

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st July 2003.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs J Backus
Cllr P Child (Vice-chairman)
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr Mrs S Templeman
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr T Stirling

Cllr T Tyler
Cllr K Croysdale
Cllr Mrs E Harrison

County Councillor T Kershaw
Borough Councillor R Shepherd
Borough Councillor D Slater

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council
D Southwart – Internal Auditor
Members of the public

03/85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hutchinson (Chairman), Councillor Maltby and the police.

03/86 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd JUNE 2003

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment: Page 7 (6) The funding for the new flower beds is to come out of the 'greening fund'.

03/87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

'The Code in Practice' video and workbook supplied by the Standards Agency were circulated.

Interests declared:

Cllr T Stirling (*grant application from Church Rooms – Mr D Bodicoat*) – personal interest as Mr Bodicoat is a friend and fellow bell-ringer.

Cllr Mrs S Templeman (*grant application from Church Rooms – Mr D Bodicoat*) – personal interest as Mr Bodicoat is a work colleague

Cllr K Croysdale (*grant application from Church Rooms – Mr D Bodicoat*) – personal and prejudicial interest as Mr Bodicoat is a friend and Cllr Croysdale is a member of the Church Council – the body making the application.

Cllr Mrs J Backus (*planning application for 10 Meeting Street*) – personal interest as the applicants are friends. (*Barrow Road*) – on-going personal interest

Cllr T Tyler (*purchase of glasses and water jug for council meetings*) – personal and prejudicial interest as he has supplied samples from his company.

03/88 POLICING MATTERS

A letter has been received from Inspector Boulton noting his promotion to Chief Inspector and his subsequent relocation to Loughborough. A letter of congratulations and thanks for the past 7 years service to the village will be sent.

Crimestoppers Appeal – Cllr Mrs Harrison has made some enquires as to the work of this organisation and is satisfied that it is a bone fide charitable trust which encourages people to report crime in anonymity. It requires money to promote the scheme. Agreed to grant £30 under S137.

Members noted that it was extremely encouraging to see the Community Beat Officer and the Community Support Officer so regularly patrolling the village. A letter of gratitude will be sent to the Chief Superintendent.

03/89 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Village Hall Committee. The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June had been previously circulated. Cllr Stirling queried why the deposit had been returned to the hirers of the hall for the event on 26th April when the committee was so dissatisfied with the condition that the hall had been left in. Cllr Child replied that none of the present members of the Committee had been present to witness the immediate aftermath of the event, had to rely on staff and ex-councillors reports, and therefore the matter was difficult to pursue. He noted that there were reasons other than the food mess on the ceiling which led the committee to ban this group or its members from hiring the hall again. It was noted that Minutes of committees should have a ‘final recommendations to Council’ list at the conclusion. It was suggested that the Village Hall and Finance Committees should consider terms of reference and suggest delegated powers to Council.
- 2 Village Hall redevelopment. Planning permission has been granted and the

Council now need to decide whether or not to proceed with the project. The Finance Committee is to meet on 14th July to discuss funding options and place recommendations before Council.

- 3 Barrow Road Closure Cllrs Stirling and Mrs Backus left the room. The Clerk noted that she had identified a total of 398 eligible electors on Barrow Road and the feeder roads off it. She visited each house twice and left a form for those people she couldn't contact on a 3rd visit. She obtained a response from 366 people (a return in excess of 90%). 17 people had no view to express. Of the remainder, when asked 'do you want Barrow Road closed to through traffic?', 122 replied 'no' and 227 replied 'yes'. The Members calculated that 62% were in favour of closure and therefore it was resolved that a recommendation will be passed to the County Council that the road is permanently closed and that traffic is encouraged to use Farley Way instead of Soar Road and Meynell Road as the alternative route.
- 4 FLAG grant The application has been submitted for grant approval. The cost estimates were considerably in excess of the £70,000 budgeted through the precepted £20,000 and the £50,000 maximum grant available. The application has therefore had to be tailored somewhat since presented to the last Council meeting. The main reductions are the reducing of the tarmac path width from 3m to 2m wide, and changing the surface from sealed gravel to tarmac with a stone chip. All electrical work has been deleted from the application but the ducts for the cabling will be installed. It is anticipated that the contract will straddle this and the start of the new financial year so, if the Council desires, it can precept for the lights and CCTV cameras for the next year. Reductions have also been obtained by reducing the tree and shrub planting but again, these can be added to at a later date. Planning permission is required. It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Tyler and resolved to proceed with the amended scheme. Comments were made that the tarmac should be unsuitable for skateboarders and be green in colour and that a tender should be obtained for the original scheme so the Council will know how much shortfall to budget for next year. Comments on the entire scheme as presented in the notice board have been received from several members of the public and were discussed.
- 5 Staff contracts of employment Cllr Mrs Templeman is able to produce a draft if necessary and will liaise with the Clerk..
- 6 Street Cleaning schedule The Clerk had circulated a schedule produced by the Borough Council. There was a query raised as to whether the schedule related to manual or mechanical cleaning. It is the mechanical cleaning which is a cause for concern. Borough Councillor Shepherd will report back that the schedule is not comprehensible. He also noted that Orchard Estate, Castledine Street and Sarson Street are now cleaned daily during school term time.
- 7 Footpath Report Members commented that they had found the previously circulated footpath report an excellent, informative document. Following the

recommendation in the report, it was agreed to apply for an extinguishment order for that part of K33 which goes nowhere due to being intersected by the bypass. A request will also be made for the County Council to approach the landowner to remove a mound of earth currently blocking the path. The first organised footpath walk is due to take place on August 7th. It was agreed that the Council would cover the photocopying costs to advertise the event. The footpath wardens would be welcome to apply to the grants fund for future assistance.

- 8 CCTV Cllrs Croysdale and Mrs Templeman had visited Thurmaston to view the Parish Council's CCTV system. Subsequent to making contact with installation companies and other authorities, Cllr Croysdale intends to file a report by the September meeting.
- 9 Bric-a-brac market This market had been held with the intention to raise funds for the May Day fair. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth was disappointed with the response from the village.
- 10 Play equipment for 10-14yrs to be placed on the next agenda
- 11 Station Road new gates and planters. Some of the lower railings were considered to be a potential hazard due to the spikes on them. Measures will be taken to rectify the problems as a matter of urgency
- 12 Refreshments It was resolved to purchase two water jugs at a cost of £5.99 each
- 13 Quorn Cross bus shelter Two quotations for replacement panels in the bus shelter have been received; £1349.12 from Quorn Glass and £1200 from Crystal Glass of Leicester. An unsuccessful attempt had been made to obtain a third quote. It was agreed to accept the lower quote from Crystal Glass.
- 14 Water connection to the War Memorial Garden. At long last Severn Trent has provided a price of £697.80 for supplying a water connection and meter to the War Memorial Gardens. As Jane Hollingworth needs the supply to maintain the garden, it was agreed to accept the price and instruct Walter Dilkes and son, local plumbers to install a damage proof tap.

03/90 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Periodic Electoral Review. Councillor Kershaw explained that this was an attempt to equalise the numbers of the electorate in the wards. More information is to come.
- 2 Pedestrian crossing at Farley Way. Councillor Kershaw has met with the Director of Highways and Transportation and was told that a pedestrian crossing at Farley Way would be vastly expensive and would not be

considered for this year. Due to insufficient accident statistics, the scheme is low priority although Cllr Kershaw agreed to press hard for it. Cllr Croysdale felt that the policy of an accident-based criteria is discriminatory against rural areas.

- 3 Beech Tree by Quorn Hall. Cllr Kershaw has been notified that a large beech tree in the grounds of Quorn Hall has a large split in it and will be attended to next week.
- 4 Upgrading of 'The Slabs' footpath to a cycleway. Cllr Kershaw asked whether the Council would reconsider its stance on the changing of the Slabs if the lights were switched off at a predetermined time. It was strongly voiced that the Council did not want this path lit at all with standard-style lighting. The issue is not just one of light pollution, it is also the visual impact of the lamp standards leading to the creeping urbanisation of the path. The Council would only re-open this scheme should new proposals be brought to the table.

03/91 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Charnwood Corporate Plan. Advance notification of consultation on the corporate plan has been received. A copy of the draft will be received as soon as possible after July 10th.
- 2 Local Plan Councillor Shepherd reported that 9 greenfield sites are to be left in the Local Plan including Meynell Road. In respect of Armston Road, the development line will be moved back to as it was as of April 2000. A portion of the land will be outside the limits to development.

03/92 PLANNING MATTERS

- 1 Planning Training The Borough Council has arranged a planning training session for 10th September. Cllrs Mrs Bloodworth and T Tyler expressed a wish to attend. Three other councillors would attend if extra dates are added.
- 2 Planning applications received.

03/1595 Site for the erection of a single dwelling at land adj to 10 Meeting Street.

The Council objects to this application as the site lies within an area frequently prone to flooding. There are also ecology issues that should be taken into consideration such as the disruption to wildlife. It was also noted that there are potential highway difficulties as the site is located particularly close to the cross where there is a complex staggered crossroad and mini-roundabout.

03/1377 Use of lake for angling and formation of visitors car park and access track at land at Quorn Fields Farm

The Council strongly objects to this application on the grounds of environmental disruption to an extremely sensitive ecological location. The area is acknowledged by the Loughborough Naturalists and other nature conservation groups as being an important site for breeding birds. Toads are also spawning in increasing numbers. As areas such as these are so rare nowadays, it is important that they are preserved from recreation purposes and the subsequent detriment to the ecology of the area.

The following applications were 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:

03/1784 Change of use from commercial to residential at 67 Barrow Road (Cllr Stirling declared a personal interest in this application as his daughter is a neighbour).

03/93 CORRESPONDENCE

1 Mrs M Gamble has written to the Council commenting on the recently published bus timetable. She is dismayed that only two buses travel through Quorn after 6.00pm. This will not encourage or enable people to make use of public transport or attend concerts or other social activities outside the village. Members sympathised with the sentiments expressed but felt that the issues should be raised with the bus companies.

2 Mrs A McGreevy has e-mailed from Leicester Road raising concerns about the traffic speed in the area she lives, dog fouling and litter. It was agreed that supporting a speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph would not prevent speeding as those intent on breaking the law will do so regardless of signs. The Council is proud of its record on controlling dog fouling and does its best to prevent fouling on its own land such as the park. The Council provides free poop scoops and numerous dog bins. Cllr Bloodworth frequently draws attention to the anti-social nature of dog fouling in her 'Echo' column. It was noted that if Mrs McGreevy could identify the owners permitting their dogs to foul, the Council would support a prosecution. Litter is a persistent problem in the village with several new litter bins having been destroyed. Cllrs Mrs Templeman, Stirling, Mrs Bloodworth and Croysdale would re-examine the situation with a view to considering vandal proof bins and/or alternative methods of litter control.

3 Mr A Southam has written to the Council drawing attention to this year being Cllr Hutchinson's 10th as Chairman of the Council. He will be thanked for his interest.

4 Mr D Bodicoat has e-mailed the Council requesting re consideration of the Church Rooms request for £1,000 grant aid in 2004 to release WREN funding. It was proposed

by Cllr Mrs Templeman, seconded by Cllr Tyler and resolved to budget an extra £1,000 in the S137 small grants fund for 2004/5. It was noted that the Council looks forward to the support of the Church Rooms over the Jubilee Garden improvement project.

5 Mr J Slater has e-mailed from Loughborough Library requesting information as to the origin of the name Whall Close in the village. It was noted that the road was named after the ironmonger who had a shop where the Thai restaurant is now situated. It was estimated that the road was built in 1987/88.

03/94 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1 Footpath from Sanders Road to Spinney Drive (Cllr T Stirling) The problems noted by Cllr Stirling will be referred to the footpath wardens. It was noted that a refuse bin is situated on the footpath outside the Quorndon Fox

2 Moss Chemist Shop Front (Cllr Mrs S Templeman) The shabby condition of the shop front and the lack of disabled access will be noted to the company's head office.

3 General Village Matters (Cllr Mrs E Harrison) Cllr Mrs Harrison expressed her concern that 'Any Other Business' no longer formed part of the agenda. She felt that it was a valuable opportunity to raise matters of minor importance that had been mentioned in passing by villagers. It was agreed that an item 'General Village Matters' would replace 'Any Other Business'.

4 Reporting of Payments (Cllr Mrs S Templeman) Cllr Mrs Templeman felt that the reading out of the cheques is unnecessary as there are other checks and controls in place and a simple periodic monitoring report would be sufficient and therefore reduce the length of time taken in the meeting. It was agreed that this would be considered by the Finance Committee

03/95 THE QUALITY PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME AND TRAINING DAY

The office of the Deputy Prime Minister has produced a document explaining the Quality Council scheme. It is now part of the qualification criteria that a Council has a 'suitably qualified' Clerk. Previously it had been indicated that a portfolio of work would be sufficient evidence of competence. The Clerk reported that this new criteria has incensed many Clerks who have held post for years and would now need to find time to attend and complete a course. The information was tabled.

03/96 PLAY EQUIPMENT REPORT

Wicksted Leisure has produced the quarterly report and noted that the roundabout is loose in the ground. It was agreed to instruct the company to reset the equipment as it

has been classified as 'medium risk'. The Clerk noted that some damage has been caused to nearby safety surfacing and this too needs to be repaired as it causes a tripping hazard. Cllr Stirling reported that, although the new concrete base under the youth shelter is a success, the slabs around the skateboard ramp are now being broken up.

03/97 PAYMENTS

The following payments were approved:

Powergen – street lighting	£168.64
Joint Church Council – School Lane lease	£60.00
Greenwave Technology – e-mail addresses	£41.13
Bellinger Design – landscape services	£2,858.32
E.S.P.O	£91.09
LCC – street light maintenance	£866.18
Powergen – village hall	£51.79
CBC – various	£180.25
ROSPA – annual inspection	£78.14
Wicksteed – quarterly inspection	£35.25
BT x 2	£199.36
Quorn Home & Garden	£23.14
Salaries & expenses	£2,144.90
Inland Revenue	£740.69
Crimestoppers	£30.00

TOTAL = £7,568.88

The meeting concluded at 22.47

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Chairman.....

Date.....