

Norton Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting

held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Kim Russell (Chairman), David Birtles, Jackie Jones (co-opted during this meeting), Steph Goulden, Jeff Paybody, Chris Thomas

In attendance: Emma Fontaine (Clerk/RFO), Cllr David James (WNC), one member of the public

13.02.703	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that a planning application came in after the issuing of the agenda and on the day of this meeting. The Clerk will contact WNC Planning and ask for an extension to enable the Council to provide feedback.
13.02.704	There were no requests for dispensation from members of the Council.
13.02.705	There were no declarations of interest.
13.02.706	Following the resignation of Cllr Statham, the Chairman thanked her for her work and the Clerk confirmed that the relevant paperwork has been filed with West Northants Council.
13.02.707	It was RESOLVED to co-opt Jackie Jones to Norton Parish Council. The Clerk will ensure the relevant paperwork is filed with West Northants Council and she has provided Cllr Jones with dates for the 'Off To A Flying Start' course. ACTION: Cllr Jones.
13.02.708	Public Open Forum WNC Councillors James provided an update on WNC matters. Cllr James will speak to his colleagues regarding the Highways works at the roundabout. Conflicting messages and road closure/diversion signage has been a considerable issue.
13.02.709	No apologies were received, all Councillors were present.
13.02.710	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 th January 2024 as a true and accurate record of the matters discussed.
13.02.711	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The payments listed in Addendum A were reviewed and approved.• The bank balances of the bank accounts were recorded as at today's date, 13th February 2024. The current account balance was £6,388.65. The reserves account balance was £14,446.01. The combined total was £20,834.66. The anticipated VAT return totalling £5,559.26 was received on 21st January.
13.02.712	Jack's Patch Cllr Russell confirmed that Norton Parish Council now own the land extension at Jack's Patch.
13.02.713	Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Warm/Welcoming Space event has been a considerable success and will continue in the coming months (every Saturday morning from 10am to 12 noon).• The Welcoming Spaces grant request has been submitted.• This week residents from the village will be taken to Daventry Food Hub as an extension of this voluntary work.• The Clerk will ask Welton Parish Council if residents would like to attend as there is enough produce. ACTION: Clerk.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were offered to the Norton Village Hall Group for the work they have done thus far. • The Clerk will request the model lease and Charitable Incorporated Organisation document from ACRE as these documents have been paid for. ACTION: Clerk. • The Clerk will take the calendar off the website as all bookings will be managed by the Group. ACTION: Clerk.
13.02.714	Safeguarding Policy It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft Safeguarding Policy and review it bi-annually.
13.02.715	Goulden's View Street Light There is an issue relating to the supply of electricity to the light concerned that Eon appear not to be able to resolve. The Clerk is working on this with them. ACTION: Clerk. The Clerk will obtain a quote for a new street light (solar) along Daventry Road and report back at the next Parish Council meeting. ACTION: Clerk.
13.02.716	Highways and Speed Issues Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk will contact the suggested Electrician for the street light work again. The last email was sent in December, with no response thus far. If no response is received, we will ask Turners if they can assist. ACTION: Clerk. • Cllr Thomas has removed the ivy as discussed last meeting, and this has improved visibility although the sign is still very faint. Contractors for WNC are going to look at the light and see if it can be updated, as these are WNC owned signs. • The Clerk will advise Helen Howard at Highways that we wish we confirm the plan to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph as discussed. The Clerk will also query the 'dragon's teeth' suggestion. ACTION: Clerk. • Concern was raised that following a response from Highways, traffic calming will not be implemented until some time in to the surrounding residential development. The response indicates it may be some way into development until traffic calming is considered. It was RESOLVED for Cllr Russell to write to Bob Ham at WNC. Depending on the response, Cllr Paybody may make contact with Davidsons. ACTION: Cllr Russell. • The Clerk will circulate the 17th January email from Helen Howard at Highways to Councillors, relating to yellow lines outside the White Horse. She will also add this to the March agenda for further consideration. ACTION: Clerk.
13.02.717	Enhancement of Biodiversity Councillors will consider this in relation to future agenda items with a view to taking a proactive approach where possible.
13.02.718	Councillor Roles & Responsibilities It was RESOLVED that Cllr Jones will become the Lead Councillor for Jack's Patch and Police Liaison. This will be discussed further next meeting. ACTION: Clerk. The Clerk will email Cllrs Paybody and Thomas a copy of a Unity Trust Bank statement so they can reactivate their access to the bank accounts. ACTION: Clerk.
13.02.719	The meeting closed at 8.20pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th March 2024 in the Village Hall.