

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on

21st May 2002

PRESENT

Councillor John Hutchinson (in the Chair)

County Councillor Tony Kershaw

Borough Councillor David Slater
Borough Councillor Richard Shepherd

Parish Councillors:

Ivan Bexon
David Cawdell
Tim Tyler
Mrs Jo Backus
Mrs Elizabeth Harrison
David Cawdell
John Maltby

Inspector Steve Boulton
WPC Sam Samaria

Kathryn Paterson (Parish Clerk)

24 electors

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor John Foster and Parish Councillors Mrs Margaret Gamble, Phil Child, Roy Jessop and John Maltby

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2001 Annual Parish Meeting were confirmed and signed.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting especially County Councillor Tony Kershaw and Borough Councillor David Slater in attendance at their first Annual Parish Meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING:

Caves Field has now been purchased by the Parish Council and saved from development.

Disabled parking spaces have now been marked out on Station Road.

The traffic calming project for the Stoop Lane corner has been much appreciated and a letter of thanks has been received..

The Trim Trail on the park has been dismantled due to wear and tear and has been transported to Oaks in Charnwood for use by the Scouts.

New Play Equipment for younger children has very recently been completed on the park at a cost of £27,240.00. Grants have been received and a contribution from a group of village residents totalling £20,000. In addition, the Parish Council had put £10,000 aside for the project from the precept. The Council wishes to thank the group of parents who contributed to the design specification.

Millennium Map The Map, as designed by Don Wix and Ian Keil was officially unveiled by the Mayor of Charnwood in January and is a positive asset to the village.

New street nameplates Two new street nameplates have been bought. They are green and gold and identify two footpaths in the village centre.

Millennium Woodland The proposal by the owners of Quorn Park to gift land in return for the village's support for housing on the Park was overwhelmingly rejected. The Council is still seeking alternative sites.

Jubilee Celebrations Councillor Child has organised commemorative spoons for children in the village. A concert in the park has been arranged for the afternoon of 3rd June. A jubilee ball is to be held on Cave's Field and it is hoped that a footpath walks booklet will be published.

Affordable Housing The issue is still being explored

Aircraft noise continues to be problem. The airport has loaned monitoring equipment over the winter period but a request will be made for summer monitoring, when the air

traffic is heavier. Borough Councillor Shepherd and Mr Graham Stocks from CPRE have a particular interest in pursuing a solution.

Barrow Road closure The County Council has agreed to a trial closure this year.

Oil exploration application The Parish Council opposed this application but it has been granted by the County Council

Car Park Limited waiting time is being pursued. A survey of use has been undertaken by the Parish Council. A plea to Everards for users of the medical centre to be able to use the White Horse car park has been rejected.

CCTV use in the village is being explored by a sub committee

Village hall refurbishment The village has been consulted on plans drawn up by a local architect appointed by the Parish Council. A subcommittee meets regularly to discuss progress.

Best Kept Village entry 2002 The village has been entered in this year's competition but problems such as litter, dog fouling and vandalism persist.

Bus Stop improvements are currently taking place in the village. This is a County Council initiative with Parish Council consultation. There will be delay display installation and new bus shelters.

Slabs Footpath The County Council are hoping to remove the slabs and lay a new surface to make the path part of the national 'sustrans' cycle network. A working party consisting of Quorn and Barrow councillors meet regularly to discuss the proposals

Christmas lighting New ideas are being explored by a subcommittee

Station Road – park entrance The Council has put money aside this year for improvements to the entrance.

Flower Beds are now partially funded from Open Gardens money. A new bed has been installed on the corner of Paddock Close and Wood Lane. The new beds in the Churchyard by Nursery Lane have been totally vandalised. A new shrub bed has very recently been completed in the park. Thank were offered to Cllr Mrs Backus, Mrs Hollingworth and the Environmental Improvements Committee for their design efforts.

HMS Quorn Low key contact continues. Representatives of the village were invited to visit the ship in Portsmouth on 17th May but unfortunately, despite advertising there was no take-up.

Planning matters involve a lot of the Council's time. The local authorities failure to act swiftly on enforcement issues continues to be a major problem. The Parish Council continues to object to new house building and a letter has recently been received from the medical centre expressing the staff's concern at the over-stretching of their facilities.

EVENTS:

Thanks and congratulations were offered to Cllr Mrs Backus for another successful **Art exhibition**. Mrs Joan Bloodworth and Cllr Child were thanked for the **May Fair** and Mrs Bloodworth's arranging of the **Al Fresco** evening the following night.

The Chairman brought people's attention to the currently Leicester Mercury competition in which a minibus is on offer for the most tokens collected.

Tim Rodgers and Joe Buchanan-Woolaston were thanked for their efforts in creating and maintaining the **village website**. This has been up and running for four years now and has attracted over 41,000 visits from all over the world.

Thanks were offered to the following people:

Mr Peter White & colleagues of Leicestershire County Council highways depot in Mountsorrel.

Merle Bruce - the Village Hall caretaker

Chris Lester - the Village handyman

Quorn Police – Inspector Boulton and WPC Samaria

The Quorn representatives on the Great Central Railway Liaison Committee

The village's footpath and tree wardens.

Andy Reed MP

All Parish Councillors for their loyal support, especially Cllr Bexon for his financial expertise, those councillors who act as the parish's representative on outside bodies and those who perform extra duties on subcommittees.

Kathryn Paterson – the Parish Clerk

4 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Kershaw stated that he was very pleased to attend his first Annual Parish Meeting as the newly appointed County Councillor for the area. He thanked the Parish Councillors for their support.

The Barrow Road trial closure will take place before the start of the autumn term. The County Council officers consider it important to gauge the 'knock on' effect during term time. Another major issue which was dealt with during Cllr Kershaw's first year was the oil exploration application. A Parish Council meeting was attended by over 100 members of the public. Cllr Kershaw represented their concerns but was not successful in getting the application rejected. He has, however, been able to reach an agreement with the applicants on a monitoring system. It was noted that the quarterly surgery held at Rawlins with the Borough Councillors have proven very effective.

The comment was made from the floor that the noise from the oil exploration will be minimal compared to the disturbance caused by the quarry.

Another comment was passed on the proliferation of new cycle ways and signs. Why was the public not notified or consulted? People now think that the pavements are for cycling on.

The question was asked as to whether the criteria for gauging the success of the Barrow Road closure could be known in advance. This was followed by a comment that school buses will not be diverted via Farley Way because the drivers want to avoid the speed humps on the Loughborough Road. The speaker felt that if the buses could be made to use Farley Way, 50% of the current problems would immediately be solved. It was noted that any objections following the trial closure would be discussed by the Parish Council.

It was noted from the floor that the bus lane signs are still misleading. The ones on the bypass state that the lane operates Mon-Fri 7.30am-9.30am. The ones on the old A6 leaving Quorn still have the afternoon restriction on them. Cllr Kershaw and the police agreed to investigate.

5 POLICING REPORT

WPC Samaria noted that 213 crimes had been committed over the past year of which 25% had been detected. Theft from motor vehicles amounted to the largest amount. Local issues being dealt with are vandalism, especially on the park, the war memorial gardens and in the churchyard. Skateboarding along Mansfield has also been reported as a problem. Parking at St Bartholomew's primary school remains a perpetual problem and tickets have been issued.

Questions were asked as to whether the police could monitor parking on pavements at Dower House Gardens and Station Road and whether the local unit has been able to obtain additional funding for more community policing. Inspector Boulton replied that he has three extra officers that form a beat officer team which is dispatched to whether problems are.

Cycling through the churchyard was noted as causing a hazard.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cllr I Bexon presented the Council's audited accounts for year ended 2001. He explained the purchase of Cave's Field and that the vandalism costs were actually more accurately nearly £5000 due to an insurance claim for a demolished bus shelter.

7 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Slater noted that this is probably the last year that Quorn is represented with Barrow on the Borough Council. The electoral review has recommended that a new two member ward is formed between Quorn and Mountsorrel Castle. Council tax has risen by 10% but the Borough Council portion of that is 4%. Planning enforcement has not been up to standard but with a new computer and systems matters should improve. Two planning applications for development within Quorn House Park have been refused and the Borough Councillors will continue to object to any applications outside the limits for development. Public speaking is now permitted at Planning Committee meetings. The building of the Soar Valley Leisure Centre is to start in August or September of this year.

Cllr Shepherd noted the structure of the Borough's Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees. He noted that the Scrutiny Committee will decide next week whether it will become involved in aircraft noise issues. Officers have taken a sceptical view as to what the Borough can do to influence matters as it has no legal control. Cllr Shepherd appealed for those affected by the noise to contact him so that he can demonstrate strength of feeling. The airport authority has recently refused to permit another councillor to sit on its consultative body.

A comment from the floor stated that night time flying was proving increasingly disruptive, with disturbance sometimes occurring three times an hour.

Attention was also drawn to the need to fight to preserve green space separation between villages and the Borough's crime reduction strategy.

Comment was made that people on Woodhouse Road are leaving their refuse sacks out at night which leads to them being ripped open by badgers and foxes.

8 GARDEN PRIZES

The 2000 garden prizes were awarded as follows:

Large Garden – 1st = 1 Selvester Drive
2nd = Holly Cottage, Nursery Lane
3rd = 1 Chaveney Road

Medium Garden - 1st = 37 Deeming Drive
2nd = 77 Barrow Road

3rd = 69 Leicester Road

Small Garden - 1st = 39 The Pingle
2nd = 34 Meynell Road
3rd = 60 Soar Road

The overall winner of the cup was 1 Selvester Drive
The Chairman's Special Award was presented to 'The Quorndon Fox' for the third year running.

9 ITEMS RAISED BY ELECTORS PRESENT

The speed reduction humps on Loughborough Road appear to be breaking up. Cllr Hutchinson reported that he has had notice that they will be repaired soon.

A question was raised as to the possibility of parking restrictions on Elms Drive and Spinney Drive. Cllr Hutchinson noted that the Council had been unsuccessful in persuading the police and highways authorities to implement this.

Thanks were offered to the Parish Clerk for her assistance with parishioners' problems and queries.

Mr Stirling regretted not being present at last year's meeting to express his views on the Barrow Road closure. He is opposed to closure but has sympathies with the concerns expressed by the residents. He paid tribute to the Parish Council's work in the village

The meeting concluded at 21.45 with the Chairman thanking all for their attendance.

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

