

Norton Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting

held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Kim Russell (Chairman), David Birtles, Steph Goulden, Dee Statham, Chris Thomas

In attendance: Emma Fontaine (Clerk/RFO), Cllr David James (WNC), Cllr Peter Matten (WNC) and two members of the Public

09.01.690	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
09.01.691	There were no requests for dispensation from members of the Council.
09.01.692	There were no declarations of interest.
09.01.693	Public Open Forum WNC Councillors James and Matten provided an update on WNC matters.
09.01.694	Apologies were received from Cllr Paybody. Cllr Child has resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect. In her absence she was thanked for her work on Norton parish matters. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy as per the due process. ACTION: Clerk.
09.01.695	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 th November 2023 as a true and accurate record of the matters discussed.
09.01.696	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The payments listed in Addendum A were reviewed and approved.• The bank balance of the current account as at 31.12.2023 was £1,821.16. The balance of the reserves account as at 31.12.2023 was £14,446.01.• The Clerk advised that a VAT repayment of £5,500 is expected to be received. When this is received the bank balances will be reviewed again to ensure there is a enough funding til the precept is received for the next financial year.
09.01.697	Jack's Patch <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Russell will purchase the bark for the top up, and Cllr Thomas will spread it. ACTION: Cllrs Russell and Thomas.• Cllr Child has responsibility for Jack's Patch, but has now resigned. It was RESOLVED to ask one of the potential new Parish Councillors to take on this role.
09.01.698	Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The works to the Hall are complete (heating and internal refurbishment works). The opening event has taken place and was a success.• A 'Friends of Norton Village Hall' group is being set up. Fees for rental have been agreed and a Facebook group is up and running. The Hall is available to rent by booking online or via email.• ACRE are providing a model lease agreement to the 'Friends' group.• The Hall will open as a 'Warm Space' and current plans are to open one Thursday morning per month, plus a Saturday morning. There will be no charge to attend and tea/coffee/biscuits/soup and a roll with be provided. It was RESOLVED to apply for the Warm Spaces grant. ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Russell.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hall will also open as a 'food hub', with food originating from Tesco. It was RESOLVED to investigate the option of linking up with Wilton and Welton to see if there is a tie in between the villages. ACTION: Cllr Russell and Clerk. Cllrs are also looking for old laptops and printers to use as a location to help residents print things if they do not have access to the technology themselves. The aim is to ensure the Hall is a place for the community and services available will expand over time with volunteer support. The Clerk has drafted a Safeguarding Policy for consideration next meeting. ACTION: Clerk.
09.01.699	<p>Gouldens View</p> <p>It was noted that the Solicitor has continued to delay the process and despite Councillors best efforts, the paperwork is not yet in place for the registration of Norton Parish Council as landowners of the Jack's Patch extension area. Cllrs Russell and Goulden have declined to sign inaccurate documentation which does not meet the legal requirements and our own Standing Orders. A further update is expected next month.</p>
09.01.700	<p>Speed Issues</p> <p>We await a response from the Electrician involved in the issue of mains powering of the Speed Indicator Devices. ACTION: Cllr Birtles and Clerk.</p> <p>Further to the meeting with Helen Howard from WNC Highways, it was RESOLVED to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempt to clear the WNC owned speed device of ivy ourselves. ACTION: Cllr Thomas. Ask Highways to add a speed sign denoting 40mph from Daventry, reducing to 30mph as you enter the village. Request 'dragon's teeth' road markings on all three entries into the village (noting the future development planned for chicanes). Add yellow lines outside the pub due to the dangerous parking issues. It was noted that parking on The Broadway is also of considerable concern. <p>There are a number of parking issues in this area, along with some concerns about overgrown hedges and shrubs. These matters will be monitored, and raised with Highways if the issues are not resolved. ACTION: Cllr Birtles and Clerk.</p>
09.01.701	<p>It was RESOLVED to assign roles and responsibilities when new Councillors are in place (including Jack's Patch and Highways). Prior to this, it was RESOLVED to ask Eon Energy if we can place a new lamp post along Daventry Road (near to number 22) as this is not covered by a street light currently. ACTION: Clerk.</p>
09.01.702	<p>The meeting closed at 8.10pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 13th February 2024 in the Village Hall.</p>