

NORTON PARISH COUNCILMINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11 MAY 2021

Present: Chairman – Councillor M. Morgan
Councillors: - G. Morgan, B. Wood, J. Atkins, B. McLaughlin, H. White,
A. Drayton, E. Lowery, L. Shearman.

ITEM 1 - ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, OTHER OFFICERS & DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Chairman – Cllr. B. Wood proposed Cllr. M. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. H. White

Vice Chairman – Cllr. B. Wood proposed Cllr. J. Atkins, seconded by Cllr. L. Shearman

Norton Community Hall – Cllr. H. White proposed M. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. J. Atkins

Doncaster MBC Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee – Cllr. B. McLaughlin proposed Cllr. G. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. B. Wood

Family Hub – Cllr. L. Shearman proposed Cllr. H. White, seconded by Cllr. B. Wood

Shakers Committee – Cllr. B. Wood proposed Cllr. B. McLaughlin, seconded by Cllr. H. White.

Resolved: That the aforementioned Members represent the Parish Council in the capacity proposed for the ensuing year.

DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS
There were no declarations

Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman referred to his annual report which had been circulated to Members and enquired if there were any questions.

The annual report was accepted and it was agreed that it would be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES – There were no apologies as all Members were present.

ITEM 3 - MINUTES of the previous zoom meeting held Tuesday 13 April were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Lowery, seconded by Cllr. G. Morgan and all were in agreement. The Chairman to sign the minutes.

ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING

It was reported that since the local farmer had repaired his fence and installed electric wiring there had been no further complaints of cattle and sheep trespassing on to private gardens.

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from DMBC regarding the burning of rubbish at the bottom of Norton Common Lane. Members enquired who they need to contact in future to report the burning.

MATTERS ARISING (Cont'd)

The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with Andy Stewart from DMBC Highways, to investigate the proposed signs for the erection of speed flashing lights at the various locations suggested by Members. The following Members were in attendance at the meeting; the Chairman, Cllrs. Lowery, Wood and the Parish Clerk. The proposed signs on Station Road and West End Road Norton and the one on Sutton Road Campsall had been agreed with Andy Stewart; however, the proposed signs on Bone Lane Campsall and Suttonfield Road Sutton required further investigation.

ITEM 5 - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION(a) Police Matters:

The Chairman reported that at the recent elections Alan Billings had been voted on as the Chief Police Commissioner; a very welcome choice.

Cllr. Wood reported that rave parties of upwards of 50 persons were still taking place on the former pit tip accessed from Norton Common Lane, and the police had agreed to investigate. It was agreed that Charles Haigh be contacted and requested to erect a gate across the bottom of Norton Common Lane to prevent vehicular access on to the former pit tip.

(b) Highway Matters/Environmental Matters:

Cllr. Wood reported that a local farmer had dug a 3 foot deep trench on his land adjacent to Norton Common Lane and Churchfield Road to prevent quads and cars gaining access. DMBC had investigated and found that the trench was on the farmers land, did not infringe public rights of access and were not in a position to take any action.

The Chairman reported that Yorkshire Water were still not in a position to undertake the repairs to the land off Norton Common Road as they were still awaiting the results of water tests.

Cllr. Wood requested that a further request be made to DMBC Enforcement Team to take action about the derelict fencing off Norton Common Road; and suggested that Mayor Ros Jones be included in the email.

Cllr. Atkins requested that further enquiries be made regarding the ownership of the various parcels of land off Norton Common Road.

(c) Parish Council Website/Magazine:

Cllr. G. Morgan reported that following the end of the lockdown advertisers in the magazine would be contacted regarding starting to pay again for future adverts.

Cllr. Drayton agreed to provide an article for the magazine based on his Doncaster Council Fine Art Degree.

Cllr. G. Morgan advised that the closing date for articles in the magazine was 12 July 2021.

(d) Development Plan Priorities:

The Chairman reported that the next play area for upgrading was West End Road and that several companies had provided adverts. Cllr. Drayton suggested that YPO should also be contacted. It was agreed that a meeting of the Play Areas Committee be organised and that Cllrs. Atkins and White be added to the Committee.

(e) Community Building Storage Extension:
The Clerk reported that now the extension was complete it was imperative that the Running Club and Campsall 4A Trust remove their equipment from the storage container in order that the builder could remove the container. The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been sent to the building contractor.

(f) Audit of Accounts – Year Ending 31 March 2021:
The Clerk referred to the Receipts and Payments Account circulated with the agenda which formed the basis for the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2021, and enquired if there were any questions. Concern was raised regarding the low level of income raised from the use of the facilities and the hire of the football pitches. It was agreed that the charges be investigated and if necessary increased. The Clerk advised that the Annual Return needs to be scrutinised by the Internal Auditor and signed off by the Chairman prior to submission to the External Auditor.

Cllr. McLaughlin proposed acceptance of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31 March 2021, seconded by Cllr. G. Morgan and all were in agreement.

Resolved: That the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31 March 2021 be accepted.

(g) Campsall Church – Notice Board & Grass Cutting:
The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a Church Warden regarding the repairs required to the notice board at the entry to the Church and that the grass in the Churchyard required cutting. It was agreed that the notice board was the responsibility of the Church; however, it was agreed that the services of the Doncaster College, who had repaired the Parish Council notice boards would be passed on to the Church. Regarding the grass cutting this was carried out by the Community Payback Team, who were currently in suspension as a result of Covid, who were paid by the Parish Council. Cllr. Lowery proposed that until the Community Payback Team were available again; a local contractor should be engaged. Cllr. McLaughlin seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.

(h) Parish Councillor Vacancies:
The Clerk advised that as a result of the recent election there was a vacancy in Campsall and two vacancies in Sutton, and that the Parish Council could now co-opt new Members to fill the vacancies. It was agreed that enquiries would be made in Campsall; however, in Sutton it was thought better to do a leaflet drop.

ITEM 6 - PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there had been no new applications since the last meeting.

ITEM 7 - CORRESPONDENCE

- CPRE – Countryside Voices – to be circulated
- CPRE – Field Work – to be circulated
- CPRE – Discover Our Countryside – to be circulated.

2517

ITEM 8 -	<u>ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT</u>	<u>£</u>
	• D. Telford – Salary – April 2021	899.95
	• Inland Revenue – Tax & N.I.C's. - April 2021	371.31
	• A. Pearson – Wages – April 2021	372.00
	• Sweep Fee - Direct Debit	30.00
	• A. Pearson – Wild Flower Packs	8.00
	• D. Telford – Petty Cash	50.00
	• DMBC – Grounds Maintenance	208.15
	• M. Morgan – Notice Boards Sealant	17.23
	Total for the month of April 2021	<u>£1,956.64</u>

Cllr. Lowery proposed payment of the accounts for the month of April 2021, seconded by Cllr. G. Morgan and all were in agreement.

Resolved: That the accounts for the month of April 2021 be approved for payment.

The accounts requiring payment will be signed by the Clerk and forwarded to the Chairman for countersigning and distribution.

ITEM 9 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. McLaughlin reported that the Friends of Campsall Country Park were hoping to hold its usual event this summer and may be looking for a donation. It was agreed that the issue be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR'S REPORT for the year 2020 -2021

To quote freely from Charles Dickens, *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of timesit was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope....."*

What a year we have had with a Covid Pandemic that has affected everyone in so many ways. It has been frightening at times and really restrictive of life and activities, a situation only really relieved by the achievement of the vaccines and the optimism they have brought – the spring of hope.

Twelve months ago, we were experiencing a first 'lockdown' and inevitably that meant that village life, events, activities and local businesses all virtually came to a halt. However, the Parish Council contacted everyone in the three villages with a specially produced leaflet, providing contacts for help and offering our support for those unable to move outside their homes. We also sponsored support activities such as the collection and delivery of prescriptions undertaken by volunteers.

Whilst under the restrictions, the Parish Council initially only communicated by e-mail and telephone to try and maintain our basic responsibilities but subsequently, we established a business 'Zoom' account and have held our monthly meetings virtually. In this way, we have been able to manage our responsibilities and commitments.

As in previous years, I shall structure my report under four main headings:

- The Parish Council – areas of responsibility
- Planned development that have been achieved
- On-going projects
- Next steps

The Parish Council – areas of responsibility

The Parish Council has had changes of personnel during the year. John Gilliver resigned from the PC due to ever-expanding responsibilities, and sadly, Wendy Grant and Colin Wilson have left due to ill-health. We thank all three of them for their valued contributions to Parish business. We have welcomed Lindsay Shearman and Alan Drayton as new colleagues. At the time of writing, we do not have a Councillor representative from Sutton and are seeking to co-opt.

As many of you may know, the Parish Council has a duty of care for the children's play areas and ensuring that equipment is safe and well-maintained. We are responsible for the Garden of Rest opposite the church in Campsall and for a number of grassed areas around the three villages, for two sets of allotments, as well as the large playing fields at Ryecroft. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure that we are aware of issues such as blocked street drains, damaged verges and for keeping paths clear of obstructions and over-growth in the summer months.

Included in our areas of responsibility are the 'oval' and the green areas near to Hawthorne Avenue and which usually we pay to have maintained by Doncaster MBC. However, during the winter months, the oval was badly damaged by refuse collection vehicles and the Parish Council has had to insist on reparation by DMBC which has taken some time to effect. Added to the considerable damage inflicted on the unadopted roads by the operations of Yorkshire Water, residents have welcomed the support of the Parish Council supporting residents in their negotiations to restore these areas to how they were. Our thanks to local residents Linda and Sophie for their collaboration.

Planned developments that have been achieved

Clearly, there have been many limitations on developments due to the Covid Pandemic with contractors and Doncaster MBC staff being furloughed. In spite of this, the Parish Council has made strides in the following ways:

- Completion of the installation of a **new set of play equipment** aimed especially at younger children in Campsall Country Park;
- Completion of the **re-construction and re-surfacing of Sutton Road and High Street in Campsall** in collaboration with DMBC in August 2020;
- The **storage extensions built on to The Parish Rooms** at Rycroft road. Users of the premises, notably the Pre-School and the Running Club along with sports teams had run out of suitable storage space and this has now been remedied by the addition of the secure brick-built additions;
- Maintenance of **the publication of our Parish Council's *The Magazine* all through the Pandemic with four editions**. Some of the usual content such as events, clubs, activities and schools' projects were not possible, but we responded to residents suggestions for articles especially on 'Parish People' and we have included 'a day in the life of'-type articles by an airline pilot, a practicing doctor, long-distance cyclists and the inimitable Ricky Butler;
- Those who visit the **Garden of Rest** on The Avenue Campsall will have noticed that it has had a big tidy-up. Six skips have been on site to remove nearly 25 tons of fly-tipped rubbish. Please respect this garden as it a place to visit and appreciate the silence and tranquillity. The Parish Council is indebted to Cllr Eric Lowery, assisted by Cllr Brenda McLaughlin for their tireless work in restoring this area to its former serene space. Thank you very much.

On-going projects

Each year the Parish Council sets out its Development Plan for the focus of spending and improvement across the three villages. These plans include those aspects of the parish that you, as residents, identified as priorities for us in the survey that we carried out in 2019.

We are in negotiation with Doncaster MBC on the placement and establishment of five speed limitation electronic signs in various key points in the three villages. These areas have been identified from traffic surveys and local knowledge and we are confident that these will help persuade motorists to observe speed limits.

Now that the young children's play area has been completed in Campsall Park, we are now turning our attention to the two play areas in Norton – at the top of West End Road and on High Street. Older junior school children have been consulted on their preferences for the West End site and we shall be in conversation with play equipment contractors shortly regarding installations. The play equipment on High Street has gained from a refurbishing paint job carried out by Doncaster College students and further items will be added.

The students have also been instrumental, through Mark Adams for the re-build and renewal of the white Notice Boards throughout the villages which now have refurbished panels and a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to them.

It is hoped that given the continued lifting of Covid-related restrictions, we may be able to have a summer gala event in the park which was not possible last year. The Parish Council will be pleased to support the planned programme as well as the wonderful Scarecrow Festival in Norton.

Next steps

Our next steps this forthcoming year are encapsulated in the outcomes of the Parish Survey and the resulting Parish Council Development Plan and working through them progressively with as much urgency as we can.

The key to successful achievement of planned developments, we have found, is through appropriate collaboration with Doncaster MBC, with the Friends of Campsall Country Park, and other agencies, identifying priorities and determining the means to meet them and secure the funding to make them happen.

Although all the current Parish Councillors have been re-elected, unopposed at the recent local elections, we need to recruit further colleagues following a number of retirements and resignations, notably two to be co-opted to represent Sutton.

With the retirement of Wendy Grant who established the 'Litter Squad' we have not been sufficiently active in instigating Litter-Picks. We have been contacted by a few volunteers and we shall seek to strengthen a group to carry out regular collections.

Finally, a few 'thank yous':

- To colleagues in other agencies and especially to the unsung volunteers who enable us to deliver Magazines to your door, Doncaster College in enabling students to use their apprenticeship time to support our work ;
- To local colleagues such as Friends of Campsall Country Park, the Scarecrow Festival, the 4A Trust and those who run activities like Fitness and Fun, the Lunch Club and Chat 'n' Do with whom we are pleased to collaborate to achieve our common concerns for the community.
- To the Vice-Chair, Johnny Atkins who organizes Norton Health Walks as well as being a tireless worker, who does much behind the scenes to deal with practical matters.
- To Dave Telford, our Parish Clerk who keeps us informed, in order, and who brings a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to our deliberations

Mike Morgan
Chair, Norton Parish Council
May 2021

