

MINUTES OF QUORN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18th February 2009 @ 4.00pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs E Harrison (Chair)
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr Mr T Stirling
Cllr Mr D Cawdell
Mrs L Swinfield – Clerk to the Council

Note: All Minutes are subject to correction before formal approval at the following meeting. Please check the Minutes of the subsequent meeting to see if corrections were made to these Minutes before ratification.

01 APOLOGIES

Cllr G. Glover (prior appointment), Cllr S. Templeman (prior appointment)

02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Nil. (The Chairman reminded Members to declare any interests either now or at the time that an item was discussed).

03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th November 2008

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

04 **CAVE'S FIELD UPDATE** - Nil

05 ALLOTMENT PROVISION IN QUORN

The Clerk had circulated a legal definition on allotment provision. A list of potential allotment holders is being compiled, and informal investigation reference potential allotment sites is ongoing. Cllr Stirling proposed that an article be placed in the Quorndon magazine – this would be worded to publicise the fact that the Parish Council was investigating the actual need for an allotment site, rather than raise expectations that a site could or would be provided. Cllr Stirling to provide a draft article. All **agreed**.

06 SPONSORSHIP FOR THE BANKS

Cllr Bloodworth reported that two sponsors had volunteered to help with the maintenance of certain areas of the Banks – Parkdale Landscaping will provide labour (free of charge) and Loughborough Road Nurseries will provide plants (free of charge). Cllr Bloodworth proposed that a single sign be erected to acknowledge the Sponsorship, and that the Clerk send a formal letter of thanks to each sponsor. All **agreed**.

Cllr Bloodworth also suggested that she place an article in the Quorndon magazine to raise awareness and encourage sponsorship in the village. All **agreed**.

07 VILLAGE NOTICE BOARDS

a. Following an application refusal (Quorn Football Club) for a further notice board to be placed along Station Road, Quorn, a letter and some photographs had been sent to the Parish Council, requesting assistance with the provision of a notice board for use by the Football Club. The letter stated that the additional board could be used by other village groups, and requested a letter of support from Quorn Parish Council.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a response letter be sent stating that the Parish Council would support an 'extension' to the existing public notice board on Station Road, but it would have to complement the existing board aesthetically (same style, colours etc); and planning permission would have to be granted. The Parish Council has obtained an approximate quote from the existing notice board supplier, and would be pleased to pass this information on.

- b. Quorn Parish Council had delegated responsibility for village notice board management to the Environment Committee, and requested that a brief policy be formulated and issued. Committee members **agreed** the following policy:

- *All notice boards to be aesthetically correct – to be of the same style, colour (RAL 6005 green with gold lettering), shape and design.*
- *Request that CBC planning department notify QPC when a village notice board application is registered.*
- *There may be a variance in actual size of a notice board.*

08 WICKSTEED PLAY INSPECTION REPORT

The latest play area inspection report from Wicksteed was reviewed, there are no H (High Risk) items listed. Noted. If the Parks for People bid is successful the Stafford Orchard play area will be completely redesigned.

09 FOOTPATHS

- a. Love Lane – following complaints received about the muddy surface of areas of Love Lane footpath (section from Rawlins swimming pool to the playing fields – runs from Mansfield Street to Castledine Avenue); the Clerk had contacted Highways requesting a solution to the reported issues. Cllr Stirling explained that due to the fact that parts of the footpath become water logged, causing a very muddy, slippery surface; a solution would be to divert the public footpath and extend the Rawlins footpath.

All **agreed** that a site meeting to ascertain what could be done to improve the footpath should be arranged between Highways, Cllrs Stirling, Harrison and the Clerk.

- b. K24 Footpath, Improvements & maintenance of Public Rights of Way – Quorn Parish Council had discussed the above matter and, following a request for consultation, and the production of a report from QPC had received a response from the County Access Officer : -

'I have included an up to date plan for your records; you will notice there has been a reduction in the number of gates; this is due to alterations after consultations with land owners. The installation of the kissing gates rather than standard hand gates on a number of field boundaries is due to their higher effectiveness in stock control and have been requested and agreed with respective landowners.

The use of yellow waymarker posts together with waymarker arrows is LCC standard procedure, with the use of waymarker arrows being LCC's duty under the Countryside Act 1968. Therefore, I am unable to make an exception for the footpath in question. Furthermore the majority of waymarker posts are already in situ and will be repainted rather than replaced.'

The Parish Council had deferred the matter to the Environment Committee, who unanimously **agreed** that the matter had been dealt with, and that the waymarkers and gates were part of LCC standard procedure, and the gates had been planned in consultation with local landowners. The Committee felt that clear waymarkers were a necessity.

10 BEST VILLAGE COMPETITION

The Committee **agreed** that the 'Village Hall' section of the Best Village Competition should be added to the March agenda for the Village Hall Committee to discuss. Cllr Stirling offered to find out more about the application process. The Committee also agreed that the Clerk should approach Cllr Rodgers to ask if he would be willing to enter the Quorn Website as part of the 'Communication' section.

11 THE SLABS/RAISED FOOTPATH

Following a comprehensive report issued by Quorn and Barrow Parish Council representatives, a meeting is to be arranged between Quorn, Barrow and the LCC Access Officer (Mr PH Wilcox). Ongoing.

12 BUDGET

Cllr Templeman had produced an analysis of the current cash book figures for Recreation and related areas. Cllr Templeman had made a few recommendations:

1. *Underspend on Caves Field of £3,175, carry over to 2009/10 for swings.*
2. *Underspend of approximately £3,000 on Street Furniture – carry over to 09/10 for provision of notice boards.*

Committee members unanimously **agreed** to carry over the above figures as recommended.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. A request (not confirmed) to park cars on Stafford Orchard had been made by the Rotary Club to facilitate their Fun Run on 28th March 2009. Members **agreed** with the proviso that the Rotary Club provides their own marshals (for the whole day), and that they put to right any damage to the area.
- b. A request had been received to change the venue for the Environment Committee meeting on 17th June 09 – Cllr Harrison proposed that the meeting take place at her house at 6pm. All **agreed**.
- c. The Clerk had received three quotes for cleaning the War Memorial, it was **agreed** unanimously to accept the quote of £120.00 from Mr Derek Allen, and to add the War Memorial to the general maintenance list for the village.
- d. Cllr Harrison asked if the 'Emergency Planning' details had been compiled, the Clerk reported that information was being collated. Ongoing.

Date of Next Meeting 22nd April 2009 @ 4pm (time tbc)

Meeting closed at 6 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....