

# SYRESHAM PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Syresham Village Hall, Main Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman, Cllr Dorothy Dunkley  
Clerk, Mrs S Hosking  
Cllrs Ian Draper and David Cranwell  
Joely Slinn and Martin Wilson, representing Sustainable West Northants  
2 Members of the Public.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs A Jeskins, C Munsey, D Green, H MacIver and J Haycock and from Malcom Orr-Ewing (Church Warden) and Cllr Dermot Bambridge (WNC Silverstone Ward Councillor).
2. Cllr Dorothy Dunkley Chairman of Syresham Parish Council welcomed and introduced the guest speakers.
3. **Presentation from Joely Slinn and Martin Wilson, introducing Sustainable West Northants**

Sustainable West Northants is a new team at WNC looking at improving sustainability in our area. Aiming at: "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." *United Nations Brundtland Commission 1987*  
Sustainability is not just about the environment, but also has social and economic elements.

The team are monitoring and working to understand the impact WNC has on climate change. And will aim to encourage local people and businesses to reduce impact through leading by example.

**Q:** Is there no data already collected by the previous councils that can be used? Is there business data available? And is there monitoring of major highways in the area?

**A:** Each old district collected different data in different ways. WNC are going to start a new baseline from emissions from the first year of the new council. Will be looking at everything; energy, transport, waste, supply chain. With target announced for Net Zero by 2030, everything changed, so we need to know current emissions and then we can make plans going forward. Businesses monitor their own activities separately – this is where we can lead by example. There is some National Highways data for transport emissions that can be utilised by WNC.

If everyone in West Northants makes a small change towards being sustainable, the collective impact will be huge – we must work together to make changes.

WNC have signed up to UK:100 (A network of local government leaders, seeking to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them). This is another way for Councils to be accountable and share best practice.

Climate on its own is too narrow a framework for improved sustainability.

[The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with 169 associated targets. The team are currently mapping these goals against WNC activities.

The recent WNC Big Conversation online residents' forum covered sustainability. Responses are now being reviewed.

The team is currently developing a Sustainability strategy and workplan.

Q: Does WNC link together with Bucks Council? They seem much more advanced in this area than Northants. It makes sense to work closely with neighbouring councils.

A: Currently we would only be linking with them through UK:100.

Q: Is sustainable travel being included in plans, such as Active Travel Routes?

Buses should also be included to give people in rural areas alternatives to car use.

A: Climate Action plans do include travel, and this is being included in the work plan. These will be published in due course and there will be engagement in this area. Also levelling-up funding – no-one to be left behind, includes Northampton *and* rural areas.

### **WNC Foundation Pledges**

- Net Zero WNC's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants
- Ensure all our Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

A new website has been launched where residents can find out information about sustainability and join us by making their own pledges:

**<https://sustainable.westnorthants.gov.uk>**

Examples of pledges so far are:

- Eliminate single use plastic
- Eliminate recycling contamination
- Eat more plant-based meals
- Increase tree cover across the parish
- Introduce Community fridge scheme
- Assess home energy efficiency

Sustainable West Northants contact details

- Email - [sustainable@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable@westnorthants.gov.uk)
- Twitter - @sustainableWN

Q: It's not easy to identify what plastic rubbish can be recycled and what can't. Can you come out to people and show them? Perhaps the team can visit something like the Syresham Scarecrow Festival with a stall?

A: The team are starting to think about community engagement visiting events. This is something that can be considered.

Q: Community Composting – is there any advice on this?

A: At the moment it could be difficult because essentially in doing this you are responsible for a waste transfer station and there are various checks and forms that would need to be completed for the Environment Agency and may need to get a waste license. Martin Wilson to look into this and advise the Parish Council.

Q: The Parish Council have created a Climate Change and Environment Committee and would like to work closely with the Sustainable West Northants team to get advice and assistance.

A: As the website grows and develops, there will be more information uploaded. There are also local climate and environment groups that the Parish Council can get in touch with for inspiration and information.

There are companies that can help organise recycling points for soft plastics, terracycle items, clothes, toothpaste tubes etc and through this can help local charities raise money.

Q: Have WNC looked at rewilding grass verges? Bucks Council are doing this and Plantlife have lots of information on grassland, verge and roadside maintenance. RSPB producing information on where birds nest, care for roadsides including information on killing weeds and the use of weedkillers. (PAN – Pesticide Action Network, zero glyphosate weedkilling campaign)

A: There will be a review of landscape maintenance across WNC when the Highways contract is considered. Currently the procurement process for the new contract is underway. Considering changes to roadside verge maintenance is in the plan. As WNC is a new council it has the opportunity to look at all the current methods and contracts and review with an environmental eye.

4. Chairman's Parish Council report from Cllr Dunkley

Cllr Dunkley delivered the annual Parish Council Chairman's report. The Chairman's report is available to view on the parish website [www.syreshamvillage.com](http://www.syreshamvillage.com)

5. Approve minutes of previous annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Approved by Cllr I Draper, Seconded by Cllr D Cranwell

6. Parish Council reports were displayed at the meeting and will also be published on the parish website:

Climate Change & Environment Committee

Litter & Flytipping – C Munsey

Streetlights – S Hosking

Village Enhancement – C Munsey

Silverstone Liaison – I Draper

Northants Police Liaison group – I Draper

HS2 Liaison - S Hosking

Roads, pavements and traffic – J Haycock, C Munsey, D Cranwell

Emergency Planning – C Munsey

Swingfield – D Green

Pocket Park – D Dunkley

Parish Council Finances – S Hosking

Turweston Airfield Liaison – I Draper

Footpaths – G and S Brackpool

7. Village organisations, charities and clubs reports were displayed at the meeting and will also be published on the parish website.

Gardening Club

Syresham Times

History Society

Mums & Tots

Bowls Club

Chapel

Friendship Club

Sports & Social Club

Gems

George Timms Charity

Brownies

Churchwarden

Take Your SEAT

Village Hall

Church Charity Accounts

8. Community Police Team report was displayed at the meeting and will also be published on the parish website.

9. Any other business.

Q: Friday night is not really the best night to hold a parish meeting. And bigger posters or emails are needed to let people know about the meeting.

A: The Parish Council will discuss ways in which more people can be encouraged to attend Annual Parish Meetings.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm