

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th April 2002.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs J Backus

Cllr P Child

Cllr I Bexon

Cllr Mrs E Harrison

Cllr J Maltby

Cllr D Cawdell

Cllr Mrs M Gamble

Cllr R Jessop

County Councillor T Kershaw

Borough Councillor R Shepherd

Borough Councillor D Slater

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

PCs Samaria and Wells

A MINUTE'S SILENCE WAS HELD IN RESPECT OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of Council, it was resolved to elect Councillor Bexon chairman of the meeting.

02/39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hutchinson, Tyler and Croysdale.

02/40 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th MARCH 2002

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

02/41 POLICING MATTERS

The police have expressed reservations about the trial closure of Barrow Road and would not endorse a closure on the grounds of road safety. The Council has been requested to reconsider its previous support in the light of police comments. Councillor Mrs Backus declared a non-pecuniary interest as she lives near to the affected area. It was agreed after debate to reaffirm the Council's support for an experimental three-month closure.

Community policewoman Samaria was welcomed to the meeting and related the crime figures for March. There had been one burglary in The Sandhills, one theft of a motor

vehicle and one attempted theft. There had been an additional four thefts from places left insecure. Two acts of criminal damage – a fence on Meynell Road and a window at Rawlins. One allegation of indecent assault on the park. Damage by smashing plant pots had occurred on Fridays between 11.00pm and 1.15am by the Castledine Avenue footpath. Notice was given of the nuisance caused by skateboarders in the village centre. PC Samaria agreed to give this her attention and also agreed to spend time observing the top of Nursery Lane where the new brick built flowerbeds were continually trashed at lunchtimes.

An invitation to a police roadshow on 2nd May in Anstey has been received and noted.

A public meeting will be held in Mountsorrel Methodist Church Hall on 15th April. The topic will be ‘speed cameras’. Cllr Mrs Harrison indicated her intention to attend.

02/42 MATTERS ARISING

1 Village Hall

a) The Minutes of the subcommittee meeting held on 11th March were ratified. More members were urged to join the committee.

b) The finance committee has considered the beer festival accounts and concluded that as far as the Parish Council is concerned, the event was a private one, organised by Councillor Cawdell in his capacity as a private individual and CAMRA. A normal hiring fee was paid to the Council for the use of the hall and the Council has no further involvement with the funds from the event.

c) A draft public statement on the Council’s policies towards providing financial assistance was circulated. Members were requested to consider the draft and comments will be discussed at the next meeting.

2 **Cave’s Field**. Completion of the sale has now occurred and the Council owns Cave’s Field. There are one or two minor points that require clarification with the Cricket Club lease. The Council’s solicitor has suggested a meeting between the interested parties with or without solicitors present. It was agreed that Councillors Hutchinson and Bexon, who had previously been involved in negotiating the lease on the Council’s behalf, be authorised to meet to finalise the remaining issues. Councillor Cawdell wished to be a party to the meeting if it could be arranged for an evening. There was discussed about the installation of an entrance sign to the ground noting the name of the ground, that it is in the Council’s ownership and that it is the home of Quorn Cricket Club. The Cricket Club will be consulted.

3 **Golden Jubilee** Councillor Child reported that response forms for commemorative spoons were coming in steadily. Mrs Bloodworth had attended the meeting at Charnwood Borough Council for organisers of Jubilee events and it

was agreed to ask the Borough Council to undertake the publicity and advertising for the concert. The Clerk would assist Mrs Bloodworth in complying with event management regulations.

An e-mail has been received from Mrs Julie Croysdale requesting the loan of the Christmas lights to decorate Cave's Field for a village Jubilee ball. This was agreed subject to the lights being returning complete and in good working order.

'The Quorndon' magazine has requested assistance from the Council and the village in compiling information from village activities and organisations of 50 years ago.

Charnwood Borough Council has agreed to waive the administrative cost for the May Fair road closure as it forms part of the Jubilee celebrations. The Clerk is investigating whether road closure signs can be obtained without cost from another source.

- 4 Joint Responsibility Nursery and planning enforcement The Clerk's draft letter, as presented to the last meeting was approved and will be sent to the leader of the Borough Council, with copies to the Borough Councillors.
- 5 Aircraft noise monitoring Borough Councillor Shepherd has been pursuing the monitoring of aircraft noise by using Borough Council equipment. So far he has not received a very favourable response, but he intends to pursue his inquiries. Cllr Mrs Gamble noted that Mr Graham Stocks was currently attending a meeting at East Midlands Airport in connection with noise management. Cllr Shepherd had been in contact with Mr Stocks. County Councillor Kershaw has been requested to inquire whether the County Council can become involved or lend equipment.
- 6 Slabs footpath Fencing the path had been unanimously rejected by the working party and lighting would only be considered acceptable if it could be low-level. The comment was made that the spillage of light from the football pitch would cause more light pollution than any lamps on the path would do. It was agreed that every effort should be made to keep the path and surrounding area rural. Councillor Mrs Gamble voiced her concerns that although the path would be widened to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, the bridge cannot be and therefore a 'bottleneck' would be created with potentially dangerous consequences.
- 7 Christmas lighting The working party had been given a contact in Barrow-upon-Soar for advice. It was agreed to pursue schemes as soon as possible.
- 8 Planning Green Paper Clarification had been sought and obtained from the LAPLC on the implications of the green paper to Parish Councils. A response has been received noting the wide concern to the proposals although the LAPLC executive has not formally debated the consultation paper. The National

Association is currently collating comment so that a nation-wide response can be prepared. A copy will be available in due course.

A copy of the Borough Council's response has been received, which appears to be broadly in agreement with most of the proposals contained in the green paper.

- 9 Play equipment The Clerk reviewed the current situation: The revised quote from Wicksteeds amounts to £22,200.00. With the addition of fencing and extension of safety surfacing at £5,039 – the total cost of the scheme is **£27, 239.15**.

The Parish Council contribution is £10,000; the WREN grant which has now been approved is £8,000; a SHIRE grant has recently been approved for £4,636; the David Wilson Homes section 106 contribution is £5,000; Astra Zeneca has granted £985; LaFarge - £1,360 and the Quorn Country Hotel - £100. The total funding available is **£30,081**. A meeting will be arranged with Wicksteeds as soon as possible to place the order and begin the implementation of the project.

- 10 Aircraft monitoring It was agreed to request the loan of the monitoring device East Midlands Airport.

02/43 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS.

- 1 Quorn Library – extension of opening hours. The County Council is proposing to extend the opening hours of the library and has put forward several options for consideration. It was agreed that responses should be made by individual library users.
- 2 Road signs. In conjunction with the implementation of the disabled parking spaces on Station Road, the County Council need to install four new signs, two of which will be on new posts. It was generally agreed that there was excessive signage in the village and the Clerk will photograph ones considered to be redundant or unnecessary and refer them to the County Council requesting their removal.
- 3 It was reported that a large puddle has appeared at the top of Cradock Drive on the footpath K9 leading to Chaveney Road.

02/44 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Charnwood's Silver Jubilee. This new publication by local author Don Wix and Ian Keil, is now available locally for purchase. It was agreed to obtain a copy for the Council library.
- 2 Cooking smells from 'The Quorndon Fox'. Borough Councillor Slater has passed

to the Council, a complaint he has received concerning the cooking smells from the kitchen of the public house affecting users of the adjacent footpath. It was agreed to send a polite letter to the publican asking whether the extractor fan vents can be repositioned so that they do blow air across the path.

- 3 Aircraft noise monitoring Cllr Shepherd noted that he is working on a report on how the Borough Council might become more involved in aircraft noise monitoring.

02/45 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Andy Reed MP has written suggesting strengthening links between his office and Parish Councils by sending his parliamentary secretary to the occasional meeting. This was welcomed and it was agreed that, in future, the Minutes would be sent as a matter of course.

- 2 Barrow-upon-Soar Design Statement. An invitation has been received to attend the launch of the Statement on 13th April. Borough Councillor Shepherd will attend and offer the Council's best wishes for the project..

- 3 DEFRA A message of support for Parish Councils has been received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

- 4 The Audit Commission has written to the Council explaining the new arrangements for the 2001-2002 audit. A new company, Hacker Young has been appointed as the external auditor jointly with District Audit. The Council is now subject to an 'intermediate audit' in which the external auditor will carry out a standard 'desk based' review following receipt of an Annual Return submitted by the Council. Mountsorrel Parish Council has e-mailed suggested that the local councils might appoint the same person as an internal auditor as a more efficient method of dealing with Parish Council accounts and operations. A timetable for the regime has been proposed by the LAPLC. It was agreed to purchase the recommended guidance book.

- 5 Best Kept Village competition It was agreed to enter the competition. The Clerk will submit and complete the entry forms.

- 6 Winged Fellowship A grant of £50 will be made to this organisation.

- 7 Lease of land to the rear of the old school, School Lane. Extensive negotiations by the Church Council have failed to achieve a revision of the fee increase imposed by the solicitors acting on behalf of the diocese. It was reluctantly agreed to pay the account of £500 plus VAT. An informal agreement has been made with the Church Council that it will contribute £250 towards the costs.

- 8 Mr Paul Dakin has written to the Council requesting permission to use Stafford

Orchard park for a football week during 3rd-7th June. The Council is in agreement, but it will be noted that the Jubilee concert will take place during the afternoon of 3rd June.

- 9 Mr Jaime Gibbins has contacted the Council requesting that the gap in the hedge opposite his house on School Lane is closed to prevent it being used as a short-cut. This was agreed.

02/46 MILLENNIM WOODLAND

The Clerk gave a progress report on the consultation exercise. There had been an overwhelming response. The information will be collated and analysed for the next meeting. It will be sent out with the next agenda and marked 'confidential'. The closing date for receipt of responses will be 26th April.

ITEMS 9-13 ON THE AGENDA WERE DEFERRED DUE TO COUNCILLOR HUTCHINSON'S ABSENCE.

02/47 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

The working party for village environmental improvements has suggested 'diverting' the £5,000 allocated for a planter scheme on the Stoop Lane corner to improving the Station Road entrance to Stafford Orchard. This was approved, giving a total budget of £10,000 for this area.

It was agreed to proceed with a shrub bed in the park, against the wall of Dower House Gardens as soon as possible as the builders were currently working in the immediate area.

Inquiries are being made of Leicestershire County Council with regard to the small area of derelict land on School Lane.

02/48 PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications were also considered but no comment passed to the planning authority other than those applications for new dwellings where it will be noted that the Parish Council does not consider that the village facilities can cope with any new development:

02/0836 Site for the erection of 1 one and a half storey dwelling and access adj 12 White Street, rear of 35-41 Farnham Street

02/0738 Erection of replacement shop front at 10 & 12 Station Road

02/0722 Erection of a single storey extension to front side and rear of semi-detached house at 4 Willowcroft

02/0750 Erection of first floor extension to rear of detached house at 11 Sanders Road

02/0766 Erection of three bedroom terrace house (revised house type) at plot 1 off Barrow Road

02/0709 Two storey extension for car port and living accommodation to side and single storey extension to rear of semi-detached house at 7 Wood Lane

02/0681 Erection of three-bedroom terraced house (plot 9) off Barrow Road

02/0412 Two storey extension and balcony to rear of dwelling at lower ground and ground floor levels and first floor roof extension for additional living accommodation at 18 Woodhouse Road

02/0629 Two storey extension for offices with fire escape to rear and replacement door and windows to front and rear at 7 School Lane

02/0165 Extension to car park (amended scheme) at The Quorndon Fox

02/49 PAYMENTS

The following payments were approved:

Bird, Wilford & Sale (Cave's Field).....	£25,030.44
J Unwin Ltd – light repair	£206.35
RCC – village hall membershire.....	£25.00
WRG plc – Church Rooms grant.....	£495.00
WRG plc – contribution to play equipment grant	£990.00
LCC Rawlins – photocopying.....	£26.04
Loughborough Road Nurseries – trees.....	£117.50
QPS Environmental – dog scoops.....	£265.81
J Unwin Ltd – electrical work in Village Hall	£726.62
Harvey Ingram Owston – lease for School Lane	£592.50
SLCC publications – new audit book.....	£9.95
CBC – varnish benches.....	£105.75
LPFA – subs.....	£15.00
L&RAPLC – subs.....	£383.20
Local Council Review – subs.....	£10.99
Deposit for Jubilee PA.....	£100.00
Shephed Town Council – photocopying....	£10.81
Walter Dilkes & Son – plumbing repair.....	£193.86
Salaries & Expenses.....	£2,046.54
Inland Revenue.....	£567.80
RCC – Best Kept Village comp.....	£6.00

TOTAL = £31,925.16

02/50 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Borough Council will be requested to clean the bus shelter in Quorn Cross before the May Fair.

The obsolete notice board in the Cross will be removed.

Skateboarding problems in the Cross have been referred to the police.

Traffic issues at the new Mill development site to the next agenda.

The County Council will be requested to remove posts without signs on.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st May.

The meeting concluded at 22.30hrs.