a zebra crossing and the cost of the traffic regulation order, electric work and other necessary infrastructure would increase the cost to in excess of £30,000 so would not be feasible for the Highways Budget as an alternative to SCC direct funding. She mentioned a pedestrian refuge but the cost of this would be approx. £10,000 but the road may need to be widened. Mrs. Storey recommended the installation of Vehicular Activated Speed signals or the warning flashes that can be manual or time set to school times and potentially other events happening. Warning flashes can only be installed in the vicinity of schools or playing fields. Some other villages have VAS which can be moved around. She has asked the safety team to look up the historical speed data and do an up to date one. Mr. Etchells-Butler and Councillor Turner have another meeting to discuss. Mr. Aket stated that it would appear recently cars are stopping to let people cross which is a positive sign. •Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson and Wendy Turner - noted |
| 5. | MINUTES <p>5.1 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Parish Council Monthly Meeting 2nd November 2020 Agreed as a true and accurate record, and as such to be signed by the Chair outside of this meeting. |
| 6. | MATTERS ARISING |

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| | <p>1. Coopting to the vacancy due to Mr. Thorpe's resignation. On a vote, Mrs. Tottie was unanimously coopted to the Council.</p> <p>2. Coopting to the vacancy due to Mr. Belham's resignation. As there were no nominations for consideration the Clerk asked Councillors to forward any names of interested people so this item can be put on the next agenda.</p> <p>3. Mr. Etchells-Butler enquired about water to the allotments. The Clerk confirmed she is awaiting a date from the drilling company.</p> <p>4. Highways – Meeting with Jo Churchill and Highways Lesley Canham attended in Jo Churchill's place. Mr. Etchells-Butler provided a synopsis of pointers from the meeting, which was forwarded to Councillors, and comments from the Highways Dept are now awaited. Those present agreed it was a reasonable meeting.</p> | |
| 7. | PLANNING | |
| | <p>7.1 DC/20/04778 - Land at The Cotswolds, Ixworth Road, Norton, erection of 1 dwelling following demolition of garage The Council objected to this application. They consider that with the previously approved applications on this site, this additional proposal would result in overdevelopment of the area. The area is liable to flooding Additional vehicles exiting this site would present a hazard being sited close to the village hall entrance, and create additional traffic on the A1088.</p> | |
| | <p>7.2 DC/20/05005 Land South of Little Owl Lodge, Ashfield Road, Norton, Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No dwelling with parking. The Council objected to this proposed application. The application site is outside the current settlement boundary according to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Regulation 19. Norton Little Green is a small hamlet around a mile and a half from the centre of the village and surrounded by open countryside. The proposal would therefore be further erosion of the open countryside and would set a likely precedent for future development in this area. The proposed application could not be considered to be in a sustainable location. The hamlet is of sufficient distance from the village amenities of Norton and Elmswell to require use of vehicular transport to access those amenities, ie school, village hall, play area and playing field, garage and shop, thus creating additional traffic flow along this small quiet minor road. There is very little public transport in this area. As there are currently two accesses to the site a condition to use only the access shown on the proposal needs to be stated if this application is given approval.</p> | |

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7.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/20/05106. Land at Common Corner, Ashfield Road, Norton, Erection of 9no dwellings with garages. Construction of vehicular accesses and associated works.

The Council objected to this application on the following grounds:

- The application from 6 to 9 properties would represent overdevelopment of the site.
- The proposed road layout gives concern for a potential increase in future development in this area.
- The development is directly opposite Prospect Road, so with the increase in vehicles this would represent a safety hazard for the Children picked up by bus for the Upper School in this vicinity.
- The additional traffic generated would represent a safety risk for children and adults walking along the road particularly to the primary school due to the lack of pavement along Ashfield Road. There is a blind bend at Common Corner which represents an additional hazard.
- Additional traffic along this minor road using The Street, which in places is narrow, would pass the village school which is congested at times with parental vehicles.
- Lack of infrastructure fails to support additional housing. There is little or no public transport, and the Primary School is full. The nearest shop is several miles away so car usage would be essential thereby increasing pollution.
- These designs are not in keeping with the character of the village.
- The Council recommend keeping the development to the currently permitted 6.

7.4 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/20/05087

The Mill House, Ixworth Road, Norton, - Erection of single storey orangery extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) and erection of new double garage (following demolition out buildings).

The Council approved this application.

7.5 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - DC/20/05206

Land to The North Of, Ashfield Road, Norton. Application under S73 to vary or remove conditions relating to approved S73 application DC/20/03992 dated 10/11/2020 in order to remove Condition 3 (Fire Hydrants) and Condition 12 (Removal of Permitted Development Rights) and for the variation of Condition 11 (Agreement of Materials) and Condition 13 (Pre-Commencement: Approval of Phasing of Development) see letter dated 16th November 2020

The Council had no comment to make on the varying or removal of conditions assuming the planning officer will ensure work is carried out according to planning requirements.

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| 7.6 APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS | <p>Land East of Moss Chase, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/20/05229 Erection of 1no dwelling. Submission of Details (Reserved Matters) and Discharge of Conditions 4 (tree protection) and 8 (ecological enhancement) under Outline Planning Permission DC/18/02508. Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be considered.</p> <p>The Council supported this application.</p> <p>They were pleased to see their comment at outline application of size and scale appropriate to adjacent properties had been taken into account in this submission and the large tree to the front of the site will be retained.</p> | |
| 7.7 Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered). Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Land Off Hawes Lane, Norton, DC/20/04429 Erection of 9 dwellings and construction of vehicular access and pedestrian link. Councillor Richardson has indicated there will be a Planning Committee meeting on 6 th January to discuss the two applications, so the chairman hoped to be able to present the Council's view. The Council again reiterated their previous objections to this application. | | |
| 7.8 Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Land West of Suffolk House, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/20/04256 Erection of 20No dwellings and construction of vehicular access and pedestrian link (re-submission of DC/19/01236). The Council again reiterated their previous objections to this application | | |
| 7.9 Planning Granted Land to North of, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/20/03992 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for DC/19/05805 for the removal of Conditions 3 (Archaeological written investigation) and 4 (Archaeological works) | | |
| 7.10 Planning Granted Red House, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/20/03302 Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian land and construction of a horse Arena. | | |

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| | <p>7.11 Planning Refused Land at The Rear of The Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton, DC/20/04158 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act – Variation of Condition 4 (Limit on Number of Storeys) of Outline Planning Permission DC/17/03668 dated 02/03/2018 (Outline Planning Application(All matters reserved except access) - Erection of 5No detached dwellings)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | FINANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Clerk's salary, cheque no 022291, £140.10</td> <td style="width: 30%;">LGA1972 s112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Cleaner, cheque no 022292, £64.00</td> <td>LGA1972 s112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC, cheque no 022293, £51.00</td> <td>LGA1972 s112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenhats (2 months), cheque no 022294, £533.00</td> <td>LGA1972 s142</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MSDC play area inspections, cheque no 022295, £181.28</td> <td>LGA(miscellaneous Provisions)1976 s19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vertas Grounds Maintenance Charge, cheque no, 022296, £264.85</td> <td>Public Health Act 1875 s164</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gadd brothers, signs, cheque no. 022297, £318.00</td> <td>LGA(miscellaneous Provisions)1976 s19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norton Pre-School, cheque no 022298, £2000.00</td> <td>LGA 1972 s137</td> </tr> </table> | Clerk's salary, cheque no 022291, £140.10 | LGA1972 s112 | Street Cleaner, cheque no 022292, £64.00 | LGA1972 s112 | HMRC, cheque no 022293, £51.00 | LGA1972 s112 | Tenhats (2 months), cheque no 022294, £533.00 | LGA1972 s142 | MSDC play area inspections, cheque no 022295, £181.28 | LGA(miscellaneous Provisions)1976 s19 | Vertas Grounds Maintenance Charge, cheque no, 022296, £264.85 | Public Health Act 1875 s164 | Gadd brothers, signs, cheque no. 022297, £318.00 | LGA(miscellaneous Provisions)1976 s19 | Norton Pre-School, cheque no 022298, £2000.00 | LGA 1972 s137 | |
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| Norton Pre-School, cheque no 022298, £2000.00 | LGA 1972 s137 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of MSDC street cleansing grant of £150.40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8.3 The Clerk forwarded details of the Receipts and Payments April 20 – November 20 with reconciliation statement. Approved by Councillors. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8.4 The Clerk confirmed that Mr. Fakes had completed a further internal audit control report following receipt of the R&P statement with reconciliation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8.5 The Clerk reminded that the Precept for 2021-22 will need to be finalized at the January meeting and asked Councillors to consider budgets and projects prior to the January meeting. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8.6 The Clerk confirmed receipt of Locality Budget £2100 towards the traffic signs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8.7 MSDC confirmed an increase in the cost for dog and litter bin emptying for financial year 2021/22. – noted by Councillors. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | PROJECTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | 1. Train update. Mr. Lenko stated he has now looked in detail at this project. He knows this project is a sensitive subject as there are a few residents not in favour. Mr. Sadler has an engine, track, carriages. He recommends scaling it down to a straight track, thereby reducing the cost of fencing and other items needed. An insurance quote received has been £750 and in speaking to Mr. Fakes there may be a way of getting some sponsorship. The far end of the track could be a rewilding area. The train can only carry 4 children at walking pace, so those waiting may get frustrated. He felt keeping it simple with no turntable or siding would create a nice attraction to compromise with other views in the village. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated his in-depth article in the Messenger did not forward any negative responses, so felt this project could be revisited after Christmas. When asked Mr. Etchells-Butler confirmed that Mr. Sadler and his team would meet the cost of the insurance. Mr. Fakes commented that as the economy emerges from COVID a sum of around £10,000 should not be too difficult to source later in the new year. Mr. Etchells-Butler felt there may be money available from the County and District Locality Budgets. Mr. Fakes suggested some form of Trust or Association may be an idea to monitor and oversee this project. Mr. Aket enquired whether sponsors would be prepared to put money into this project without getting anything back and gave his concern about the use of locality funding, being public money, being used for a private project. He stated in West Suffolk there is a dedicated officer who monitors the locality funding concerning efficacy and to ensure how it is spent. | |
| | 2. Additional Speed cameras. Mr. Lenko stated he would start his research again in January, but he felt that with the locality funding the Council could look at 4 cameras - two on the A1088, one on Ashfield Road and another elsewhere as yet to be stated. He will arrange to meet the man from Highways in the New Year to discuss sites. | Mr. Lenko |
| | 3. Sign. Mr. Lenko has charge of the "Welcome to Norton" sign and is waiting for it to be put in place. | |
| | 4. Speed Watch. Mr. Etchells-Butler stated that currently the Police have told the group they cannot go out due to COVID. | |
| 10. | PLAY AREAS | |
| | 1. Play area adjacent to Village Hall Mr. Lenko stated the area was OK. He had obtained a quote from Gadd brothers to repair the play area entrance from the field, which is currently badly worn, with a concrete pad for £376.04 plus VAT. Councillors agreed to get this repaired. Mr. Lenko stated he has also asked for a quote to repair the area at the top of the slide which again is badly worn and muddy. | Mr. Lenko |

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| | 10.2 Play area in Prospect Road Mrs. Long stated all was fine at the moment, but perhaps in the Spring additional equipment could be investigated. | |
| 11. | CORRESPONDENCE | |
| | 11.1 Dates for meetings in 2021 The Clerk stated dates were up to May 2021 as Zoom meetings. Further updated regulations were awaited from SALC. | |
| | 11.2 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan (Regulation 19). Invitation to submit representations on the legal compliance and soundness of the Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan (Regulation 19) document by 12 noon on Thursday 24 th December 2020 – Noted by Councillors. No comment to make. | |
| | 11.3 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Proposed Revised Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Rates under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulation 2010 (as amended). Consultation period ending at 12 noon on 24 th December 2020. Noted. | |
| | 4. Census 2021 – information noted. | |
| | 11.5 Sizewell C project consultation – noted. | |
| | 6. Community Action Suffolk - Good Neighbour Schemes Updated email. Noted | |
| | 7. Trees - Mrs. Williams had emailed asking the Council about planting trees in the village and for these areas to be mapped on the British Isles. The Clerk confirmed she had received details of where to purchase trees, places to plant etc. from Mr. Walton who also reminded there was suggestion of District Council money becoming available for tree planting. | |
| | 8. Email received about additional pavements in the village, i.e. The Street to Prospect Road. Mr. Etchells-Butler commented requests for these had been tried in the past, but Highways had said they had no money for these project, and was not on their agenda for the foreseeable future. Councillors felt perhaps it was time to try requesting again with the amount of development taking place along Ashfield Road. | Clerk to write |
| | 9. Suffolk Accident Rescue Service - Treecycling Fundraiser Information has been put on noticeboards and social media. Noted. | |
| | 10. Constables County newsletter – noted Mr. Etchells-Butler commented that recently there had been a group of teenagers at the car park, messing about and through the CCTV he had informed the Police who came to see him and it now appears the teenagers have not returned. | |

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| | 11.11 Clerks & Councils Direct | |
| 12. | Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next Zoom meeting. | |
| | 12.1 Quiet Lanes. Mr. Aket confirmed he had been on a Zoom meeting for quiet Lanes which now required paperwork to be filled in. The classification is going ahead with Highways but there will be a need to hold a public meeting or consultation which could be added on to a Council meeting. Quiet Lanes do not stop any traffic users, but warn of other users, i.e. horses, walkers, etc. | |
| | 12.2 Mr. Aket commented on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. He offered to coordinate and chair the organization/celebrations for this event. Councillors accepted his offer. | Mr. Aket |
| | 12.3 Mr. Sadler commented on the number of potholes in the village. Mr. Etchells-Butler confirmed that Highways were aware of this situation following the recent meeting. | |
| | 12.4 Mr. Morgan commented on the 30mph limit on Ashfield Road and asked for a speedwatch in this area. Mr. Lenko stated he is looking into electronic signs for this area. | |
| | 12.5 Mr. Fakes commented on dog bins. He felt that responsible owners already pick up mess and put in a bin, and that having more bins would probably not help the situation of mess left about. | |
| | 12.6 Mrs. Long stated she had recently met with Lee from MSDC concerning parking in Prospect Road, with suggestion of a layby facility. It had been agreed to revisit this again in the New Year. | |
| | 12.7 Mr. Lenko stated he has charge of the Council Laminator which is working well for putting up notices in the Play Areas. | |
| 13. | To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed - none to be transacted | |
| 14. | To confirm the date of future meeting: 4 th January 2021 –full Council Meeting –via zoom –commencing at 7.30pm | |
| 15. | Close of the Meeting - there being no other business the meeting was closed at 20.38 | |

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