

MINUTES OF QUORN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19th JUNE 2007 in the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs E Harrison (Chairman)
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr T Rodgers

Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr T Stirling

Mrs L Swinfield – Clerk to the Council
Mrs K Paterson

1 APOLOGIES

Cllrs D Cawdell & P Webster

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bexon declared an interest in the double yellow lines painted in the vicinity of Dower House Gardens – this subject was briefly discussed.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 2007

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Parkdale Landscaping** – a letter thanking Parkdale for planting out the new Farley Way planter for to be issued.
- b) **The Banks** – As the council is contractually bound to acknowledge the contributions of funders, a Grand Opening ceremony with plaques to be provided by the grant sources was discussed. Preferable date is early autumn. Defer to next meeting. Clerk to write to the Mayor and Chair of County Council to ascertain an agreeable date (weekend would be best) for their attendance. Cllr Bloodworth to contact the Brass Band, resolved.

The residual tar on the brick paving was discussed, this has been passed to Highways who have powerwashed the area, however the problem still exists. Clerk to write again to Highways requesting the bricks are turned over to present a clean surface, although it was clearly pointed out that rectification of the problem should be at the Highway department's expense. Also, dusting and re-surfacing and clarification of ownership of the whole area to be ascertained and put right by Highways, resolved.

5 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

The Clerk will issue copies of the official Constitution. Clerks outlined the reason for clarification of R&R's – to ensure all members participate and that the Clerk is not overwhelmed with a huge workload. All agreed.

6 THE BANKS

- a) **Installation of the dummy lantern** - the final grant of £1k has been received for the dummy lantern. A scaffolding tower will be required to install the lantern, and the Parish Council will hold responsibility for erecting and dismantling the scaffold. Following a discussion whereby a rough estimate of £30 plus delivery for a minimum of a week's hire had been obtained. it was resolved that Cllr Bexon will speak to Cllr Cawdell to see if he can assist. An electricity supply will also be required. Resolved, Clerk to order the lantern.

- b) **Christmas tree socket** – Cllr Bloodworth to take this forward, good news is that there is electricity available now.
- c) **Additional item** – following a discussion about The Banks, it was resolved that the Clerks review Parkdale's contract to ascertain agreed dates/times and venues of their work and to ensure this synchronises with the Open Day. Also to ask Parkdale to use weed killer within The Banks area and to weed the bed under the tree which faces High Street.

7 STAFFORD ORCHARD

No news on the Lottery Bid, hope to hear by September 07.

8 NOTICEBOARDS

It was agreed that the noticeboards in the village were in need of refurbishment, especially the one opposite the shops which needs to be replaced. Resolved, Clerk to obtain a quote from Malcolm Lane who holds the signage template for Quorn, also to request a discount for more than one board. It was proposed to place further notice boards around the village (with easy to use surface); resolved, Cllrs Stirling and Bloodworth to provide a list of suitable venues.

9 SHRUB BED AT NURSERY LANE

The key question was to demolish or renovate – ie. use large, prickly plants to deter vandalism. Resolved, Clerk to ask Chris Hassel to quote for placing bricks along the wall in a 'jagged' edge format, if this is suitable, Kathryn Paterson volunteered to plant suitable shrubs – the Committee thanked Kathryn for her suggestion.

10 LCC APPLICATION - EXTINGUISHMENT OF FOOTPATHS K33 & K34

No objection.

11 REVIEW OF ELECTRICITY COSTS

Powergen are offering a 30% reduction if the account is moved to a one year fixed price Business account, resolved Clerk to instruct Powergen to change the account. A general discussion followed with a view to saving costs for the village as a whole.

12 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS (the following items raised by Cllr Stirling)

a) Memorial Gardens, maintenance work to include the following:

- Clean and paint/add preservative to benches, agreed to keep the colour brown, this applies to all village benches.
- Paint the two electricity boxes.
- Arrange for crumbling and missing brickwork that is part of the flood defences to be restored – the Environment Agency have agreed to do this, only the water side now needs work.
- Have the railings fronting Leics Road painted.
- Repaint the ventilation column.
- Have the pavements around the perimeter swept including the bridge (Clerk to check the Handyman's contract).

(All resolved, Clerk to take forward with Derek Allen, Chris Lester and the Environment Agency, obtain quotes where appropriate before the work is carried out).

- b) **Stafford Orchard light** – resolved this is impractical to repair due to access constraints, to be addressed at a later date.
- c) **Graffiti** – formulation of a policy – Clerk to ask CBC if they have a graffiti policy and if they can provide a service. Cllr Stirling will provide a list of areas where graffiti has been used. A suggestion was muted to try using deterrents such as ivy plants and trellising.
- d) **Mechanical street cleaning and footpath lighting**, quality of service – resolved, Clerk to contact Kevin Biddulph and request assistance. Clerk also to contact Barry Clarke ref shrubs and trees covering footpath lights – ie. Love Lane by the swimming pool.
- e) **Warwick Avenue** – apparently the residents of Warwick Avenue were not consulted over the planned 20mph flashing signage. Noted.
- f) **Display of agendas and minutes** – brief discussion over the public access to agendas and minutes. Noted.
- g) **Cllr Bloodworth declared an interest in the following item: - Continual maintenance of gardens and planters.** The entrance from Old Woodhouse planter – surround is overgrown hiding the planter – this is a common problem and should be added to the contractors specification, resolved. The hotel gardener has offered to treat the weeds on the Village Hall side, but will use industrial strength weedkiller, resolved, Clerk to issue a letter agreeing and giving permission to walk on Parish Council/Village Hall boundary.
- h) **Cleaning of Quorn Brook**, resolved, Clerk to ask the Environment Agency (Ray Robson, 07802335057) if this section is classified as ‘main river’, if so they should take responsibility as this does need a sustainable maintenance programme.

Meeting closed at 4.55pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st August 2007, Village Hall

Chairman.....Date.....