

Minutes of Norley Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 at

7.00 pm at Norley C of E Primary School

1. Apologies

No apologies received.

2. Present

Councillor O'Connor, Councillor Crawford, Councillor Fayle, Councillor Stockton, Councillor Harvey, Councillor Ford, Councillor Sturt, Councillor Querelle and Councillor Wild attended the meeting along with one Parishioner.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Norley Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2016

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Councillor O'Connor – Chair of Norley Parish Council Report

Councillor O'Connor provided the following report:

Welcome to the 123rd Annual Parish Meeting. There have been 9 Parish Council Meetings, and a Highways Site meeting. There was a Parish Councillor attendance 79% and parishioners have been present at all but one of the meetings.

There have been 40 planning applications during the last 12 months. During this year building has been completed for 14 affordable houses on School Bank, named Kingsleigh Close. 6 houses are for shared ownership and 8 for rent. All the houses are now occupied we welcome all the residents to their new homes. A decision on the third planning application submitted for development on the Delamere School site has not yet been made by Cheshire West and Chester.

Norley News keeps everyone informed of events and news in the village and the Parish Council support the Norley News. The Parish Council recognise and thank the management team and all volunteers who deliver this welcome publication.

Last year Cheshire West and Chester made the decision they would no longer be allocating part of the New Homes Bonus into a community fund for Parish Councils. This has meant the Parish Council were unable to apportion the money received to organisations and groups in the village as it had in previous years.

There is an amount of Section 106 money available for 'play and open space' within the village. Earlier in 2017 the Recreation Area Committee received £3,030 of this funding from CWAC as contribution to the children's play area flooring replacement with the promise of another £3,000 for landscaping when the group submit their schemes and estimates. This actually took years of patience and determination by the group and they are congratulated on their tenacity.

During the Norley Neighbourhood Plan development the surveys carried out highlighted that highways issues were a priority for parishioners. The Parish Council have purchased a new filled grit bin, which is sited at the bottom of Gallowsclough Lane. Due to road safety issues CW&C highways department have approved the painting of double yellow lines at the crossroads Blakemere Lane /

Ashton Road / School Lane. Following protracted discussions and speed surveys the highways department will be consulting residents living on Blakemere Lane about a proposal to reduce the current 40 mph speed limit to 30 mph. This will require more than 50% of those who respond to be in agreement with the proposal for further consideration for it to proceed.

In late 2016 Meg Rosney tendered her resignation from her post as our Parish Council Clerk. For the past 10 years Meg carried out her duties in a professional and dedicated manner and offered appropriate advice to the Parish Councillors. We will miss Meg and thank her for her commitment to the Parish Council and wish her all the best for the future. An advert was placed for the Clerk's position and following a paper sift and interview process our new clerk has been appointed. We welcome Gaynor Hawthornthwaite as our new Parish Council Clerk. Gaynor has experience working for other Parish Councils and lives in the village.

Norley continues to be welcoming and thriving village with many clubs, organisations, and activities. Thank you to the many volunteers who carry out, support and assist with so many tasks and roles, which make Norley such an excellent place to live.

4. Jane Leleu Chairman Joint Norley Community Trust Report

As Jane had sent her apologies for the meeting, the following report was read out in her absence:

"I regret to report that the last year has been a very difficult one for the Trust. We have lost our secretary and have not yet found a replacement.

Pauline Cogan and her husband Brian (formerly our Vice –Chair) have worked tirelessly for JNCOT for many years but, having sold their house and left the village, felt it inappropriate to continue.

They will both be sorely missed.

An advertisement for a new secretary in the Norley News for a replacement secretary brought no response. If any one feels they could take on the task or knows someone who could, we would be grateful if they could contact us.

Despite continued assurances the electricity pole is still in position on the Village Hall site.

In September , after some unexplained delays on the part of CWAC's legal and planning department a form of s106 agreement (relating to the planning applications on Crabmill Lane and the Village Hall site submitted in October 2014) which was acceptable to the Trustees , subject to legal advice, was received and, at a meeting on the 28th September 2016, of the Trustees, it was formally accepted and a resolution passed to appoint the Chambers Fletcher Partnership of Northwich (CFP) to give the appropriate legal advice and correspond with CWAC's legal department thereon.

The Scouts will need their own separate legal advisers.

I had an initial meeting with Stephen Worrall of CFP and my husband; in his capacity as Chair of the Estates sub-committee of JNCOT has had two meetings.

We have received a copy of the letter written by CFP to CWAC's solicitor but are as yet unaware that any response has been received.

We understand that the scouts have appointed a solicitor but are not aware what progress has been made

Grant applications are still on hold pending the obtaining of planning permission but successful fundraising has continued throughout the year by JNCOT, the Village Hall sub-committee, the Bowling Club and the Recreation Area sub –Committee including, quiz nights, a Christmas Quiz, stalls at the garden show, book sales concerts/performances and the ever-popular car boot sales.

The Village Hall and Recreation Area sub-committees held a “Right Royal Do” on the 11th June (3pm-7pm) to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday, which was a great success.

The Hall’s Rental income has been maintained at an acceptable level and work to improve the hall has continued, details of which the Village Hall sub-committee Chair will no doubt include in his report.

The Recreation Area continues to be well used and much appreciated and I am pleased to report that the sub-committee has received £3,030 from CWAC as a s106 contribution to the replacing of the wet pour surface and a grant of £10, 000 from Tesco’s Bags of Help fund to make up the deficit. Furthermore, CWAC have promised further £3,000 s106 monies for landscaping when the committee have produced plans and estimates therefore.

Credit must be given to Hilary Wilson for pursuing these funds over a lengthy period

No date has yet been proposed for the JNCOT AGM as it is hoped that progress will have been made with the s106 agreement before it is due and a new secretary appointed. As and when it is held detailed reports will be submitted by the Chairs of the various sub-committees together with the annual accounts and the Treasurers report.”

5. Helen Kelly Headmistress Norley C of E School Report

As Helen had sent her apologies for the meeting, the following report was read out in her absence:

“I would like to start by celebrating our staff. We have a team of dedicated professionals who have worked through some tough times, to continue to ensure we are giving our best to the pupils in our school. For the past 2 years we have had to get used to teaching a whole new curriculum-more challenging than the previous, assessing without levels, changes in testing-and not knowing what to expect until late on. We have an amazing team who has just got on with it, paddling like mad under the surface but keeping their heads above water. Working in a school is not easy but the rewards far outweigh any adversity, knowing you are making a difference to the pupils. So ‘Thank you’ to all our staff for being amazing and keeping on going. What will the government dream up next?

Each term we try to take the pupils out of the classroom and provide a trip or a visit to support the curriculum. This last year has been no exception and included a successful trip to London and Llandudno with class 4. Mrs Buckley does an amazing job in organising every detail of these trips and making sure everything goes according to plan.

We have taken part in lots of Masterclasses this last term. Selected pupils have had the chance to work with Manchester and Liverpool University or to attend course run by the North West Gifted and Talented Group or Weaverham High School.

Our mums came for lunch in February and enjoyed playing with us afterwards.

Grandparents Day was another successful event. Grandparents are often overlooked when it comes to their grandchildren's education. We like to involve the whole family as much as we can and invite them in to look at books and talk to the teachers.

Our school choir have been busy singing at 'The Big Sing' and the Village Party held in honour of the Queen's birthday and then at the Weaverham Music Festival.

As part of our work on raising awareness of the Christian Values we chose to adopt, the boys and girls took part in a project to make a Christian Values Tree. Art teacher Miriam Fawcett joined us for 1 week to make there tree out of textiles. Every child had a go of tie dying or making a felt leaf. All pupils have their name on a leaf and the idea is that we add to it each year. Names will be left on when pupils move schools so their contribution to our school can be remembered. This is in the library area at the front of school.

Last summer the outdoor play equipment we have purchased with our 'Big Lottery Funding', was installed. A mud kitchen, play house, seating, chalk and white boards, planters, wigwams, den building and a pulley system are part of our 'Norley Explorers' project to enhance the school grounds. The local community is very welcome to make use of our grounds, especially the wildlife and pond area. Please contact school for access.

Respect Week tackled British values, equality including racism, bullying and homophobia. The staff used books, stories and circle time and were sensitive to the different age groups. A Jewish man, Jeremy, came to school to talk about his religion and culture. He did a workshop with class 3. We have a display of the issues we focused on during that week.

It seems such a long time since the summer but we have gained our Gold Kitemark for Sport again. Thank you to Mr Hoban, our sports co-ordinator.

The pupils in class 4 wrote letters to the Paralympic swimmers going to Rio in the summer. Some were chosen to form a book/diary that was given to all the swimmers as they arrived at the Olympics. We received a copy of the book the pupil's letters were chosen for and a signed t shirt from the British swimming team that represented us in Rio. We are very proud of the letters that were so encouraging and sincere but also looked amazing. These are displayed in the front entrance.

Discovery Week was a huge success. Thank you to all the governors that were able to provide a workshop session. This brought together all the work we have done on problem solving and application across the curriculum.

School Council have organised dressing up in spots for a donation to Children in Need. Also, a talent competition to raise money for Comic Relief.

In December, our Christmas plays set the scene for this important Christian festival. We would like to thank the church for being so accommodating while we were rehearsing and putting on our plays.

The School Council has been instrumental in choosing the new adventure trail for our playground. Everyone seems delighted with it. The theme of this equipment is 'Challenge Yourself'.

Safety Week was held week beginning 6th February. We always place an emphasis on e-safety but this year included road and water safety along with how pupils can keep themselves safe in general.

We welcomed Paul Delany, local poet and author, into our school for a day during World Book Week. He engaged all pupils in the school and was an inspiration to all especially some of our reluctant

writers who wrote some amazing poems. Paul runs poetry festivals in other authorities and this is something I would like to instigate in Cheshire West, starting with our Weaverham Cluster of Schools.

Our vision is to be able to teach each year group of children, which are at a maximum of 15, on their own for a subject each term. Last term year 5 and 6 were taught separately for Literacy and this term year 1 and 2 will be taught separately for maths. We are currently looking at developing our building to create another learning space so we don't have to use the hall when teaching smaller groups. Watch this space!!"

6. Martin Bell Norley Neighbourhood Plan Report

There was no report from Martin as the Norley Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed.

It was agreed that Martin should be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss any changes which may affect the Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Village Hall Report Councillor Wild

Councillor Wild provided the following report:

Another busy year. We have seen ongoing improvements to the fabric of the building – the gent's toilets refurbishment is largely complete; the ladies' is underway. We have installed new windows to the committee room and gents, and others will follow to replace the old ones, which were in poor condition. Improvements have been made to the kitchen, including the installation of a good quality water heater.

Refurbishment is a continuing process, with much more to do – to the kitchen, the décor and fire doors of the Hall itself, and to the store room. Like painting the Forth Rail Bridge, this is a job that may never be finished, but significant progress has been made. Progress can be slow at times, but this results from our seeking to get jobs done as cheaply as we can, and our reliance on the time and good will of busy people. I must thank in particular the local geocachers, who repainted our committee room.

We have reviewed our cleaning regime during the year, and feedback on the new arrangements so far has been good.

Fund raising – I am pleased to say we are solvent, with a sum of money set aside for the ongoing improvement works that will pay for a good deal - not all - of what needs to be done. Of course, it is never enough, and we will need to continue to fund raise for both our running costs and future works. We are immensely grateful to those, inc. the PC, who have supported us over the years.

We have continued to host a range of activities vital to the life of the village over the year – from social and artistic events to sport, children's parties, Wednesday Club, Women's Institute and many others. Again, we are grateful for the continuing support from local groups. We have run social events, allowed use of our facilities for cycling events and held car boot sales to raise funds.

We have dipped our toe into the murky waters of arts event promotion this year. We ran a successful music event last autumn, with another due soon. These are labour intensive but rewarding events, which the committee think add considerably to the cultural life of Norley. They also attract people from beyond the village.

The Committee will continue to look for new ways to add to Norley's offer, and to raise funds at the same time. We need –always –new members. If anyone is interested in working with us, we would be delighted indeed to hear from you. The Norley News carries an article this month encouraging more engagement from villagers. There is much satisfaction to be gained from working with your neighbours, and making a difference.

A major job for the New Year will be the refurbishment of the Hall floor. This will be expensive, and we have done much preparatory work looking for a solution, and a provider to carry it out. We are not there yet. But we hope to see this work completed in the next few months.

Can I finish by offering my sincere thanks to all those that have served on the Committee, supported us from outside – financially and otherwise, and attended our events. We are lucky to have a lovely old hall like ours – but it is the people involved who really make it work.

8. Common Land Report Councillor Ford

Councillor Ford provided the following report:

In January 2017, I arranged a meeting with David Noble a Solicitor at CW&C and Jason Lambert a senior member of the Environmental team.

I explained the problems which we are having with the Common Land and was informed that the land had no known owners and that the custodianship is as it was in 1999 before Cambrian Estates claimed ownership.

The individual issues were explained to the officers and they agreed, somewhat reluctantly, to follow these up. In March when I contacted Mr Noble he had written a letter but it had not been sent out despite trying to contact both officers. I am not further forward and still awaiting a response.

The one issue which has progressed during the year is the tipping at Gazebank. A “No Tipping” sign has been installed and some locals are not at all happy about it.

9. Open Discussion

There were no items raised for discussion.

Chair Councillor O'Connor thanked all Parish Council Members and Parishioners for their on-going support.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

