



NORTON LINDSEY PARISH COUNCIL PARISH REPORT 2020



**ONLINE DISCUSSION & Q&A
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 7.00 – 7.45PM**

DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM NORTONLINDSEYPC.ORG, SOCIAL MEDIA OR THE PARISH NOTICEBOARDS

Questions can be asked on the day or submitted in advance by e-mail or via social media

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF NLPC

It has been quite a challenging year for the Parish Council, along with everyone else. Since May, we have been holding our meetings via Zoom, and we've not been able to hold our usual Parish Assembly - hence this report to the parish.

Despite this, we've done our best to keep it as close as possible to "business as usual". This has involved responding to some severe flooding; monitoring the condition of roads and footpaths, and reporting problems to Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council; providing financial support to various village organisations, and dealing with a range of planning applications. We have also started looking at some new initiatives, including rewilding the verges, which we think will improve the natural environment of Norton Lindsey-something that is particularly important in these challenging times.

There are details of all of these things elsewhere in this report, which we hope will provide you with a clearer idea of what your Parish Council does for the community.

Remember that members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and that we have a dedicated time at the start of each meeting to receive representations, comments or questions from the public. Details of our monthly meetings are posted on our website and on parish noticeboards.

Due to the recent resignation of a councillor, we are currently following the legal procedure to either elect or co-opt a replacement—so if anyone is interested in becoming a parish councillor, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with either our clerk Jennifer Bendall or myself.

Finally, we are going to be saying farewell to Councillor Les Caborn, who will be retiring from Warwickshire County Council in May after 40 years as both a District and County Councillor. Les has always been very supportive of the Parish Council, both through his attendance of meetings and in helping get things done on his patch and we wish him well for the future.

Jon Stobart

Chair, Norton Lindsey Parish Council

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ For the first time in many years, 2019 saw contested nominations for Norton Lindsey Parish Council (NLPC) - requiring a formal election to elect councillors for a four year term
- ◆ At this election, the number of councillors was increased to seven (reflecting growth in the size of the village since the formation of NLPC)
- ◆ Three new Councillors joined NLPC at the election; Cllrs Goossens, Elmhirst and Brown
- ◆ Cllrs Mann and Sparkes left the Council at the election
- ◆ Cllr Jon Stobart was subsequently re-elected Chair of the Council for a further twelve month period

CURRENT COUNCIL MAKEUP

Cllr Jon Stobart (Chair)	
Cllr Amy Birch	Cllr Anna Mace-Leska
Cllr Neil Brown	Cllr Martin Neale
Cllr Karin Elmhirst	<i>Casual Vacancy (due to resignation of Cllr Goossens)</i>
Jennifer Bendall (Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer)	

SINCE THE LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY NLPC HAS...



HAD 15 ORDINARY MEETINGS

HELD 5 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS



HELD TWO MAJOR PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

CREATED ONE HONORARY FREEMAN



CLEANED THE STANKS HORSE TROUGH TWICE!

DISTRIBUTED OVER £1000 IN IN VILLAGE GRANTS



DISTRIBUTED AROUND 50 SAND-BAGS

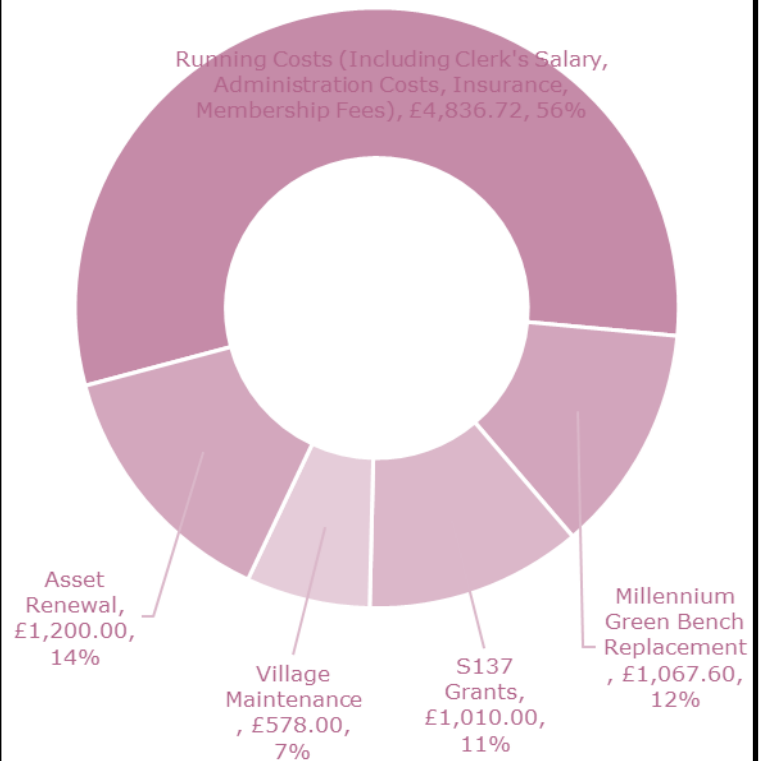
WHAT DOES NLPC DO?

- ◆ NLPC makes up part of the 'third tier' of Local Government in Warwickshire, working below the County Council and District Council. It is the level closest to the community it serves
- ◆ It serves most, but not all, of the 'village' of Norton Lindsey. Roughly speaking, it is a parish that is bounded by the M40 in the North & East, Curlieu Lane/Dark Lane in the West and the Blacon Farm track in the South
- ◆ It supports the community through discretionary spending
- ◆ It ensures that the views of the local community are taken into account by the other Councils (It has particular responsibilities to represent the views of local residents in planning matters that affect the Parish)
- ◆ It tries to ensure that the area continues to be a pleasant, safe and welcoming place for all members of the public

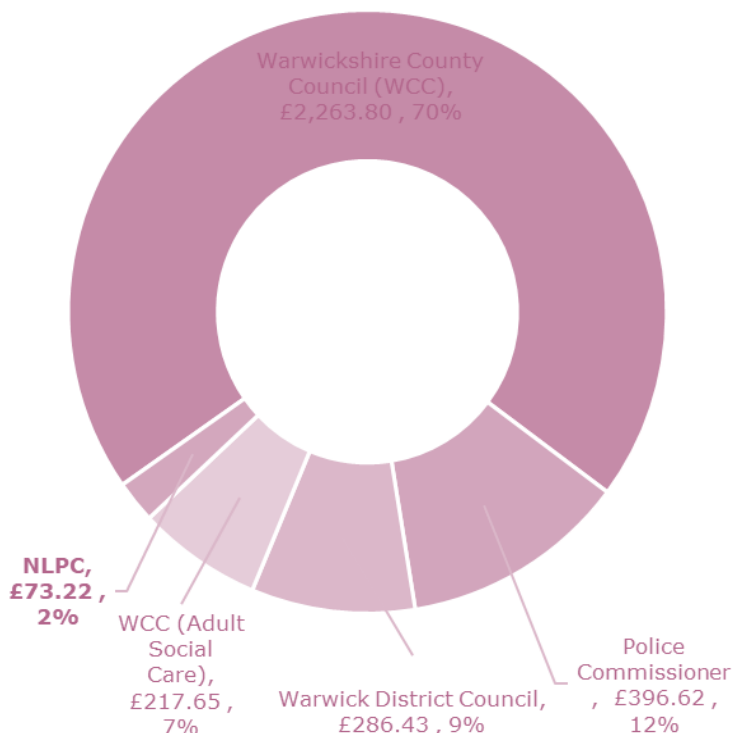
WHAT WE SPENT IN 2019/20

- ◆ The Parish Council is only allowed to spend money for specific reasons that are listed in law and these reasons are extremely limited (particularly when compared with the District and County Councils)
- ◆ Parish Councillors are not paid, give their time voluntarily and must abide by a local government code of conduct and declare their financial interests in the Parish
- ◆ The major running cost of the Council is the salary and expenses of the Parish Clerk - this is a crucial position and one that is mandated in law
- ◆ The budget for 2019/20 was decided upon based on a precept of £9,000 set in December 2018
- ◆ The Parish Council has the ability to support organisations that provide value and service to residents of the Parish through small discretionary grants (up to an amount set by law of £8.12 per elector in 2019/20)
- ◆ In 2019 / 20 the Council made a significant one-off capital contribution of £35,000 from its 'depot fund' reserve towards the replacement of the village hall. The 'depot fund' is money received by NLPC when the ex-council depot, which was developed into Hawkes Hill Close, was sold. This money can only be spent on certain projects within the Parish with the joint agreement of Warwickshire County Council
- ◆ NLPC received an amount of £817.60 towards the cost of the replacement Millennium Green bench from its insurers (the bench was damaged beyond repair by a delivery driver who was found to not be covered by appropriate insurance— unfortunately necessitating an insurance claim by the Council on its own policy)

NPLC, Expenditure By Category , 2019/2020 (Excluding the exceptional 'depot fund' grant towards the replacement of the Village Hall)



Breakdown Of Council Tax 2020/2021 Band G, Norton Lindsey Parish



WHAT WE WILL RECEIVE IN 2020/21

- ◆ Almost all of NLPC's income (bar a small amount of interest earned on reserve funds) is gathered from the 'precept' - an amount set annually by the Parish Council and then proportionally shared across the Council Tax of all households in the Parish
- ◆ There are approximately 344 adults on the electoral role in the Parish, but a much smaller number of households at around 165. The amount each household is ultimately charged, depends on the Council Tax band their property is within
- ◆ NLPC voted to increase the precept to £10,000 in the financial year 2020/21. This represents an increase of £1,000 from the preceding year and this increase will help cover the increased costs facing the Council
- ◆ Unlike many other Parish Councils, NLPC does not have a village hall, other buildings or land from which it can receive an income
- ◆ NLPC only receives precept funding from those parts of the 'village' in Warwick District Council's area—areas of the 'village' in Wolverton and Claverdon pay their precept to their respective Parish Councils

PLANNING

- ◆ Planning is an area that takes up a lot of the Parish Council's consideration and time and it is certainly the area of responsibility that normally generates most interest/comment from members of the Public! This has particularly been the case since the last Parish Assembly with two major planning applications affecting the Parish under consideration
- ◆ NLPC does not have the power to decide any planning application within the Parish—that responsibility lies with Warwick District Council (WDC). WDC do however formally consult with NLPC on all planning applications within the Parish, to ensure that the views of the local community are taken into account (though NLPC always suggests that members of the public also comment directly to WDC on any application they are concerned about)
- ◆ All planning decisions are made within a complex legal framework—any comments or objections NLPC makes to WDC must have a sound basis in planning law. NLPC cannot simply object to something because they don't 'like it', rather it must ensure that the objection is based on a valid planning ground
- ◆ As the entire Parish is located in the Green Belt, all applications have to be scrutinised carefully to ensure there is no detrimental impact on the openness of the countryside and the rural nature of the area. Further material considerations for the Council include that the 'centre' of the Parish is a Conservation Area, there are a number of listed buildings throughout the Parish and the Parish has a strong and thriving agricultural sector. Each of these considerations brings with it a differing raft of policies and law
- ◆ Due to the unfortunate Parish Boundaries in the area of Red Horse Corner, planning applications that appear to be in the 'village' of Norton Lindsey, may actually lie outside of Norton Lindsey Parish. This is particularly the case with developments in Morgan Close, Brick Kiln Close and along Wolverton Road (including Norton Lea) – all of which are outside of the Parish and lie in Stratford-Upon-Avon District. NLPC regrettably has no formal role in the decision making process of any planning applications in these areas, but it does try and ensure that its voice is heard by the other Parish/District Councils
- ◆ Since the last Parish Meeting the Council has considered sixteen planning applications and has objected to four of these on planning grounds. It has also been neutral to or supported a further twelve applications
- ◆ The Council tries to object to applications very rarely and much prefers working with applicants/planning teams to try and reach agreement between all parties

BRICK-KILN CLOSE

Although this site lies just outside of the Parish boundary (residing by just a few metres in Claverdon Parish), NLPC has taken a lead role in representing the views of all parts of the 'village' of Norton Lindsey in regards to the application to build around twelve residential properties on land behind Brick Kiln Close.

It is however regrettable that NLPC has no formal involvement in the process of this application, even though it will affect the Parish greatly, simply because the adjoining Parish is in Stratford-Upon-Avon rather than Warwick District.

NLPC carried out an in-depth survey to ascertain the views of the public (available on the NLPC website) and has represented these views to Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, who ultimately will decide on this application.

NLPC has objected to the proposal on a number of grounds, not least of which is that the application is concerned solely with the housing needs of Claverdon, a community some miles from the site, with no public transport links available.

At the time of writing, this application is currently still under consideration by the Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council Planning Team —when the application comes up for decision by the planning committee, NLPC will request to appear before the committee to present our views.

THE CHICKEN SHEDS

Over the last eighteen months NLPC has been consulted on several different applications concerning development at the site of the Chicken Sheds in Littleworth, just on the edge of the 'village'.

The site has a long and very involved planning history and applications have been received since the last Parish Assembly not only for residential housing on the site (which was rejected by both Warwick District Council and on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate), but more recently for the restarting of commercial chicken breeding operations (including residential housing for a site manager).

NLPC has helped the local community represent their views (via a series of public meetings) to Warwick District Council and has itself objected strongly to these recent commercial proposals - due to the impact on the quality of life of nearby residents, pollution, traffic and concern for the green-belt.

At the time of writing, this application is currently still under consideration by the Warwick District Council Planning Team —when the application comes up for decision by the planning committee, NLPC will request to appear before the committee to present our views.

HIGHWAYS & FLOODING

Since the last Parish Assembly NLPC has reported numerous highway issues including pot-holes, crumbling road-edges, stolen signs, overhanging hedges and missing road markings to Warwickshire County Council (who have responsibility for all highway matters) – but by far the most significant ongoing issue is blocked/overflowing gullies and subsequent highway flooding.

NLPC are pushing the County Council to renew and refurbish these drains wherever possible – but budgets mean that this problem is likely to be ongoing for sometime – so please report any issues you see, as soon as you see them!

You can report highway issues either via the Clerk of NLPC or to WCC directly at warwickshire.fixmystreet.com.

SPEEDING

One of the regular concerns raised by members of the public is speeding within the Parish – particularly when an accident on the A46 or M40 causes commuter traffic to use the village as a 'rat-run' to/from the Snitterfield area.

Unfortunately the Parish Speedwatch volunteers were not able to start monitoring traffic speeds as no volunteer could be found to co-ordinate the group and manage the administration of the scheme. Anyone interested in reestablishing the group should contact the Parish Clerk who can supply you with the right contacts!

Remember that a 30MPH sign marks the beginning of a speed restriction and all drivers should be at this speed (or below!) at the sign, not a hundred metres after it!

REWILDING

Rewilding is the large scale restoration of ecosystems and nature habitats in order to revive lost indigenous species.

Pollinator populations are currently declining and the loss of flower-rich habitats, which would usually act as sources of food, shelter, and nesting sites, is the primary cause. Tightly mown verges are monocultures, deserts of nature, but through sowing wildflowers we can help reintroduce biodiversity not only in plants but also in animals and insects. Throughout the year – including winter – these wildflower verges provide food and cover for pollinators, birds, and small animals.

Rewilded verges require much less maintenance, as they do not need to be mown or cut and naturally reoccur, and they would be much more attractive, as many wildflowers bloom from early spring to winter.

The Parish Council have resolved to investigate over the coming months, the feasibility of rewilding sections of the Parish highways and green spaces to aid bio-diversity.

GRIT-BINS

Winter is fast approaching and NLPC would like to remind residents that there are a number of yellow grit-bins located throughout the Parish at highway 'trouble-spots'. NLPC has recently paid for the replacement of a number of these bins that had been damaged in previous years.

These bins are intended for the public to use to supplement the regular gritting activities of the County Council. It is always appreciated when residents clear areas of snow/ice and then use the grit to prevent ice reforming, but do take care when you do so!

Please note that the provided grit can ONLY be used on a public highway or pavement—it is not permitted to use this grit to clear private paths and/or drives.

Bins which are close to being empty should be reported to either the County Council via their website or you can also contact NLPC.

Gritting routes in Warwickshire can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/gritting.

BLACON TRACK CIRCUIT

NLPC has continued to explore possibilities around completing the missing 'gap' in the footpath between the Blacon Farm Track and Arles Cottage on the 60mph stretch of Snitterfield Lane.

Unfortunately the likely cost involved in providing a formal footpath is prohibitive unless external funding can be found (and even finding funding to determine the eventual cost is proving difficult!).

NLPC are pleased to report however, that as suggested at the last Parish Assembly, Warwickshire County Council (via our local Councillor Les Caborn), is intending to provide funding to place a set of 'pedestrians in the roadway' signs along the stretch of road on the approach to the Blacon Farm Track, in order to encourage traffic to slow down and take more care.

As all councillors recognise the central part this walking circuit plays in the health and fitness activities of the Parish, we shall continue to seek out funding opportunities.

DOG WASTE

Discussions are ongoing with Warwick District Council concerning the emptying of the two 'closed' dog waste bins – one in Canada Lane and the other at the pedestrian entrance to the Playing Fields.

Although the bins have been clearly marked as being closed, some members of the public are still leaving dog-waste bags on or around the bins – including 'hanging' them from nearby gates and hedges. This is illegal, anti-social and a major health hazard. Local land-owners are also considering closing 'permitted' footpaths if the situation continues.

Members of the public are reminded that as well as the unsealed dog-waste bins, dog-waste can be disposed of in the ordinary litter bins at the Bus Stop and by the Village Hall carpark entrance, and in householders standard grey bin refuse collection.

Bag it, and bin it in a bin! Don't leave it for other people to deal with

VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELDS

It is a year since the Hall reopened. The ribbon was cut by one of the village's longest residing residents, Ken Chapman, now sadly deceased and its most junior, Felicity Davies.

In December, a few Trustees resigned and Anna Mace-Leska was appointed Chair, she is also the Parish Council representative. In March, Ashley Hollingshead was appointed Treasurer.

From the time of reopening in October 2019, the Hall steadily became booked with classes and most weekends there was at least one children's party. The Sniffer's had several events and the Concert performed by Tarantara was sold out and we managed to hold a few cinema sessions.

Then came lockdown and we had to close, reopening in September in a limited capacity for low risk activities and within GOV.UK guidelines. We gratefully received a £10,000 grant from WDC designed to keep rural Village Halls open.

No indoor social events could be held but we held a successful Picnic in the Park and a Scarecrow competition. Further outdoor community focused events will be planned.

As Trustees, we meet on Zoom. We have regular updates on the Covid-19 regulations and what we are able to do to keep all users safe. The AGM has been deferred until Spring 2021, accounts available on website.

We would very much like to invite any Villager to join us in helping to run the Village Hall (you don't have to become a Trustee to volunteer). It is your Village Hall and any extra input would be very welcome, particularly if you have secretarial skills or are interested in helping with events, when life returns to normal.

Anna Mace-Leska

Chair of the Trustees of Village Hall & Playing Fields CIO

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Norton Lindsey Neighbourhood Watch has been running successfully for a number of years now. There is a team of volunteer coordinators who send out e mails to members passing on information regularly from Warwickshire Police.

We had arranged for a residents meeting this year at the Village Hall attended by our PCSO Paul Coleman but due to Covid-19 restrictions that has not been able to take place.

Hopefully we will be able to hold a meeting for residents of the village next year.

If you would like to join the scheme please e mail me and I can give your details to the appropriate coordinator.

The village has fortunately not been plagued by crime recently - maybe because many of us are around and about at the moment keeping an eye open for any suspicious behaviour.

Please e-mail for further details of the scheme or if you would like to join.

Anne Cooke

anneandrichardcooke@yahoo.co.uk (01789 730051)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Norton Lindsey WI was established over 70 years ago and currently has nearly 40 members who meet up monthly on Zoom (2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm) to share friendship, watch presentations and speakers and take part in educational events.

In normal times (pre-COVID19) we hold many events at Norton Lindsey Village Hall throughout the year to encourage socialising, help raise funds for charities and we get involved with our community on a regular basis. We have a book club that currently meets on Zoom and when we can get together, we run a craft group and arrange monthly walks, stopping off for coffee and cake and a good old natter! What's not to like? We have a current offer which is great value and might be of interest to you if you would like to join us. Why not give it a go?

'Try the WI' Taster membership for £10.75 to the end of March 2021.

Looking for friendship? Ladies, why not join our fellowship of over 200,000 women in the WI nationally and be part of our success story in Norton Lindsey! We're looking forward to meeting you and sharing our fun with you. See www.nlwi.org.uk for our programme of events. It's not all 'Jam and Jerusalem', I promise!

Sue Steel

sue.steel@tiscali.co.uk (01926 258016)

Cricket Club

2020 was a difficult and challenging year for all sports clubs and NL&WCC was no exception.

The Club faced problems with player availability, finance, Junior coaching, Covid-19 regulations and pitch preparation, but somehow managed to not only survive but ultimately come through relatively unscathed and hoping for better things in 2021.

Competitive cricket under the auspices of the Cotswold Hills League took place in an alternative format and a shortened season, but two of our three adult teams took to the field and our blossoming Junior section took part in more competitive games than ever before.

Next year we would love to have more volunteers to support our Junior boys and girls teams, as this is crucial to ensuring a supply of players to our senior teams.

Our volunteer groundsmen have kept the Playing Field in excellent condition, but one of the next challenges is the need to replace one of the two ride-on tractors, which, unlike the mowers, is showing signs of terminal exhaustion!

If any of our new residents or their acquaintances are keen to resurrect their cricket careers in the village, they can be sure of a warm welcome - just get in touch with the club secretary below.

Martin Neale

07770 831351

COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

It is a bit late for my usual annual report but we approved a budget in February based on sound economic growth with investment in services and capital projects. One of these is Stanks Island—now very close to completion. Also our new fleet of gritters has arrived for winter, new to us but used ones as more cost efficient.

Then Covid arrived which as cabinet member for Health and Adult Social Care has taken over my time. We are working on the resurgence and have established Infection Management Teams for North, South and Rugby working with the district councils and additional staff. We are a national Beacon Council for covid jointly with Rugby and Solihull and we are a national exemplar of good practice. These IMT are funded for 18 months. We have been commended by the Care Quality Commission for our support of all care homes across the county and domiciliary care. We have been a national study for working with SWFT to get people out of hospital and into care settings, including back home within hours rather than days. Our PPE warehouse is stocked with the right PPE to last until March and more stock arriving to support our care sector. I meet regularly with our Director of Public Health to discuss outbreaks and our TIER rating and issues such as lockdown.

WCC and Cabinet have agreed to approach the Government on becoming a Unitary Authority, as we would form a more efficient council and save millions in operating costs—discussions are ongoing.

Councillors and all our staff are working from home, delivering our services as seamless as possible as the day job continues despite the Covid; as do Council meetings all of which are broadcast to the public. We have recruited through this period over 200 additional care workers for our care sector and over 20 new foster carers have come forward and taken placements. A great tribute to our residents.

Finally in case we do not meet publicly, it is time to say good bye as I will be retiring at the May elections after 16 years as your councillor and 40 years in the role. Thanks for all your help and support, we have made a difference working together.

Les Caborn

Budbrooke & Bishop's Tachbrook Ward

cllrcaborn@warwickshire.gov.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

The County of Warwickshire currently operates a three-tier system of local government.

The first tier consists of a single council which operates county wide - Warwickshire County Council. The County Council is responsible for the provision of major public services such as roads, those educational services still in local government control, social care and libraries.

The second tier consists of five 'district' or 'borough' councils. These councils are each responsible for local services in their 'part' of Warwickshire- including planning, recycling, refuse collection and leisure.

Norton Lindsey Parish lies within Warwick District Council's area and along with twenty-four other Parish councils makes up the third-tier of Local Government. NLPC's major role is to represent the views of the local community to the other councils (particularly in planning matters) and provide targeted local activities and focused financial funding.

Successive governments have made moves towards combining county and district councils into single 'unitary' councils - which have responsibility for the provision of all services. The argument in favour of unitary authorities is that they can provide a more cost effective and streamlined operation and reduce confusion over which council provides which service.

In the past few months the County Council has suggested to the Government that a single Warwickshire wide unitary authority should be established, whilst the five district Councils have proposed two unitary authorities with one for the North and one for the South (combining Warwick and Stratford).

Both of these plans foresee an enhanced role for Parish Councils in one form or another, but what role is currently unclear. Two major consultations are likely to take place in the next six months and NLPC will almost certainly be seeking the views of residents - watch this space!





USEFUL CONTACTS

GRANTS

Norton Lindsey Parish Council has the power to award grants to local clubs, groups and organisations which, in its opinion, directly benefit the Parish or residents of the Parish.

If you run such an organisation, then we'd be delighted to hear from you if you would like to request funding.

All applications for grants must be made after fully reading NLPC's grants policy and then completing a grant application form and returning it by email to the NLPC Clerk. Both the policy and application form can be found on the nortonlindseypc.org website.

Grant applications must be received by 31 January and will be considered at the February ordinary meeting.

The Clerk will be happy to offer informal advice on an application, without commitment, at any time.

Please note that as a Parish Council, there are restrictions on both the amounts and organisations that we are able to support.

COVID-19 HOTLINE

If you are unable to leave your home due to Covid-19 and have no support to help you get food, medication or to access services then Warwickshire County Council can help you. They can provide direct support for a number of issues and help tap into the additional support being provided by community and voluntary groups.

Covid-19 hotline: 0800 408 1447

The hotline is open:

Monday to Thursday - 9am to 5pm

Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Saturday - 9am to 3pm

Sunday - 10am to 1pm

(please check latest details on the www.warwickshire.gov.uk website)

DEFIBRILLATOR

As you are probably aware we have a defibrillator in the village. It is located on the side of the electricity cabinet to the left of the Village Hall front door.

In the event of a sudden cardiac arrest the use of a defibrillator can increase the chances of survival if used along with immediate CPR before the paramedics arrive. Our machine has never been used but many public access defibrillators have been used successfully and after the person has received prompt medical treatment has recovered.

The defibrillator can be accessed by using a code, that you will be given when calling 999, to open the door.

The machine is registered with West Midlands Ambulance Service and Anne Cooke checks it regularly so that it is always ready for use.

The cabinet is illuminated at night and is available for use by anyone 24 hours a day. The defibrillator is very easy to use and it gives verbal instructions to the user.

Anne Cooke normally holds a free CPR and defibrillator training session at the Village Hall annually, but obviously that has been difficult this year. Hopefully she will be able to arrange a free training session next year.

Emergency
defibrillator

NLPC CONTACT DETAILS

If you wish to get in contact with Norton Lindsey Parish Council, please contact;

Jennifer Bendall, Clerk To Norton Lindsey Parish Council



01926 843534



nortonlindseypc@outlook.com



7 Brick Kiln Close,
Norton Lindsey,
Warwick,
CV35 8DL



<https://nortonlindseypc.org/>



@NortonLindseyPC



[nortonlindsey.parishcouncil.3](https://www.facebook.com/nortonlindsey.parishcouncil.3)

NLPC normally meets monthly (except April and August), usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Meetings start at 7.45pm and normally they take place in the Church Room, but during the Covid-19 pandemic NLPC are meeting via Zoom.

All members of the public can attend these meetings and there is a reserved slot of 15 minutes for public comments at the start of every meeting.