

## **QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2002.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)

Cllr T Tyler (Vice-chairman)

Cllr P Child

Cllr I Bexon

Cllr Mrs E Harrison

Cllr Mrs J Backus

Cllr D Cawdell

Cllr Mrs M Gamble

Cllr R Jessop

County Councillor T Kershaw

Borough Councillors R Shepherd & D Slater

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

3 members of the public

### **02/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J Maltby & K Croysdale

### **02/12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2002**

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

### **02/13 POLICING MATTERS**

There was no police presence at the meeting and it was agreed to write to the LPU inspector suggesting that attendance of the community beat officer would be useful to the Council. Following an inquiry made by a shopkeeper, the direct phone number of the Quorn station would be requested in order to obtain a swifter response when an incident occurs in the village.

### **02/14 MATTERS ARISING**

#### 1 Village Hall

a) The Minutes of the subcommittee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January were ratified..

b) Floor. A quotation of £566.35 (inc VAT) has been received from Graham & Graham Joiners for repairs to the hall and council chamber floors. Another quote, far in excess of this had previously been obtained by Cllr Cawdell. In view of the urgent nature of the repair, it was agreed to accept this quotation which is for

labour costs only. The wood has been obtained by Cllr Hutchinson at a cost of £92.77 (inc VAT).

- c) A request from the Quorn Country Hotel for storage space for portacabins on the car park was not considered viable
- 2 Mayor's civic visit Letters of thanks and a written report of the day from the Mayor's office have been received.
  - 3 Improvements to 'Slabs' footpath An informal meeting between the two working parties representing Quorn and Barrow is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> February.
  - 4 Golden Jubilee The working party has obtained a costing of approximately £3.75 for a commemorative spoon. It is proposed to give one of these to all children aged between 0-11yrs resident in the village. An rough guess is that 500-600 would be required. A leaflet in 'The Quorndon' would also help to identify numbers. Councillor Hutchinson has approached three person who would be willing to contribute historical and nature notes towards a footpath walks booklet. Funding is possible through the County Council.
  - 5 Cave's Field. There is further delay as to the completion of the conveyance as one of the Trustees who had signed the transfer has resigned and a fresh deed may need to be prepared. An agreement has been reached as to the content of a joint press release when the time is appropriate for publicity.
  - 6 Joint Responsibility Nursery and planning enforcement Charnwood Borough Council has resolved to grant planning permission for Joint Responsibility Nursery to retain the change of use of buildings as classrooms despite non-compliance with previous planning conditions. The letter informing Members of this decision notes that although members of the planning committee were 'very concerned' about the lack of progress on landscaping and surfacing, they were advised that it would be difficult to refuse permission for the development, based on those grounds alone. New conditions have been set which state that the landscaping and hard surfacing of the car park must be undertaken within three months of the date of permission (17<sup>th</sup> January).
- Members were appalled at this decision and a strongly worded letter will be sent to the leader of the Council noting how disturbed the Parish Council is at how unjust the planning system is and that a person can play the system to their advantage by ignoring planning conditions. A copy of the letter will be placed on the Parish notice board and released to the press
- 7 Disused garage on Loughborough Road The Clerk has made inquiries of Texaco as to the future of the garage site. The site is not for sale at present. Due to a recent company merger, all assets are frozen until September/October 2003. The Clerk was asked to write to Texaco asking for the site to be improved. The

canopy has moved in the recent high winds and is considered to be dangerous.

- 8 Barrow Road closure A letter has been received from Mr T Stirling of Castledine Avenue raising concerns over the proposed trial closure of Barrow Road. It was noted that the Council has already agreed to support the trial as it was the only option for traffic calming that the County Council was prepared to consider. Cllr Mrs Gamble noted that efforts have been made in the past to re-route the buses, but the Council and Education Authority has no means to enforce this.
- 9 G Gamble & Sons A letter has been received strongly refuting the allegations made by a local business about poor workmanship last month. The letter was noted and the matter closed.
- 10 Loughborough Road shrub bed Due to successful negotiations, an £80 reduction in the Parish Council's contribution towards this scheme has been achieved.

## **02/15 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS.**

- 1 Naming of roundabout on A6. The County Council has requested a suggestion for naming the roundabout at the end of the bypass towards Loughborough. It was agreed to propose 'One Ash' after the nearby property. A request will be made for maintenance work on the roundabout, to bring it up to an acceptable standard.
- 2 Medium term corporate strategy. Circulated for information.
- 3 Brick built planter – Meeting Street. A licence has been issued for a memorial bed to Mrs McQueen on Meeting Street. The bed is the suggestion of Mrs McQueen's sons who would pay for the installation and maintenance. It was agreed to request this undertaking in writing prior to signing the licence.
- 4 Concessionary travel for disabled persons Following recent press reports, a question was asked of County Councillor Kershaw as to the intentions of the County Council with regard to concessionary travel on public transport. Cllr Kershaw noted that the government has changed the system of funding and it is now split between County and Borough Councils rather than totally funded by the County. He felt that the situation had moved on from the impasse it had reached a few weeks ago and was now cautiously optimistic that, subject to a financial agreement, disabled persons will be able to use concessionary travel before 9.30am.
- 5 County and Borough Councillors surgery The next joint surgery will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Rawlins community mobile.

## **02/16 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

- 1 Mapping contaminated land The environmental health department has written to the Council requesting information on identifying sites of potential or actual contaminated land. It was agreed to ask for a map of the village showing which sites have already been identified, the Council can then those missing.
- 2 Wildlife News Circulated for information.
- 3 Periodic Electoral Review The draft recommendations have now been published. As expected, it is recommended that Quorn is joined with a new ward – Mountsorrel Castle.
- 4 End of Civic Year Reception Parish Councillors and Clerks are invited to a civic reception and buffet supper at the Town Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> April
- 5 Housing Scrutiny Committee Meeting in Sileby The Council has been asked to publicise this meeting which will held on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Mrs Backus noted her intention to attend.

## **02/17 CORRESPONDENCE**

1 Mrs A Page has written from Swithland Hall recommending that the Council considers joining ASHTAV – The Association of historic towns and villages. The information supplied will be circulated for a decision at a later date.

2 Severn Trent. Notification has been received that agents working on behalf of Severn Trent intend to install a metering kiosk on the open space at the bottom of Wood Lane. The derelict state of the kiosk at the top of Chaveney Road by Woodhouse Road would be brought to Severn Trent's attention.

3 Rawlins Playschemes A request for grant assistance for the summer playschemes has been received. The sums of £160 and £250 are required. This was agreed for the new financial year. It was noted however, that problems have occurred in the past with the registration process and that some choices of activities were filled before becoming available to the public. A letter would be sent to the organisers stating that the Council cannot grant monies unless all village children have an equal opportunity to participate, with no preference to the children of members of staff.

4 The Bishop of Leicester is hosting a seminar on 'The Shape of Community' in Swithland Parish Church on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Cllr Hutchinson noted his intention to attend.

5 East Midlands Airport Results of the monitoring experiment carried out in Councillors Cawdell's garden have now been received from the airport. The conclusion is that all of the noise recorded events were well within the 90 decibel threshold, the average recorded being 75 dB SEL. It was generally felt that the fundamental flaw to this analysis is that it has been undertaken by the airport's own environmental office. It was believed that the

report would carry more weight if it was independent of the airport. It was also felt that it should be carried out in the summer months – when there is more airport activity. Borough Councillor Shepsherd agreed to ask the Borough Council’s environmental health department to carry out independent monitoring.

6 Barrow-upon-Soar Civic Service An invitation to the Civic Service, which will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup> has been received. Councillor and Mrs Hutchinson would attend.

7 Mr Don Wix has written to the Council expressing his concern upon hearing that the Council has obtained planning permission for building on the Jubilee land outside Rawlins. It will be explained to Mr Wix that the Council intends a total regeneration project to the area which can only be funding by a small amount of house building. Councillor Cawdell undertook to speak to Mr Wix directly on this matter,

## **02/18 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS**

Small changes are required by the auditor. The Council approved the amended final accounts.

## **02/19 CCTV**

It was proposed and agreed that Cllrs Mrs Harrison and Cawdell would investigate the success of Barrow-upon-Soar’s mobile camera and liaise with Neighbourhood Watch and the police to ascertain whether such a device would be useful for Quorn. The Borough Councillors undertook to discover whether or not the Syston pilot scheme had been successful.

## **02/20 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Council members had undergone a training session provided by Mr Tim Harrison. It was proposed by Cllr Tyler, seconded by Cllr Child and resolved that the Council will adopt the new model code of conduct with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002.

## **02/21 BEST VALUE REVIEW OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Mr David Brindley, the headteacher of Rawlins, and Mrs Jackie Edwards, the community vice-principal attended this part of the meeting to talk about the ongoing review of community education. It was explained that the Local Authority has issued a consultation document on the future of community education and concluded that its preferred model is for centrally controlled funding, involving the re-designation of community colleges. This would mean that Rawlins would lose its status as a community college, many of the staff and lose control of its own budget. Mr Brindley and Mrs Edwards felt that the school benefited from its ability to deliver ‘life-long learning’ and that the community would be a poorer place should these proposed changes be put into

effect. It was acknowledged that there are problems with the current system but these stem from the structure rather than deliverance of the programme. Mr Brindley and Mrs Edwards withdrew from the meeting the Council debated the issue.

It was acknowledged that best value does not mean 'the cheapest'. The community requires good provision at a reasonable cost. Although the Council does not have a view on which is the best model for delivering community education, it strongly feels that the current level of provision should be maintained, if not improved. It was agreed to send these comments to the County Council by the end of February and also note that the Council would like to see strong strategic control to provide stability to those delivering the education programme.

### **02/22 COLLEGE/VILLAGE CHARTER**

Deferred until the next meeting.

### **02/23 NOMINATION OF COUNCIL AND CLERK OF THE YEAR**

As previously noted, Cllr Bexon has drafted a statement nominating the Council and its Clerk for a national award. Members were invited to suggest amendments prior to submission.

### **02/24 PLANNING MATTERS**

A list of recent planning decisions has been received. It was noted that the Amirul restaurant has been refused permission for its externally illuminated sign and that enforcement proceedings will be commenced if the applicant does not remove the sign. This will be monitored closely and the planning authority urged to take swift action if necessary.

A copy of the development control charter has been received

### **0187/2 & 0188/2 Erection of 1 detached house and 1 detached house and garage at plots 27 & 28 The Pingle, Quorn**

It is the opinion of the Council that this latest application for these plots is no improvement on the application rejected in May 2001. The over-dominance of 30 The Pingle is greater due to a projecting gable of two storeys, rather than one and locating of a building one metre closer to the garden of number 30. The Council feels that these plots are not suitable for dwellings of these sizes, a view which seems to be endorsed by the plans committee and the national inspector. Another issue for consideration is the apparent lack of turning space on the garage plan.

**The following applications were also considered but no comment passed to the**

planning authority:

**02/001Erection of conservatory to side of detached house at 31 The Pingle**

**02/0079 Demolition of dwelling and erection of 4 bedroom detached house at 26 Buddon Lane**

**02/0131 Erection of first floor extension over garage to side of detached house at 19 Toller Road**

**02/0165 Extension to car park at Quorndon Fox**

This application will be viewed by Councillors Jessop, Hutchinson and Mrs Gamble to ensure that important trees will not be affected.

**01/2819 Installation of an alarm box to front of house (LBC) at 29 Leicester Road**

**02/25 PAYMENTS**

The following payments were approved:

British Gas .....	£62.31
Jane Hollingworth (reimbursement for plants).....	£53.69
John Hutchinson (reimbursement for various expenses)	£125.00
Ian Lockwood (electrical work at village hall).....	£375.74*
Rawlins photocopying.....	£24.82
ESPO (various).....	£587.05
J Unwin Ltd (Christmas lighting) .....	£1,206.61
CBC (election expenses).....	£1,401.37
Flowers by Sarah (wine glasses and decorations).....	£24.90
Walter Dilkes – plumbing repair.....	£41.60
Powergen (street lighting).....	£168.64
Salaries & expenses.....	£2095.13
Inland Revenue.....	£567.76

**TOTAL = £6,358.88**

\* This cheque to be withheld pending clarification

The Clerk agreed to list the cost of criminal damage paid for by the parish over the past year.

Christmas lighting to be placed on the next agenda.

**02/26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An accident had recently occurred on the half-pipe ramp although no official notice has been made to the council

Debris has been washed down the brook from the Wrights Mill site.

The lights across the park will soon be repaired by Unwins

The village website was reported as being very informative and useful. Members were urged to view it and suggest amendments or contributions.

Dog fouling on the village's outer roads such as the Farley Way estate was reported as excessive. Joan Bloodworth will be asked to bring to peoples' attention through her 'Echo' column.

There is a large puddle, probably due to poor drainage, outside Quorn Pine.

The tree foundation is due to plant a donated tree in the park in the near future

The meeting concluded at 22.50hrs

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Chairman.....

Date.....