

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH
WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic and Government instructions, this meeting was held remotely via video/telephone conference call.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor).
Attending:
Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Arrow, Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Pollard, Cllr. Richmond, , Cllr. Waizeneker, Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and two members of the public.
- 2. Welcome and Report from Cllr. Fincher, Parish Council Chairman**
Cllr. Fincher welcomed attendees and reiterated the Chairman's Report included within the Annual Parish Meeting Information Pack (which was published on the Council's website in advance at the meeting, attached as Appendix 1). Questions and feedback are recorded under agenda items 3b and 6.
- 3. Parish Information Pack**
Attached as Appendix 1 and includes:
 - a. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting 6th May 2020**
Accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Cllr Dawson, seconded by Mrs Arrow, and agreed by all.
 - b. Parish Reports** - As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1. A report from Cllr Adams (District and County Councillor) is also available on the Parish Council website: www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org

Discussions relating to Parish Reports included the following feedback/actions:

 - Parish Council Facebook page www.facebook.com/NJKParishCouncil : consider creating meetings/activities as events.
 - Parish Council newsletter: review reach to areas of the Parish known to include an older population who may not access information online.
(Perspex holders/dispensers have been purchased to provide a supply of newsletters within bus shelters, adjacent to Parish Council noticeboards and at the Parish Hall).
 - Parish Council to join local resident WhatsApp groups where appropriate and acceptable to WhatsApp group members.
 - Norton Connector service: appreciation expressed relating to continuance of the service during the pandemic and extension of the area served (e.g. to Worcester and the hospital).
 - Parish Hall developments: consider publishing videos of completed work (and that in progress) via the Council/Parish Hall Facebook pages.
 - The Parish Council was thanked for its hard work and for the detailed information pack in support of the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 4. Community Legacy Grant Projects Update – Norton Connector and Parish Hall improvements**
As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1.
- 5. Update on other projects/activities within the Parish including Worcester Norton Community Interest Company developments, Sentry Statue and Community Apiary**
As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1.

6. Residents Questions

Is a Post Office still proposed within the village shop?

Due to the significant charge by the Post Office to establish this (c. £37K), a Post Office is no longer feasible within the financial constraints of the shop project. Other options are being explored e.g. Hermes/Amazon or other such self-service lockers/vending type machines. The nature of the shop will also be influenced by the availability of volunteers to run this. Other local village shops have been visited as a source of ideas and operating models to consider.

7. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm with the hope that the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting will be able to be held on a face to face basis.

DRAFT



Norton-juxta-Kempsey

www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org

www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil

Annual Parish Meeting Information Pack

May 2021

www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/privacy-statement/

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Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Parish Councillor	Main Areas of Responsibility (in addition to general Parish Council matters)
Cllr. Kevin Fincher Parish Council Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • SWDP Review and infrastructure matters • Parish Hall Trustees Parish Council representative and Chair of the Parish Hall Trustees • Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC) Parish Council representative and WNCIC Chair • Chair of Parish Hall Project working group
Cllr. Peter Richmond Parish Council Vice-Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters (lead councillor) • Playing fields/recreation facilities • Allotments
Cllr. Colin Arrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Plan • Flooding and drainage matters
Cllr. Chris Dawson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields/recreation facilities • Parish Hall matters • Member of Parish Hall Project working group • Public Rights of Way matters
Cllr. Doug Lucas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Plan • Parish Council land matters • EnviroSort Community Liaison Group
Cllr. Martin Pollard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • General Data Protection Regulation • Neighbourhood Plan • Member of Parish Hall Project working group • Social media and website matters • EnviroSort Community Liaison Group
Cllr. John Waizeneker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus services matters/Norton Connector • Neighbourhood Plan • Member of Parish Hall Project working group • Superfast Broadband matters
Parish Councillor Vacancy	Applications to be considered at 29 April 2021 Parish Council meeting
Parish Councillor Vacancy	Applications to be considered at 29 April 2021 Parish Council meeting
Martin Perks (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Apiary
Howard Turvey (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWDP Review matters

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer	Contact Details
Mrs Jane Greenway	18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW Email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com Tel: 01905 763515 / 07955 756528

Chairman's Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2021

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in 2020, life has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and like most organisations the Parish Council has had to find new ways of working. The fact that this APM is still virtual was not something that we were expecting this time last year, but the promise of hopefully raising the final restrictions in June brings hope to us all; let's hope that next year's APM involves a crowded Parish Hall.

Budget

The January meeting saw the agreement of the budget for the forthcoming financial year. Due to the nature of the 2020/21 financial year (Covid-19 impact), projects planned for completion in 2020/21, and their funding, have been pushed forward into the 2021/22 financial year. As a result of this accrued funding, and projects being pushed forward, it has been possible to not increase the precept for the 2021/22 financial year. The £61,145 funding requirement represents a decrease of £915, which equates to a 0.6% decrease in Band D Council Tax of 37p (from £62.09 to £61.72). Given the current climate this seemed a pragmatic way forward and it is hoped that parishioners will welcome the decision.

Online presence

One of the ways that our ways of working has altered is that we now have a greater online presence. We continue to produce the Parish Magazine quarterly, but it can now be found online <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/> For those that still wish to receive it hard copy, separate arrangements have been made, and additional hard copies will continue to be placed in the Parish Hall, Garden Centre, Norton Connector, etc..... We are also making increasing use of Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil/> to convey more general information. Up to 21st March 21 we had 375 followers, which doesn't include the users that share posts to others using the Brockhill Residents group and local Neighbourhood Watch. In the 30 days up until 21st March, we had 1,405 visitors to our website and 4,076 views, many of which linked through from Facebook posts. We are now also now sending a monthly newsletter by email containing 'issues of the moment'. If you would like to receive it, please register to do so via our website. We feel that our greater online presence is making a difference in enabling better communication with those we represent, but if you feel there is more that we can be doing, please let us know.

Norton Connector

Funded by the PC from a successful Community Legacy Grant (CLG) bid to Wychavon District Council (WDC) and run in conjunction with Worcester Wheels (a registered charity), it connects the parish to Tesco St Peters (where there are mainstream scheduled bus services to connect with if required) via the Parish Hall and numerous other stopping places. The service commenced on September 14th 2020 and was just getting into its stride when lockdown occurred and we had to suspend the service, thereafter offering a bespoke 'taxi service' via Worcester Wheels for those that had come to rely on it. The good news is that the service is due to recommence from 27th June 2021 and details will be published shortly of its timetable, fares, etc.... The Community Legacy Grant used to initiate it will not last forever and we are looking at ways of funding going forward, but with your support we are confident that we can continue to run it into the future. Not surprisingly, with the continued reduction of rural bus services across the county, numerous other Parish Councils and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) are keen to see if the model works, in

the hope that it might provide a solution elsewhere. There is a further update on bus services later in this Information Booklet.

Parish Hall

A more detailed report regarding the Parish Hall can be found elsewhere this report, but in brief, the Parish Hall Project Working Group (PHPWG), a group of Parish Councillors and Trustees, have continued to meet regularly during the pandemic and have successfully delivered a new roof, solar energy, and are in the process of completing the creation of two new meeting rooms. I'm sure you'll all agree that this is a fantastic achievement, and it is hoped that you can come and see what has been achieved when the hall opens to the public again from Friday 21st May. Creating a Village Shop is next on the agenda, work on which will hopefully commence in the autumn.

South West Urban Extension (SWUE)

The SWUE has now commenced in earnest and it will be obvious to all of you that the development of the St Modwen site adjacent to the Norton Road, and between Taylors Lane and the A4440 is in full swing. The Parish Council and Kempsey Parish Council (whose land it occupies) are keeping a close eye on proceedings, though at present there is nothing taking place that has not been expected for some time. The Parish Council is currently considering a Planning Application for the next phase of additional housing which will also block off the course of Taylors Lane, but again, nothing that has not been expected and communicated to all concerned over the course of several years.

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR)

Though this has been going on in the background for some time (the Parish Council briefed the pre-Covid SWDP Review plan at previous Annual Parish Meetings and has written about it, and the revised timetable, in the Chairman's reports in the Parish Magazine), this has recently been brought into people's consciousness with an article in the Worcester News. The article referred to a deal between St Modwen and Merton College (who own Wood Hall) regarding building on the Wood Hall site, which is acknowledged as the closest that the SWDPR development is likely to come to the parish.

The SWDP was adopted by the three District Councils in Feb 2016, and it is what is driving the current South West Urban Extension (SWUE) near Norton. In late 2017, in response to new Government requirements that Development Plans should be updated every five years, a review was commenced to deliver an updated plan period to 2041, to be adopted by 2021 (the SWDP Review). Clearly Covid has had an effect on the timetable and the plan is now for public consultation to take place in Oct/Nov 2021, with adoption planned for Apr 2023.

There is no Planning Application for the Wood Hall site at present and any Planning Application received now would be speculative. If one were to be submitted under the existing policy (SWDP) the planners could dismiss it as outside the Development Boundary under current policy. If it were submitted with the new policy in mind, it could be dismissed under the banner of prematurity, i.e. it cannot take account of the new spatial plan because the new plan does not yet exist.

Having attended several meetings regarding this plan, once you overlay green space, roads, natural habitats, historic sites, floodplain, etc...., on top of the proposed development area, there is actually little land available for development, and the focus of it will be around Mucknell Farm and

the Abbey. That's not to say that the Wood Hall site will not be developed, but everything reported in the Worcester News is not destined for that one site and what was reported was a developer view, not a planner's view. As we know from the SWUE, the two are often at odds and the end result will be compromise from both parties.

There has always been an inevitability that the Wood Hall Merton College was going to develop their site, but there is no current Planning Application, the public consultation on the SWDP Review that will enable it does not take place until later this year, the SWDP Review won't be adopted until Apr 2023, and it is then a vision for 2041. In the interim, if a speculative Planning Application were to be made, the Parish Council would I'm sure oppose it for the reasons previously described.

There is a lot of water to pass under the bridge yet, and plenty of opportunity to shape the inevitable to best advantage, as has been done with the SWUE.

Community Apiary

The Community Apiary project has really taken shape over the past few months. The land in question has now been visited by ecologists, members of Pershore bee-keeping society and Pershore Horticultural College, and all are agreed regarding how to proceed, the hope being that hives will be introduced to the site in April/May this year. We already have thirteen volunteers from the local community who wish to become involved, and their training will commence shortly. Very soon a Community Apiary hut will arrive on site to store the bee suits and other equipment required, and the hope is that, once established, we may be able to get local schools involved and produce and sell our own honey. We are also talking with Pershore Horticultural College regarding establishing a community orchard nearby, which will complement the apiary. There is a further update on the Community Apiary later in this Information Booklet.

'The Sentry'

Some time ago you took part in a survey regarding the spending of New Homes Bonus money on a statue to commemorate the Parish's links with the Worcestershire Regiment and to mark the end of the First World War. The response meant that the NHB funding for the statue was approved by the Wychavon District Council Localism panel and granted to the group pulling together the project. Since then, they have generated a significant amount of additional funding and the statue is currently in the process of creation. It is hoped that 'The Sentry' will be erected on the green area near the Pershore bound Crookbarrow Road bus stop sometime this autumn.

Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC)

WNCIC was established in November 2020 and since then it has secured circa £1M from Wychavon District Council in order to build a new sports hall and renovate the existing Grade II listed (by curtilage) buildings on the Worcester Norton Sports Club Ltd (WNSC Ltd) site. Hopefully you will have seen the 'fly through' video of what is intended

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U5h2AFRUjc&ab>

Though often considered as something akin to the Vicar of Dibley, or perhaps more topically, Handforth Parish Council <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-56101198>, Parish Councils are the closest Government body to the parishioners they serve, and Norton-juxta-

Kempsey Parish Council is kept particularly busy given our location abutting three District/City Councils. We are therefore always on the lookout for willing volunteers to act as Councillors or co-opted members.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of what we do, whether you wish to become a co-opted member, or merely wish to express a view, we would be delighted to hear from you, whether it's supportive, critical, or something you think we've overlooked. You can contact us via our website, Facebook or by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01905 763515 / 07955 756528, NJKparishclerk@aol.com

Councillor Kevin Fincher
Chairman
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

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Summary of Planning Applications Considered by Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Since the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting:

- 40 submissions have been considered from Wychavon District Council (31), Malvern Hills District Council (7), Worcester City Council (1) and The Planning Inspectorate (1).
- Of the 40 applications received for consultation, 23 have been approved, 1 not approved, 7 withdrawn by the applicant and 9 await decision.
- Of the 23 applications approved, the Parish Council objected to 4 applications:
 - Malvern Hills District Council application 19/01851/RM (plus amended application):
Land at (OS 8615 5190), Taylors Lane, Broomhall
Various Reserved Matters/amendments to Reserves Matters relating to amended site layout and design of proposed buildings and landscaping proposals, amended plans, elevations and details – including landscaping.
(Relates to Outline permission ref: 13/01617/OUT for Phase E1 of the proposed employment development comprising two employment units (Use Class B1 (b and c), B2 and/or B8), parking and landscaping and associated infrastructure.)
 - Malvern Hills District Council application 19/01803/RM (plus amended application):
Land North of Taylors Lane and South of Broomhall Way (A4440)
Application for the approval of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) and amendments to Reserves Matters relating to amended plans, elevations and details – including landscaping, revisions to parking at plots 30-37, and other associated changes.
(Relates to Outline permission ref: 13/01617/OUT for Phase H1 of the proposed residential development comprising 36 dwellings, public open space (including LEAP), allotments, landscaping and associated infrastructure.)
- The one application not approved was supported by the Parish Council.
- Of the 7 applications withdrawn by applicants (including amended applications considered by the Council), 2 were supported by the Parish Council and commented and 5 were objected to.
- Of the 9 applications awaiting decision, the Parish Council has supported 3, objected to 5 and one is currently being considered by the Council.

Mrs Jane Greenway
Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Bus Services Report

The already very limited “Fifties” (Routes 53 and 54) First Bus and Astons services through our villages for public usage disappeared at the start of the pandemic and any services that may be seen currently are for school pupils only and as such only run on school days.

The First Bus X50 service from Worcester to Evesham continues to run hourly along the B4084 and now calls at Parkway station. A good service, it even runs on Saturdays and Sundays (Sundays only as far as Pershore). However, for much of Norton-juxta-Kempsey it is a long walk from home to the bus stop.

Likewise at the other end of the parish and reasonably accessible to Brockhill residents, the First Bus 32 service runs from St Peters into Worcester City every half hour during the week and hourly on Saturdays. (No Sunday service)

The Norton Connector community minibus runs weekdays four times daily between Parkway station and St Peters Tesco via Littleworth, Norton and Brockhill. In addition, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday there is an optional extension to Worcester City bus station, the doctor's surgery in Newtown Road and Worcester Royal Hospital.

The Norton Connector is operated for the Parish Council by Worcester Wheels with financial and vehicle support from Wychavon DC and Worcestershire County Council. We started the service in September 2020 and despite lockdowns have been able to offer this dial up service throughout. From January 2021 this has been with various Worcester Wheels vehicles, our own Norton Connector minibus has been temporarily mothballed as a cost saving during the lockdowns. We intend to get it back into service sometime later in the year.

The initial Community Legacy Grant from Wychavon DC to fund the Norton Connector is sufficient to support the service through 2021, beyond that we are actively looking for further funding from both private and public sources. Local bus services very rarely generate the income to cover their operating costs which explains in part the disappearance of commercial services such as the “Fifties” However recent government enthusiasm for better bus services gives us hope that we can find the finance to continue the Norton Connector into the future and provide essential transport to non-drivers as well as an opportunity for the rest of us to be a little more environmentally conscious.

Councillor John Waizeneker
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Parish Hall Playing Field/Recreation Facilities

Work to the Hall outside amenities has continued during the Covid-19 pandemic (where this has been allowed by Government guidance). Primarily, the concentrated effort has been on safety, ongoing checks and basic maintenance, along with compliance with Government Covid-19 restrictions and guidance.

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting update, we have arranged for tree management work to be carried out as identified and scheduled within the Tree Survey undertaken in 2019. This has included dead/unhealthy/overhanging wood being cut around the Hall playing fields. This will be an ongoing process subject to an annual review.

Regular safety checks have continued (where within Covid-19 restrictions) relating to the recreation facilities at the Hall (e.g. play area, multi-use games area (MUGA) and tennis court), with these including the annual independent safety check and report.

We have welcomed the Worcester Sorcerers baseball team to the Hall, and you may have seen their pitch develop on the playing field which has generated considerable local interest. We continue to have good links with local football clubs, particularly Junior teams.

We are always open to useful suggestions regarding the use and improvement of Hall outside amenities and as a future aspiration, we are looking to consider creation of a picnic area in the wooded section of the edge of the playing field.

As a final point we would like to remind dog owners/dog walkers of the need to dispose of dog waste in the bins provided and to keep their dogs on leads whilst walking round the Hall grounds.

Thank you for your support.

Councillor Chris Dawson
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Community Apiary

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council has supported the establishment of a Parish apiary to support some bee colonies and pollinators in general.

The project is being supported by Forager Bee and Honey Co. from south Worcestershire. The Forager Bee farmer is very experienced and is providing expert advice to the Parish Council. After advertising for volunteers, 13 people have come forward and are starting training so that the community will become a self-supporting community of beekeepers.

The site, allocated by the Parish Council to set up this pollinator site and support a number of bee colonies, will also be maintained to support small mammals and invertebrates. The team's focus at the moment is in establishing a store on the site and preparing it for its new purpose.

Things that you can do as part of our community to support of the apiary include:

- Leaving areas of hedgerow and garden without cutting grasses and wildflowers;
- Support leaving (where safe to do so) community hedgerows uncut;
- Planting hedgerows, plants and wildflower sections within gardens, local agricultural set aside land and allotments;
- Creating bug hotels in gardens and allotments.

If you'd like more information on how to help or get involved, please get in contact with Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, Email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com, Tel: 01905 763515 / 07955 756528.

Martin Perks
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Allotments Report

Welcome to the first update of the year and a warm welcome our new allotment holders; we do hope you are enjoying your plots.

Thankfully the dark days of winter are now behind us and spring brings some much needed warmth. From the 29th March the stay at home rule ends and the rule of 6 returns. This should mean we can confidently be a bit more sociable on site, whilst still exercising due care on social distancing and complying with other Government guidance such as hand hygiene.

Sadly, we will not be holding any allotment competitions this year but remain hopeful that we can pick these up in the 2022 growing season.

At the time of writing, almost all plots are let, with an ever growing waiting list - a testament to the popularity of allotment growing and the demand from those now wishing to get outdoors, enjoy the environment, and grow their own.

With that in mind, if you are struggling to maintain your plot, or you wish to give it up (or part of it) please do contact me. In view of the demand for plots and the impact of poorly maintained plots on other tenants and neighbours, we would like to remind tenants that the allotment tenancy agreement requires plots to be kept in a good condition and state of cultivation, and not to cause a nuisance or annoyance to others.

As always if you have any suggestions regarding the allotments my email inbox is always open.

We wish you all well and every success in your gardening endeavours this year.

Katy Watkinson

Assistant Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Email: njkassistantclerk@gmail.com



Public Rights of Way Report

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has prime responsibility for maintaining and improving access to the Public Rights of Way for the benefit of the residents and aims to appoint a Parish Paths Warden in each Parish.

WCC is keen for all issues relating to Public Rights of Way (e.g. overgrown hedges, broken/missing stiles/gates, blocked routes) to be reported via its website using the following link: <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/onlinereporting/FindLocation.aspx?FaultType=8>

WCC has recently installed new Public Rights of Way roadside signposts around our Parish but if you notice one that's missing, please report it via the link above.

If you would like to find out more about Public Rights of Way or to view an interactive map of the Public Rights of Way within our Parish, please visit: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20237/public_rights_of_way

Mrs Jane Greenway
Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Parish Council Social Media/Website Communications Report

Our new look website which was launched in 2019 continues to grow in popularity with over 57,000 visits from more than 16,000 visitors in the last 12 months. It's the place to go to find out all the local news and information about what's happening in our area.

This last year has also brought a review of how the quarterly Parish Newsletter is distributed, with this prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic, difficulties in finding volunteers to distribute the old, printed magazine plus printing issues. A straw poll of readers indicated that roughly 1/3rd liked the printed version, 1/3rd preferred online and 1/3rd weren't interested in either. Hence the decision to publish online, with distribution of printed copies to those people who still preferred to read it that way. Not only does this save costs it enables a more up to date publication to be produced due to reduced print lead times. An added bonus is that online subscribers to our Newsletter get it delivered directly to their email inbox (see below for details of how to subscribe). If you wish to receive a printed version of the newsletter, this is available upon request by contacting Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk by email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com or by sending a request by post to: Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, 18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW.

Last month we launched the first edition of a new monthly news update. This is a short round up of news items from the previous month to keep you up to date with important local news. This will be circulated in those months where our quarterly Newsletter isn't published. The quarterly Newsletter is published at the beginning of March, June, September and December. If you have not already done so, please visit our website at <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/category/news/> to read and subscribe to all our news and quarterly Newsletter. We currently have a growing list of subscribers which is good to see.

In addition to our website, we have an increasing presence on social media. We have nearly 400 followers on Facebook and have made dozens of posts with thousands of views. It has developed into an important means of quick communication to a large number of people in our Parish. Many topics have been covered, with the most popular being the really local information that's not so readily available from other sources. Where relevant we also share our page with the Brockhill Residents and Brockhill Neighbourhood Watch groups. If you would like us to share with your group too, please let us know. Follow us now at <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil/>

One disappointment we have is the website Business Directory has failed to take off. Almost every day there are social media posts from people asking "Does anyone know a good local plumber/carpet fitter/electrician etc." We wanted to make our website the "go to" site to find local businesses and for them to advertise for free. If you are a local business or know someone that would like to advertise with us, then please let us know. The Business Directory (with a listing both alphabetically and by category) could develop into a useful resource where people could find local businesses and tradespeople who might not be easy to find anywhere else.

Councillor Martin Pollard
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Financial Report - Year to 28th February 2021 (11 months)

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
<u>INCOME</u>		
Precept	60,793	60,793
Allotment, Ground & Garage Rental, Sports & Other Field Lettings, Pre-school rent	5,167	5,059
Grants and Lengthsman Reimbursement from Worcs CC	4,365	3,827
Neighbourhood Plan Funding Grant	2,992	950
Tax Rebates (VAT)	7,146	0
New Homes Bonus funds - Parish Hall developments	0	50,000
Community Legacy Grant - Parish Hall developments	65,000	100,000
Community Legacy Grant - Norton connector mini-bus	30,000	30,000
Transfers from Council Reserves to assist in funding planned expenditure (items marked below *)	0	24,483
Other Income	2,169	20
TOTAL INCOME	177,632	275,132
<u>EXPENDITURE (NET OF VAT)</u>		
<u>Capital Items</u>		
Provision for Community Assets	2,326	0
Replacement/new parish furniture *	0	3,000
3 year development plan for Parish Council owned lands *	0	5,000
Expenditure associated with developments within the Parish *	0	2,000
Community Legacy Grant Project - Parish Hall developments *	13,780	165,000
Community Legacy Grant Project - Norton Connector mini-bus	9,403	32,000
TOTAL	25,508	207,000
<u>Parish Maintenance *</u>		
TOTAL	17,512	24,706
<u>Administration</u>		
Donations & Grants/Events Support	300	3,850
Newsletter, communication printing costs, website/social media costs	680	2,900
Audit and professional fees/legal fees, land registration/tenancy matters *	4,100	3,575
Neighbourhood Plan *	1,366	4,340
Parish Officers Honoraria plus PAYE, NI and pension contributions (all employees)	19,439	21,262
General Administration	1,185	2,100
Insurance - Capital and Public Liability	2,863	3,500
Subscriptions	1,345	1,300
Chairman's Allowance	0	100
Other: training for Councillors & Clerk, Councillor expenses, vandalism costs	20	500
TOTAL	31,298	43,427
TOTAL EXPENSES	74,318	275,132
VAT paid on expenses - recoverable	5,977	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	103,314	0

Parish Hall Trustees – Chairman’s Annual Parish Meeting Report

The bad news is that the hall has spent most of the year closed....

.....but the good news is that while it’s been closed, there has been an awful lot of work going on behind the scenes to improve the facility, and I’m confident that once we exit the lockdown, the hall will once again begin to come alive with whatever the ‘new normal’ will be, and in a much-improved state when it does.

Parish Councillors have been working alongside the Parish Hall Trustees to oversee the delivery of Community Legacy Grant (CLG) funded improvements to the Parish Hall. This has included the replacement of the main hall roof, which is complete, the fitting of green energy, which is largely complete, and the creation of additional meeting rooms, which has recently commenced.

The green energy consists of solar panels, smart battery packs (Tesla Power Wall) and car charging points. At present, though the hall is currently generating excess energy from the solar panels, the lack of the Tesla Power Wall means that we cannot sell energy back to the grid, or efficiently manage the use of car charging points, hence until both are fitted, it won’t be delivering the full benefit. The Tesla Power Wall and car charging points are on order and are expected in the next few months.

The work to create additional meeting rooms from unused or underutilised space commenced 5 April, and the new space has now been created. It is anticipated that the rooms will be complete by mid-May and we already have bookings for them!

Each stage of work has been carefully planned to enable the recovery of VAT to enable the next phase to commence, hence it’s only once the roof, green energy and new meeting rooms are complete, and VAT recovered that we can then start considering the village shop. It is anticipated that the Village Shop work, for which there is already an outline plan, will commence sometime in the autumn.

Independent of the CLG funding, the Trustees have also commissioned work to install a new CCTV system, replace the main doors and have the Main Hall repainted. As stated at the beginning, when the hall does reopen, it will hopefully be in a much-improved state.

Regarding reopening, the Parish Hall will open as a Polling Station on 6 May, it is then taking bookings from 16 May, with the Coffee Shop re-opening on Friday 21 May. To commemorate the lifting of all restrictions on 21 June (fingers crossed!), the Trustees will be holding a family picnic on the playing fields on Sunday 27 June (1-6pm), with a BBQ, music, an open house to view the improvements to the hall, re-launch of the Norton Connector, etc.... Hope you can make it!

Kevin Fincher
Chairman
Parish Hall Trustees

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan

Following the 6-week consultation process the comments and concerns expressed by residents on the content of the Draft Plan were considered and where appropriate changes were made. Earlier in April 2021, the Plan was submitted to Wychavon District Council to commence a six-week consultation prior to examination.

The independent Examiner will prepare a report that can recommend the Plan proceeds to local referendum; proceeds to local referendum with appropriate modifications; or does not meet the basic conditions and should not proceed to referendum. Assuming it proceeds to referendum, Wychavon District Council will organize for a Parish referendum to take place; this is a public vote where all parishioners on the electoral roll are invited to vote on the Plan. If the referendum vote is in favour of the Plan, then we can go through the final stages needed for it to become part of Wychavon District's statutory Development Plan, which means it must be taken into account when planning applications and appeals are determined in the Parish (Neighbourhood).

The Steering Group is confident that working under the guidance of Brodie Planning Associates, the Plan will proceed to local referendum with appropriate modifications. It is the norm for Examiners to highlight modifications required.

Once an Examiner has been appointed, it is anticipated that the Plan will be presented for examination in July/early August 2021, with a referendum held in September/early October 2021 with adoption, if sufficient residents vote in favour of adopting the Plan, in November 2021.

In the autumn of 2016, the Parish Council initiated the Neighbourhood Plan process. In the late autumn of 2021, some five years later, we look forward to the Plan being adopted if sufficient residents vote in favour of adoption. Our thanks to all residents who completed the questionnaires presented at the various stages of the process and to all those who attended our public consultation meetings. The Plan embraces your comments and concerns, and your contribution has been invaluable.

**Councillor Doug Lucas
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

Broadband Report

The vast majority of the Parish now has access to Superfast Broadband services which should provide broadband internet download speeds in excess of 25 Megabits/second (Mbps) and potentially up to 80 Mbps.

The technology to deliver Superfast is known as “Fibre to the Cabinet” (FTTC) where the data travels to and from the internet service providers to the green phone cabinets in the street over optical fibre cables. From there the data is carried on the traditional copper phone cables to individual properties. There is zero speed loss over optical fibre cables, but there is speed loss over copper cables, and this worsens with distance from the cabinet.

We are aware that there are a few corners of the Parish where due to the distance from the cabinet the download speed is less than 25Mbps e.g. Woodbury Park. There are government funding schemes to provide “Fibre to the Premises” (FTTP also sometimes referred to as Ultrafast or Gigabit) to overcome download speeds below 25 Mbps. Through Superfast Worcestershire we applied for FTTP for Woodbury Park, but the then existing scheme was withdrawn before this could be achieved. Regrettably, the replacement funding scheme appears to exclude our postcodes and we are currently unaware of any way to resolve this.

Longer term (next 5 years maybe) the government is promising FTTP connections for the vast majority of the country and we can only hope that Norton-juxta-Kempsey is included in this roll-out.

Councillor John Waizeneker
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Norton Charities Report

Charities within the parish of Norton-juxta-Kempsey are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners 28th July 1882.

The Charities originally received donations from;

- Thomas Knight in 1652 who left £100 for the poor of the parish.
- Elizabeth Stevens in 1668 who also left £100 for the poor of the parish.
- Parish Lands (1568) income from rent to be made available for the relief of poor, furnishing soldiers, amending the highway and other such works in the parish.
- James Alexander Walker (1880) to provide beef to the poor.
- In 1898 by way of order of the Charity Commission from the total income £6 a year was made available towards church expenses and any income left to provide bread and coal to the needy.

In 1905 an order was made that the interest from £600 being held within the above charities be used for educational purposes. This is now called the Educational Foundation Charity. In 1963, 268 shares were purchased with the balance of the charity and it is the interest from these shares which produces the income today. Main objective to help towards Educational needs for the children of the parish.

In 1922 parish lands were sold and the proceeds to remain in the charity.

In 1972 the Knight, Stevens, Parish lands, and Walker charity were modernized to make a more effective way to use funds and is now called the Norton-Juxta-Kempsey relief –in-need charity. 454 shares were purchased and the interest from these is income. The scheme was approved in 1973 and could benefit anyone who lives in the parish and is in conditions of need, hardship or distress either in gifts in kind or grants of money. A yearly sum is given to the Church.

Both charities are managed by six Trustees:

- One Ex-Officio Trustee - Vicar of parish
- Three nominative Trustees - Appointed by the parish council of Norton-juxta-Kempsey, although they do not need to be a parish councillor
- Two Co-opted Trustees - shall be persons who through residence, occupation or employment, or otherwise have special knowledge of the parish of Norton-juxta-Kempsey.
- If a vacancy occurs any competent person may be appointed as a Trustee.

Yearly accounts are examined and are available for anyone to see.

If you have any ideas or know of anyone who could benefit from funds from either of the charities, please contact me.

Christine McGovern

Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee, Norton Charities

Tel: 01905 820459 Email: mcgovern260@btinternet.com

Annual Police Report - 2020/21

The last 12 months have certainly been different in the policing world and has brought with it new challenges. Halfway through 2020 we had a new call recording system installed which has taken a lot of adjusting to and is not user friendly when it comes to producing reports such as these. That said due to COVID the crime figures have been skewed and to compare the figures to the previous 12 months would not achieve anything.

I have reviewed the last 12 months and there was a reduction in the number of calls and incidents as we would expect.

In April we received 2 reports of commercial burglaries.

In May there was a report of a theft of mobile phone and another separate theft of jewellery both from a business premises.

In September there was an incident reported regarding someone appearing to be shooting birds but unfortunately there was insufficient detail, and no one was identified.

In February and March, we had a couple of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour around the cricket club.

Throughout the year we have received a handful of reports relating to domestic and neighbour issues including a couple of assaults.

There has been a number of incidents throughout South Worcestershire where catalytic convertors have been cut from vehicles. A number of arrests have been made.

We have had a number of COVID breaches reported to us throughout our area. All reports were taken seriously and were dealt with via the four E's 'engage, explain, educate, enforce'. None of these have gone to enforcement.

As a team we are grateful to everyone who has followed government guidelines and stayed at home however, we have been made aware of, and have dealt with, visitors to the area who have travelled from further afield causing disruption and concern to the residents of villages especially those surrounding Bredon Hill.

There is a website <https://www.police.uk/your-area/> where you can enter your postcode, and this will give you the crimes by month for your area which may be of interest to residents.

Pershore Rural North and South Safer Neighbourhood Team

Non-Emergency Telephone No: 101

Facebook: PershoreCops

Twitter: @PershoreCops

Email: Pershorerural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH
HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2020

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic and Government instructions, this meeting was held remotely via video/telephone conference call.

8. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Lucas.

Attending:

Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Arrow, Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. Pollard, Cllr. Richmond, Cllr. Turvey, Cllr. Waizeneker, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and one member of the public/press.

9. Welcome and Report from Cllr. Fincher, Parish Council Chairman

Cllr. Fincher welcomed attendees and referred to the Chairman's Report published in support of the agenda (Appendix 1 attached). See item 7 for questions.

10. Covid-19 Community Response

As detailed in the Chairman's Report published in support of the agenda (Appendix 1 attached).

11. Community Legacy Grant Update

As detailed in the Community Legacy Grant Update Report published in support of the agenda (Appendix 2 attached).

12. Active Travel Corridor (ATC)/Parkway Station Update

As detailed in the Chairman's Report and the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Update on Projects, both documents published in support of the agenda (Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 respectively). The Parish Council reiterated that it does not support use of the section of the ATC between The Retreat and the Parkway Station due to safety concerns, which it continues to raise with WCC. Cllr Adams advised that road markings/lines painted along the ATC route are due to be refreshed by WCC where these are deteriorating.

13. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting 1st May 2019

Accepted as a true record, as proposed by Cllr Waizeneker, seconded by Cllr Dawson and agreed by all. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow.

14. Residents Questions

Concerns were expressed regarding the overgrown state of the hedge along the Church Lane pavement (between the motorway bridge and up towards St James Church), which is resulting in pedestrians walking in the road in places. Further enquiries will be made regarding ownership of the hedge and a quote for maintenance work will be obtained to assess the cost/nature of the work (taking into consideration requirements relating to the bird nesting season). Cllr Adams will seek assistance from WCC Highways as this pavement forms part of the ATC.

15. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those attending, closing the meeting at 8pm.