

Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 3rd May No.05/12

Clerk to the Council, Mike Smith, 12 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford WR11 7RT

Tel. 01386 830676 email nortonlenchwick@sky.com

website www.parish-council.com/norton_lenchwick/

Present

K. Leonard, Chairman, A. Hill, V. Chairman, Councillors J. Middleton, R. Houghton, J. Fretwell, County Councillor C. Holt, District Councillor, and M. Smith, Clerk.
Lengthsman, P. Parfitt

1. Apologies

Councillor, C. Homer

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt K. Davies onto the Parish Council

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. **There was no Public Session due to the Annual / Statutory meeting held previously**

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st March 2012 were agreed

5. District / County Councillors Report

Councillor C. Holt told the meeting that the Bold Program for reducing expenditure (better outcome-leaner delivery) is on target to save a further £20K in this financial year. There will be no impact on front line service apart from grit bins. Councillor also said that there are now a third less potholes. Councillor asked the Clerk for an up to date list of Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Councillor C. Holt for his donation towards the VAS project

6. Chairman's Report

I attended the Parish Conference on the 25th April at County Hall resulting in the following, Localism, and how it would affect PC's was discussed but as there are no details it was difficult to pin down what the effect will be.

There was a discussion on the Worcestershire Hub, and a good moan from those present, on the problems especially with follow-up communication, and clerks needing access to other officials when the problem is not simple to solve especially in the cases where they do not have active CC's & DC's We do have very active CC's & DC's, but some PC's never see these people

Another topic was the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIF) and how it differs from section 106. The main points were, CIF would be charged on every development greater than 100m square, but affordable housing would exempt. There would be no negotiation and there would be stronger remedies to collect unpaid CIF. It will be charged by the District Council not the County Council and PC's will get a meaningful % that can be spent on Infrastructure Support, actual amounts, however, are uncertain at this time.

Section 106 would continue for now and which one gets charged to whom and would continue after implementation of CIF was not made clear.

CIF still needs to be adopted and unlikely to come in within 6 months and probably 2013-2014 before implementation.

7. Field Path Officers Report

I submitted our P3 grant application to Countryside Access in March in the amount of £210.00. We will wait until the grant is formally approved before the strimming program.

Last week I met with Fiona Argyle, the area manager for Countryside Access. She was in the area to look at a bridge reported by Harvington to be in poor condition, but the path, NL538, is actually in our Parish despite being down behind the sewage treatment plant off Anchor Lane on the other side of the bypass. She inspected but didn't think there were any immediate issues. I took the opportunity to ask her about improving the kissing gates on NL522 in either side of the paddock by the church. There is a possibility that these could be improved with the County absorbing the cost for the new gates, as they would be an upgrade to improve accessibility. She will look into the County providing installation. She was sure one of the gates was not legal (i.e. on their plan) which might present problems, but she will contact us.

Allotments.

If a parish has a demand for allotments we are obligated to try and secure land for them.

I have looked into land availability and so far have identified three possible sites all with their own issues. There may be others but I have contacted Worcestershire diocese and S & W.

Site 1. Prior allotments on the Glebe land on the other side of Evesham Road.

This was the old allotments and although there is still an orchard allotments are leased. He did say he would speak to the diocese to see if they had any ideas for us.

Site 2. The paddock next to the Church, also Glebe land and PC land, about 1.5 acres and the only one with water.

This site has NL522 running through it but although there is some boggy area at the bottom there is still the potential for an acre of allotments which would yield 8 full or 16.5 half size allotments.

It has water but it also has a strategic gap designation from Wychavon. I have contacted planning and await a response to see if allotments are allowed in strategic gaps.

Site 3. The former allotments behind the VH approx. 5 acre site

The land behind the VH is owned by S & W. They approached me a month ago offering to donate the allotments and the VG land to the Parish if we would support their plans to build 5 over 55 bungalows behind Church Walk which is outside the existing development line.

I am inclined to dismiss this out of hand for two reasons.

1. to me this request is more than a quid pro quo especially since they implied they would let the VG land proceed unopposed if they could get our support to proceed with the development they already have outline planning permission for. Many of us took time out of our day to go to Wychavon planning to support this endeavour for a better situated development and better parking. Planning said they could support the plans if submitted by S & W said they were still going to oppose the VG.
2. Access. The VH needs to keep the car park gate closed as they had an issue with people parking there at night. It provides parking for the lessees of the VH so allotment parkers could potentially be an ongoing issue with the VH. The easement access owned by S & W is very narrow.

8. Lengthsmans Report

The lengthsmen asked if warning signs could be erected in the case of flooding. This is a Highways issue. Also the run off from the fields exacerbates the water level. WCC will be notified.

The Lengthsmen said that he had put in a lot of hours and hoped the results showed this.

The ditches need re-work and the path on the Evesham Road needs attention. The Playing Field equipment needs inspecting and the benches require treating. The ground clearance by the VH has now been completed.

9. Street Lighting Officers Report

No report. Awaiting a meeting with Prysman

10. Finance & Policy Committee Report

No report

11. Community & Outreach Committee Report

No report

12. New & Ongoing Items

- a) Insurance. A proposal was put forward by K. Leonard and seconded by A. Hall that we change our insurance to Came & Company after receiving a very favourable quotation The vote was unanimous for a one year option.
- b) Allotments. As report
- c) Dog Bins. A proposal was put forward and seconded by J. Fretwell to purchase two Dog Bins incl. the required cleaning & emptying service. The vote was unanimous.
- d) Worcestershire Agreement. A. Hill outlined the completed agreement and passed it to the clerk for submittal to Calc.
- e) Neighbourhood Watch. This is an ongoing issue
- f) Village Green Update. Still ongoing issues. B. McClaren is in discussion
- g) Litter / Verges. J. Middleton mentioned a “kerb” issue in Kings Lane and also rubbish / fly tipping These should be notified to WDC

13. Planning

W/12/00717/LB, 2 Church Lane No objections

14. Finance

Copies of accounts were made available for Councillors
 Accounts signed for internal Auditor
 Cheques already signed,
 HMRC 4th Quarter Tax, £72.00
 Npower, Electricity 01/02/12 thru 31/03/12, £86.78

Cheques Signed

B. Arrowsmith, Lengthsman Feb / Mar £209.00
 Westcotec, VAS £3,450.00
 Smart Cut, Grasscutting Mar £259.56
 Calc, Affiliation Fee £360.50
 Clerk, Salary + Mileage + Mar / Apr + Holiday Pay £256.17
 P. Parfitt, Clearance of Bushes & Vegetation £290.00
 P. Parfitt, Lengthsman Apr £275.00

Receipts,

WCC, Grant £700.00
 Lengthsman, Feb £99.00
 WDC, Precept £5,500.00

15. Date of the next meeting as 5th July 2012

Items for the Agenda must be received 14 days prior to the above date

Meeting Closed at 8.45

Signed.....

Date.....

Notes of the Public Question Time