

MINUTES OF QUORN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27th August 2009 @ 7pm in Quorn Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs E Harrison (Chair)
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr Mr P Child
Cllr Mr T Stirling
Cllr Mr J Poland (items 49 – 53)
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.

41 APOLOGIES – received from Cllr Poland (late arrival)

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

43 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th June 2009

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

44 CAVE'S FIELD UPDATE

a. Complaints have been received about the surface of the driveway leading to the cricket pavilion; and there is some confusion over 'ownership' of the drive and therefore of its maintenance and upkeep. Cllrs Harrison and Child held a meeting with Mr Keith Shipway (Chairman of Quorn Cricket Club) to discuss ongoing issues. The meeting was pleasant and co-operative. Mr Shipway explained that QCC wish to obtain 'Clubmark' accreditation, and this would help them to apply for funding to improve the cricket facilities on Cave's Field.

Mr Shipway suggested that QCC could apply for a loan to re-lay the driveway, and QPC would pay the loan back to QCC at an agreed rate/timescales. Cllrs Harrison and Child suggested that both parties meet the costs. There was no clear resolution from the meeting, but Cllr Harrison informed Mr Shipway that a report would be tabled at the Environment Committee meeting, with recommendations to be taken to QPC's September meeting.

The following points were tabled and discussed by the Environment Committee:-

- QCC to apply to grant making bodies for financial assistance in re-laying the driveway
- The driveway is 100 metres long by 4 metres wide
- The driveway was laid by QCC and there is no statutory right of way for residents of Sutton Close
- The driveway is only used by vehicles gaining access to the cricket pavilion, with a few residents using part of the driveway as a short-cut
- The gate used by a few elderly residents is locked on Christmas Day – this is traditionally done by Mrs Sue Templeman – Cllr Child to ask Mrs Templeman if she would be willing to continue this tradition.

All agreed that Cllr Harrison would put the following to full council on 1st September 2009:

1. Should QPC find out legal responsibilities and liabilities – ie. recruit a solicitor?
2. QPC to obtain quotes for re-laying the driveway
3. Consider asking QCC to meet QPC half-way with costs?
4. Put a gate from Sutton Close (north-east corner) to enable residents to gain access, and close existing gateway off, thus negating the need to re-lay the driveway
5. Remove driveway surface and lay turf over the area, this becomes part of the cricket field (many cricket fields do not have access driveways)

45 ALLOTMENT PROVISION IN QUORN

Cllr Child declared a Personal Interest in this item

The Clerk is compiling a list of people who have expressed an interest in tending an allotment, there are currently 38 people on the list. The Clerk has written to the solicitor who is handling the allotment site on behalf of prospective purchasers, asking that letters be issued to each allotment owner. The letters make a simple request – would the allotment holder be interested in selling or leasing their plot(s) to QPC.

The response letter was discussed (copy available on request) and all agreed that the following be put to full council at the September meeting:

- QPC needs independent legal advice reference options – how long they last etc, and QPC to recommend a solicitor to act on its behalf.

46 FOOTPATHS

- a. **Victoria Street/Station Road**, Wimpy managed hedge – Whitelodge Groundcare (QPC's main grass contractor) had cut the hedge back at the most prominent areas, and Wimpy has cut the rest of the hedge back; however Cllr Stirling commented that the top of the hedge had not been cut – Cllr Stirling offered to keep an eye on the hedge and report any issues to the Clerk.
- b. Mr Chris Lester (parish litter picker) has been keeping other footpaths clear of nettles and litter.
- c. Cllr Stirling asked the Clerk to arrange a site meeting with a Highways Inspector to identify a solution for the Love Lane problems, which include sections that are extremely muddy and slippery.

47 THE SLABS / RAISED FOOTPATH

Cllrs Stirling and Cawdell held a meeting with Highways to try to resolve ongoing problems with the raised footpath. It was agreed that some repairs are to be carried out by Highways, who will contact the Environment Agency re creating a cycle/footpath route to free the road. Cllr Stirling felt that Highways Inspectors were receptive to suggestions, however there are some technical problems due to water levels that have to be taken into consideration.

48 TREES IN THE VILLAGE

- a. One response to the request for a Tree Warden has been received – from Stuart Freeman who is currently employed by CBC as the Woodland Ranger for the Outwoods in Woodhouse. Mr Freeman also runs a small business

supplying specialist arboricultural equipment and has many years experience as a tree surgeon.

All agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Freeman accepting his kind offer, but making it clear that this is a voluntary role, and all Parish tree management is carried out on a quotes only basis. The Clerk will draft a letter and pass to Cllr Harrison for comment.

- b. Cllr Stirling commented on the management of all trees within the Parish Council remit, and the new legislation implemented by the British Standards Institute whereby all trees should be checked on a 3 yearly basis by an 'informed person' and a 5 year basis by an 'expert'. Cllr Stirling asked what duty of care QPC had in place for all of its trees. A full arboricultural report had been produced in June 2008 covering all trees on Stafford Orchard Park.

49 BUS SHELTERS

Leicester Road and Meeting Street bus shelters have been renovated, noted.

50 TENDERS FOR 2010 GRASS CUTTING, PLANTERS & BASKETS

Cllr Bloodworth declared a Personal Interest in this item

The Clerk suggested that the Committee should review grounds maintenance and planters/baskets budgets at the 21st October 09 meeting; and to this end, should also review the tenders. Clarity is needed for the old and new Churchyards (which sections should be box-mowed etc) and the High Street leased land. Cllr Bloodworth suggested that Julian Coyle from Parkdale Landscapes should maintain the little Rawlins garden and in future, mow the Banks. All agreed that a specification should be put together as part of the tender process.

51 PLAY AREA REPORT

No critical items to report.

52 FINANCE / BUDGETS

- a. The Clerk had distributed current financial statements for Environment cost centres and codes; these were discussed, nothing to report.

53 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Cllr Child reported that the Sante Maria Bridge will be renovated.
- b. Cllr Stirling reported that the Station Road flooding could be alleviated by the installation of drains. Cllr Stirling to raise this subject under County matters at the QPC September meeting.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 21st October 2009 @ 7pm, Village Hall Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman.....

Date.....