

NORTON & LENCHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council Meeting held on
7th July 2009 in the Village Hall at 19h30

Present
Cllr Fletcher (Chair)
Cllr Leonard
Cllr Middleton
Cllr Prew
Cllr Hill
Cllr Iorns
Cllr Weaving
Cllr Richards
Cllr C Holt (District Councillor)
Mrs Spence (Clerk)

Two members of the public were present. No questions were raised in the public session, the meeting commenced at 19h30.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Worthington
2. **Declaration of Interest** – No declaration of interest was made
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2009** – Item 6 Field Path Officer's Report, the amount applied for under the PPP3 scheme was amended to £420 and it was noted that path 501 to 500 required signage. These adjustments had been made prior to the meeting. Chairman signed the amended minutes as a true and correct record.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Cllr Fletcher commented that the Parish Council had successfully undertaken many projects in the last few years, the Playing Field, Lengthsman Scheme and more recently the Footpaths Scheme (PPP3). The Council should build on this enthusiasm to support community spirit in the villages. Thoughts to date were to introduce a Garden Competition, Flower Festival, Car boot sale or a Fete. A recent dog show organised by the Dog Training Club had been very successful. The Council were requested to give the project some thought and investigate what other villages were doing for discussion at the next meeting.

It was agreed also that it would be imperative to encourage all local organisations, the church, village hall, local social groups to work together in order to make future projects a success.

5. **District Councillors Report** – Cllr Holt reported that he was pleased to have been re-elected to the County Council and had attended his first meeting. He had been appointed as Chairman to the Audit

Committee. Highways were currently undertaking a major project with regard to footpaths needing repair. Clerk to provide list of local repairs by the end of July. All agreed that Kings Lane remained a major problem and repairs were long outstanding despite many complaints to Highways. Clerk also to write to Roy Fullee of Highways to highlight the urgency of the problems.

6. **Field Path Officer's Report** – Cllr Leonard reported that PPP3 funding of £420 had been awarded and she had signed a Parish Paths Warden agreement which governed what work she may undertake.

The way mark between the playing field and the Morris had been removed and would be replaced. 'No dogs without Leads' sign had also been removed from the playing field. Way mark post to Path 501 had also been removed, it also contained a sign relating to dogs on leads. All posts would be replaced and the situation monitored.

7. **Playing Fields** – Rubbish was being collected weekly and play equipment being checked. 3-monthly equipment check had been undertaken and 'open-air gym' bolts required tightening, otherwise all was in good order.

Resulting from the Wicksteed Leisure annual play area inspection discussions had been held with Countryside agency who had agreed to revisit the possibility of a gate at the bottom of the field. Clerk had contacted Smith Wadley regarding permission and assistance with fencing alongside the Village Hall, no response had been received at the time of the meeting. It was noted that a public footpath ran through the playing field and there was concern that a fence would not deter dog owners from walking their dogs without leads. Clerk to write to Wicksteed explaining the situation.

8. **Lengthsman** – Kings lane drains had been cleared as well as 17 drains in Lenchwick.
9. **Street Lighting** – It was agreed to proceed with replacing column 10. The column would not be relocated but the lantern would be adjusted to light the alleyway towards Heathfield. Permission had been received from the resident concerned to provide access for the work to be undertaken. The council had agreed to make good any damage to the garden or fencing.
10. **Windfarm Working Party** – Cllr Hill reported that he had attended several windfarm working party meetings as the representative of Norton and Lenchwick. Five local Parish Councils, Church Lench, Norton and Lenchwick, Harvington, Fladbury, Bishampton and Hill & Moor had formed the party with a delegate attending from each parish council. The purpose of the working group was to gather and share information both in support and against the windfarm project in preparation for the planning application consultation process.

To date the group had met with Peter Luff who had agreed to contact groups such as the County Council, Cotswold Conservation Board, Country Land and Business Association and Scottish Power to obtain their views regarding the impact of the proposal. Replies from these parties had been mixed.

Open discussions would be held with all parties at the working party meetings including the VVASP group and Scottish Power. The working party had sent out Terms and Conditions to all parish councils involved with regard to financial assistance. Councils had been initially asked for an amount of £750 to assist with cost of measuring noise and engaging the services of an environmental expert to assist in assessing the planning application. To date all other participating parish councils had agreed to the finance.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hill for his efforts on the parish council's behalf. The Clerk had consulted CALC (County Association of Local Councils) and they had advised that it was not uncommon for several local councils to work together on large projects such as the windfarm. The contribution of funds by each council was acceptable. The Chairman asked the council to offer their views in order that a decision could be made regarding a contribution. Current financial situation was discussed.

There was much discussion regarding the contribution. The main concern was that there may be further requests for funds and once funds were handed over that the parish council would have no control over how they were spent. It was noted that Financial Terms and Conditions had been drawn up for the working party and that they would be fully accountable for how monies were spent. It was further noted that the council had an obligation to undertake work on the graveyard land in the future which would require substantial funds.

Councillors voted on the contribution of £750. Following a vote of 4-4, the Chair used the casting vote in favour of making the contribution to the working party on the condition that it was to be a one-off payment from Norton and Lenchwick Council and must be used only for investigative purposes relating to the windfarm project. It was also agreed that the council would visit a windfarm similar in size to the Proposed Lenchwick Windfarm as part of their investigation of the project to assess impact of size, noise etc

- 11. St Egwin's Church Graveyard** – It was agreed to investigate the costs of draining the land and consecrating it for use once the current cemetery reached capacity. Although it was not currently urgent, the council agreed that costs to undertake the work should be included in 2009/10 budget.
- 12. Relocation of Chadbury Notice Board** – To be included on the next agenda with suggestions for new site.

13. Consumer Focus Group

A recent Consumer Focus Group had highlighted the benefit of postal outreach services in villages following local post office closures. Although there was a post office in Harvington, the council agreed to investigate whether Norton and Lenchwick would qualify for mobile services. Clerk to investigate.

14. Finance

a. To approve payments

B Spence	£252.39 (June + July Salary & Expenses)
Smartcut	£413.89 (May & June mowing)
Wicksteed Leisure	£ 51.75 (Annual Play area inspection)
P Parfitt	£293.37 (Lengthsman & footpaths May)
	£245.54 (Lengthsman & footpaths June)

b. Clerk's report of receipts

£420 had been received from Worcestershire County Council under the PPP3 scheme for Footpaths.

c. Internal Audit

Clerk reported that the Internal Audit was complete. Council agreed that the Annual Return could be filed with External Auditors. The issue of increasing the current Fidelity Guarantee provision on the Council's annual insurance had been once again been raised by the auditors. For an additional annual cost of £25.20 the current level of £2000 could be increased to £10,000. Council agreed to proceed. Clerk to action.

15. Planning Applications

Applications Returned :
Application for installations of 2 power inverter heat pumps, Norton and Lenchwick Village Hall had been returned to Wychavon with no objections.

16. Items for Future Agenda

Parish Council Surgeries

17. Correspondence – current correspondence was circulated

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 8th September 2009 in the Village Hall at 19h30. The meeting closed at 21h00.

Signed:

Chairman

Date

DRAFT