

## **QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2002.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)

Cllr P Child

Cllr Cawdell

Cllr Mrs J Backus

Cllr T Tyler (Vice-chairman)

Cllr I Bexon

County Councillor T Kershaw

Borough Councillors R Shepherd and D Slater

Mr D Southwart – Internal Auditor

Mrs K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

Members of the public

### **02/136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Gamble, R Jessop, Mrs E Harrison, J Maltby and K Croysdale. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor J Foster

### **02/137 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2002**

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

### **02/138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in item 8ii 'Report of the Finance Committee' in that Chairman's expenses are to be considered.

Councillor Mrs Backus declared an interest in 5iv 'Barrow Road closure' as she lives in close proximity to Barrow Road. It was considered to be a non-pecuniary interest.

### **02/139 POLICING MATTERS**

There was no police presence at the meeting.

## **02/140 MATTERS ARISING**

- 1 Village Hall subcommittee The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November were ratified by the Council. The puppet show was poorly attended but considered to have been a high quality performance. It will be discussed in detail at the next village hall meeting. Cllr Child is currently working on health and safety policies.
- 2 Traffic Regulation Orders and redundant signs Cllrs Bexon and Hutchinson submitted a report containing recommendations to revoke some 'no cycling' regulations and dispose of the associated signage. It was proposed and accepted that the report is adopted and passed onto the County Council for implementation.
- 3 Bus shelters The two locations where opposition to the siting of shelters have been received have been approved by the County Council. The poles will be repainted dark green next year when improvements are made to the No 2 bus route..
- 4 Barrow Road closure The Clerk is continuing to receive correspondence. This month 5 letters of support have been received and 1 against. The County Council has asked for details from the original survey. It was agreed to ask for a meeting to consider progress. Cllrs Hutchinson, Bexon and Mrs Backus wished to attend. Cllr Child also expressed an interest if not within working hours.
- 5 Plan for Quorn One or two councillors have suggested revisions. Cllr Mrs Gamble is saddened to see fishing permitted at the Borrow Pits. She feels that it is an environmental gain already lost. It was agreed to circulate the most up-to-date version of the plan with the next agenda and ask Members to come prepared to suggest amendments.
- 6 ABC The meeting arranged for November 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sileby has been cancelled. The organisation requests a nominated person to represent the Parish Council on public transport issues. It was agreed to approach Cllr Mrs Gamble to see if she would undertake this role.
- 7 Air Traffic An invitation to attend a meeting at Charnwood Borough Council on January 8<sup>th</sup> has been received. Cllr Cawdell agreed to attend
- 8 Parish Lighting A list of the County Council's revised charges for lighting maintenance has been received. It was agreed to contact the DLO and arrange for a meeting to discuss the council's requirements.
- 9 Doctor's clock It was agreed to write to the practice manager offering the Council's assistance if necessary with repairs to the outside clock and the light which illuminates the footpath to the side of the surgery. These were felt to be

important village facilities which the Council should help to preserve.

- 10 Quorn Mill development Following a meeting with the local planning officer, a letter has been sent to David Wilson Homes reminding the company of its 'agreement' to reduce the wall facing the car park to 1.1m after the Parish Council relocated the recycling banks at their request. It was noted however, that the wall has already been rebuilt and recapped. The Council waits to see whether the other suggestions made will be taken up by David Wilson Homes.
- 11 Slabs footpath Cllr Mrs Gamble has written to the Council expressing her concern that a smooth surface, replacing the slabs would encourage dangerous speeding by cyclists. Cllr Hutchinson suggested a separate cycle path inside the existing fence.
- 12 Village Signs The proposed locations will be confirmed by the working party.
- 13 Village Hall redevelopment It was agreed to invite Jackie Scott, the architect to the February meeting of Council as the redevelopment group are rethinking the proposed plans.
- 14 Standing Orders Revised Standing Orders will be tabled at the next meeting and stand adjourned for discussion at the following meeting.
- 15 Wicksteeds The repair to the roundabout has now been undertaken.
- 16 Bus Stop on Woodhouse Road The bus stop for the picking up and dropping off of children has been moved from Woodhouse Road to a safer location on Farley Way.

## **02/141 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

- 1 Branchline The Branchline information was tabled.
- 2 FLAG grant It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the County officer concerned to discuss the Stafford Orchard and Cave's Field fencing projects
- 3 Epinal Way extension A copy of the traffic regulation order has been received.
- 4 Capital projects for next year It was agreed to ask the DLO to consider undertaking a survey on the condition of the underground drainage system at Quorn Cross and the Station Road entrance to the car park.
- 5 Meals on Wheels The service has been let to an external contractor and concerns were expressed that it might not be able to undertake the same social service as provided by the WRVS in terms of referrals and notification to the authorities of people experiencing problems. It was also noted that the new service will only deliver frozen meals once per week. County Councillor Kershaw agreed to ask questions as to how the new contractor will be

overseen.

- 6 123 bus. Cllr Mrs Gamble has written to the Council noting her concern that the 123 bus service now only runs once per hour which is very inconvenient for hospital visiting and those persons without access to a car. Cllrs Child and Cawdell also spoke of bad experiences with the service and Cllr Kershaw said that he had also received complaints. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Kinch bus company detailing these concerns.
- 7 Oil drilling application Planning permission for exploratory drilling has been granted and is likely to commence in March 2003.

## **02/142 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

- 1 Green Waste Collection service The idea of green waste collection was approved in principal but Cllr Child pointed out that the resulting compost would need to be collected from County waste sites which puts it out of the reach of the elderly and those without transport. It was agreed to ask Mr Minshall of Quorn Home and Garden whether he would be prepared to provide an outlet for the sale of collection sacks.
- 2 Wheelie bins Cllr Mrs Backus has read in the press that the Borough Council are considering wheelie bins as an alternative to the present dustbin collection. She expressed strong reservations, as terraced property owners and the elderly would have difficulty manoeuvring the bins down alleyways and the bins would clutter pavements and be a target for misuse. Cllr Child endorsed these comments.
- 3 Community Safety pump-priming fund The Clerk noted that a £1,000 cheque has been received from this fund towards the playground safety fencing.

## **02/143 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 1 Half year accounts. The half year accounts were presented to the Council. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept them.
- 2 Finance Committee report and setting of the precept for 2003-2004 The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November had previously been circulated to Members. It was resolved to accept the recommendations contained within the report and set a precept for next year of £91,530.
- 3 Additional Audit requirements Because the Council's turnover last year exceeded £100,000, the accounts will be subjected to an intermediate audit. Cllr Bexon commented that having re-read the manual on the new financial regime it would seem that the Council is compelled to provide a large amount of additional information to the Auditors. It was noted that other Councils had also complained about the additional work

and expense involved. It was agreed to write to the local MP asking how the new system can be deemed a 'lighter touch' audit.

## **02/144 LANDSCAPING WORKS**

During the summer months the Council had sought tenders for various landscaping works in around the village. Despite six or seven companies being approached, no quotations had been received. The Council instructed the Clerk to advertise more widely in the Leicester Mercury. This resulted in interest from eight or nine more companies and information was sent out. However, only one company – E Hassall & son of Quorn has quoted by the due date and their quote is only for improvements to the Stafford Orchard gates on Station Road. Members considered the design and the price of £10,850. It was considered by all present to be a good design and in view of the considerable efforts made in obtaining quotations, it was resolved to accept the quotation from E Hassall & Son. This acceptance is subject to the addition of lockable posts to prevent parking and the eventual cost to be within the anticipated budget of £12,000.

Mr Cox of the Quorn Wakes Fair would be given sight of the plans and his view sought on the ease of maneuvering his vehicles in and out of the park based on the new design.

## **02/145 CORRESPONDENCE**

1 Mrs Alice Page of Swithland Hall has kindly forwarded information relating to ASHTAV (the association of historic towns and villages) which she hopes the Council will consider joining. The documentation will be passed around councillors for a decision at the next meeting.

2 White Horse pub Notification of the application to transfer the tenancy has been received. It was noted that Mr G Gibson has offered to negotiate with the Chairman of Everards Brewery concerning the relocation of the garage and the improvements to the boundary wall. The correspondence will be passed to him..

## **02/146 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Extraction of sand and gravel and creation of a marina etc at land between Flesh Hovel Lane and Grand Union Canal, Pillings Lock.** These applications are due to be considered by the planning authority on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The recommendation is to grant planning permission. This Council 's objections have been noted.

Cllr Hutchinson noted that surveyors had been observed working on the allotment land behind Loughborough Road. In light of the recent planning application he felt that it was an opportune time to contact the Environment Agency noting that the land drains into Poulteney Brook which in turn flows into Buddon Brook and floods the village centre in times of heavy rain. The Environment Agency would be asked to clarify the status of the land in the light of recent planning guidance PPG25 which deals with flooding and run-

off.

**02/3144 Change of use of 2 ground floor rooms to allow pre-school education use at 2 Hall Leys**

There will be an objection lodged to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate usage in a residential area. The noise and extra traffic that an influx of children would generate would be detrimental to residential amenity.

**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:**

**02/3081 Demolition of store and erection of detached dwelling at 45 Barrow Road**

**02/3220 Site for the erection of a house and garage (renewal of planning permission at land adj 15 Chaveney Road**

**02/3184 Removal of 2 Leylandii hedges, 1 Leylandii, 1 Norway Spruce, 2 Sycamores, 1 Weeping Birch and reshaping of 1 Weeping Willow (conservation area notice) at land rear of 19 and 23 Soar road**

This application has been considered by the Tree Wardens who could see no reason to object.

**02/147 PAYMENTS**

The following payments were approved:

Sileby Photographic Society	£50.00
ESPO – crockery	£460.89
QPS Environmental – dog scoops	£282.35
Rawlins – photocopying	£33.66
CBC – hedge cutting and rent of High Street land	£262.50
BT x 3	£329.49
Society of Local Council Clerks - subs	£72.00
Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust – subs	£30.00
Jackie Scott – Architect’s fees	£1,322.58
Salaries & expenses (Nov)	£2,103.13
Salaries (Dec)	£2,033.25
Inland Revenue (Nov)	£635.98

**TOTAL = £7,615.83**

**02/148 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Information would be sought on obtaining a byelaw to prevent the drinking of alcohol in certain public places. The police view would be obtained as to whether such a byelaw would be supported by the force.

It was noted that the selection of a management body to oversee Cave's Field has not been achieved. The issue will be placed on the next agenda and in the meantime, the Clerk will write to Messrs Cox and Dobson seeking any indication of progress

A letter of gratitude will be sent to Charnwood Borough Council for the gift of the display cabinet.

The meeting concluded at 22.10hrs

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Chairman.....

Date.....