

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH
HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON
TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2015

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Richmond, Mr Reeves and Miss Poole

Attending:

Cllr. Turvey (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Mrs McGovern, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 27 parishioners.

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

Cllr. Turvey welcomed attendees and provided a presentation which provided background to Parish Councils, the local Government structure in Worcestershire, the nature of NJK Parish and Parish Council activities/powers. Cllr. Turvey highlighted Parish Council activities over the last 12 months including the new play area and multi-use games area at Norton Parish Hall, installation of the new Severn Trent Water mains sewerage system (and Parish Hall connection) along with planning matters e.g. South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and the Parkway Station proposals. Cllr. Dawson and the Clerk were thanked for their work on the play area project which received significant funding assistance via Wychavon DC in the form of New Homes Bonus, s106 funding and Wychavon Community Grant. The Parish Council has highlighted concerns relating to both the SWDP and Parkway Station proposals and will continue to press the Planning Authorities to minimise the impact of these proposals on the Parish.

Cllr. Turvey thanked Parish Councillors, co-opted members and the Clerk for their hard work and highlighted that four Parish Councillors are standing down at the election. If any members of the community are interested in joining the Parish Council, they should contact the Parish Clerk.

3. Parish Information Pack

Attached as Appendix A and includes:

a. Minutes of the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2014

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Mrs R. Smith, seconded by Mrs P. Arrow 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. 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

Cllr. Turvey provided an overview of the current position relating to the SWDP following previous public meetings held by the Parish Council. The SWDP is currently being considered by the Planning Inspector and the Parish Council continues to work to minimise the impact upon the Parish by liaising with the planners and developers. Traffic management matters and traffic calming measures are being pursued relating to both the SWDP and Parkway Station proposals, to try to ensure a holistic approach. The Council is also working to preserve green spaces within the SWDP area. Cllr. Turvey also provided an update relating to the Parkway Station proposal and confirmed that the potential for parking problems associated with the station has been highlighted as a concern to Worcestershire County Council as part of the consultation process, as has safe pedestrian access. Noise pollution from station announcements was also noted as a concern.

5. Police Report

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack.

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

Cllr. Adams noted comments relating to the SWDP and Parkway Station proposals and confirmed that flooding issues, environmental/nature implications and highways impact/traffic flows are being considered. The Parish Council continues to highlight local concerns and liaise with the Planning Authorities. Locations for Traveller sites within the SWDP have yet to be agreed and great efforts will be made for these not to be located within Wychavon. Wychavon DC has now secured a 5 year land supply which should assist in managing speculative planning applications outside the development area. The Parish Council was congratulated on its achievements, including the new play and recreation facilities at the Parish Hall, which was supported by grants from Wychavon DC (S106 funding, New Homes Bonus and Community Grant). Peter Luff's retirement as an MP was noted and appreciation of his support to the Parish was expressed. Changes to the structure of the County/District and City Councils was noted along with cost saving/resources sharing measures.

Cllr. Adams thanked the Parish Council Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Parish Councillors, co-opted members and the Clerk for their support and consistent hard work. Those members standing down at the election were also thanked and wished good luck for the future. Cllr. Adams was thanked for his continued efforts on behalf of the Parish and his support.

7. Redevelopment of Parish Hall Recreation Facilities and use of New Homes Bonus Funding

As detailed within the Parish Information Pack and discussed earlier in the meeting.

8. Parish Reports

a. St. James the Great Church

Reverend Sloggett provided a report including the nature of the Church structure in the local community, burials, Church attendance, churchyard maintenance (with thanks to the Parish Council for its contribution), income and the tower restoration fund.

b. Norton Parish Hall

Cllr. Fincher, Chair of the Hall Trustees, explained the Charity structure of the Hall and the dual roles of some Trustees who are also Parish Councillors. There have been many changes over the last 12 months including employment of a Hall Manager, fire safety work, roof/leak repairs and new exterior cladding. Future plans include a keyless entry system and CCTV when funds allow. The Parish Council is also looking at resurfacing the Parish Hall car park following the redevelopment of the play area and outside recreation facilities. The Hall is a community facility which tries to accommodate community events. With only 3 Trustees and the Hall Manager, more volunteers are needed to run the Hall and any interested parties were invited to attend the Parish Hall AGM on 6th May or to contact one of the existing Hall Trustees or the Hall Manager.

c. Norton Community Trust

Mr. Goode, Chair of Norton Community Trust provided a report including the background to the Norton Community Trust charity and information about activities including Norton Youth Club, Norton St. Richard's Community Games, Parish Fun Run, picnic on the pitch and bonfire/fireworks events. The charity activities are gaining momentum and efforts are being made to engage all areas of the Parish. More volunteers to help with activities would be welcomed. The Parish Council was asked to consider providing additional litter bins around the cricket club grounds as the area is used as community space by members of the public. This request will be put to the Parish Council for consideration.

d. Worcester Norton Sports Club

Mr. Goode, Chair of WNSC highlighted that the Club is a key asset for the community and provided a report including the cricket club and shooting club activities. Mr. Goode advised that WNSC is looking to stay at the current site and will engage with Wychavon DC and other interested parties when drawing up plans to redevelop the facilities and will fully investigate planning and curtilage matters. The Croquet Club has identified a new site and will be moving from WNSC as part of the longer term development plans.

e. Norton Theatre Group

Mr. Simms advised that the January 2016 pantomime will be Robin Hood and will be the 30th year of the panto. Rehearsals start in the second week of September, with details in the Parish Council newsletter, on the Parish notice boards and on Face book. All are welcome; performers and volunteers to help back stage. The Parish Council was thanked for its support, as were all the volunteers who help and those watching in the audience.

9. Residents Questions

The speed checks along Church Lane resulted in lengthy discussions with views being mixed on the need for speed checks and the level of the speed limit at 30mph. Some residents felt that the speed limit should be increased and the speed checks should cease, whilst others felt that the 30mph speed limit should be retained, with speed checks an important tool to reduce/manage speed. Cllr. Turvey confirmed that the Parish Council asked for some speed checks along Church Lane in response to concerns from residents relating to speeding. The data collected from the Safer Road Partnership checks seems to indicate that average speed is falling. The Parish Council will seek information following recent speed checks and on plans for future checks and will provide an update in the Parish Council newsletter. It was agreed that the Parish is used as a rat run and Cllr. Turvey confirmed that this subject is being pursued with Worcs CC, with a view to better management of traffic flow and speed, taking into account the impact of the proposed SWDP and Parkway Station. It was suggested that the A4440 road works are likely to increase traffic volumes through the Parish during the period of the works.

Speeding along Norton Road was highlighted and the Parish Council vehicle activated speed sign will be re-installed at this location once the battery has been replaced.

In response to questions relating to weight restriction areas within the Parish and signage, Cllr. Turvey advised that the Parish Council has highlighted these issues to Worcs CC and will pursue extended and more clearly defined/signed weight restriction areas.

Following a question about flooding along Woodbury Lane, Cllr. Turvey advised that Wychavon DC and Worcs CC are carrying out investigations and work to alleviate.

The outstanding remedial work to the verges, bus shelter and island following the new housing development at Crookbarrow Road was discussed. Cllr. Turvey advised that the Parish Council is continuing to chase the developers for the work to be completed. A site meeting has taken place and assurances have been received that the work will be progressed by the developers. The Parish Council will continue to pursue. A request was received for the hedge on the verge in front of the black and white cottage to be cut back to improve visibility at the island from the Norton Road direction. The Parish Council will pass this request to the developers and Worcs CC Highways for action.

The Parish Council and its staff were thanked for all their work and effort

10. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.