

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL,  
LITTLEWORTH ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Bennett, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Richmond, Mr. Reeves and Cllr. Adams, District and County Councillor (late arrival).

**Attending –**

Cllr. Turvey (Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. McGovern, Cllr. Mrs. Hewison, Cllr. Lucas, Mr. Dyer, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs. Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 31 parishioners.

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

Cllr. Turvey welcomed attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting and general community update. In a change to the format of the meeting to previous years, Cllr. Turvey referred to the Parish Information Pack, circulated to all attendees, which includes the Chairman's Report. Cllr. Turvey welcomed any questions.

**3. Parish Information Pack**

Attached as Appendix 1 and including:

**a. Minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. McGovern, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hewison and all were in agreement that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 be accepted. The Chairman signed these as a true record.

**b. Parish Reports – see Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1**

**i. Planning**

**ii. Allotments**

**iii. Playing Fields**

**iv. Public Rights of Way**

**v. Finance**

**vi. Norton Charities**

Cllr. Turvey welcomed any question regarding the content of the Parish Information Pack during the residents' questions item at the end of the meeting.

**4. South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)**

A summary of the background to the SWDP was provided along with details of Parish Council activities, public meetings held and responses to the SWDP Team at various stages of consultation. This has included a petition signed by parishioners to support the view that residents wished to retain the individual identity of the settlements within the Parish, the semi-rural nature of the Parish and not to be linked to Worcester City. A young person's petition was also submitted in support of these views. A SWDP Team consultation event at St. Peter's Garden Centre attracted a large attendance which reflected the interest and concerns of local residents. Welbeck Land has also held consultation events regarding developments to the south of Worcester and the Parish Council has had initial discussions to highlight our residents' concerns.

The Parish Council response to the SWDP is included on the Parish Council website which includes reference to some development, recognising the need for growth for future generations, but in a controlled way, minimising the impact upon the Parish. In particular, maintaining the integrity of the Norton Barracks/Brockhill area as a clearly separate and differentiated settlement, with no coalescence with Worcester or with any new developments, with significant strategic green gaps of major importance. The consultation responses are being considered by the SWDP Team and the Preferred Options Document is due to be considered further by Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council and Malvern Hills District Council in early July.

Cllr. Turvey welcomed any question regarding the SWDP during the residents' questions item at the end of the meeting.

## **5. Police Report**

CSO Allchurch reported on annual crime and detection figures within the Parish in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 (79 reported crimes). No questions were asked or issues raised.

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

Cllr. Adams arrived at 8.10pm, due to attending another earlier Annual Parish Meeting and provided his report after item 7 below. Cllr. Adams thanked the Chairman, Parish Councillors, co-opted members and the Clerk for their support and consistent hard work as a dedicated team. He reported on budget cuts at County and District levels, better shared services, working together across the County, City and District Councils and a zero increase in Council Tax. A project is being proposed to provide superfast broadband across the County with a target delivery date proposed as 2015. The long awaited play area at Norton will be delivered as part of the new housing development by St. Peter's Garden Centre and road names/signs at this development will reflect the link to the Worcestershire Regiment. Wychavon DC is working with the MoD to assist with provision of housing for ex-services personnel on the site of the old Regiment Office in Crookbarrow Road. At a County level, armed services week activities are planned along with a community covenant to strengthen Local Authority and armed forces links. A grant was provided to assist with the set up of Norton Youth Club which is proving very popular. The Parkway Station is supported in principle but concerns exist surrounding drainage in the area. Worcestershire CC is keen for this to progress and the proposal will be considered by the new franchisee. To provide a safer route to St. Peter's, use of the farm bridge over the Southern Link Road is being explored which could also provide a cycle route.

Cllr. Adams was thanked for his support.

## **7. Parish Reports**

### **a. Norton Parish Hall**

Cllr. Lucas provided a report as a Parish Hall Trustee which included background to the Hall which opened in 1977. Norton Parish Hall is a registered charity and the building is leased by the Parish Council. The Charity Trustees are unpaid volunteers and are elected each year at the Parish Hall AGM. More volunteers are being sought to help to manage and expand use of the Hall. The Hall is generally self sufficient and funded through booking revenue, although grants and support from the Parish Council have been sought for some capital items. Significant work has been undertaken to increase bookings, in a competitive environment, which will assist in funding the day to day running of the Hall. Costs are being reviewed to identify savings that can be made which will help to make funds available for redecoration/refurbishment of the Hall. Residents were invited to the Parish Hall AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at the Hall.

### **b. St. James Church, Norton**

A representative was not available to attend the meeting.

### **c. Norton Methodist Church, Littleworth**

Rev. Smith and Mr. Spyby attended as representatives of Norton Methodist Church and provided an insight into their backgrounds, times of worship, the congregation, events, Church facilities and the stability of their finances. A 'Sunday School' is held on a Wednesday afternoon which is primarily attended by children of First School age. Residents were welcomed to join services, events and meetings held at Church, many of which are detailed within the Parish Council newsletter.

### **d. Norton Youth Club**

Mr. Hodgkins explained his background and also that to the Norton Community Games event and the new Youth Club. The Norton Community Games event in 2011 was very well

attended and proved popular with residents and a 2012 event is being held on 8<sup>th</sup> July at Norton Cricket Club with everyone welcome. The Youth Club at Norton started in January for children and young people from the age of 11 (or Year 6). Numbers have grown quickly with around 45 attendees each week, with adult supervision provided by volunteers for sports activities, indoor games and arts and crafts. 80 young people are now registered and more volunteers are being sought. Cllr. Adams was thanked for the £1,000 contribution towards the Youth Club set up costs. A picnic on the cricket pitch will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with all welcome.

**e. Norton Community Games**

See d) above.

**f. Norton Theatre Group**

Mr. Simms provided information about the Norton Theatre Group and the pantomimes staged at the Parish Hall since 1986. Changes to the way the Group operates were highlighted including those relating to new child protection requirements. Between 50 and 70 people are involved in each production including back stage helpers and around 20 children. The 2013 pantomime will be Aladdin. Involvement in the Group has helped individuals to increase self esteem, confidence and grow their character, with some members going on to be involved in professional roles within the drama field. A link with Worcester New College and the Blind College is being explored for their involvement in future productions, perhaps from a musical perspective. An information evening will be held at the Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> September, with open auditions on 14<sup>th</sup> September and all are welcome.

**8. Residents Questions**

Prior to taking questions, Cllr. Turvey advised that it is hoped that the play area at Norton will be completed in early 2013 and that if anyone is interested in the affordable homes within this new development, they should contact Wychavon DC to add their details to the Home Choice Plus Register and contact Festival Housing. Priority will be given to applicants with a local connection.

In addition to the earlier opportunities for volunteering, Cllr. Turvey advised that volunteers are being sought to assist with a project to redevelop the play and sports facilities at the Parish Hall and anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council was asked how confident it is that the requested changes/recommendations to the SWDP will be included within the revised plan, in particular with regard to the 'Norton Barracks extension'. The Parish Council has made strong representations for this area to be made open space, these have been positively received by Wychavon and the SWDP Team and it is hoped that this will be included in the revised SWDP. There has been comment that this area could be allocated for a school, which may be considered as acceptable by residents, but business development would be strongly resisted. At the time the development of 74 houses by the Garden Centre was approved, positive feedback was received that this would be the Parish allocation within the SWDP. The Parish Council view is that if the land to the west of Norton Road is insufficient for the proposed number of houses, then numbers should be reduced, the development should not spread to the land to the east of Norton Road. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be advised if there are any planned changes relating to the Parish Council requests in the revised version of the SWDP, which will be considered in early July.

Residents commented that the Welbeck consultation events were considered confusing and the Parish Council view was sought. It was agreed that the timetable for these events was confusing and that these were considered premature as the SWDP consultation is still continuing.

A question was asked about any liaison with Kempsey Parish regarding the SWDP. Whilst Kempsey is a neighbouring parish, there are some differing views, different concerns and not all common ground. Therefore the scope for joint working has been limited.

In response to a question seeking clarification about whether the cricket ground could be built on, or whether it is protected, the Parish Council advised that it is understood that it is probably unlikely that planning approval would be given for houses on the top pitch. It is believed that there may be difficulties in relocating the gun club from the lower section of the site.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the old parish map has been displayed in the Committee Room at the Hall.

**9. Close of Meeting -**

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