

Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 in the
Village Hall Committee Room at 19h30

Present

Cllr C Fletcher (Chairman)
Cllr A Hill
Cllr K Leonard
Cllr P Prew
Cllr M Worthington
Cllr J Middleton
Cllr E Weaving
County & District Cllr C Holt

One member of the public was present.

- 1 **Apologies** – Cllrs Irons and Richards
- 2 **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Weaving declared an interest in the planning for discussion later in the meeting.
- 3 **Minutes** – The minutes were accepted as being a true reflection of the previous meeting. No amendments.
- 4 **Chairman's Report** – Cllr Fletcher reported that she had attended a meeting at Wychavon District Council with Cllr Hill to discuss the rights of travellers who want to buy land to settle. It was clear from the meeting that travellers may buy land on which to settle, even if they are not local. They can even be from abroad. Planning permission is still required for building and facilities and it is becoming more difficult for local Councils to refuse such permission. Permission can generally only be refused if a proposed site infringes on greenbelt land, will cause obstruction to highways or encroaches on a village. It was noted that travellers generally have excellent resources and the legal expertise to oppose most planning refusals. Local councils are considering the introduction of 'transient sites' which will be set up with facilities for travellers to stop-off for a few days. It is considered that the availability of such sites would assist the police and local authorities in moving travellers on, as they would have somewhere to move them to. The Council commented that privately run traveller sites were generally much smarter and less intrusive than 'council-run' sites, this would be a concern should transient sites be introduced.

It was noted that a new circular bus route was being proposed for the villages which would run hourly in both directions, replacing some stops. The Chairman had been sent a questionnaire in this regard which had been completed and returned to Wychavon.

The Chairman announced that the village lengthsman had resigned with effect from 31st March 2010. The position would be advertised. Councillors were aware of one or two local people who may be interested in the position.

Cllr Fletcher confirmed that Mr Mike Smith had been appointed as the new Parish Clerk for the Council with effect from 1st April 2010.

- 5 **County and District Councillor's Report** – Cllr Holt thanked Cllr Worthington and Mrs Spence for their services to the Parish Council and wished them well for the future.

County Council Tax would be increased by 2.5% for the new financial year. The District Council had managed to reduce its Council Tax by only 1.94%. An increase in potholes had occurred due to the recent continued bad weather and repairs were continuing at pace. Cllr Holt requested all to report any highway problems immediately via the Clerk or through the Hub system.

Evesham Road, Norton – there would be a reduction in the speed on this road to 30mph from the church to the Norton Grange roundabout (it was currently 40mph). The A44 could not be reduced to 40mph as it was not residential on both sides of the road. Additionally, residences on the road were considered to be rural.

- 6 Field Path Officer's Report** – Cllr Leonard had received a delivery of material to upgrade paths 532 and 533. Following risk assessment it was clear that all utilities were present in the planned locations so preventing the work from being undertaken. She was awaiting approval of alternative locations. Footpath grant funds of £119.26 remained unspent. An application for the next financial year would be completed but the request for 2010/11 would be much reduced.
- 7 Playing Fields** – Litter pick-up equipment was required for clearing litter on the Playing field. Dog mess continued to be a problem. Clerk to chase dog bin ordered some time ago. Fence along Byrd Row required some repair. The area in front of the football goal was worn and unsafe. Clerk to contact Wicksteed Leisure to discuss possible solutions.
- 8 Lengthsman** – No report.
- 9 Street Lighting** – EON had been unable to connect the service of the new Lloyds Close column as they had been unable to find the wiring. The connection required further investigation and was therefore handed over to EON's project team. Clerk to chase in writing. It was noted that a resident had slipped in the area during December/January.
- 10 Windfarm Working Party** – No news on planning application, it was thought that Scottish Power had experienced some problems with the Environmental Assessment which had caused delays.
- 11 Cemetery Project** – All agreed that the first action was to tidy up the parcel of land. Following this, legal advice would be sought regarding how the Parish Council should proceed. It was noted that the deeds to the land were held in storage at Cox & Hodgetts in Evesham.
- 12 Relocation of Chadbury Notice Board** – The licence had been received for the relocation. It would be established whether there was utilities present before proceeding.
- 13 Community Project** – It was discussed that a Parish Plan may be considered. Councillors would view other villages' plans before making a decision. Such a plan would need to involve all groups in the village and may be a good way of improving community spirit.

Allotments may also be worth pursuing as queries regarding these had increased in the last year. Grants may be available.

It was agreed that further thought also needed to be made regarding saving the local church.

14 Finance – payments were approved:

B Spence £212.75 (Feb & Mar 2010)

B Spence £270 (Holiday pay)

P Parfitt £69.50 (Recreation Field maintenance Jan & Feb 2010)

P Parfitt £158.80 (Lengthsman duties Jan & Feb 2010)
Cox & Hodgetts £20 (Storage of legal documents)
Norton & Lenchwick Village Hall £96 (Annual use of meeting room & hall)
NPower £88.12 (Electricity Oct 2009-Dec 2009)

b. Receipts or notifications – £852.92 had been received from WCC re lengthsman reimbursement

c. Internal Audit – it was agreed that Iain A Selkirk would serve as Internal Auditor to the Parish Council. Clerk to action.

15 Planning Applications

1. Report decisions

Dr Shakley re Manor House, Lenchwick – Listed Building Consent

2. Applications for Discussion /Returned

EF & JCA Weaving re Land off Worcester Road, Chadbury – Planning committee had discussed prior to the meeting and returned to Wychavon with no objections.

16 Councillors reports and items for future agenda – Planting of bulbs at Village Entrance; Kings Lane disrepair

17 Correspondence - circulated

18 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 2nd May 2010