

## Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 No.03/13

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

Tel. 01386 830676 email [nortonlenchwick@sky.com](mailto:nortonlenchwick@sky.com)

website [www.parish-council.com/norton lenchwick/](http://www.parish-council.com/norton_lenchwick/)

Present K. Leonard, Chairman, A. Hill, V. Chairman, Councillors, D. Bush, K. Davies,  
C. Councillor C. Holt & M. Smith, Clerk

1. Apologies D. Councillor, C. Homer, Councillor J. Fretwell & P. Parfitt, Lengthsman

2. Declarations of Interest None

3. Public Session

A representative from the Opportunity Vale of Evesham group gave a brief explanation of their Objectives for the area are for the health & wellbeing of the community with help on help back to work, health & social care, loft / cavity insulation, boiler repairs etc. This has been discussed with 3 villages with 80+ hours of audio available.. Their projects for this year is a mobile library & health checks and the possibility of financial advice. They have offered to attend an Community & Outreach meeting to share their findings

4. Minutes of the previous meeting agreed

5. District / County Councillors Report's

Councillor C. Holt said that more savings need to be made in the coming year. The government are giving £3M towards bad weather funding. Councillors told C. Holt about the lack of gritting in bad weather. He was also asked to look at the surfacing for Kings Lane

6. Chairman's Report

Councillor C. Homer is unavailable to night but I have had a lengthy conversation with him. We discussed the plans behind Church Walk which were withdrawn because the planners were prepared to refuse for the reason of unsustainability. The project at the Gas place was also refused due to lack of sustainability. C. Homer was concerned that to be continually labelled as unsustainable would have a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Our local SWDP plan has still not been formally adopted. It has been passed by WDC but it also has to be passed by the government. Because of all the checks and balances this may still not formally happen, until late 2013 or early 2014. So until it is adopted all our planning will be controlled by the National Planning policy framework which is coming into effect on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Councillor Homer suggested we consider adopting a Parish Neighbourhood Plan. He feels it is important for the future of development in our parish and in terms of weighting a local plan will sit under the SWDP and it is a proper material consideration as opposed to a Parish Plan which has no or little legal weighting.

A Parish Neighbourhood Plan is intended to give a parish the option to rule where things go, and how they will happen. Under the new rules planners must give a Neighbourhood Plan consideration in all their rulings. There is no getting away from the fact it will be a time consuming and expensive process. There is £20,000.00 of leader funds available to us should we choose to go down this route with Councillor Homer being able to arrange a meeting with Andrew Ford who advises parishes on this matter. I recommend we take up this offer. Once we have more information we can then make an informed decision, and if the end result is more control over our future, we must then take a serious at the prospect.

The other matter that came up also relating to planning was a consultation held by Steve Bromley of Bromley Consultants. Mr Bromley requested this consultation meeting to make the Parish Council aware of a development in the early planning stage for a 3.5 acre parcel of land in Norton on the road to Salford. (Old By-Pass). They have had one meeting with the planners and after this consultation they would contact Councillor Homer. It was their belief that the development should enhance and contribute to the area and they were keen to understand more about the Parish and the Ward.

The plan is in the 1<sup>st</sup> draft and would likely change after further consultations. It depicted 16 homes of various sizes and finishes but they wished to reflect a traditional development that would blend in with the area. None of the homes fronted the road and there was one driveway into the property. Speed along that road and access was discussed. We were asked our opinion of affordable housing and it was noted that we would prefer shared equity ownership as we did not presently have any in Norton but we did have a high stock of leased affordable housing. It was noted that there was a considerable ditch on the property and the owner said a pond used to exist and it was planned to re-instate this as there would have been a good reason for it to exist originally. Other issues discussed in brief were, Home Offices, Broadband, Harvington School capacity, Access to Harvington via Public Footpath, Rooftop Housing's Restrictive Share Equity Scheme, Availability of Shared Ownership Schemes and who would maintain any Common Spaces.

I asked Councillor Homer how they could expect to get a project like this through planning the current atmosphere and he said he thought the only way would be to apply for a rural exception.

An email had been received from Halls Worcester LLP regarding the use of 1.76 acres of land adjoining St Egwins Church for use as an allotment.

It read, Worcester Diocese would be willing in principle to allow the use of land for an allotment. The land would need to be occupied under a Farm Business Tenancy agreement in favour of N & L Parish Council for an annual rent of £500.00 per annum, initially they would look to grant a 2-5 year term

New Homes Bonus. The Clerk advised that our NHB is £26,000.00 with a 10% deduction if taken as a lump sum. I would propose that we follow Councillor Homer's recommendation and apply for all of the NHB. If we are not going to pursue the allotments at this time then we should use all of the money to upgrade the Playing Field. I suggest we hold a Playing Field Surgery on a Saturday asking people who use the Park for their ideas. I know we need to fence off the Small Childrens Play Area and prohibit dogs, and the kids have asked for improvements in the Goal Areas. It may be that we can also afford a new piece of equipment so it's best to see what people want. Not all suggestions will be practical, but we need to ask

Then based on the information we receive we can formulate a plan. The Community & Outreach Committee can start the process by organizing a Parish Consultation to keep it moving with an eye to having an application to vote on by the May meeting.

7. Field Path Officers Report

None

8. Lengthsmans Report

None

9. Finance & Policy Committee Report

None

10. Community & Outreach Committee Report

None

11. New & Ongoing Items

a) Report on the Quiz Night & Tea Dance

The Quiz night was a success with many people from the village attending, some who we have never seen before. The Tea Dance however had a poor attendance however the Singer was good and everyone enjoyed the food.

The funding for both of these events was from Community projects budget. It is hoped more events can be organised, time permitting.

b) Playground Equipment & Inspection..

Need to get the Lengthsman to regularly check the equipment. Wicksteed have been requested to do the annual safety inspection.

c) Review of the Asset register. Copy to be made available at the next meeting

d) Dealt with in item 6

e) Allotment Update Dealt with in Item 6

f) Village Green Update

Councillor K. Davies said the final hearing but will be 3-6 months for a decision to be made.

g) Pact

Councillor A. Hill said the meeting was poorly attended. The main points were,

1. An issue with parking outside of Harvington School. Councillor D. Bush is a governor of the school  
And has offered to raise this with the head of the school

2. Speeding in both Parishes

3. Anti-Social behaviour is decreasing

4. Dog fouling has not improved

5. A dog attack in Harvington

6. Pact requires more membership.

h) Street Lighting Update. WDP will begin the work in the early part of May

## 12 Planning

W/13/00265/PN Evesham Country Park, Norton.

W/13/00345/PN Site between Girvan & Whum, Lenchwick Lane

## 14. Finance

Copies of accounts were made available for Councillors

Cheques signed,

P. Parfitt, Lengthsman Oct/Nov/Dec £105.00

Cox & Hodgetts, Deeds Storage £25.00

WPD, Street Lighting £1,711.80

Calc, Clerk Training £10.00

M. Smith, Clerk Salary Jan/Feb, Travel Expenses, Newsletter P&D & Flowers £363.65

### Receipts

WCC, Lengthsman £80.00

15. Date of the next meeting as 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013

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

Meeting Closed

Signed.....

Date.....

## Notes of the Public Question Time