

NORTON & LENCHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council Meeting held on
13th January 2009 in the Village Hall at 19h30

Present

Cllr Worthington
Cllr Leonard
Cllr Middleton
Cllr Hill
Cllr Weaving
Cllr Richards
Mrs Spence (Clerk)

A large number of members of the public were present with regard to the Scottishpower Renewables proposed windfarm.

The Chairman explained that the first half an hour of the meeting generally dedicated to issues that members of the public wished to raise would be extended to discuss the proposed windfarm. It was noted that the Parish Council had little information regarding the proposal at the present time. It was aware that further Scottishpower Renewables drop-in sessions were scheduled for May, an Environmental Impact Assessment was currently underway locally and that the planning application would be submitted to Wychavon District Council during July 2009. The Council had no information regarding the proposed location of the wind turbines only a general proposed boundary per Scottishpower Renewables leaflets.

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- 1.The general effect of the proposed windfarm on local wildlife
- 2.Effect on House Prices
- 3.Impact on the Water Table – flooding was already a problem locally
- 4.Impact on Health – due to noise, flickering etc
- 5.Effect on TV, Broadband, Radio and mobile phone reception
- 6.Effect on BBC Wood Norton – would their equipment be affected?
- 7.Effect on Richmond Homes Development – would this continue as planned
- 8.Effect of Logistics of installation & maintenance of proposed windfarm – construction traffic, disruption etc
- 9.Effect of Tourism to the area – local landscape and views would be spoiled
- 10.Close proximity of proposed windfarms to properties

It was noted that advice to Parish Councils in dealing with this proposal had been to focus on local issues. Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council would consult with other local parish councils affected by the proposal to discuss common ground.

Members of the public expressed concern that there appeared to be little communication from the Parish Council with regard to any action they were taking

with regard to the proposal and also a lack of general information regarding the proposal. The Council agreed to address this.

Council were asked whether a community ballot would be taken to establish local feeling regarding the proposal. Council replied that a poll was planned once definite information regarding the proposed windfarm was made available.

The public session closed at 8.30pm

The meeting commenced at 8.40pm.

Three members of the public were present and the village lengthsmen.

1. **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Councillors Prew, Iorns, Fletcher and Holt
2. **Declaration of Interest** – Cllr Weaving declared that he was neighbour to a landowner whom he was aware had been approached regarding the proposed windfarm
3. **Minutes of the meeting November 2008** were approved as a true and correct record.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Cllr Worthington reported he had received some enquiries regarding travellers in the area along with concern for the well-being of their horses. This had been reported to the RSPCA. Parish Council had heard that a notice had been served on travellers by Worcestershire County Council. Clerk to follow up.

The Chairman asked whether councillors contact details should be posted on parish notice boards to enable residents to contact them as discussed at previous meeting and was evidently important from comments made by members of the public before the meeting. It was noted that Chairman and Clerk's details were posted on Wychavon web-site and generally it was preferable that all queries and correspondence were directed through them to ensure continuity. It was agreed that the item would be addressed again once the Norton & Lenchwick web-site was launched.

5. **District Councillors Report** – There was no District Council Report.
6. **Field Path Officer's Report** – Path 522 should have been cleared, it had been scheduled. Cllr Leonard to follow up. Path in Chadbury, Worcester Rd towards Fladbury was overgrown and would be upgraded, no date was yet available. It was noted that Church meadow path was not in good condition.
7. **Playing Fields** – 3-monthly equipment check had been carried out. A bolt missing from the outdoor sports keep-fit apparatus was replaced.

Second phase equipment was due for a safety check during April. Clerk to schedule. All equipment would then be checked annually in September going forward. Since Severn Trent had not agreed to providing safety covers for drain areas, council agreed to do so. Cllr Weaving and Lengthsman to organise.

Mowing quote for 2009 had been increased by 3%. It was agreed to continue with Smartcut.

8. **Lengthsman** – Flood recovery work was almost complete. Hedges along Lenchwick Rd towards Chadbury needed cutting back - as road is unclassified it was agreed lengthsman could carry out the work. A special tool was required for drain clearing, Council approved request. A copy of the Risk Assessment to be forwarded to Clerk when complete.
9. **Street Lighting** – Quote to replace light in Lloyds Close was approx £1402. Council approved cost. Clerk to enquire whether light could be moved approx 10 metres.
10. **Council Objectives** – It was agreed in light of public session that immediate objective for the Parish Council needed to be the proposed windfarm and improving the profile of the council within the community. Longer term objectives would be discussed at a later date.
11. **Proposed Windfarm** – Most importantly communications with parishioners needed to be improved. It was agreed that urgent information would be distributed to householders via church or village newsletter (pending agreement from the church and village hall committees). The council should consider launching a web-site. Evesham Journal & Observer to be used for key statements if required. Concern was expressed regarding the increased hostility of members of the public and it was agreed that local police should be made aware of the situation for future meetings.

12. Finance

- a. The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary & expenses	£226.45 (Dec 08 + Jan 2009)
Lengthsman	£474.55 (Lengthsman playing field work)
Mowing	£ 317.25 (Oct 08)
- b. No receipts were reported.

13. Planning

The following Planning applications were reported as having been approved:

- a. Mrs Williams re 15 Kings Lane, Evesham WR11 4TJ
- b. Norton & Lenchwick Village Hall re Entrance Gates

c. The Whitbread Group re Premier Inn, A46 Bypass

The following Planning Application had been received:

a. Richmond Homes Development, Wood Norton – Council had previously supported this application. Amendments to original application were discussed and it was agreed to support the application.

14. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

Proposed Windfarm, Curbs & Footpaths, Future of St Egwins Church, Community Web-site

15. Correspondence – Correspondence was circulated

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 24th March 2009 in the Village Hall at 19h00. The meeting closed at 22h00.

Signed:

Chairman

Date
