

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL,  
LITTLEWORTH ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Bennett, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Richmond, Cllr. Reeves, Cllr. Turvey.

**Attending –**

Cllr. Mrs. McGovern (Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. Hewison, Cllr. Sparling, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs. Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 4 parishioners.

**2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Hewison, seconded by Mr. Whitworth **and all were in agreement** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010 be accepted. The Chairman signed these as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

The Clerk advised that that any matters arising will be covered within the agenda items.

**4. Norton Charities**

Cllr. Mrs. McGovern gave a summary of the work of the two charities during the past 12 months. In response to a question Cllr. Mrs McGovern advised that requests for funds are not often received but donations have been made to NJK CE First School for books and towards bibles for leaving pupils.

**5. Report from Cllr. R.C. Adams (District and County Councillor)**

Cllr. Adams reported on budget cuts at Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council. He stressed the importance of responding to consultations regarding changes to services such as the Transport Review (including the 382 bus service) and welcomed comments from residents. Cllr. Adams commented upon the Localism Bill, planning matters and the Worcester Parkway Station. Outline planning permission has been granted for 74 houses at Crookbarrow Road, Norton with the Parish Council playing a large part in influencing the plans which will include a new play area and funds to improve the recreation facilities at the Parish Hall. The closing ceremony for the Mercian Regiment Norton HQ was well attended and the Regiment has been awarded the freedom of Wychavon. Cllr. Adams advised that all Severn Trent foul water systems through private property have to be adopted and asked that if residents are aware of such systems in unadopted areas of the Parish to let him know.

Cllr. Adams thanked the Chairman, Parish Councillors, the co-opted members and the Clerk for their support and consistent hard work. Cllr. Adams was thanked for his support.

**6. Chairman's Report**

In the absence of Cllr. Turvey, Cllr. Mrs McGovern read out the Chairman's Report which is summarised below.

The Chairman provided an update on membership and thanked the Parish Councillors, co-opted members, the Clerk and Cllr. Adams for their hard work and support.

Background was provided to the planning application for up to 74 homes on land by the Garden Centre which has received outline planning permission. The Parish Council liaised closely with the developers and Wychavon to achieve what is believed to be the most favourable possible outcome. One major benefit will be provision of the long awaited play area, hopefully in 2012.

Whilst the Regional Spatial Strategy and the SWJCS have been scrapped, increased activity on the new South Worcestershire Development Plan is expected in the forthcoming year. The

importance of protecting the individual identity of the villages will remain a priority.

The Parish Plan forms a framework for defining how people see the community in which they live and how they would like it to develop. A draft Plan has been submitted to Wychavon which received very positive comments and it is hoped to finalise this mid-year.

Progress has been made with flooding issues in Littleworth using grant funding and further downstream work is being planned. Discussions are also being held with Worcestershire County Council regarding other possible measures in the same area.

In view of the current economic situation the Parish Council decided not to increase the precept for 2011-12 and will continue to work hard to deliver the services provided in the most efficient manner, so as to make maximum use of the funds available to us.

An area of land at the Parish Hall has been made available to Norton Pre-School for their own dedicated facility to provide improved services to the residents and this opened in February. The former Morganite Site is now fully occupied by a range of businesses and we continue to liaise with the operators.

Feedback from the Parish Plan survey shows that residents value the quiet rural location and the sense of community spirit, both of which we want to protect and develop.

The Chairman thanked Parishioners for their interest and support.

## **7. Parish Reports**

### **a. Planning**

#### **i. Summary of applications since the last Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk advised that 35 submissions have been considered of which 24 were approved by Wychavon DC. Four of which were not supported by the Parish Council. Two applications were withdraw, one was refused and 4 are awaiting a decision.

#### **ii. South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy**

As discussed earlier in the meeting and as detailed within the Newsletter.

#### **iii. EnviroSort Facility**

Cllr. Mrs McGovern advised that Liaison Group meetings continue and the Operations Manager is available in the event of any issues that need resolution e.g. litter or traffic routing. Contact details are included in the Newsletter to enable residents to report any issues noticed direct to EnviroSort.

#### **iv. Parkway Station**

No further news at present.

### **b. Allotments Committee**

Cllr. Mrs. McGovern advised that plots are being worked well. Five plots are in the process of being allocated with a further 5 plots being prepared. To assist with the long waiting list, plots that become vacant are being split where possible. In response to a question regarding a water supply to the smaller allotment garden opposite the main allotments, Cllr. Mrs McGovern advised that this was investigated recently and costs were found to be prohibitive. Water butts have been provided to these tenants and a water supply is available by the main allotment gate. Cllr. Mrs McGovern will discuss with the tenants.

### **c. Playing Fields**

The Clerk advised that the field continues to be used by an adult football team. The annual RoSPA play area inspection report is awaited and recommendations will be considered by the Parish Council. Monitoring continues on a regular basis with maintenance undertaken as required. The Parish Council is considering provision of additional outdoor facilities at the

Parish Hall and this is being investigated along with funding opportunities.

**d. Footpaths Committee**

In the absence of Cllr. Turvey, Cllr. Mrs McGovern advised that in conjunction with Worcs CC and land owners, public Rights of Ways in the Parish are being improved including replacement of stiles with gates, where possible, to enhance accessibility plus improved signage. With much of this work complete, focus for 2011/12 will be maintenance and clearance where required. It is also planned to define some circular walks within the Parish.

**e. Finance**

The Responsible Finance Officer presented financial information to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**f. West Mercia Police**

CSO Allchurch provided crime figures for the year to date and confirmed patrols in St. James Close, Littleworth regarding parking issues, particularly at school times. Recent examples of parking problems were noted along with concerns that emergency vehicle access could be seriously hindered by parked cars. CSO Allchurch asked for problems to be reported to the Police at the time if possible and they will endeavour to visit as soon as possible. It was highlighted that school is aware of the parking problems and is actively reminding parents to park considerately and promoting use of the walking bus which also now runs from The Retreat. If a car is blocking a road or a drive then a phone call to the school to seek possible assistance was suggested.

Following a question, CSO Allchurch will monitor the situation in Church Lane where cars were reported as parking dangerously at night.

**8. Volunteer Group**

The Chairman thanked all volunteers for their help with activities within the Parish. Additional volunteers are always welcomed and if anyone can help then please contact the Parish Clerk.

**9. Residents Questions**

In response to a question regarding an 18/19<sup>th</sup> Century map of the Parish, Cllr. Mrs McGovern confirmed that this is securely stored. Due to the risk of damage, the map isn't displayed in the Hall but there is the possibility that it could be displayed for specific events.

The issue of the bus service review and bus passes for children and those post 16 travelling to school was raised. Cllr. Adams advised that the Parish Council has submitted a response to this review and that a resident at Norton has also raised the profile of this with Worcs CC, specifically relating to transport to school/college. Worcs CC is currently reviewing consultation responses. Cllr. Sparling offered to act as a liaison point for residents.

In terms of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, Cllr. Adams advised that progress is anticipated in the next few months and that Wychavon DC representatives may be able to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposals in due course if required.

**10. Close of Meeting -**

The Chairman thanked all those attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8.40pm.