

Annual Meeting between the Borough Council and Town and Parish Councils

Thursday 28 January 2016 at 7pm

At Newton Regis Village Hall

Present: Councillor Humphreys, Leader of North Warwickshire Borough Council
in the Chair.

Members and Officers from North Warwickshire Borough Council and
representatives from Town and Parish Councils within North
Warwickshire.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2015, copies having previously
been circulated, were received and noted.

2 Matters Arising

None.

3 Budgets

Sue Garner, Assistant Director of Resources, provided a short update on the
current financial situation. Sue explained that the settlement from Government
had reduced more than anticipated and as a result further savings will need to
be found.

County Councillor Parsons asked for the Council's plans for Borough Care and
Councillor Humphreys advised that Borough Care will shortly be subject to a
review and further information will follow in due course.

4 Growth

Core Strategy

Steve Maxey, Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, reported
that various changes had taken place since the adoption of the Core Strategy in
October 2014 including new population and household figures, leading to a
new objectively assessed need for housing, updated employment land figures
and a clearer understanding of issues with neighbours.

We have also been advised by the Local Plan Inspectorate that there is a lack
of housing capacity in urban areas and as a result neighbouring authorities will
be expected to assist. This will result in an additional 3790 dwellings.
Therefore the new emerging housing requirement is a minimum of 5280 with a
further 3790 giving a total of over 9000 properties.

5 Parish Engagement in Community Safety

The North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership includes a number of organisations working together to reduce crime and disorder across the Borough.

The Community Safety Partnership includes North Warwickshire Borough Council, Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue, Police and Crime Commissioner, Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group and other health sector partners and many others.

Councillor Reilly advised the meeting that the Council will soon be engaging with our colleagues within the various Town and Parishes across the Borough to ascertain what Crime and Disorder issues are relevant to them and they believe require specific action. Any Town and Parishes interested in getting involved should contact Councillor Reilly direct. Currently the priorities for Community Safety are:

- Violent crime to individuals;
- Sexual violence;
- Keeping rural communities safe;
- Killed and serious accidents; and
- Anti-Social Behaviour.

6 Neighbourhood Plan (Austrey Parish Council)

Anne Wilde of Austrey Parish Council reported that their Parish Council are in the process of finalising their Neighbourhood Plan which they hope to be in a position to submit shortly.

Anne went on to state that given the national housing shortage, residents in Austrey are concerned about the effect on communities within the Borough and whether producing a Neighbourhood Plan could be considered arbitrary.

Steve explained that Towns and Parishes should be encouraged to obtain the maximum amount of control possible, and therefore in his opinion the production of a Neighbourhood Plan should help Councils to do that.

7 Flooding (Austrey Parish Council)

Austrey Parish Council reported that residents within the village have raised concerned concerns about the effects of flash flooding within their community. Anne Wilde from the Parish Council went on to explain that over the past nine months planning permission has been granted which would result in the current housing levels within the village being increased by 20%. It was therefore considered that this would put extra strain on a drainage system which is already under performing.

Steve Maxey explained that flooding falls within the remit of various agencies. The roads and highways are covered by the Highways Agency, apparatus type queries by Severn Trent, and rivers by the Environment Agency. Steve went on to explain that as part of the planning process Severn Trent are consulted, and if they do not put any objections forward the Council (as the Planning Authority) are unable to refuse on these grounds alone. It should be noted, however, that any new developments will be subject to their own infrastructure.

It is acknowledged that maintenance of the public highways has been neglected which will exacerbate flooding problems and it was agreed that Austrey Parish Council should email any specific issues to Steve Maxey who offered to escalate their concerns with the Highways Agency.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.