

Norton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 18th September 2019 at 19:30 in Norton Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Eirwyn Jenkins - in the Chair
Cllr Richard Page
Cllr Sarah Clifford
Cllr Fran Bussey
Cllr Simon Holden

In Attendance:

Clerk of the Parish Council
Internal Auditor
Cllr M Williams
PCSO A Lawson
8 Parishioners

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were none

2. Declaration of Interests in items on this agenda

There were none

3. Introduction of PCSO A Lawson

Cllr Jenkins introduced PCSO Lawson to all in attendance. PCSO Lawson explained that the issue of speeding is not a localised issue, and affects the whole county and further afield.

There have been two dates where she has attended Norton and completed speed checks with a speed gun. It was explained that when the checks are being completed the speed gun and the person completing the checks must be easily visible to drivers. As expected as soon as the check point came into view drivers slowed to the speed limit. When the check was completed today on the A38 the highest measured speed was 45mph. The check last week was also well below the speed limit.

Two Parishioners are borrowing the speed gun and they will feed back the results of their checks.

When asked about the zigzag lines outside the school being enforced, it was explained that signage would need to be in place, and the school would have to pay £2,500.

Cllr Jenkins advised that he met some time ago with Craig from Highways who said that reducing the speed limit to 20mph would not be very

effective. PCSO Lawson explained that it's really difficult to know what to do.

Cllr Page added that the end of the road near the Pub parking is blocking the line of site for travelling vehicles. PCSO Lawson suggested that it would be worthwhile discussing yellow lines with highways. Cllr Page feels that maybe the education of those parking inconsiderately could also help. Cllr Jenkins advised that he will arrange a future meeting with Highways.

Cllr Jenkins thanked PCSO Lawson for her help and support.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2019

The minutes were reviewed by the Council, proposed by Cllr Bussey seconded by Cllr R Page and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5. Matters not arising on the agenda

There were none

6. To receive reports:

a. County Councillor Report

Not Present

b. Borough Councillor – Cllr Mark Williams

No Report

c. Members

Cllr Page reported back on the Village Hall Committee meeting the finances were reported as £12,350 being held in the bank, this includes a grant of £6,750 which has been secured by Jo Robson.

7. Discussion regarding the requirement of a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Jenkins advised that he intends to relinquish his seat in January 2020. He requested that a nomination is made for a Vice Chair, who would then step up to Chair after Cllr Jenkins revokes his position.

Cllr Holden and Page are both potential candidates and the decision is to be made at the November meeting.

8. Armistice Memorial Service

Cllr Jenkins explained that every year he lays a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. For the past two years he's asked a young parishioner in attendance to assist. He suggested that it would be good for the school to take part, as happens in nearby Apperley. Cllr Bussey has agreed that Year 6 Students from the school can attend, but has explained that crossing the road to the church is too hazardous. Cllr Jenkins suggested that the Parish Council could hire a minibus to get the children there safely. All Parish

Councillors were in agreement and the Clerk is to arrange the hire and logistics for this to take place. Councillor Jenkins gave Cllr Bussey the details of a Parishioner who orders the wreaths from the British Legion.

9. Norton Rugby Club / New Centaur Homes

Cllr Jenkins explained that Centaur Homes have built next to the rugby pitch, just over 10 yards from the goal post is the first occupied bungalow. The issue of the proximity has been raised with Centaur Homes, who have not been forthcoming.

Cllr Jenkins has emailed MP's, TBC Planning and Borough Councillor Williams. There has not been a response which has provided any guidance on what can be done.

The previous Chairman of the Rugby Club emailed Mark Snape of Centaur Homes. Who responded saying that the situation was in hand and the purchasers were aware, stating that the developers were not proposing to put anything in place to prevent the rugby balls reaching the new properties.

Cllr Jenkins went on to explain that the published profit of the development was £924,414. TBC did not take up the £50,000 for the community from the development, and the land which was stated as adjacent for the school is in fact across the far side of the field from the school. This makes its use extremely limited. The issue with the new houses could potentially mean that the Rugby Club will need to disband.

The Chair of Norton RFC advised that they have arranged for a temporary fix of 6 metre posts and base system with nets as well as a net between the posts. This is to, as best as possible, prevent the balls going over to the new homes from all angles. Cllr Jenkins asked if this was secure from a safety aspect. The Rugby Club Chair advised that it was, and that it would need to be approved also by the RFU and the referee of the upcoming match.

Cllr Jenkins also questioned as to whether the Club have insurance in place. It was explained by the Norton RFC Chair that as they do not have a tenancy they do not have insurance. It was then asked if the Club are insured through the Parish Council insurance, and the Clerk is to check.

Cllr Bussey added that the club have been in the Parish a longtime, Cllr Jenkins added that they are very important to the village and the community.

Cllr Jenkins asked the Parish Council; that if it was to increase the premium of the Parish Council's insurance to insure the rugby club, but NRFC reimbursed the Parish Council. Would they be in support of doing this, to cover the club playing on the parish field. The estimate for professional netting to be installed is £8,500. If all Councillors are in agreement then both Cllr Jenkins and Bussey will attend the game to support the Club.

Cllr Bussey has proposed that she will visit the home owner to explain the situation and the precautions which are in place.

Cllr Page expressed his thoughts that NRFC are the innocent party in the situation. Cllr Holden said it is important to press TBC planning for a response. Cllr Jenkins stated that he has contacted Paul Skelton of TBC planning on the 4th September, but has yet to receive a response. He believes that if there is not a suitable outcome the next step would be to contact the press with "The Times" and "Telegraph" being the appropriate targets to get the sympathy of a range of the public.

It was unanimously agreed by all Councillors that the game could take place on the coming Saturday, and that the Clerk should enquire regarding the insurance.

10. Neighbourhood Plan and Village Plan

Cllr Jenkins requested that the Clerk should circulate dates to all Councillors for a meeting, to develop this and that it should take approximately an hour.

11. Update on the Village Green and Pond

Cllr Jenkins advised that all information has been sent by the current owner to register with Land Registry and that it is stuck there at present. The next stage will be to transfer to Norton Parish Council.

12. Traffic management / speeding Old Gloucester Road

Cllr Bussey asked how the Parish Council can manage the issues. It was suggested that signs can be displayed asking walkers to park in the car park. Cllr Holden suggested that maybe the school children could hold up signs whilst wearing high visibility jackets, asking drivers to slow down. This should form part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

13. Neighbourhood Watch for Norton

Cllr Jenkins asked if there had been any progress with this.

Cllr Page said that the three parts of the parish and so it would be best to have three areas for a Neighbourhood, watch who can share the knowledge for their area. Cllr Jenkins asked that Councillor Page be the coordinator for this.

14. Defibrillator training - update

All Councillors agreed that the free course offered by Gloucester County Council would be appropriate. The Clerk is to book an evening session on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

15. Update on the Play Area for Norton playing fields

- a. The Committee are currently working on the final version of the application to be sent to the National Lottery.
- b. The Clerk confirmed that a Quiz is taking place with raffle on the 11th October in the Village Hall to raise funds for the Play Space. This is being advertised in the Norton News and on the Parish Council Facebook page.

- c. There is currently £12,000 reserved for the play space. It was agreed that whilst the issues are still active with the Rugby Club (from point 9) further funding will be held for now, and reviewed once resolved.

16. Planning Matters updates:

a. 18/00614/FUL – 3 Lyndale Terrace, Tewkesbury Rd, Norton

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

b. 19/00433/FUL – Walnut Farm, Tewkesbury Rd, Norton

The Parish Council responded to advise as follows –

We are pleased to see that the developer has taken steps to slow down the flow of water into Cox's brook by using a Sustainable Urban Drainage System. We do not have the expertise to decide its effectiveness and we assume that there will be procedures and finance in place to maintain the system.

However, we still have concerns on the effect downstream when several new developments are discharging water into Cox's Brook.

c. 19/00367/FUL – Walnut Farm, Tewkesbury Rd, Norton

The Parish Council responded to the application as follows –

Affordable Housing Position Note with regards to 19/00367/FUL

Norton Parish Council's position on this development has not changed since we submitted the response to the Local Planning Authority on the 15th of May 2019.

To highlight the main point, this development lies outside the settlement boundary as defined in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Point i of policy H1, relating to the Parish of Norton, states:

"Development should be within the village settlement boundary as defined on Map M1. Outside of the settlement boundary development will only be allowed as an exception if it conforms to policies in the Core Strategy or Local Plan."

This wording was the recommendation of Examiner Bryan.

In his report referring to point i, Mr Bryan clarifies what is meant by the term "exception" by further recommending that the following explanation be included:

"In the supporting text after paragraph 35 (now39) [insert] as follows: 'The Core Strategy and Local Plan allow certain housing development as an exception in the open rural area including green belt beyond the settlement boundary. This includes some building conversions, development necessary to support agricultural or other essential rural activities and affordable housing to meet local needs'."

Thus, Ryder Planning have no basis for pursuing this application. The NDP position relating to development in Norton has been clear in draft NDP's for many years - and certainly available on the relevant websites at the time the developer purchased the land in 2017.

The Examiner's Report on the NDP was available in September 2018 and the amended NDP was available soon after on both the Norton Parish and the Borough's website. The developer should be aware of this information.

As for Ryder Planning's argument on affordable housing, we note that they are reiterating the Parish Council's argument over the validity of the housing needs survey submitted in response to application 16/011772/FUL. We fully agree that there is no demand for affordable housing in Norton, as those being built at the present time have to be made available to families with no links to the parish of Norton.

d. 19/00771/OUT – Land To The South of Down Hatherley Lane, Down Hatherley

Cllr Jenkins advised that this is marked in the JCS, they can raise 32 houses causing issues to traffic. Cllr Page added that there is nothing that the Parish Council can comment on.

All Councillors agreed not to comment.

e. 19/00436/FUL – Spring Farm, Wainlode Lane, Norton

There were two parishioners present with information relating to this application who the Chair offered the opportunity to speak.

They advised that there has been another change to the plans, with the cladding now being grey and not green. This means that it is similar to the other building, with two more entrances and brand new PVC windows, giving the appearance of a residential building.

Under the current arrangement there are allowed 28 days of onsite residence. A diary has been kept and once the residency went in excess of 32 days TBC were contacted on the 5th July. There has also been contact with TBC across the summer eight times, as all summer there have been residents there as well as tents.

Cllr Jenkins stated that all of the council are in agreement that the application is out of context and read out the Parish Council's proposed response –

The views of the Parish Council have not altered from its submission on the 23rd of July 2019.

Although the applicants have attempted to meet the design statement of our NDP (viz: that 'New development or extensions to existing buildings in the NDP area should demonstrate design quality and sensitivity to the existing vernacular details of the rural village.') this development has never been sensitive and an appropriate development in the rural landscape, especially since it is within the Landscape Protection Zone. No

adaptations will alter that.

It cannot be justified on agricultural ground therefore cannot be called a 'small scale appropriate development that supports a rural economy.' It seems a very extravagant outlay to meet the purposes outlined in their submission. Therefore, we oppose the application.

We believe this is an attempt to industrialise a building and its site that was originally given permission, as it was claimed by the applicants, to be necessary to improve economic performance of an agricultural enterprise, i.e. a small flock of sheep. Most sheep farmers would carry out such operations either in the open or under more modest cover.

If the LPA does approve this application, we recommend that they add the condition that conversion to a residence will not be permitted at any time in the future.

Cllr Jenkins proposed that this response is submitted to TBC.

Cllr Page added that as discussed earlier it is important to support parishioners and the purpose of the council is to do this.

Cllr Jenkins proposed and all Councillors supported.

A Parishioner in attendance reported that there are events being held at the property, and also have a website selling produce. It was requested that the Clerk investigate the trading standards. It has also been sited that the incorrect postcode is being used as the maps that have been submitted and then resubmitted are off in terms of position and scale of the site.

f. 19/00858/FUL – Tythe Cottages, 28 Wainlode Lane, Norton

Planning permission was granted in July 2019, at the requested 4m height and now requesting a 5m height. This is an oak built erection which is supported by the NDP.

Cllr Jenkins read the proposed response –

This is a resubmission of an earlier application that was permitted on condition that the height recommended by the officers was reduced from 6m to 4m. The applicant now wishes to increase the height to 5m to make the building more aesthetically pleasing within its setting.

SF planning is representing the applicant and, in their submission, they state that the NDP is silent on development of this type. Paragraph 52 of the NDP states that 'The NDP should not restrict the sensitive extension of existing dwellings or the addition of sensitively designed outbuilding that would add to the residents' enjoyment of their own home.'

This building is constructed of oak and lies sympathetically within its surroundings. Therefore we support the application.

Cllr Page agreed that this is a sensible plan, and all Councillors were in support.

g. 19/00603/FUL – Trovmore, 2 Wainlode Lane, Norton - Decision

The decision of Tewkesbury Borough Council was to - Permit

17. Finance

a. To receive the finance report

The Clerk talked through the details of the Finance report, which was then proposed by Cllr Bussey and seconded by Cllr Holden. The finance report was adopted.

b. To approve payments in accordance with the finance report

Payments proposed in the finance report –

Clerk – Monthly Salary	£175.19
Norton Village Hall #1210	£9.75
St Mary’s Church Norton PCC	£400.00
Host Presto – Reimbursement to Cllr Jenkins	£48.00
PATA – Inv 19/0007/PPS	£23.25
GPFA Membership 2019	£50.00

Total **£706.19**

The payments were approved by Cllr Bussey and seconded by Cllr Holden.

c. To review Finance Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment

Cllr Page has reviewed the Finance Regulations and has a number of suggestions for changes. The definitions need to be updated and he requested clarification on the relationship of the Village Hall Management Committee to the Parish Council.

Cllr Jenkins advised that the Village Hall Management Committee are a registered Charity, who are independent of the Parish Council. The Parish Council own the Village Hall, but they do not control the management of it.

Cllr Page is going to circulate his amendment suggestions to all Parish Councillors and the Clerk, for review.

d. To review online bank process

All Parish Councillors approved, the process was proposed by Cllr Jenkins and seconded by Cllr Bussey.

18. Matters Arising not on this agenda

Cllr Clifford reported that she was booked on to a flood training course for the following week.

Cllr Holden raised the grit bin purchase proposal forwarded to the Councillors by the Clerk. He proposed that the Clerk should proceed with the purchase from Kingfisher Direct, all Councillors agreed.

19. Parishioners' Questions

A parishioner representing the Gloucester Clay Shooting Club advised that they are holding a fund raising shoot on the 19th October. This is to be a fund raiser for the Play Space, and is open to all to come and try.

Another Parishioner raised the large tree which falls within the area of planning 19/00771/OUT, and asked if there is a preservation order in relation to the tree. The Clerk is to check the application for this and report back to the Parish Council.

Actions following meeting –

Detail	Owner
Vice Chairman of the Parish Council – Decision to be made at 13 th November meeting	All Councillors
Councillors to advise Clerk of all Personal Data held for Council Business	All Councillors
To research and book a minibus for the Year 6 school pupils to attend the Remembrance Service	Clerk
Investigate the Parish Council insurance being extended to the Rugby Club	Clerk
Circulate dates to all Councillors for the Neighbourhood and Village Plan	Clerk
Coordinate a Neighbourhood Watch for the Parish	Cllr Page
Book a defibrillator and First Aid course for the Parish	Clerk
Research trading standards in relation to 19/00436/FUL	Clerk
Circulate the revised Finance Regulations	Cllr Page
Order grit bins for grit salt currently stored at the school on behalf of the Parish Council	Clerk
Publicise the Gloucester Clay Shoot fund raiser day 19 th October	Clerk
Investigate tree preservation order in relation to planning 19/00771/OUT	Clerk

Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th November 2019.

Meeting closed at 20:48 hrs.

Signed –

Dated –