

Norton Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting

held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Kim Russell (Chairman), David Birtles, Steph Goulden, Mark Griffiths, Jackie Jones, Chris Thomas

In attendance: Emma Fontaine (Clerk/RFO), 2 members of the public

10.09.795	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
10.09.796	There were no requests for dispensation from members of the Council.
10.09.797	There were no declarations of interest.
10.09.798	Public Open Forum A member of the public attended to discuss the Bakers Lane wildflower planting suggestion. The item was discussed further during agenda item 801.
10.09.799	Cllr Paybody was not present.
10.09.800	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 th July as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
10.09.801	Wildflower Area In advance of the meeting, Highways had confirmed that they manage the space in question at Bakers Lane. This is because of the proximity to the highway and supersedes any owner's ability to change its usage. Highways have therefore passed responsibility for maintenance (mowing) to the Parish Council to ensure it is maintained in accordance with visibility and upkeep requirements. It was RESOLVED that the resident in attendance is welcome to plant and maintain the area behind the war memorial. A risk assessment should be completed. The Clerk will send the resident a risk assessment for completion. ACTION: Clerk.
10.09.802	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">The payments listed in Addendum A were reviewed and approved. Additionally, a payment to J Woodward for £250 for the flower troughs was approved. Cllr Thomas will check on fallen tree damage for the flower trough at the Long Buckby entrance to the village. The Clerk will set it up as an additional payment mid month.The bank balances were recorded as at today's date, 10th September 2024. The current account balance was £6,406.49. The reserves account balance was £14,644.77. The combined total was £21,051.26.
10.09.803	Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">It was RESOLVED to seek a Solicitor to undertake the work on confirming the lease and putting the appropriate legal paperwork in place. ACTION: Councillors/Clerk.Some of the donated white goods have been gratefully received. The units can't be fitted until a fridge and dishwasher arrive. To ensure the kitchen is fully functional as soon as possible, as bookings cannot be taken while the kitchen is unfinished, it was RESOLVED to spend up to £2,000 to complete the works. Volunteers have offered to fit the kitchen for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful.
10.09.804	Speed Signs There was no update on the speed signs this meeting.

10.09.805	<p>Jack's Patch</p> <p>It was reported that £597 has been spent to date on maintenance since the spring. The forecast for next year is to spend £1,182 for gardening work and equipment maintenance. This is considerably more than has previously been spent and represents a large percentage of the annual precept/budget. Insurance considerations and the annual inspection have not been included. This will further be considered during the budget setting process in November. Cllr Jones will complete the regular reports at Jack's Patch, reporting any maintenance issues accordingly. ACTION: Cllr Jones.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED for Councillor Thomas to look at whether a safety fence is needed by the entrance/exit to Jack's Patch. This had been locked but has now been opened. ACTION: Cllr Thomas. Cllr Jones will put a leaflet through neighbours' doors at Jack's Patch asking for views regarding the safety of the exit. ACTION: Cllr Jones.</p> <p>The Clerk will check the expected date of the next play equipment inspection with Wicksteed. ACTION: Clerk.</p>
10.09.806	<p>New Clerk Recruitment</p> <p>This has been advertised with NCALC and the closing date is the 20th September. Cllr Griffiths will support with interviews if required.</p>
10.09.807	<p>The meeting closed at 8.00pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 8th October 2024 in the Village Hall.</p>