

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH
HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON
WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY 2017

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Richmond, Mrs Way-Vautier and Mr Reeves.

Attending:

Cllr. Turvey (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Brooker, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Hughes, Cllr. Mrs Ritter, Cllr. Sparling, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 38 parishioners.

2. Welcome and Report from Cllr. Turvey, Parish Council Chairman

Cllr. Turvey welcomed attendees and reiterated the Chairman's Report included within the Annual Parish Meeting Information Pack (which was circulated at the meeting, attached as Appendix 1).

3. Parish Information Pack

Attached as Appendix 1 and includes:

a. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2016

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Mr. P. Poole, seconded by Mr C. Arrow and agreed by all.

b. Parish Reports - As detailed in Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1.

- i. Planning** (also see item 4)
- ii. Allotments**
- iii. Bus Services**
- iv. Playing Fields**
- v. Public Rights of Way**
- vi. Finance Summary**
- vii. Norton Parish Hall**
- viii. Neighbourhood Plan**
- ix. Norton Methodist Church**
- x. Norton Charities**
- xi. Police**

Cllr. Turvey 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

Cllrs Fincher and Turvey provided reports relating to the SWDP, Parkway Station development and related matters such as traffic calming measures and pedestrian/cycle access to the Station. In response to residents' questions/comments, further discussions took place regarding Station parking facilities, Church Lane speeding, access to the Parkway Station and traffic calming measures. The Parish Council continues to provide input to these development projects to seek the best outcome for its residents.

Following a request for the Church Lane speed limit to be increased from the existing 30mph limit, a vote was taken which found 2 attendees in favour of increasing the limit. On the basis that the majority of attendees were not in favour of an increased speed limit, the matter will not be pursued.

Cllrs Fincher and Turvey agreed to meet with Mr Smith to discuss speeding and parking in the vicinity of Smiths Livery Yard, Church Lane, Norton.

5. Police Report

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack.

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

Cllr. Adams provided a report including re-opening of Abbotswood Bridge, issues shared across many Parishes and updates regarding operations at both Worcs CC and Wychavon DC, with the value of residents' feedback highlighted.

Cllr. Adams thanked the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillors and the Clerk for their support, hard work and service to the community.

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

7. Development of Parish Hall Facilities

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack (Appendix 1).

8. Future Uses for New Homes Bonus (NHB) Funding

Details of previous projects funded by NHB were noted including the recent development of the coffee shop and community hub at the Parish Hall. Ideas for projects for future NHB funding at the Parish Hall site included development of a community garden, development of a swamp garden and picnic area, installation of a Trim Trail and resurfacing the Parish Hall car park. Volunteers were welcomed to assist with progressing these projects, as were ideas for other projects across the Parish which may be eligible for NHB funding.

9. Parish Reports

a. Norton Methodist Church

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack (Appendix 1).

b. St. James the Great Church

Rev'd Mark Badger provided a report including Church activities, community facilities and working together for the benefit of the community.

c. Norton Parish Hall

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack (Appendix 1).

d. Norton Community Trust (NCT)

Details of NCT community events will be included in the Parish newsletter.

e. Worcester Norton Sports Club (WNSC)

An update was read out from Mr. Goode, Chair of WNSC, regarding developments at WNSC. A formal consultation will take place in due course.

f. Norton WW1 Group

Mr Lucas provided a report on the Group's activities and future plans. The Group was thanked for its hard work promoting the long association between the Worcestershire Regiment and the Parish, which has been reflected in the Group winning a Wychavon Community Groups Award.

g. Norton Theatre Group

Mr. Simms provided a report on a successful 2017 panto and thanked the Parish Council, the Parish Hall and all those who supported the event. The January 2018 panto is being planned and details for rehearsals and volunteers will be included in the Parish Council newsletter, on the Parish notice boards, on Facebook, or speak to Mr Simms. Mr Simms and the Norton Theatre Group were thanked for their continued work to deliver this long standing and very successful community event.

10. Residents Questions

Questions related to the following topics:

- i. Camera at the junction of Norton Road/Taylors Lane – The Parish Council will make enquiries relating to the camera's function.

- ii. Remedial work/maintenance to the Talavera Road play area – The play area is still under the ownership of the developers, pending adoption by Wychavon DC. The Parish Council has highlighted safety concerns regarding the play area to the developers and to Wychavon DC and is pressing for the work to be completed.
- iii. Bus service provision – The need to use the bus service is critical to its survival. Based on data from First, passenger numbers for the two new additional services are not covering the cost of the services (although at the meeting, passengers questioned these numbers). A meeting is being arranged between the Parish Council and First to discuss ideas to develop the 382 service and to make this more cost effective. It was noted that Worcs CC no longer subsidises this bus service. Development of the Parkway Station may provide an opportunity for better bus service provision to the Parish and the Parish Council will provide input to bus route planning relating to the Station.
- iv. The Norton/St Peters A4440 temporary crossing point – Safety concerns were noted and these have been reported to Worcs CC. Disappointment was expressed at the lengthy delay before the proposed A4440 bridges will be in place (due 2019). The Parish Council and Cllr. Adams will continue to press for early completion of the bridges and for safe crossing measures in the interim period.

11. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.



Norton-juxta-Kempsey

May 2017

**Annual Parish Meeting
Information Pack**

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Norton Charities Report

Police Report

Draft Minutes from the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Parish Councillor	Main Areas of Responsibility (in addition to general Parish Council matters)
Cllr. Howard Turvey Parish Council Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • SWDP, Parkway Station and infrastructure matters • Public Rights of way • Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr. Kevin Fincher Parish Council Vice-Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • SWDP, Parkway Station and infrastructure matters • Parish Hall matters • Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr. Paul Brooker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Hall matters • Flooding/drainage matters
Cllr. Chris Dawson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields/recreation facilities • Parish Hall matters
Cllr. Maurice Hughes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • Transport & infrastructure matters (incl. bus service)
Cllr. Peter Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • Playing fields/recreation facilities
Cllr. Rachel Ritter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed
Cllr. John Sparling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT representative • Bus service matters • Allotments matters
Parish Councillor vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed
Mr. Mike Reeves (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding/drainage matters

Parish Clerk	Contact Details
Mrs Jane Greenway	18 Corunna Close Norton Worcs WR5 2PW Email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com Tel: 01905 763515

Annual Parish Meeting 2017 - Chairman's Report

The last year has once again been very busy for the Parish Council, and there is much planned for the coming year.

I would like to welcome Rachel Ritter as a new member of the Parish Council. I would also like to thank all the members of the Parish Council who work well in harmony, the Clerk, Jane Greenway, and Assistant Clerk, Katy Watkinson, for their guidance and hard work, and the continued support of Councillor Rob Adams, who represents us at both District and County level.

With the SWDP now adopted, the focus of the Parish Council is on ensuring that any provisions contained therein, which are of benefit to the Parish, are strictly observed. Pleasingly, in the past few months two planning applications, one on Wadborough Road and the other on Hatfield Lane, both of which were opposed by the Parish Council as they involved building on land outside the development boundaries, in contravention of the SWDP Policies, have been refused.

Construction of the Parkway Station has commenced, and the Parish Council representatives are attending the update meetings that are being held regularly. The Parish Council continues to lobby hard regarding the concerns you have expressed regarding parking on Church Lane, and Woodbury Lane and Church Lane being used as a 'rat run'. We feel we are making some progress in our discussions with the County Council regarding access to the Parkway Station. We are concerned that if the road system is left as currently, the station will cause an increase in the number of vehicles 'rat running' through the Parish and we believe that WCC are sympathetic with our views. A big thank you to all those which contributed to the questionnaire. With 271 responses, an overwhelming majority of 75% favoured option C: traffic light control and alternate single way working over the railway bridge, so this is the option we are campaigning for.

Phase 3A of the Southern Link Road improvements is well under way and should be completed soon. This will double Norton Roundabout in size, move it a radius closer to Norton, and link with the dual carriageway already in place from the Ketch Roundabout. There are two pedestrian cycle bridges proposed, one between the Norton and Ketch roundabouts linking to St Peters, and one close to the railway bridge, following the bridleway from Brockhill Lane. Prior to these bridges being installed, the increasing danger in crossing the A4440 for pedestrians and cyclists is a concern and we have been pressing WCC Highways on this matter, with a meeting requested.

In conjunction with Wychavon DC, we have also been pressing the developers for completion of the outstanding works required prior to adoption of the development adjacent to St Peter's Garden Centre. In particular, we are keen to see the proposed pathway around the balancing pond completed.

The Parish Council was pleased to hear that the bus trial will continue so everyone can better assess the numbers with improved weather conditions. The new 382 services run on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes terminating at the Parish Hall. We have requested another meeting with First Bus in an attempt to get further improvements.

There is an improved relationship with St James the Great Church, which is becoming more open and community focused and we welcome the appointment of Reverend Mark Badger.

Following on from our success with the Multi-Use Games Area and Children's Play Park, we are now seeking to address the drainage on the Parish Hall playing fields and introduce a trim trail and outdoor gym equipment. Whilst the Parish Hall is run as a separate charity, this will be complementary to the coffee shop that has been opened by the Trustees. We want the Parish Hall to be an effective facility for the community and it is pleasing to see that the current facilities are popular and being widely used. It is also positive that the Parish Hall is once more in a position to start offering community events.

Finally, the community is all about the people that live here. We hope that more people will become involved in the Parish (Parish Council, Parish Hall Trustees, Youth Club, Norton Community Trust etc...) and new faces are always welcome. If you have an opinion about something happening in the Parish that you would like to share, whether it's supportive, critical, or an item you think we have overlooked, then please get in touch.

Howard Turvey
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council Chairman

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

Since the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting:

- 13 submissions have been considered from Wychavon District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council.
- 9 of which were approved and 2 were refused (both of these applications were not supported by the Parish Council).
- 2 applications were withdrawn by the applicant.
- No applications are awaiting a decision.
- One planning application appeal is awaiting a decision.

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

Allotments Report

The allotments are looking in fine form and many thanks for the efforts made in keeping the allotments tidier - however there are still a few allotments, although rented, that are not being maintained and those tenants will shortly be receiving a letter to remind them of their obligations and the possibility of being charged for clearance.

We currently have 60 allotments and a waiting list for plots - if you are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact Katy at njkassistantclerk@gmail.com

The water supply to the "new" allotments has now finally been connected to the new trough and standpipe - hopefully to everyone's satisfaction.

Lock to main gate - the Parish Council was asked to provide a lock to the main gate to stop unauthorised access to the allotments, however this lock has been damaged on several occasions and has now been removed due the costs in repairing/replacing this.

Surplus produce - if you have any surplus produce, the Parish Hall trustees would be delighted to take it off your hands so that it can be made in to jams, chutneys etc and sold in the coffee shop. Please contact Paul at the coffee shop or call on 01905 821032. All profits will be invested back into the community.

If you have any issues or comments regarding the allotments, please contact John Sparling at ibixa1936@gmail.com or Katy Watkinson at njkassistantclerk@gmail.com.

Have a good growing season and I hope that the wonderful blossom turns to a bumper crop.

Paul Brooker
Parish Councillor

Number 382 Bus Service

Many of you will know that Wednesday 23rd November 2016 saw the start of our extra shopping buses on Wednesdays and Fridays of each week.

These were arranged after lengthy negotiations with First Midland Red (FMR), who had previously cut most of the daytime 382 buses because they ceased to be subsidised by Worcestershire County Council, they were operating at a loss, and had become unsustainable. Central Government continually makes cuts in funding for local authority services, and this includes buses. The 382, daytime bus service between Worcester and Pershore has never operated in profit for FMR, and of course being a trading company they cannot be expected to operate at a loss.

FMR offered an extra bus on a three-month trial period, between 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm, on two days in the week, and invited the Parish Council to nominate the two most suitable days. Enquiries were made in both Littleworth and Norton and parishioners decided that Wednesday and Friday were preferable. The new bus service would follow the existing 382 route but only as far as Littleworth where it would turn and return to Worcester. The Parish Council, by widening the car park access gates, made a terminus point at the Parish Hall in Littleworth.

Incidentally, if you drive to, and park in the Parish Hall grounds, please do not park on, or overhang the concreted area, or the access to it from the road, as this is used by the buses as a turning point. Signs are in place.

For information, it costs about £25 per hour to operate a bus, made up roughly 50/50 between (1) wages and associated costs, and (2) vehicles/maintenance/insurance. Smaller buses cost very little less than large ones to operate. Many of the passengers from the villages are elderly and use a subsidised free bus pass. For carrying a free bus pass holder, the County Council pay FMR about £1.05 per passenger whatever the length of journey. Hence the need for double figure passengers as the Worcester-Littleworth-Worcester return journey takes fifty minutes, and costs a little more than £20 per journey.

FMR state that to make the new services viable each journey must have passenger numbers in double figures, i.e. not less than ten. FMR supplied passenger figures from 23rd November 2016 to Wednesday 22nd March 2017. Set out below is a summary of these passenger numbers over that period.

WEDNESDAY 18 Journeys		FRIDAY 17 Journeys	
From Worcester	From Littleworth	From Worcester	From Littleworth
217	136	293	154
Average 12+	Average 7+	Average 17+	Average 9+

There is an obvious difference between the number of passengers journeying into Worcester and those returning to the villages on the new shopping buses. This is explained by passengers journeying to Worcester using the existing Pershore/Worcester 382 bus which leaves the villages shortly after 10.00 am, and using the new 12.00 noon service for the return journey. FMR are aware of this, and that the new 382 buses have a beneficial effect on other services on the route.

Owing to the poor weather at the start of the trial period FMR agreed to extend the trial period on two occasions, and now our new buses are safe until the end of August when revised timetables will be published. FMR are in talks with Worcestershire County Council, and this will influence their decision whether to continue our buses when revised timetables are published for the region.

Parishioners have asked for a Saturday Service. It seems that the need for a Saturday service is for those who work during the week and need to shop on Saturday in the City, and students who go into Worcester to meet friends and who now use Mum/Dad's taxi to do this. We have raised this with FMR requesting them to consider providing a bus mid-morning into Worcester and a mid-afternoon return bus.

The Parish Council is exploring all avenues to reinstate some of our buses, but we must all be aware that FMR will not operate at a loss.

Ultimately, if we want to retain and even recover more of our lost services, the buses we now have must be used at every opportunity.

Maurice Hughes
Parish Councillor

Parish Hall Playing Field/Recreation Facilities Summary

Following positive feedback from the community (56 out of 64 returned questionnaires were in favour of the proposed Parish Hall Playing Field developments), we are progressing with developments and have been working on gaining grant funding for the works to be completed.

Proposed developments include the laying of a Trim Trail and associated work station, improving the playing field drainage and development of a swamp garden and extension of the woodland with the addition of picnic tables and chairs. It is currently planned for one football pitch to remain, but this would be turned 90 degrees and it would benefit from the improved drainage proposed.

We are currently awaiting the result of funding applications for the Trim Trail, but there is funding available for the drainage works and all being well, we would look to start work on these projects in the Autumn.

Dog fouling and dogs being allowed off their leads at the Parish Hall remains a problem and we are very grateful to those dog owners who keep their dogs on leads and pick up after their dogs.

Please can we remind all dog walkers that:

1. Dogs must be kept on leads at all times in the Parish Hall grounds.
2. Dogs are not permitted in the play area, tennis court or multi-use games area.
3. All dog mess must be picked up and disposed of in the bin provided.

Thank you for your assistance.

Chris Dawson
Parish Councillor

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

Public Rights of Way Report

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service to maintain and improve the Public Rights of Way within the Parish. This includes working to remove obstructions, clear undergrowth, and seek improvements that will enhance safety and accessibility.

A large proportion of the work can be carried out by volunteers, at no cost, but some more complex items require professionals to complete them, with the cost being met by the County Council. It is the responsibility of the landowner to keep the footpaths and bridleways clear, but regrettably sometimes crops are grown that cause an obstruction.

We are also seeking opportunities to improve accessibility and safety, and one of the main items to achieve this, is to replace stiles with gates or gaps wherever possible. We have several sites that are being actively considered. Stiles, by their nature, are a safety hazard, as there is always a chance of falling, and are very difficult to negotiate safely for the elderly, disabled or parents with prams or pushchairs. Again, we liaise with the landowner on any potential improvements.

If you notice any issues with the Public Rights of Way please let the Parish Clerk know.

Howard Turvey
Parish Path Warden

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Financial Report - Year to 28th February 2017 (11 months)

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
<u>INCOME</u>		
Precept	39,059	39,059
Allotment, Ground & Garage Rental	1,953	2,000
Sports & Other Field Lettings	209	450
Investment Income & Bank Interest	26	20
Grants	2,157	1,767
Tax Rebates	7,488	0
Lengthsman Reimbursement	2,573	2,110
Pre-school Rent	2,048	2,234
Other Income	37,848	3,264
TOTAL INCOME	93,359	50,904

EXPENDITURE (NET OF VAT)

<u>Capital Items</u>	12,492	0
<u>Parish Maintenance</u>	16,057	22,159
<u>Administration</u>		
Donations, Grants & Events Support	30,757	2,100
Newsletter	1,995	2,200
Audit/professional/legal fees	1,265	2,235
Election Costs	0	0
Parish Officers Honoraria (Clerk, Asst Clerk, RFO etc)	11,786	15,225
PAYE tax and NI paid to all employees	1,760	875
Pension Contribution to NEST	100	110
General Administration	1,943	1,500
Insurance - Capital & Public Liability	2,714	2,700
Subscriptions	979	1,200
Training for Members & Clerk	0	200
Councillor Expenses	0	100
Vandalism Costs	0	200
Chairman's Allowance	0	100
Reimbursement of training room fees collected	60	0
<u>Total Administration and Other</u>	53,359	28,745
TOTAL EXPENSES	81,909	50,904

VAT paid on expenses - recoverable

4,230

NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

11,451

0

Norton Parish Hall and Coffee Shop Report

Following a successful events programme for 2016 which included a much appreciated 80's Night, Harvest Festival Fun Day, Fireworks night (which has been described to me as one of the best ever put on by the Hall), Panto and the opening of the Hall Coffee Shop under the able administration of Paul (Barista) Brooker; Norton Parish Hall is going from strength to strength.

The development of the Coffee Shop has been thanks to grant funding (including New Homes Bonus funding) and we are nearing the end of the development process, with just the replacement of the Coffee Shop windows and eventually a new front door, serving both the Coffee Shop and Hall. Feedback from locals has been very positive and I personally spoke to one chap who walks the 4 mile round trip from the Barracks to the Coffee Shop to refresh himself and his dog nearly every day. The Coffee Shop can now offer additional services for future Hall hirers including food and alcohol, which is especially useful for Wedding and Party Bookings.

The Hall Playing field has not escaped scrutiny and there are currently grant applications for the laying of a Trim Trail around the outer perimeter together with a warm-up station. It is also proposed to improve drainage of the fields and to eventually create a swamp garden and picnic area within an extended wooded area.

There is a consensus within the Hall Committee that we must look to eventual refurbishment of parts of the Hall including the replacement of the roof and renewal of the Freeman Windsor kitchen and the Committee is also looking to find additional volunteers and trustees to help make this possible.

Please do get in touch if you would like to help at the Hall in any way.

Chris Dawson
Norton Parish Hall

Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Parish Plan – Neighbourhood Plan - Oh! Not another plan I here you say! What's the difference? Why should we bother to engage with a Neighbourhood Plan?

Many of you will remember the survey conducted in 2016 when the Parish Plan was being put together by a group of likeminded people, comprising of Parish Councillors and residents interested in finding out what you, the residents of the Parish of Norton-Juxta –Kempsey, were concerned about in relation to housing, facilities, traffic and infrastructure.

Your responses proved invaluable as for the first time the Parish Council had a clear picture of your concerns, wishes and preferences which influenced the decisions taken on your behalf.

Parish Plan (Mandate for the Parish Council – Plan of action for the next 5-10 years)

Community led plans (Parish Plans) can help a community assess current and future potential issues and think about all aspects of community life in an area and set out a plan of action. A Parish Plan is evidence of a strong community that has given clear thought to its needs. It can include land and planning issues/issues around development locally. Although it has no formal weight and cannot allocate development sites, a Parish Plan could be a material consideration and could be taken into account in considering e.g. planning applications in the area and grant applications.

Neighbourhood Plan (Carries real legal weight. Forms part of the statutory planning documentation)

Neighbourhood planning empowers communities to shape the development and growth of a local area through the production of a neighbourhood development plan. Neighbourhood Plans, once adopted, become part of the local statutory development plan and will form the basis for determining planning applications in that area as well as protecting green spaces.

The big difference is that Neighbourhood Planning concerns writing planning policies for the allocation of land, and a key benefit can be the community infrastructure that may be delivered through development.

Neighbourhood Plan becomes a part of the council's statutory plan but it is fundamentally about the place where you live, as is a Parish Plan

'A Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out the policies against which planning applications are assessed. Neighbourhood Development Plans will become part of the local development plan for the area, which means that the policies and proposals contained within them will be used in the determination of planning applications, including appeals. It must be stressed that the policies produced cannot block development that is part of the local development plan. What they can do is shape and influence where that development will go and what it will look like': Royal Town Planning Institute.

What happens if a Neighbourhood plan is not in place?

Communities without a Neighbourhood Plan will be more vulnerable to aggressive planning applications for larger numbers of houses, or developments in areas where the community does wish to see development. There is no real advantage to waiting.

No surprise that your Parish Council decided to start the process of putting together a Neighbourhood Plan ensuring that your wishes are reflected in the future planning policies for the allocation of land within the Neighbourhood (Parish Boundary)

The journey commenced in December 2016 with the first meeting and the task is expected to take 18 months – 2 years.

The Steering Group consists of Parish Councillors and Residents who meet each month to advance the process. The Neighbourhood Survey, which is under preparation, is planned to take place in September of this year.

If you are interested in strengthening the Steering Group or helping out at future residents' meetings please contact me douglucas671@gmail.com or Jane our Parish Clerk at NJKparishclerk@aol.com .

Norton Methodist Chapel

We meet for worship every Sunday morning at the Chapel in Wadborough Road, Littleworth. We have a variety of preachers and worship leaders from the SW Worcestershire Methodist Circuit. On the first Sunday of every month worship is informal, locally led and includes, for example, a meal or a craft or prayer and praise. All are welcome to any services.

In the last year or so we have been sorry to lose two well-known local residents, who were generous and joyful in the congregation. Freeman Windsor moved to be nearer his family and Betty Eggby sadly died.

About once every two or three months we hold a morning service at Norton Hall Nursing Home, which we all appreciate.

It is proposed to hold a CAP Money Course at the chapel. This is a free course of 3 sessions, teaching budgeting skills and a simple cash based system that works. Over 10,000 people benefit nationally from a CAP course each year. Anyone interested to know more should contact David Spybey, via the chapel website www.nortonchapel.org.uk or text/call 07977936978

The Methodist Church is pleased to be working more closely with St James the Great Parish Church, including holding some services together, and reaching out into the community to share the life we experience as Christians.

Rev Helen Caine
Norton Methodist Chapel

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. Each year a Bible is purchased for the leavers of Norton-juxta-Kempsey First School.

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 2016-17

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our policing area which extends from Whittington, Upton Snodsbury and Dormston in the north to Bredon and Beckford in the south. We have carried out active engagement within our policing area in the form of monthly police surgeries and local parish events. The whole team remain committed to tackling all levels of crime throughout the area including rural crime and poaching and providing security advice and support to victims and vulnerable residents.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 18/04/2016 and 18/04/2017 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2015/16.

Overall the police recorded **262** incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to **225** incidents reported the previous year.

Of the **262** incidents, the Parish had **89** recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to **63** recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
Burglary Dwellings	5	3
Burglary non dwelling	4	2
Theft of Vehicle	1	1
Theft from Vehicle	5	3
Vehicle crime	1	0
Theft Other	9	9
Criminal Damage	10	6
Arson	1	0
Other Offences	54	39

(Includes mostly domestic related incidents/assaults and concern for safety)

Overall the figures show a steady but low crime rate for the past few years. We have continued with increased patrols in the area and have issued security advice to victims.

The figures clearly present the picture that Norton and the surrounding area is still a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team

Non-emergency phone number: 101

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

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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).

16. Police Report

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.