

Norton Lindsey Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly held at Norton Lindsey Village Hall at 8.00pm on Wednesday 27 April 2022

Present: Cllr J Stobart (Chairman); Cllr N Brown; Cllr R Mann; Cllr M Neale; WCC / WDC Cllr J Matecki; Mrs J Bendall (Clerk/RFO); and 9 members of the public

2022NLPA/01 Record of those present

Noted.

2022NLPA/02 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr K Elmhirst who had a prior commitment and WDC Cllr Rhead.

2022NLPA/03 Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 29 April 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 29 April 2021 were discussed, confirmed and signed.

2022NLPA/04 Matters arising

None.

2022NLPA/05 Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his report (see Appendix 1).

2022NLPA/06 Action Plan update

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council Action Plan identifies initiatives that NLPC should focus on throughout the year. Initially it was based on the 2013 Parish Plan which generated a list of actions for NLPC to look into. Some of these actions we couldn't do, others we have tried to address. NLPC has now exhausted this original list, and so we are trying to think of further actions we could take. A parishioner has raised concerns about the speed of traffic along Main Street, and this is something that we could look into as part of the Action Plan. We would welcome any other suggestions.

2022NLPA/07 Treasurer's report

The Clerk/RFO presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2020/21 (see Appendix 2). There were no questions.

2022NLPA/08 Report from WCC Cllr J Matecki

WCC Cllr Jan Matecki presented the Warwickshire County Council report (see Appendix 3).

2022NLPA/09 Report from WDC Cllrs A Rhead and J Matecki

WCC Cllr Jan Matecki presented the Warwick District Council report (see Appendix 4). He answered questions from the public regarding the proposed merger of Warwick and Stratford District Councils, the forthcoming changes to the waste service in Warwick and Stratford Districts, and also plans for renewable technology in the District.

2022NLPA/10 Any other matters

A parishioner has raised concerns about speeding traffic along Main Street. See agenda item 2022NLPA/06 (Action Plan update).

2022NLPA/11 Open Discussion

There was a question about plans for a memorial for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Suggestions that have been put forward include a planter or a village sign, and NLPC is investigating these options.

One parishioner suggested that the stonework of the Elizabethan Jubilee signpost at Red Horse Corner could be engraved with all the Queen's Jubilees. NLPC will investigate this.

Jubilee celebrations are taking place on Friday 3 June, and include an afternoon picnic on the playing field followed by a barn dance in the Village Hall in the evening. These events are open to everyone, although they are primarily for parish residents, and ticketing options are being looked into. It was noted that a street party on Main Street had proved to be unviable due to the amount of paperwork required, even though Warwick District Council had waived the usual fees required for road closures.

There was discussion about a "parish welcome pack" for new residents to incorporate information on the Church, School, etc. There was also discussion about the parish magazine and finding information on the website.

Finally, concern was raised about the building works at Blacon Farm.

2022NLPA/12 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

APPENDIX 1

Chairman's Report

Following the unusual circumstances of the previous 12 months, this past year has been more like business as usual, with meeting once again held in person from July 2021. Online meetings had proved efficient and effective, and seem to have made it easier for members of the public to attend. In contrast, there have been no parishioners in attendance since returning to meetings in the Church Room. We always set aside the first 15 minutes of meetings to take comments and representations from parishioners.

Much of the business transacted has been in the usual areas of planning applications, highways, and disbursing grants to various village organisations. Taking these in reverse order: we are pleased that inviting organisations to apply for funds has proved successful in spreading the small sums that we have at our disposal into new areas (e.g. the installation of two further defibrillators in the village—at the pub and school) whilst continuing our long-standing support of the playground, the defibrillator at the village hall, and maintenance of the churchyard and church clock. We are hoping that the support provided for rewilding will produce a better result in the second year—especially as agreement has been reached with the contractors employed by Warwickshire County Council to leave specific areas unmown. We are also planning to work with Wolverton and Langley PCs to extend the rewilding along verges between these villages.

In other highways matters, considerable improvements have been made to the road through Lower Norton (though some further work is still required), repairs have been made to the pavement down Snitterfield Lane, and new pedestrian warning signs installed further along Snitterfield Lane, on the stretch between the end of the pavement and Blacon Farm track. Potholes and blocked drains are a perennial problem, and we report any issues that are brought to our attention—although it is worth noting that anyone can report issues directly via a link available on the NLPC website.

Planning applications have included small schemes at nine houses in the parish: five were granted, two applications were withdrawn, one was refused, and another is awaiting a decision. The application by Hatton Country World (HCW) for a caravan site was granted. NLPC were concerned that this development (outside the parish) would increase traffic along Dark Lane and Norton Curlieu Lane and were pleased to see conditions in the planning permission about the traffic routes advised by HCW. Two larger proposals have occupied a lot of time. The first is the application for new chicken sheds to be erected on Warwick Road—on the site where old sheds have stood derelict for nearly 20 years. In mounting our objection, we have received considerable support from our District Councillor, Jan Matecki. A decision has been pending for much of the past year and we are hoping for a favourable decision when or if it goes to Warwick District Council's planning committee. NLPC is keen to find a solution for long-term use of this site. The second major application is outside but immediately adjacent to the parish: the proposal by Claverdon Community Land Trust (CCLT), led by John Horner (who is WCC Cllr for Arden Ward, which includes Claverdon), to build affordable housing in the field behind Brick Kiln Close. The initial application was turned down, but the CCLT has undertaken wide public consultation (with financial support from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and undoubtedly put in a revised application. NLPC and WPC are liaising closely on their response. Both PCs seek to represent as fairly as possible the views of all parishioners and are keen that any housing development should meet the needs (if any) of the community in which it is situated.

At a rather different scale, NLPC has been trying to decide what should happen to the display of Best Kept Village awards which were hung in the old village hall. As we do not have space of our own, we had thought to put them into storage, but we would like to hear from parishioners who have alternative suggestions.

Finally, we bid farewell to our long-standing District and latterly County Councillor, Les Caborn, who retired in the spring of 2021. He was always a great friend to the village and very supportive of initiatives as well as being a tremendous source of advice. Another departure was Anna Mace-Leska, who served as a PC for several years. We are still seeking a replacement, so anyone who is interested in serving their community as a parish councillor can get in touch with our clerk, Jenny Bendall.

APPENDIX 2

Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments are self-explanatory, but a few notable points are:

The bulk of the Depot Fund remains invested in a 95-day notice account which offers an interest rate of 1.00% Gross/AER. The Depot Fund now stands at £12,697.28.

Our general reserves include a sum of £3,500 retained for contested elections and the Asset Fund which is for the inspection, repair, replacement and purchase of assets and which currently stands at £5,893.64.

Receipts during the year included the Precept which remained at £10,000, £135.52 in bank interest, the bulk of which was on the Depot Fund reserves, and the repayment of our insurance excess for the Millennium Green bench which our insurers finally sorted with the driver's insurance company.

Regarding expenditure, our subscriptions and insurance costs remained pretty much the same as the previous year, and staffing costs and administration costs were substantially lower than in 2020 / 2021. Additionally, there was no audit fee to pay as we were able to declare ourselves exempt from sending the completed Annual Government and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review.

A VAT reclaim is due to be made for the 3 years ended 31 March 2022. This amounts to £550.87, of which £374.00 is VAT paid out on assets and which will be transferred to our assets fund.

Finally, after some teething problems, we now have online banking set up which will hopefully make life much simpler.

NORTON LINDSEY PARISH COUNCIL PARISH ASSEMBLY 27 APRIL 2022 Receipts and Payments April 2021 to March 2022

BROUGHT FORWARD

Brought Forward: Current Account	£	9,895.96
Brought Forward: General Reserves and Depot Fund (includes sums retained for possible electoral expenses and asset register renewal)	£	21,524.52
TOTAL BROUGHT FORWARD	£	31,420.48

RECEIPTS

Precept	£	10,000.00
Bank Interest	£	135.69
Insurance excess refund	£	250.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	10,385.69

EXPENDITURE

RUNNING COSTS

Subscriptions (WALC, ICO, SLCC)	£	262.00
Insurance	£	274.32
Clerk's salary	£	3,257.28
Administration costs	£	123.54
VAT (to be reclaimed)	£	121.69
Total NLPC Running Costs	£	4,038.83

DONATIONS / GRANTS *

Section 137 Payments	£	823.53
Grants under discretionary powers	£	1,155.49
Total NLPC Donations	£	1,979.02

SPECIAL ITEMS

-	£	-
Total Special Items	£	-

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £ 6,017.85

CARRIED FORWARD at 31 March 2022

Current Account	£	12,928.11
General Reserves and Depot Fund (includes sums retained for possible electoral expenses and asset register renewal)	£	22,860.21

TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD

£ 35,788.32

Donations / Grants

Section 137 payments:

Wolverton School - donation towards the purchase of a defibrillator	£	200.00
Norton Lindsey Village Hall - donation towards the cost of defibrillator maintenance	£	30.00
Norton Lindsey Community Pub Ltd - donation towards the purchase of a defibrillator	£	200.00
Purchase of memorial plaques for WW1 and WW2 fallen soldiers	£	393.53

Grant payments made under Discretionary Powers:

Purchase of seed for rewinding verges	£	107.50
Norton Lindsey Playground	£	350.00
Norton Lindsey Church Clock servicing	£	198.00
Norton Lindsey Church Room	£	200.00
Norton Lindsey Churchyard maintenance	£	250.00
Purchase of Christmas decorations	£	49.99

APPENDIX 3

Report from WCC Cllr J Matecki

In May 2021, elections were held to select the councillors for Warwickshire County Council. I was honoured to be elected as the representative for the Budbrooke and Bishop's Tachbrook Division, in which Norton Lindsey is located, replacing Les Caborn. The Conservatives formed the new administration with an increased majority.

Covid still continued to dominate many activities throughout the year, with vaccinating the population being a priority. As a county, 86% of those eligible for vaccination received at least one dose, which includes 70% of under 18s. In Warwick district the numbers are 86% of eligible residents receiving at least one dose, with 74% of under 18s doing so. This compares to the national figure of 80% and 60% for under 18s.

The new Integrated Care Scheme (ICS) for Warwickshire is taking shape and a formal submission to Health England will be submitted in the coming weeks. As part of the new ICS, the county has been divided into "places". The South Warwickshire Place (SWP) covers Warwick and Stratford District areas. The SWP will be able to focus on the health needs of South Warwickshire residents as priorities. These priorities have been identified as Respiratory Health and Inequalities, Children and Young People, and Mental Health, Suicide and Bereavement. The SWP Board will now be working to put in place plans to tackle these local issues.

The Fire Service had Ben Brook appointed as new Chief Fire Officer appointed in July 21. This was as a result of Kieran Amos retiring after 30 years of service in the fire sector, and as the Chief Fire Officer in Warwickshire since 2019. Sadly, only 4 months later, in November Kieran passed away after an unexpected short illness.

A national campaign for 20 is plenty was brought to the council as a motion to have all residential areas of Warwickshire reduced speed limits of 20mph. A task and finish group (TFG) was set up to look into the feasibility of such a proposal. The TFG determined, and recommended to the Cabinet, that a widespread 20mph in all residential areas would be impractical for many reasons, including defining what was a residential area or not, and would probably have a negative effect on areas that needed 20mph limits such as around schools. The TFG recommended that the decision on 20mph limits should be a decision taken more locally, where the requirements and support for such limits were better known.

A new school has been approved to be built at Bishop's Tachbrook. It will be an all through school which is planned to open in 2024. The school will take in only year 7s and reception classes, and will grow as those years work through the school. It will be the largest capital schools program the council will have delivered.

The Stagecoach No 16 service, which runs from Kenilworth to Hatton via Warwick, is to be replaced by a Demand Response Transport (DRT) service. The service will be bookable in advance or for an immediate pick up. It will be bookable through an App, which allows the progress of the bus to be monitored, or through a call centre. Unfortunately, the service area does not cover Norton Lindsey at this time, with the boundary of the service area being the Hampton Road from Warwick up to the M40, then north along the M40 to Shrewley Common.

More locally, the new Pedestrian Sign on Snitterfield Lane, warning motorists of oncoming pedestrians, was finally commissioned.

Cllr Jan Matecki
27 April 2022

APPENDIX 4

Report from WDC Cllr A Rhead

First my apologies for being unable to attend tonight's Annual Parish Meeting.

This report is from your two District Councillors, Councillor Alan Rhead and Councillor Jan Matecki. We can report on the District's achievements over the last period and our own involvement. One important matter is the recent announcement that the proposed merger with Stratford District Council has now stopped due to unresolved timing issues. However, the two Councils plan to continue with joint working on a number of areas where economies of scale can still be achieved.

I continue to be on the Cabinet and hold the two Portfolios of the Environment and Neighbourhood Services. In those roles I have placed emphasis on the following: -

1. The Climate Emergency continues to be regarded by your Council as the biggest challenge facing not only the Council, but all of its residents. This is one area where the two Councils intend to continue to work together. During the year, having held a Peoples Inquiry, the Council issued its Climate Action Plan which set out 3 ambitions
 - **Ambition 1 - Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025:** to ensure the two Councils achieve net zero by 2025 and that services provided through contractors include carbon reduction targets to deliver net zero by 2030;
 - **Ambition 2 – Low Carbon District by 2030:** to reduce net carbon emissions from across South Warwickshire by a minimum of 55% by 2030 as indicated by the consultants' reported conclusions and, alongside this, plan how to further reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050;
 - **Ambition 3 – Adaptation 2050:** by 2050 to enable our environment and communities to have adapted to the potential of at least 3 degrees rise in global temperatures by the year 2100. The Councils are currently working with the Met Office to better understand the data relating to the likelihood and impacts of different temperature rises which will likely see:
 - Wetter winters
 - More intense storms
 - Drier summers
 - Prolonged heat waves

The Council is appointing an Officer with specific responsibilities to work with all other parties who will have to contribute to this work.
2. The two largest contributors to carbon emissions are property and transport and in summary the actions taken by the Council to date include:
 - 2.01 In Planning Policy the Council has developed a draft Net Zero Carbon Building Planning Policy Document (DPD) which, having had one round of consultation, is about to go out for a second consultation. The intention is that this important document should become part of the planning regulations by late 2022 or early 2023 for new housing, subject to a successful examination in public. The Council is of the opinion that it is too long a wait for the Government to change the national planning and building regulation policies.
 - 2.02 Climate change has been established at the heart of the new South Warwickshire Local Plan.
 - 2.03 New cycle routes and facilities are proposed at St Nicholas Park, Newbold Comyn, and Victoria Park.
 - 2.04 A new Park & ride facility is to be established at the Asps, Warwick and will be operated by electric buses.
 - 2.05 There are now in excess of 50 additional public charging points in South Warwickshire car parks, and an Officer has been appointed to lead this live programme.
 - 2.06 The Council's own fleet will be 100% electric by the end of 2022. In 2020/2021 we completed 105,000 electric miles from our current electric fleet.
 - 2.07 The new waste collection and recycling contract, due to commence on 1st August 2022, incorporates carbon reduction requirements. The two Councils are part of the Material Recycling Facility (MRF), currently being constructed in Coventry, giving all of the participants more control of recycling.
 - 2.08 We have appointed consultants to provide a feasibility and business case for the development of a hydrogen hub in our District, linked to a solar farm to produce green hydrogen. The report will be with the Council this month.
 - 2.09 The Council has a car sharing scheme.

- 2.10 The Council has provided financial support for rural projects that have sustainability credentials and ensures that rural communities continue to thrive. I am currently working with colleagues to examine the possibility of a grant from the Council for the new Barford Youth and Community Centre.
- 2.11 The Council has switched to 100% renewable electricity for all of its electricity supplies.
- 2.12 The Council has been successful in being awarded in excess of £2million for decarbonising 50 Council homes and also retrofitting of heat pumps, thermal efficiency and solar PV.
- 2.13 The Council has set aside £18million in the Housing Investment programme for carbon reduction measures in Council Homes.
- 2.14 Work to deliver low carbon affordable homes at Europa way is complete.
- 2.15 We have been successful in being awarded further monies through the Sustainable Warmth Competition (SWC) from BEIS to retrofit solar PV, hybrid Air Source Heat pumps and a range of insulation measures to low-income private sector properties to just over 200 properties.
- 2.16 New major projects include low or net zero carbon reduction plans for
 - 2.16.1 The new Community Stadium
 - 2.16.2 The new Leisure facilities in Kenilworth
 - 2.16.3 The Creative Quarter Spencer's Yard.
 - 2.16.4 Developing 43 housing units at Bishops Tachbrook.
 - 2.16.5 The new HQ building of the 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts.
 - 2.16.6 New cycle hire and café at Newbold Comyn.
 - 2.16.7 The Joint venture housing company that the Council has with Vistry to deliver 310 low carbon homes in Kenilworth
- 2.17 The Council has achieved Plastic Free Champion Status.
- 2.18 The Council has promoted the 'Refill Scheme' where residents can refill existing plastic water bottlers at various outlets throughout the District.
- 2.19 We supported national Clean Air day by working with AQMesh who installed 5 air quality monitors at local schools in the District, one of which was outside Barford school.
- 2.20 We have commenced the tree planting programme and appointed an Officer to manage this programme designed to plant 160,000 trees in the District by 2030.
- 3 In respect of Neighbourhood Services there are the following notices:
 - 3.01 A new 1-2-3 Waste Contract will commence on 1st August 2022 for a period of 8 years. The new contractor is Biffa. Details of this will be forwarded to all households in due course since there are changes to the method of recycling. This is another area where the two Councils have entered into a joint contract.
 - 3.02 One separate change is that the discretionary green bin collection service will now be a charged service for those that nominate to be a part of this service. Again, these charges will commence on 1st August 2022.
 - 3.03 The Council is preparing a differential car parking regime based on car emissions and again details will be forthcoming in due course.
 - 3.04 The planning application has been submitted for the first phase of the Tachbrook Country Park.
 - 3.05 Construction will shortly commence on the cycle trails at Newbold Comyn after a successful planning application.