

NORTON & LENCHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council Meeting held on
3rd November 2009 in the Village Hall at 19h30

Present

Cllr Fletcher (Chair)

Cllr Leonard

Cllr Worthington

Cllr Middleton

Cllr Prew

Cllr Hill

Cllr Iorns

Cllr Weaving

District & County Cllr C Holt

Mrs Spence (Clerk)

Two members of the public were present and the Village Lengthsman.

During the public session it was raised that residents along Mill Lane, Chadbury were having difficulty with visibility of traffic when turning right out of Mill Lane on to the A44 towards Evesham. This was due to an overgrown hedge in front of the property on the corner of Mill Lane. It was unknown whether the hedge was privately owned by Mill House or whether it was the responsibility of the Highways Dept. Clerk to write to the homeowner as well as Highways informing them of the problem. District Councillor Holt would also investigate.

It was also noted that the speed of traffic on the A44 was dangerous. District & County Councillor Holt reported that the speed issue had been ongoing and had been reviewed, it was hoped that the current speed of 60mph could be reduced to 50mph. It was noted generally that road speeds in other counties such as Warwickshire appeared to be more restrictive.

The meeting commenced at 19h45.

- 1. Apologies** – none
- 2. Declaration of Interest** – No declaration of interest was made
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2009** – Chairman signed the minutes as a true and correct record.
- 4. Chairman's Report** – Cllr Fletcher reported that the next major project for the parish council to undertake would be the local cemetery which would be required to replace the churchyard once it was full. It was reported that Wychavon District Council had advised that in the first instance, planning permission be sought to change the use of the land

for use as a civic cemetery. Council was sure this had already been carried out, Clerk to follow up.

Several recent social events held in Norton had been badly attended by local residents, it was discussed that a project to increase community spirit was much needed. At recent public meetings regarding the windfarm proposals, councillors had noticed that there was much interest from young people within the community and the Council should encourage their interest in local issues. This had worked very successfully with the playing field project. It was agreed that the public session of a future meeting would be dedicated to listening to the younger generation's ideas and thoughts for the local community.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 20h00 to welcome PC Toms and CSO Hall. PC Toms introduced Community Support Office Simon Hall to the meeting and informed all that he had taken over from CSO James.

CSO Hall reported that a mobile Police Station had been positioned in Norton recently and had been able to assist with some minor issues raised by residents. Speed in the area for the duration of the visit had been noticeably reduced. There was some concern from the Council that young children in the area were not aware of the 'Rules of the Road' and it was felt that some education of children would be useful. This was noted. The PACT panel for the area which was made up police and local community volunteers was developing well and increasing the quality of life within the community by addressing anti-social behaviour.

There had been some issues with parked cars on Evesham Road which was hindering the use of the pavements by pedestrians and mobility scooter users. This would be addressed.

It was noted that there was no change to contact numbers for local police officers. Cllr Fletcher thanked PC Toms and CSO Hall for their attendance and the meeting re-commenced.

5. **District & County Councillors Report** – Cllr Holt reported that he was it was hoped that speed limits on the A44 would be reduced to 50mph in some areas as mentioned earlier in the meeting. Worcester County Council had earmarked spending of up to £3million for footway repairs. Kings Lane, Norton and Main Street, Lenchwick were included.

Worcestershire County Council had acquired a number of speed activated signs which would be temporarily placed in several areas within the county where speeding was an issue. The sign would be placed locally at the following areas for the period of 1 week during 2010: Evesham Road, Harvington; Evesham Road, Norton and Greenhill.

It was expected that funds available to Parish Councils from the County Council would decrease due to a reduction in the County's spending power. It was hoped that this would not take full effect until 2011.

6. **Field Path Officer's Report** – Cllr Leonard reported that waymark post 521 had been re-cemented; Post 522 was loose, the lengthsman would action; Post 500 – there was an agreement to install. Paths 512 & 514 had been cleared. Blayneys Lane still required action.
7. **Playing Fields** – Seats had been refurbished. Rubbish clearance continued on an ongoing basis and it was noted that dog mess was reduced. Play equipment checks continued to be undertaken regularly. It was noted that a nut was loose on the 'Keepfit' apparatus. Lengthsman to contact Wicksteed Leisure for advice on repair.
8. **Lengthsman** – All drains had been cleared by end of August/September. New grips were required for Chadbury lane. Kings Lane footpath had been swept weekly due to leaf fall. Various equipment was required: a strimmer, rake, gloves, brooms. The Parish Council agreed these could be purchased. The lengthsman sometimes required assistance with work and it was agreed that anyone assisting should be suitably trained.
9. **Street Lighting** – Clerk reported that the new lighting column required for Lloyds Close had been installed by Prysmian Cables and was awaiting connection by EON, this could take up to 6 weeks. The defunct lighting column would be removed following connection.
10. **Windfarm Working Party** – It was reported that Parkinson Wright would provide legal assistance in the collating and evaluation of information relating to the windfarm planning application. A fixed price had been agreed for this assistance. Three companies had quoted to carry out noise measurement assessments. The proposed logistics of transporting turbines had been discussed and it was anticipated that the expected route would be Bristol port, M5, A46 across Harvington or Evesham/Chadbury. Nine mega trailers would be required per turbine. It was a concern that local routes were not equipped to cope with the magnitude of such logistics.

Planning for the project was still expected during November though no date was available. The Environmental Impact Assessment was expected to be in CD-Rom format. It had been suggested that each member of the Windfarm Working Party deal with just one section of the planning proposal to ensure it was workable and that assessments were thorough. The Parish Council agreed to this suggestion and would arrange a planning meeting to discuss once the consultation process was open. The Working Party had recommended that all Parish Councils involved in the planning process wrote to the Planning Dept at Wychavon District Council on receipt of the planning documentation to request an extension to the planning consultation to allow for suitable and thorough evaluation of all

documentation. It was felt that 8-10 weeks was more appropriate than the usual 3 weeks allowed.

Clerk to contact all Councillors immediately on receipt of planning documentation and address the extension of the consultation period with Wychavon.

11. Disrepair of Kings Lane – Kings Lane, Norton was in dire need of repair, an issue which has been long outstanding despite many complaints to the County Council and Highways. District and County Councillor Holt had reported that Kings Lane, Norton was included in roadworks planned for the near future.

12. Relocation of Chadbury Notice Board – Initial thoughts were to relocate the board along the A44 towards the roundabout to Twyford and Evesham. Cllr Worthington and Lengthsman to assess and advise the clerk. It was noted that permission would be required either from Wychavon or Worcester County Council to move the board.

13. Community Project – Ideas to be forwarded to Cllr Fletcher for discussion

14. Anti-Social Behaviour – This had been discussed at length with local police officers earlier in the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council's involvement in the local PACT panel demonstrated their commitment towards reducing anti-social behaviour.

15. Standards Complaints – Clerk discussed correspondence from Wychavon regarding the procedure for complaints. A copy would be circulated to all.

16. Finance

a. To approve payments

B Spence	£212.48 (Oct & Nov Salary & Expenses)
Smartcut	£ 71.07 (Sept mowing)
P Parfitt	£281.75 (Lengthsman Sept & Oct)
	£226.62 (Play Field + Footpaths)
NPower	£ 88.13 (Power July-Sept 09)
Clement Keys	£327.75 (External Audit 08/09)

b. Clerk's report of receipts

Final precept payment of £5500 had been received end September 09.

c. Proposed Budget for 2010/2011

A proposed budget was circulated for discussion based on previous years expenditure. It was agreed that the precept would remain unchanged for the year ahead at £11,000.

17. Planning Applications

Report decisions

- a Old Court, Lenchwick Lane, Lenchwick WR11 4TG – Listed Building Consent
- b Norton & Lenchwick Village Hall Heat Pump installation - Approved
- c Richmond Care Villages, Wood Norton Hall WR11 4TE – Outline Approval

The Clerk had received Notification of a Planning Appeal re The Lodge, Abbotswood, Evesham WR11 4NS following refusal of planning permission.

Planning Applications Returned

- a. Manor House, Lenchwick Lane, Evesham WR11 4TG – No Objections

Planning Applications for Discussion

- a. Twyford Service Station re Signage – No Objections

18. Items for Future Agenda

Cemetery project

19. Correspondence – current correspondence was circulated

20. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 12th January 2010 in the Village Hall at 19h30. The meeting closed at 21h30.

Signed:

Chairman _____

Date _____