

# NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm by ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE.

**PRESENT (by video)**

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

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. R. Lenko, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. A. Sedgwick, Mrs. J. Tottie,  
Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

District Councillor H. Richardson  
District Councillor Wendy Turner  
County Councillor Jane Storey  
One member of the public.

1.	<p><b>OPENING</b></p> <p>The Chairman opened the meeting reminding all of the Video Protocol. The Clerk reminded that at the next meeting the Council could coopt to the vacancies, and the position of Vice Chair can be filled at the Council’s AGM.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests</p> <p>a)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 declared</p> <p>b)To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – none received</p> <p>c)To receive requests for dispensations – none received</p>	
3.	<p><b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>–to receive reports for information</p> <p>3.1 Members of the public–to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance.</p> <p>Mr. Walton commented on the village hall entrance which appears to have subsided more since the water leak recently repaired by Anglian Water. The Clerk will write to Anglian Water.</p> <p>Mr. Walton commented on planning and enquired whether the Council would consider enquiries with developers prior to applications being submitted. He felt the Council’s rejection of applications created a negative relationship with developers, whereas talks prior could encompass what the Council may wish to have as a better result in planning applications. Mr. Etchells-Butler commented that in principle negotiation was a good idea, but the stated example was one that no one wanted. Mr. Aket felt the onus was on the developer to approach the Council to open discussions.</p> <p>2. Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email - none</p>	Clerk

So approved at the meeting of 3.05.21 with agreement for minutes to be signed by the Chairman away from the meeting.

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4.	<p><b>REPORTS FOR INFORMATION</b> - to receive written reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson and Wendy Turner</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Etchells-Butler enquired about the Joint Local Plan. Cllr Richardson stated this had gone to the external inspector for evaluation, so felt Norton should not expect any changes. Cllr Richardson commented that Mid Suffolk is launching a hedgerow and tree planting scheme with Councils having until end of June to apply. It can be private, public or church land to be considered. He stated next year the Council will be looking at a wild flower planting scheme. Mrs. Long asked if planning applications could have a proviso that hedgerows and trees are replaced if destroyed during development. Cllr. Storey felt this could be made, and for the PC to ask for it to be made a condition of application. Cllr. Turner commented that at Thurston these conditions have been put in as conditions to applications. Cllr Richardson commented that discussion on Hawes Lane is a contentious opportunity for development coming to Committee on Wednesday. Cllr. Turner stated she would be supporting Norton in the Hawes Lane application. Mr. Etchells-Butler asked if District Councillors are able to ask questions of those presenting reports, and felt both Councillors could ask questions to ensure the Parish statements are fully understood.</p> <p>Mr. Aket commented on Babergh and Mid Suffolk being shortlisted as Council of the Year, and felt it was a shame that their headquarters was sited outside of their area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Report from County Councillor Jane Storey.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs. Storey said reporting was currently suspended due to the upcoming election. Campaigning was also halted due to the death of Prince Philip. She commented on the response from Highways about the Heath Road flooding problem. There were only 2 reports of flooding in 2018 and environmentally it is classed as a flood plain, so flooding is not recognized as a problem. The ditches alongside the road could cause a problem, but this is to be expected. Mr. Aket commented on the blue sign stating that the road is not suitable for heavy lorries, but Mrs. Storey felt this sign had been there for some time.</p>	
5.	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p>	
	<p>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"> <li>• Virtual Parish Council Meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021</li> </ul> <p>The minutes were agreed and will be signed outside of the meeting.</p>	
6.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p>	

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1.	<p>Litter policy and village rubbish collection point Litter and fly tipping in village, reply from Clr. Richardson and MSDC contents noted.</p> <p>The Clerk stated there were two standard community bins that could be relocated elsewhere in the village for black bag collection. She stated they were removed from the village hall because people were dropping off other rubbish and creating a problem. Mr. Sedgwick enquired whether the bins could be relocated at different ends of the village where they could be policed. Mrs. Tottie commented on the numbers of litter bins in and around the play area and considered one or two could be move elsewhere, ie. laybys. Mr. Sedgwick commented bins in laybys do get misused and filled very quickly. Mrs. Long commented on the fly tipping along the A1088 where a mattress, vacuum and asbestos had been dumped near a litter bin in the layby near the roundabout. Mr. Sedgwich stated fly tipping is Mid Suffolk responsibility but it appears to be a problem throughout the County. He has spoken to the Police and Environmental Team but it is difficult to prosecute unless witnessed.</p> <p>The Parish Council informed by MSDC there would be litter clearance on A1088</p>	
2.	<p>Wildlife policy Mr. Etchells-Butler stated this is ongoing, he will bring it up at the APM and was pleased that Mid Suffolk had launched their hedgerow and tree planting scheme.</p>	Mr. Etchells- Butler
3.	<p>Platinum Jubilee update Mr. Aket stated a preliminary meeting had been held with the next due on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Several suggestions put forward for the weekend, i.e. fete, sports afternoon, royal quiz, church service, street parties, open gardens.</p>	Mr.Aket
4.	<p>Water to allotments Mr. Etchells-Butler stated two boreholes have been installed. Car Battery and pump on site are working to fill the water tank sited alongside, albeit flowing slowly.</p>	
5.	<p>Heath Road to Tostock – reply from Tostock Parish Council and Jane Storey –noted. The area is classed as a flood plain, but ditches have been dug out to help with drainage.</p>	
6.	<p>Planters outside the Garage – no update on maintenance.</p>	Clerk
	<p>6.7 MSDC Street Naming for New Development at Land South West of Rose Cottage, Ashfield Road Norton – update on possible name. No update from MSDC Address Management Team.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p>	

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## PERMISSION GRANTED

7.1 Pine Trees, Ashfield Road, Norton - DC/21/00181

Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No dwelling and garage. re-consultation: Minor amendment to the site location plan (point of access) received 10.02.21

7.2 8A School Close, Norton - DC/21/00101

Planning Application - Change of use of Common Room to dwelling house (bungalow) to include parking upgrades. (Retention of works to building under COVID 19 permitted development).

7.3 Manor Lodge, Ashfield Road, Norton - DC/20/02458

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S). Discharge of Conditions Application for 4000/15 - Condition 4 (Fenestration)

7.4 Land at The Cotswolds, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/20/04778. Erection of dwelling following demolition of garage. Re-consultation for revised siting of dwelling on revised drawing and flood risk assessment. Councillors commented on their disappointment of overdevelopment of the site.

7.5 Confirmation that the application for Hawes Lane will be discussed by Mid Suffolk's planning committee on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Mr. Etchells-Butler will be speaking on behalf of the Council and Mr. Sedgwick on behalf of residents. Mr. Sedgwick stated he had met with Jo Churchill MP and she has written to Highways and Minister for Planning voicing her concerns.

7.6 Arch Farm Barn, Woolpit Road, Norton, DC/21/00931 Application under S73a for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission relating to 1019/03 dated 29/09/2003 Town and County Planning Act 1990. Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 - Continued use of builders yard/storage as self-catering tourist accommodation (revised fenestration to that previously approved under planning permission ref: 1315/01) without compliance with Condition 2 (occupancy restriction).

## 7.7 APPEAL WITHDRAWN

Appeal Reference: APP/W3520/W/20/3251542. Appeal by: Harrow Estates PLC Land to The West Of The Former Bacon Factory, Elmswell. Proposal: Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved - access to be considered) for site remediation works (Phase 1) and the erection of up to 65 dwellings with the safeguarding of land for potential future delivery of a relief road, public open space and associated landscaping (Phase 2)

8. **FINANCE**

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<p>8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment:</p> <p>Clerk’s salary £140.10 cheque no 022319 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p>Street Cleaner £83.71 cheque no 022320 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p>HMRC £59.40 cheque no 022321 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p>A1 Trees £684.00 cheque no 022322 <span style="float: right;">Public Health Act 1875 s164</span></p> <p>Mr. Lenko, repayment of carriage cost for posts and locks for SIDS, £107.00 cheque no 022323 <span style="float: right;">Highways Act 1980 s274A</span></p> <p>Vertas, grounds maintenance, £264.85 cheque no 022324 <span style="float: right;">Public Health Act 1875 s164</span></p> <p>HMS, signs, £529.80 cheque no 022325 <span style="float: right;">Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31</span></p> <p>SALC subscription £393.77, cheque no 022326 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p>SCC street lighting energy and maintenance, £3768.57, cheque no 022327 <span style="float: right;">Parish Councils Act 1957, s3: Highways Act 1980 s301</span></p> <p>Cowan drilling Services £900, cheque no 022328 <span style="float: right;">Public Health Act 1936 s125</span></p> <p>Tenhats, April Messenger, £242.00 cheque no 022329 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s142</span></p> <p>Elmswell Parish Council, play area course and exam, £200.00 cheque no 022330 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p> <p>Elan City, SIDs, £4397.59, cheque no 022331 <span style="float: right;">Highways Act 1980 s274A</span></p> <p>8.2 To receive draft EOY accounts 2020/2021 The Clerk presented the EOY receipts and payment statement and balance sheet to be presented at the APM.</p> <p>8.3 To receive Budget Statement The Clerk presented the proposed budget for the coming year, allocating the end of year balances to the various budget heading. This is subject to Councillors’ approval and virements if required. Councillors approved the proposed budget as presented, but agreed that the train project should show zero allocation as it had been agreed at a previous meeting not to finance the fence or railway. Mr. Etechells-Butler felt the Village Hall Management needed to submit a proposal to the Council concerning refurbishment for the Council to consider allocation of an amount.</p> <p>8.4 The Clerk confirmed receipt of Street Cleansing grant £283.40 <span style="float: right;">LGA1972 s112</span></p>	
<p>9. <b>QUIET LANES</b></p> <p>9.1 Mr. Aket had forwarded the course of action and Councillors agreed to accept this and the timetable. Mr Sedgwick asked about Hawes Lane as a Quiet Lane, bearing in mind the proposed development. Mr. Aket stated Highways have investigated the proposals and validated the nominated lanes in Norton. A public consultation is now required and this has been arranged for 7pm on 7<sup>th</sup> June prior to the monthly Council meeting which will be advertised in the Messenger. Ultimately it is the Parish Council decision to proceed. Councillors ratified all the lanes nominated and the poster to the Messenger. Discussions took place on where to place signs and perhaps put on the street name sign, but Mr. Aket commented there needs to be 1.5 meter post available for the sign.</p>	<p>Mr. Aket Clerk</p>
<p>10. <b>ACTION PLAN</b></p>	

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	<p>1. Additional S.I.D.s Mr.Lenko stated he has taken delivery of the SIDs and downloaded the software and they are now working. He is awaiting the poles to be installed, which appears to be delayed. He asked for help to install the SIDs as they are heavy to manoeuvre.</p>	Mr. Lenko
	<p>2. Neighbourhood Watch Mr. Sedgwich stated the signs have been received and a number of people signed up via Facebook and agreed to donate to SARS. A3 signs will be put up on routes into the village, with Mr. Walton's help.</p>	Mr. Sedgwick
11.	<b>PLAY AREAS</b>	
	<p>11.1 Play area adjacent to playing field Mr. Lenko stated all appeared to be fine.</p> <p>11.2 Play area in Prospect Road Mrs. Long stated all equipment appears to be good. She is looking into additional equipment and has been asked about a trampoline for which an initial quote could be £3795. Details of supplier for the one at the playing field play area will be forwarded. Mrs. Long also stated she is attending a play area inspection course with exam.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p><b>VILLAGE HALL UPDATE</b> Mr. Sedgwick commented the hall reopened on 12<sup>th</sup> April and can now restart utilization. There are issues with the development taking place, and funding is being sourced. Mr. Walton stated budget figures are being looked at, but no quotes yet sought. Pots of funding have been identified with possibly 50 sources available. Mr. Sedgwick commented that if funds and renovations can start the hall may not be available for the Platinum weekend. Mr. Aket felt the only option would be a marquee on the field as an alternative to the hall. Mr. Walton stated the timing of the project is not fixed, so felt the hall should be available. Mr. Aket asked about the cost of the hall for the Platinum weekend and was informed that as it was for village use then only cost to cover expenses, i.e. electricity, cleaning.</p>	
13.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	13.1 Notice of Submission of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22) for independent examination. Noted.	
	13.2 Joint Local Plan update - Noted	
	13.3 Community Action Suffolk are presenting a training session online 'Introduction to Safeguarding' on Friday 23 April - noted	

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	<p>13.4 MSDC – Trees, hedges and wildflower planting for Parishes. See previous discussion. Mr. Morgan commented that any planting could potentially be at roadside or playing field but there are a number of planning applications along roads and the hall has potential works. Mr. Etchells-Butler felt the Council could try and identify where to plant but this could change nearer to the planting season. Mr. Walton stated a number of landowners are willing to join the scheme and plant along footpaths. The Clerk will forward a list of these.</p>	Clerk
	<p>13.5 Pavement front of Petrol Station Mr. Sedgwick stated the roadworks recently carried out on the road at the Service Station have created a bowl like effect at the exit of the garage so any rain will cause a deep puddle in this area. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways and/or Anglian Water to ask for this problem to be rectified.</p>	Clerk
	<p>13.6 Clerks and Councils Direct – Mrs. Tottie requested a copy.</p>	
14	<p><b>Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next Zoom meeting</b></p>	
	<p>14.1 Mrs. Long commented on the hoarding from the new development by Moore and Stone which blows and flaps in the road and is a safety hazard. They had put up fencing, but this has also fallen in the road. Mr. Morgan agreed to talk to the foreman but as a new family has moved in they are attempted to clear and tidy.</p> <p>14.2 Mr. Morgan commented about a jacket for the street cleaner. The Clerk has the name of the company to do the task so will look into getting this done.</p> <p>14.3 Mr. Morgan agreed to litter pick along the Thurston Road and along Ashfield Road to Rose Cottage.</p> <p>14.4 Mr. Morgan commented on the asbestos sheets fly tipped and asked about a number to ring to get these cleared. Mr. Etchells-Butler felt it would Mid Suffolk Environmental Health. Mr. Lenko said the asbestos has been removed by men in suits.</p> <p>14.5 Mr. Morgan commented about talking with developers regarding naming developments.</p> <p>14.6 Mr. Sedgwick asked about the street cleaner. The Clerk stated she is aware of his condition and the problems he is having and is liaising with him and the family. She felt he may not be able to continue for much longer.</p>	
15	<p>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</p>	
16	<p><b>To confirm the date of future meeting</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 –full Council Meeting with AGM of the Council –via zoom – commencing at 7.30pm</p>	

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17.	<b>Close of the Meeting</b> - there being no other business the meeting was closed at 20.53	
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