

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH
HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON
TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2016

1. Apologies for Absence:

Mr Reeves, Miss Eggby (Norton Methodist Church) and West Mercia Police.

Attending:

Cllr. Turvey (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Brooker, Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Hughes, Cllr. Mrs Poole, Cllr. Richmond, Cllr. Sparling, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 17 parishioners.

2. Welcome and Reports from Cllr. Fincher, Parish Council Vice-Chairman

Cllr. Fincher welcomed attendees and introduced Parish Council members. Cllr. Turvey, Parish Council Chairman advised that he is recovering from a period of serious illness and thanked Cllr. Fincher and the Clerk, along with other members of the Council for their support during this time.

Cllr. Fincher provided a report including an update regarding the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), which has now been adopted by the District and City Councils. Disappointment was expressed that a planning application has recently been approved outside the SWDP development boundary, despite strong objections from the Parish Council. In contrast, a second planning application for a business development, on the SWDP allocated site along Norton Road, is expected shortly, with the operators undertaking pre-application discussions with the Parish Council and local residents to minimise the impact of this proposal. Despite strong opposition from the Parish Council, following the Planning Inspector's review of the SWDP, this has been modified to allow for a Traveller site within the South Worcester Urban Extension (SWUE), potentially within our Parish. No planning application has as yet been received for a Traveller site and there appears no aspiration from the developers to include this in their plans. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation carefully and comment on any proposals received. The Parkway Station is believed to be subject to land purchase issues, that it is understood Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is seeking to resolve. The extensive flood alleviation measures undertaken along Woodbury Lane initially failed to cope with heavy downpours, but the Parish Council has been advised that the situation is now resolved. The southern link road (SLR) developments continue, with the project phasing explained. Two foot bridges are planned as part of the SLR improvement work and it is understood that WCC is pursuing proposals/funding to enable dualling of the Carrington Bridge.

Developments to improve the facilities at the Parish Hall and in its grounds are being considered which include a coffee shop/community hub, playing field drainage, an outside gym and trim trail plus a cycle track. Planning matters are being investigated and funding opportunities sought. The Norton Community Games were again a great success last year and Norton Community Trust are planning various community activities during 2016. The Parish Hall Trustees are developing their community activities and events with a quiz night, 80's disco, harvest festival fun day and community carol service having taken place or being planned. Proceeds from these events will assist with maintenance of the Hall and help in achieving a secure financial footing. Norton Theatre Group have received a certificate of commendation from Wychavon District Council (WDC) following their 30th annual pantomime and are planning their 31st panto performance for January 2017, with volunteers welcomed. The Parish Council has presented children attending Norton Pre-School and NJK CE First School with WW1 commemorative medals in recognition of the Parish's strong links with the Worcestershire Regiment. The Norton WW1 Group is also undertaking projects within the Parish to highlight this link e.g. new Welcome to Norton signs and information boards relating to the Regiment, the Barracks and local road names.

The community is about the people living in it and the various groups within the Parish, including the

Parish Council, are endeavouring to involve more people and work together for the benefit of the community. Volunteers are always welcome, as is feedback about how you would like your Parish to develop.

3. Parish Information Pack

Attached as Appendix A and includes:

a. Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting 5th May 2015

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Mrs J. Price, seconded by Mrs C. McGovern and agreed by all.

b. Parish Reports - As detailed in Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix A.

- i. Planning** (also see item 4)
- ii. Allotments**
- iii. Playing Fields**
- iv. Public Rights of Way**
- v. Finance**
- vi. Norton Charities**
- vii. Police**

Cllr. Fincher welcomed questions relating to the content of the Parish Information Pack.

4. South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), Parkway Station, other developments within the Parish and highways/adoption matters

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack and discussed during the meeting (items 2, 6 and 9).

5. Police Report

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack.

6. Report from Cllr. Rob Adams (District and County Councillor)

Cllr. Adams apologised for his late arrival (due to attending 4 Annual Parish Meetings that evening) and thanked the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillors and the Clerk for their support and hard work.

Cllr. Adams commented on devolved power and the positive impact that this can have, if properly resourced in terms of people and funding. Local District and City Councils continue to develop ways of working together to produce efficiencies and cost savings, whilst maintaining services. Decisions will continue to be made by the local District/City Councils on matters in their own areas. Interpretation of policies within the SWDP is bringing challenges and Parishes are being encouraged to consider producing Neighbourhood Plans, with WDC able to provide assistance. An update was provided on the finance settlements for WDC and WCC, spending priorities and 'outsourcing' of some activities/operations e.g. commissioning. Cllr. Adams welcomed questions.

In response to a question relating to the Parkway Station, Cllr. Adams advised that he understands that this is on schedule to start this year, with completion still planned for 2018. Artwork is proposed within the station, to recognise the link to WW1 soldiers who left the old 'Norton Halt' and this is due to be sponsored, rather than WCC funded. Cllr. Adams added that it is hoped that flooding issues along Woodbury Lane have now been alleviated.

Following a question about dualling of the Carrington Bridge and funding for this, Cllr. Adams advised that plans are being drawn up and the need for this work is being recognised by the Government, so it is hoped that WCC will be successful in securing funding. Concerns were expressed regarding the safety of crossing the SLR during the improvement works and before the proposed bridges are installed. Cllr. Adams noted the feedback, will highlight this to WCC and seek an update on when the bridges will be in place.

Cllr. Adams was thanked for his continued efforts on behalf of the Parish and his support.

7. Development of Parish Hall Facilities and use of New Homes Bonus Funding

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack and discussed during the meeting (items 2 and 8e). Attendees were invited to complete a questionnaire relating to ideas to develop facilities at the Parish Hall and the surrounding grounds and use of New Homes Bonus funding.

8. Parish Reports

a. Norton Methodist Church

The Parish Clerk read out a report which provided background to the Church, services and activities it arranges.

b. St. James the Great Church

Mr Lucas advised that he couldn't speak on behalf of the Church but provided background to the history of the Church and an update on potential changes ahead. Grant funding is being applied for, to assist with repairs to the tower and opportunities are being considered to enable the Church to become more part of the community e.g. being open for visitors, being used as a community space and rekindling links with the Worcestershire Regiment. Mr Lucas asked Parishioners to give thought to how they would like to see the Church develop, facilities they would use, or believe others would use, and to advise the Parish Clerk so that ideas can be passed to the Church group for consideration.

c. Norton Parish Hall

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack and discussed during the meeting (items 2 and 8e).

d. Norton Community Trust (NCT)

Mr. Goode, Chair of NCT, provided a report relating to NCT and Worcester Norton Sports Club. This included background to the NCT charity and its activities, such as Olympic inspired events, Norton Youth Club, Parish Fun Run. NCT is also a vehicle for the WW1 Group whose activities include the community garden at St Peter's Garden Centre. 'A Right Royal Party' on 12th June will mark the Queen's 90th birthday, with all invited.

e. Worcester Norton Sports Club (WNSC)

Mr. Goode, Chair of WNSC, provided background to the Club, its structure, financial position and membership. A flyer relating to WNSC activities and opening times was made available for those interested in finding out more. Options for the future of the site have been considered, with a questionnaire issued (in conjunction with the Parish Council) to gather the views of the local community. The site is used as public open space and is detailed within the Community Asset Register, but remains in private ownership. Discussions are being held with WDC regarding new facilities for the site, development of community focus and funding. The Club is currently a Limited Company, which is a limiting factor in terms of securing funding, and organisation change is in hand. S106 funding of £1.4m from the Kilbury Drive, Whittington development is earmarked by WDC for sport and community use. Plans for the site have been drawn up (which are on display in the club house) and these will go to wider consultation in due course, to obtain feedback from the local community. Plans currently include a sports hall (including provision for badminton), fitness room and function room. Planning consent will be required for the proposal, including the proposed demolition of the stewards' houses, the club house and removal of one mature tree. Project costs are envisaged at c. £1.8m, with further funding opportunities being sought to meet the shortfall. It was noted that developments of community/recreation facilities are being planned at both the WNSC site and the Parish Hall, using a mix of s106 funding, New Homes Bonus funding and other funding streams, which will provide a spread of complementary facilities across the Parish for residents to enjoy.

f. Norton Theatre Group

Mr. Simms thanked the Parish Council and the Parish Hall for their support. The January 2017 panto will be the 31st year of this annual event, with the only the year 2000 without a performance. Details for rehearsals and for offers of help will be included in the Parish Council newsletter, displayed on the Parish notice boards and also on Facebook, or feel free to speak to Mr Simms. All are very welcome; performers and volunteers to help back stage.

9. Residents Questions

The questions session commenced after item 8b.

In response to a question regarding provision of a safe cycle/pedestrian access to the proposed Parkway Station, it was noted that this has been raised with WCC and Highways. Traffic analysis and flow data have been requested, along with traffic calming measures and a footpath for safe pedestrian access in view of the narrow nature of Woodbury Lane. It is understood that public rights of way will potentially be re-routed to assist with access. It was noted that the station development is understood to be on track, despite potential land ownership issues. The provision of sufficient car parking spaces was questioned by a resident. It is understood that at present there is no parking expansion plan and that WCC is keen to see the station well served by bus routes.

The nature of traffic calming measures was questioned, with a request for these not to include speed bumps. It is understood that developers will contribute towards speed restriction measures, with chicanes with cycle access through, being considered. Feedback was received from the resident asking the question that they did not wish to see such measures. It was explained that these are being considered to help to alleviate the impact of the SWDP developments and that chicanes had been considered as less intrusive than speed bumps. Feedback from the resident was that non-residents should be banned from using the 'rat run' route through the Parish and that the 30mph speed limit along Church Lane was too slow. Measures planned to hopefully assist with reducing the volume of traffic, include revised access arrangements to Norton Road (as part of the SWDP), possible chicanes and the improved SLR (once work is complete), which will hopefully all discourage use of the roads through the Parish. A request was received from the resident for the rat run to be referred to as a 'short cut' or 'alternative route'. In response to a question about return of speed cameras along Church Lane, it was noted that the Parish Council has asked for these to be used on a periodic basis to monitor speeds. This action has been undertaken as the majority of feedback received from residents has been that they wish to see speeds reduced. One resident highlighted that the speed limit used to be unrestricted, with no problems and that they didn't want to see the area urbanised. In response, it was highlighted that the Church Lane speed limit had been discussed at many previous Annual Parish Meetings (APMs), considered by the Parish Council and at previous APMs, the majority of Parishioners attending wished the speed limit to be maintained at 30mph, which the Parish Council is supportive of. It was suggested that the resident may wish to contact Cllr Rob Adams if they would like to seek a different approach to this matter.

In response to a question about installation of Superfast Broadband, Parishioners were advised that cabinet upgrade information will be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter and is also available from the Superfast Worcestershire website.

A question was asked relating to the development of Molten Metal Products (MMP) along Woodbury Lane and approval of the planning application. It was noted that the Parish Council objected to the application on the basis that it is outside the development plan. The application was considered by the WDC Planning Committee, in light of the SWDP, and it is understood was approved in view of MMP being an existing business on the adjacent site.

The questions session was paused to allow Cllr Rob Adams to provide his report and the Parish Reports 8c to 8f followed Cllr Adams' report.

A comment was received from the residents highlighting how few Parishioners had attended. It was agreed to consider ways to improve the effectiveness of advertising for the meeting and to provide a report in the Parish Council newsletter, to explain the nature of the meeting, topics planned for discussion and to highlight this as an opportunity for residents to provide feedback about how they would like their Parish to develop.

The Parish Council and its staff were thanked for all their work and effort

10. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.