

# **Minutes of Norley Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.00 pm at the Norley NCK Centre**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Ann Crawford, Ken Fayle, Terry Harvey, Ian Stockton

Councillor Charles Fifield – Ward Councillor – Cheshire West and Chester Council

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

Martin Bell – Norley Neighbourhood Plan.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Councillor O'Connor welcomed everyone to the 125<sup>th</sup> Norley Annual Parish meeting.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Paul Williams and Gillian Edwards, Councillor Wild, PCSO David Hayes and Jane Leleu.

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of Norley Annual Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The minutes had been agreed and signed by the Chair at the PC meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

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

Councillor O'Connor provided the following report:

"Welcome to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting. There have been 10 Parish Council meetings, and several Highways meetings on site. There was a Parish Councillor attendance of 55% and parishioners have been present at all but 2 of the meetings.

The Parish Council chaired a village meeting about the future of the village shop, The Stores, in April.

There have been 25 planning applications and 1 planning appeal during the last 12 months.

As in previous years highways issues were a priority for parishioners. The Parish Council continues to pursue these for the village and held several highways meetings on site. Some of these meetings related to the proposed purchase of fixed speed indicator devices for key entry points into the village and where they could be sited for maximum effect. The type of devices to be purchased and final positions is currently being progressed. Following protracted discussions and speed surveys the highways department have now changed the speed limit along Blakemere Lane and School Lane onto Post Office Lane to 30mph.

A bid was made to CW&C Councillor Oultram for funding for a memorial stone to be laid at the feet of the Tommy at St Johns Church. Thank you to Councillor Oultram for approving the bid and to the individuals who assisted in laying the engraved stone in February. Included on the engraving are the words from the last verse of Lynn Pegler's poem, Voices of the Norley Fallen.

The Norley Wildlife Group have continued to develop and maintain the Memorial Garden and there is now a path running around the back of garden. Thank you to all the members who volunteer to keep the village looking colourful, including the snowdrops, daffodils and caring for the Norley Wildlife Memorial Walk.

The Parish Council approved the purchase and maintenance of 3 defibrillators to be fitted at various points in the village. The Norley Horticultural Society are donating towards the purchase and Norley

Methodist Church have purchased a defibrillator cabinet. The Parish Council thanks all members of the society and church for their generous donations.

Three of our Parish Councillors have made the decision to stand down this year. Thanks, and recognition is shown to Councillors Dennis Ford, Mont Sturt and Anne Querelle for their time and dedication to the Parish Council and village of Norley. Dennis Ford has been a Councillor for 40 years and prior this he was the Parish Clerk and also a councillor for Vale Royal Borough. This is commendable public service to the community.

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.

The Parish Council continue to financially support the Recreation Area Committee for the children's play area and they are to be congratulated for maintaining this well utilised asset.

Norley continues to be a 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 a vibrant and 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 am delighted to report that this past year has seen some progress for the Trust in that Planning Permission has been granted for both the planned extension to the Village Hall and for the erection of a dwelling house on the site of the existing Scout Hut on Crabmill Lane.

Based thereon, applications can now be made for grants towards the cost of building the extension to the Village Hall and the Fund-Raising sub-committee has been fortunate in recruiting two new and experienced fund-raising volunteers. Meetings are currently being held to identify grant applications and fund-raising ideas.

We await hearing from the Scout Committee concerning their plans for marketing the Crabmill Lane site. Meanwhile the annual Christmas quiz raised more than £800 before expenses, thanks largely to the efforts of the Summers family and Bruce Lane.

We have been fortunate in securing a very experienced new secretary in Peter Hosker who joined us just before the Trust AGM last year.

Unfortunately, the question of the electricity pole on the Village Hall site has not yet been resolved as, we understand from Scottish Power, the new owners of the Freshair School have not yet agreed to the terms of the wayleave agreement for the new scheme. Scottish Power is looking at the possibility of carrying out the scheme in two parts: one of which will include moving the pole on the Village Hall site should the situation not have been resolved by the time the Trust is ready to proceed with the development.

The Recreational Area sub-committee are once again extremely grateful to the Parish Council for the annual £1500 award which covers the expenses of mandatory inspections and self-insurance. This enables the committee to use funds available from other sources to be used for repairs, maintenance and improvements to keep the very popular playground in good condition. A major expense this year has been the replacement of the rubber matting on the infant multi-play equipment. Fortunately, the £600 cost was met by a grant from Ingredion, the company of one of the committee's members.

Painting, fencing and other maintenance has taken place during the year and nest boxes made, supplied and erected by 1<sup>st</sup> Norley Scouts.

A donation of £200 was received from the Garden Show Committee and our sub-committee has itself raised £65 from its stall at the village show and approximately £150 from the sale of Norley Village history booklets.

A meeting has been arranged with a representative from Lane End New Beginnings to discuss the possibility of a grant from the major new development on the old Marley Tile site at Delamere. If such a grant could be obtained it would allow the committee to deal with problems of the netting intended to stop footballs escaping onto the bowling green.

Further fundraising ideas are being explored with the Village Hall sub-committee and the play facility continues to be well attended.

I understand that a report will be presented at this meeting by the Chair of the Village Hall sub-committee so I will not pre-empt that.

No date has been fixed for the JNCOT AGM which generally takes place in July or August. Detailed reports will be submitted by the Chairs Of each sub-committee at that meeting together with the annual accounts and the Treasurer's report."

#### **5. Helen Kelly Headmistress Norley C of E School Report**

As Mrs Kelly was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor O'Connor, a school governor, reported on the continued success of the school. There have been no staff changes and a new classroom has been installed at the back of the school. SATS have taken place this week. There has been a drop in the numbers in Reception, but Schools across the country have also seen a drop in reception numbers this year.

#### **6. Martin Bell Norley Neighbourhood Plan Report**

Martin reported that the Norley Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) was formally "made" on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. Since then, it has been used in Planning Applications and in planning decisions as intended by the Localism Act 2012. There have not been any significant issues arising from the policies in NNP due to lack of clarity or intent.

Currently there is one outstanding planning application.

The NNP includes (Appendix J) a Parish Council Delivery Plan that lists the issues raised during the extensive community consultations with suggested ways to progress these. Perhaps 30% at most have been completed and there are still a number of issues for the PC to address.

The NNP relies on a local housing needs survey which was completed in 2014. The Norley Housing Survey Report March 2014 indicated that 4 Affordable Houses and 8 Low Cost Market Houses would be required over the next 5 years.

It is strongly recommended that a new housing needs survey should be carried out soon this year so that the implications can be added to the plan (if appropriate) in 2019. If this is not done, then other parties may decide it is to their advantage to carry out their own survey and the Norley community would lose control of development issues, as happened recently in Kingsley.

The last survey was carried out by the NNP Steering Group and Cheshire Community Action on behalf of the PC, and I recommend a similar approach. Some members of the Steering Group are available to help me. The cost last time was approx. £1500.

The PC agreed that a Housing Survey should be completed again in 2019 and agreed to assist with this, in consultation with Martin.

#### **7. Village Hall Report Councillor Wild**

As Councillor Wild had sent his apologies for the meeting, the following report was read out in his absence:

"I can report a further year of activity at the Hall which has seen a range of activities take place – cultural (drama and music), social (local clubs and societies and private parties), and sporting (badminton, and exercise classes). Levels of use of the Hall remain high, and it continues to be a crucial part of village life.

We continue the slow but continuing process of updating the Hall. This year we have updated the entrance, renewed entrance lighting, painted the foyer and continued the improvement of the toilets. The last significant job there, new hand dryers, is being arranged. We have had an inspection of the roof in the store area undertaken, and this reveals no need for major work. However, we do plan to clean, rearrange and improve storage area. The next priorities will be the kitchen and bar areas, both of which need work. We will soon be installing a defibrillator cabinet I hope, and improving external lighting to support this.

We remain solvent, though with reserves are a little lower than has been the case in recent years, due to our spending of ring-fenced money on improvements, and a lower level of fundraising. This year should be more raised, and it does seem that we should be able to increase our reserves. We have some interesting events coming up, including a sponsored walk, and a musical entertainment.

The Committee continues to work hard. We have lost a couple of members this year (Judith Hull and Mary Dimelow), but have gained a new one in Michael Gough.

As always, thanks are due to all members for the efforts and to those individuals and groups who have supported us through the year."

#### **8. David Hayes – PCSO Report**

PCSO David Hayes was unable to attend the meeting this evening, but continues to attend the PC meetings when he can and provides regular updates for the Parish Council.

#### **9. Open Discussion**

There were no items for discussion.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm