

Norton Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Steph Goulden (Chairman), Chris Thomas and David Birtles

In attendance: Clerk /RFO Joe Roberts, two members of the public (one of whom was present from the start of the meeting and one of whom arrived during item 912.)

08.07.904	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
08.07.905	There were no requests for dispensation from members of the Council.
08.07.906	Declarations of interest No declarations of interest were declared.
08.07.907	Public Open Forum A member of the public attended to discuss the wildflower planting behind the war memorial. The item was discussed further during agenda item 801.
08.07.908	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Jeff Paybody and Mark Griffiths.
08.07.909	Minutes from the previous meeting It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 th May 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
08.07.910	It was RESOLVED to co-opt Kim Russell onto Norton Parish Council
08.07.911	Following a discussion of new information, it was RESOLVED that the invitation to ‘plant and maintain the area behind the War Memorial’ made to the resident following the Parish Council meeting on 10th September 2024, item 801, be withdrawn. It was acknowledged that as the Council does not own the land in question, it has no legal authority to prevent the resident from continuing to maintain the area, but should they do so, it’s at their own volition and risk, and not in any way as a representative or agent of the Council, nor can it be construed that any such voluntary actions by the resident are with the Council’s oversight, approval or sanction. Note: A resident who arrived late to the meeting (during a discussion of item 912) attempted to influence the resolution made by the Council under item 911. The Chairman explained the decision had already been made, and this was not possible.
08.07.912	It was RESOLVED to ask the Grass Cutting Contractor for a quote to cut back the overgrown weeds between 25 and 27 Weedon Lane.
08.07.913	It was RESOLVED to accept the Internal Audit Report for 2024-25
08.07.914	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments in Addendum A were approved • Bank balances were noted. £25,837.94 in the Current Account and £15,534.22 in the Reserve Account. • It was RESOLVED to note the payments, income and financial position as of 30/06/2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk informed Council that they had recently received £17,921.05 in CIL funding. CIL funding comes with strict spend conditions and the money can only be spent on capital purchases; one possible option could be for Solar panels for the Village Hall.
08.07.915	<p>Village Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Hall Lease Agreement: The Clerk provided an update on the Village Hall lease agreement. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will email the Village Hall Committee to encourage them to sign the agreement as soon as possible. Village Hall Electricity Costs: The Clerk gave an update on the Village Hall electricity tariff. It was RESOLVED to pay the difference of £812.56 between the Parish Council's current tariff and the market average tariff as claimed by the Village Hall Committee. Insurance Cover: It was RESOLVED to amend the Parish Council's current insurance policy to include contents insurance up to the value of £3,000. This additional cost will be covered by the Parish Council for this year to support the Village Hall Committee. The Village Hall Committee will still be required to pay for the building's insurance component. Electrical Report Works: It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council will fund the items identified in the Electrical Report that are required to achieve a satisfactory rating. The Clerk will obtain two quotes: one covering all items identified in the report, and another covering only those necessary for a satisfactory rating. Roof/Loft Inspection: It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will obtain quotes for a roof and loft inspection. This will be conducted in line with the following agenda item. Solar Panel Installation: It was RESOLVED that the installation of solar panels on the Village Hall is considered a valuable use of the recently received CIL funding. Cllr Birtles will work with the Clerk on this project and will aim to provide an update at the September meeting.
08.07.916	<p>Jack's Patch</p> <p>An email update will be sent to Councillors following the meeting.</p>
08.07.917	<p>The meeting closed at 8.05pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September 2025</p>