

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL,
LITTLEWORTH ON THURSDAY 22ND APRIL 2010**

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Fincher.

Attending –

Cllr. Turvey (Chairman), Cllr. Bennett, Cllr. Mrs. Hewison, Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Mrs. McGovern
Cllr. Richmond, Cllr. Reeves, Mr. G. Dyer, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor),
Mrs. Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 1 parishioner.

2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2009

It was proposed by Cllr. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. Bennett **and all were in agreement** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th April 2009 be accepted. The Chairman signed these as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that the skateboard park proposal had been considered but was not progressed due to funding constraints and that the Parish Council had agreed that the speed limit along Church Lane was considered appropriate at 30mph.

4. Norton Charities

Cllr. Mrs. McGovern gave a summary of the work of the two charities during the past 12 months.

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

Cllr. Adams provided background to his roles at Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council. He commented upon likely budget cuts (with savings from joint working) and increased community involvement in the future. Funding is available for activities for young people from Worcs CC and Cllr. Adams would welcome an application from within the NJK Parish. A shared activated speed sign could be available for the Parish if required and thought will be given to a suitable location. NJK Parish has moved from the Droitwich Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to the Pershore LSP.

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

6. Chairman's Report

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. There is currently one vacancy for a Parish Councillor and anyone wishing to know more should contact the Clerk.

Cllr. Turvey summarised the situation regarding the SWJCS, advising that a policy of engagement has been adopted to influence the final result, to help ensure that as far as possible the identity of the Parish is protected. The final submission document is awaited later in the year, although the pending General Election may have a significant impact upon the SWJCS depending upon the outcome. Parishioners were thanked for their support.

The EnviroSort facility is now operational and the operators have been cooperative in the day to day running of the facility and adherence with planning conditions. The Liaison Group has been a success in engaging with the operators, Worcs CC and Wychavon DC.

Cllr. Turvey provided background to the Parish Plan 'NJK Our Future' and advised that the target publication date is the middle of 2010. Appreciation was expressed to residents who completed the survey form; an almost 50% response rate was achieved. The survey highlighted

the value placed upon the Parish being a quiet rural location with a sense of community spirit.

Despite extensive efforts to acquire a suitable site to develop a play area to serve the Norton Barracks area, due to matters outside the Parish Council's control, no land has yet been secured. A couple of new options are being investigated, which it is hoped will prove successful, as the desire for a play area at Brockhill was highlighted in the Parish Plan questionnaire responses.

Flooding issues continue to be investigated, with work proposed within the Parish to alleviate the major risk areas. The impact of future developments on flooding continues to be raised.

The level of Parish Council funding was highlighted and the many demands on limited resources. The Parish Council has taken the view that if necessary reserves should be used for specific items. As some additional funding is no longer available (due to budget constraints in the current economic climate) and some reserves need to be retained for unexpected eventualities/capital projects, the precept has been increased for 2010/11, although this remains below the average for a Band D property in Wychavon. Residents' views on parish funding are welcomed.

The Chairman thanked Parishioners for their interest and support.

7. Parish Reports

a. Planning

i. Summary of applications since the last Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr. Richmond advised that over the previous twelve months, 18 submissions have been considered of which 13 were approved by Wychavon DC. Six were not supported by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is liaising with Wychavon DC regarding the pond filling work at the SMH site to ensure that the impact of this work is minimised.

ii. South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy

As discussed earlier in the meeting.

iii. EnviroSort Facility

Cllr. Lucas advised that planning conditions have been complied with and that the facility is now operating at c. 50% capacity. Worcester City, Malvern and Bromsgrove are due to come on stream later in the year. The Liaison Group meets quarterly and the Operations Manager is available in the event of any issues that need resolution. To date any reports made have been resolved promptly and satisfactorily. Traffic routing is being monitored.

iv. Parkway Station

Whilst Worcs CC appears proactive in promoting this project, funding is seen to be an issue and feedback received indicates that rail operators are not receptive to the proposal.

b. Allotments Committee

Cllr. Mrs. McGovern reported that all plots are allocated and any issues advised to the Parish Council are being dealt with. A lengthy waiting list is in operation. Plots are monitored and allotment holders are regularly asked if they would like to split or relinquish their plots. Discussions are being held regarding additional drainage work to improve the ground condition of plots that are badly affected by water retention.

c. Playing Fields

The Clerk advised that the field continues to be used by an adult football team and this is likely to continue for the forthcoming season. The annual RoSPA play area inspection report has been received and recommendations will be considered by the Parish Council; no high risk items have been raised. Monitoring of the equipment continues on a regular basis and maintenance is undertaken as required. Cllr. Richmond added that whilst this year has been drier to date, there may be future maintenance issues to address on the playing field with regard to drainage. Funding will need to be considered for this at some point in the future.

d. Footpaths Committee

Cllr. Turvey advised that in conjunction with Worcs CC and land owners a programme has been underway to improve public Rights of Ways in the Parish including new stiles and gates, clearance of undergrowth and new signs/way marking. The high level of cooperation from land owners has been a major factor in enabling accessibility to be improved. Further improvements are planned along with defined circular walks within the Parish.

e. Finance

The Responsible Finance Officer presented financial information to 28th February 2010.

f. West Mercia Police

CSO Fogwill provided an update on local Policing, including the appointment of PC Woods, along with crime figures for the last 12 months which show a reducing trend. Inconsiderate parking at school drop off/pick up times has been an issue in Littleworth and has received attention; this is now much improved. Visits to NJK CE First School have been started to convey a positive and approachable image and to educate children about important issues such as road safety and stranger danger. These visits have been well received. The Local Policing Team is community focussed and is keen to receive feedback concerning issues important to residents. The Parish Council and parishioners were thanked for their support.

In response to a question regarding horses being ridden on pavements, manure being left on pavements and parking on pavements outside the Livery Yard on Church Lane, CSO Fogwill advised that the stables have been visited many times. The owner is aware of the issues raised, is supportive of the Police and has conveyed the information to visitors and riders. It was noted that the parking issue has improved.

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, Cllr. Adams advised that the temporary speed sign available is a shared mobile sign.

The issue of speed limits within the Parish was raised. The discussions at the last Annual Parish Meeting were reiterated, where the majority of residents were in favour of retaining the existing 30mph speed limit along Church Lane, Norton and this is supported by the Parish Council. No increase in speed limits within the Parish is considered appropriate. In response to a question regarding the introduction of the 40mph speed limit along the B4084, from a deregulated zone some years ago, Cllr. Adams explained the consultation process and advised that a review is being undertaken at County level of A and B roads to review the appropriateness of existing speed limits.

In terms of road safety, concern was expressed at the low level of improvements made at the B4084/Woodbury Lane junction in view of the increased volume of traffic and the potential impact on road safety. The situation will be monitored.

10. Close of Meeting -

The Chairman thanked all those attending the meeting and welcomed parishioners to attend future Parish Council meetings. He closed the meeting at 8.35pm.