

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th August 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 Mrs E Harrison
Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)

County Councillor T Kershaw
Borough Councillor R Shepherd
Community Beat Officer Clarke
Community Support Officer Kendal

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

03/98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maltby and Croysdale and Borough Councillor Slater.

03/99 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st JULY 2003

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

03/100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Standards Board has issued a new document – ‘How do I register and declare interests, and register gifts and hospitality?’. This replaces the previous document and contains minor amendments designed to simplify the language and clarify common misunderstandings.

The Clerk has now compiled a Register of Interests which will be kept in the Council Chamber.

Interests declared:

Cllr J Hutchinson (*Holloway House planning application*) – personal interest

Cllrs Mrs Harrison and I Bexon (*Holloway House planning application*) – personal and prejudicial interest

Cllr P Child (*grant application by Explorer Scouts*) – personal interest.

Cllr T Stirling (*Declarations of Interest*) – an ongoing interest

Cllr T Tyler (*Village Hall – supply of new keys and locks*) – personal and prejudicial interest

03/101 POLICING MATTERS

Only fourteen crimes have been reported during the months of June and July and only one incident of minor criminal damage during the last two weeks. The owner of the abandoned car parked in the village hall car park has been identified and asked to move the vehicle.

A letter of thanks has been received from Chief Superintendent Stripp for the message of appreciation sent regarding the work of the community beat and support officers.

With regard to information sought by Cllr Stirling concerning an incident which occurred in the village at lunchtime on 10th July, PC Clarke reported that an unprovoked assault took place on a Rawlins student by a member of group of young people from outside the village. The victim did not wish to press charges but PC Clarke will visit the assailant with a warning. Police presence will be in evidence at the start of the new term.

Notification of the annual policing seminar to be held on 7th October has been received. Unfortunately this clashes with the date of the Parish Council meeting.

03/102 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Village Hall Committee. The meeting held on 7th July had been inquorate so Cllr Child gave a verbal report to the Council. Permission was sought for the purchase of a 'Baby Burco' water heater at a cost of £51 and for the electricians to install cabling to house the wires trailing across the hall ceiling at a cost of £140. It was also noted with gratitude that Cllr Tyler has offered to install new locks on a materials only charge basis.
- 2 Staff contracts of employment Draft contracts of employment and a Clerk's job description as supplied by Cllr Mrs Templeman were tabled for consideration at the next meeting. Thanks would be offered to Mr Roy Jessop for liaising with the employment relations company which has supplied the contracts.
- 3 Play Equipment for 10-14yrs It was noted that the Council has only placed £500 in the budget to enhance play equipment this year. The Clerk had applied to a Charnwood Borough Council grant scheme called the Community Cohension

Pathfinder Programme which has £120,000 available for supporting projects in the Soar valley villages and Loughborough areas. Unfortunately the panel felt that Quorn was already well serviced with the existing park facilities and also the mobile BuzBus based at Rawlins. The intention of the Programme is to look at increasing the usage of the Buzbus. Information has been received however, that some funding is available through the Sports Development Officer at Charnwood and the Clerk requested permission to contact the officer with a view to making a grant application. Cllr Bexon noted that the Borough Council's Corporate Plan specifically identifies the intention to encourage the development of play facilities.

- 4 Epinal Way Signage. Letters of response written to the Council and the CPRE in reply to the complaints over the excessive signage on the new road layout had been circulated. Cllr Mrs Harrison felt that the Quorn direction sign on one of the posts points motorists down the new extension rather than into the village. It was agreed that there now exists a hazardous turn on the roundabout when traveling from Loughborough to Quorn due to the hatch marking on the road pushing drivers out toward the traffic waiting at the bypass. There is then a sharp veer to the right to avoid the kerb at the exit to the roundabout. These matters will be brought to the attention of the County Council.
- 5 CPRE reporting of the Slabs footpath Cllr Mrs Backus, as a member of the working party set up to consider the County Council's proposals for 'The Slabs' noted her annoyance with a letter from Joyce Noon (CPRE) recently published in The Loughborough Echo. The letter stated that without the intervention of the CPRE, the Slabs would have been lost as the local councils were told that they had no control over the decision. At Cllr Mrs Backus's request, the Clerk had written a response to Mrs Noon refuting her assertions. It was agreed that the Clerk's response should be sent to the newspaper. The Slabs footpath to go on the next agenda
- 6 Moss Chemist Shop front An encouraging response has been received from the company. Redecoration and signage works will be investigated as will improvements for disabled access. Comments were made about the shabby condition of some of the other shop frontages on Station Road.
- 7 Upgrading of the Parish Council computer It was agreed that the Finance Committee would consider the purchase of a new computer at the November budget meeting. A suggestion has been made by Tim Rodgers that the Council could save the purchase of a CD rewriter by joining the wireless connection in the house. The Clerk's work directory could then be backed up to a CD and an external portable drive. Another advantage would be that broadband would be shared within the house. The proportional cost to the Council would be approximately £100pa. It was agreed to accept these suggestions subject to a satisfactory contract being devised between the Council and Greenwave Technology for the provision of IT support.

- 8 Continuity of Minutes Cllr Stirling noted that he had found difficulty in tracing the history of matters under debate. He suggested keeping the items numbered and 'live' on each agenda until a conclusion has been reached or it is agreed that no further action be taken. It was agreed to give further consideration to dealing with on-going issues.
- 9 Street Cleansing Schedule An e-mail has been received from Cllr Shepherd noting that, if the data can be transferred in a suitable format, all street cleansing schedules should be on the Borough Council's website by mid-September.
- 10 New entrance to park at Station Road Cllr Backus reported that the new planters will be planted up in two weeks time. The tops of the new railing need painting because they are going rusty. Cllr Stirling expressed his concern at the depth of the new tarmac and whether it would be suitable for the heavy vehicles which the fair uses.
- 11 10 Meeting Street The planning application for a new house in the grounds has been withdrawn.

03/103 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The key points in the document are that last year 330,000 tonnes of household waste was generated in Leicestershire of which 20% was recycled or composted. 20% puts Leicestershire in the top 20% of counties in the UK for recycling and composting but more needs to be done. The government has set a target of 33% recycling by 2006. Charnwood has been set an individual target of 36%. The policies contained within the strategy are:
 - 1 – reduce waste growth
 - 2 – meet the statutory targets
 - 3 – try to divert waste from landfill
 - 4 – deliver best value
 - 5 – enhance local economy and employment and minimise environmental and traffic impact
 - 6 – Education and awareness

Cllr Kershaw commented that the County Council will not instruct any Borough or District Council on how its waste is to be collected. Wheelie bins therefore will not be insisted upon.
- 2 Bus shelters. It was noted that the Star Trak system was still not installed in the Cross nor was the one outside Rawlins working. Cllr Kershaw agreed to investigate together with the progress towards changing the shelter outside the school.

- 3 Barrow Road closure. The question was asked as to when the closure will be made permanent. Cllr Kershaw replied that he is waiting for final costings to be prepared which will then need to be approved and signed off by him. He was hopeful that this might occur before the end of the 18 month trial closure and would check where the order was now lodged in the system

03/104 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Performance Plan 2003-4. Tabled for information.
- 2 Corporate Plan 2003-4. Tabled for information.
- 3 Action for a Better Charnwood Minutes of previous meetings and agenda for August 5th tabled. It was noted that this group's meetings tend to clash with Parish Council meetings.
- 4 Annual Meeting with Parishes Notes on the meeting had previously been circulated. It was noted that the Parishes tend to share common problems
- 5 Naming of street The Council has been asked to suggest a name for a small cul-de-sac off Farnham Street. Several names were considered but it was felt most appropriate to forward the name 'Westley Close' after Harold Westley who, with his wife Annie was a Church Warden and Sunday School teacher from at least 1942. Their bungalow backed onto the street in question.
- 6 Emergency Planning The Clerk agreed that her name and contact details should be submitted to the Borough Council as an emergency contact point should a 'rural incident' ever occur. The contact details of the current Chairman of Council would also be submitted.

03/105 PLANNING MATTERS

- 1 Enforcement On 9th June a new case was opened to deal with the unauthorised change of use of a residential property to a mixed use for residential and the parking of a commercial vehicle at 26d High Street
- 2 Local Plan Deferred to the delay caused by the Borough Council needing to confirm the procedure for publication.
- 3 Planning applications received.

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:

03/2114 Extension to form garden room and entrance hall to front of nursing home with alteration to car parking area at Holloway House, Sutton Close

03/2189 Cutting down of 3 Conifer trees (Conservation Area Notice) at 16 Chaveney Road. (This application has been considered by the Tree Wardens)

03/2190 Lopping branches of 4 Yew Trees (Tree Preservation Order) at 16 Chaveney Road. (This application has been considered by the Tree Wardens)

03/2074 Removal of branches of 1 Ash tree and crown reduction of 1 Willow tree (Tree Preservation Order) at 14 Sanders Road. (This application has been considered by the Tree Wardens)

03/2152 Erection of conservatory to rear of semi-detached house at 59 Farnham Street

03/1090 Extension for conservatory to rear of detached house at 25 Paddock Close

03/1717 Erection of single storey extension to side of detached house at 75 Loughborough Road

03/2161 Erection of single storey extension (revised scheme) with two additional rooflights at 45 Beardsley Road

03/2050 Single storey extension to rear of detached house at 1 Mansfield Street

03/1980 Erection of two and single storey extension to rear of detached house at 100 Chaveney Road

03/2014 Two storey extension to rear of detached house at 12 Selvester Drive

03/1771 Erection of a single storey domestic workshop building at land rear of 43 and 45 Farnham Street

03/1998 Erection of double garage to front/side of detached house and erection of boundary wall at 54 Chaveney Road

03/1867 Erection of 1 detached dwelling at land adj to 41 Farnham Street

03/106 CORRESPONDENCE

1 Mrs K Collie has e-mailed the Council requesting grant assistance for the Explorer Scouts to take the Institute of Environmental Health Food Hygiene Certificate as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The cost is £13 per person. It was agreed under S137 to sponsor up to 12 Scouts from the Council's grant fund.

2 Leicestershire Rural Partnership Annual Report, Oakleaf newsletter funding information for a 'Better Communities' grant. All information tabled.

3 Rural Community Council Invitation to apply for a trustee position. Noted.

4 The Countryside Agency – draft map information for Parish Councils. Registered Common Land or Open Country In connection with The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Agency has been given the task of identifying and producing maps of open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land in England. The draft map has a consultation period of 3 months until 30th September. An amended map will then be issued as a provisional map and once any appeals are concluded, it will become the conclusive map. Commencement of the new rights is expected to be in place by the end of 2005.

The only area of village common land in the knowledge of the Members and marked on the draft map is the small area of river bank at the end of Freehold Street on Soar Road. E-mail communication has recently been received from Mrs G Maltby who lives opposite the land noting her concern at the neglect of the blossom trees which were planted on the area at the instigation of Miss Facer, a former member of the Council. The view was expressed that the entire area is in need of attention and it was agreed to seek a tree surgeon's advice on the trees and to repair and repaint the benches. Cllr Bexon felt that the land should be registered with the land registry to prevent ownership challenges.

5 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – Consultation Paper on Indemnities for Relevant Authority Members and Officers This paper had previously been circulated. It was felt to be an unexceptionable piece of proposed legislation with no great effect on Parish Councils.

6 Mr M Roberts - dangerous cricket balls. Cllr Mrs Templeman drew Council's attention to a letter received from Mr Roberts of Cradock Drive who is concerned at the increasing amount of cricket balls leaving the ground and landing on the property of Cradock Drive residents. The Clerk has acknowledged the letter and assured Mr Roberts that the matter will be debated at next week's Cave's Field meeting. The view was expressed in the meantime that the issue was a matter between the residents and the Cricket Club and the Club has a responsibility as the lessee of the ground.

03/107 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY

The minutes of this meeting had previously been circulated. The appointment of Cllr Bexon as Chairman of the Committee was ratified by Council. It was noted however that Standing Orders state that Chairmen of Committees should be appointed at the AGM of the Council.

The main purpose of the meeting had been to consider the funding of the village hall extension if approved by Council. It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr

Child and unanimously resolved to accept the committee's recommendation that the Council employs a professional fund-raiser to advise on fund raising options and likelihood of success. Cllr Child knew of such a person and would approach him with a view to undertaking a report

It was resolved to accept the following recommendations of the committee:

'in future two councillors should be able to sign cheques prior to the meeting. The corresponding invoices should also be signed. At or before the Council meeting a list of payments would be circulated.'

'the approval of bank reconciliations would be delegated to the committee'

'the council's accounts to move to a computer-based system running parallel with the existing system for a three month period'

It was also proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Hutchinson and resolved that Council needs to build up reserves. £10,000 not currently committed is in current balances and will be moved into reserves.

03/108 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

Following circulation of the accounts, it was proposed by Cllr Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr Child and resolved to accept the end of year accounts and to sign the statement of assurance.

03/109 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Despite meeting with three companies, only two quotations have been received, one this evening. It was agreed to defer consideration of Christmas lighting until the next meeting when it is hoped, three quotations will be available.

03/110 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1 Wood Lane planting scheme (Cllr J Hutchinson) Cllr Hutchinson was anxious that this scheme, which had been considered previously, was not forgotten. It was agreed to include in next year's estimates although Cllr Bexon advised that money was available this year through the 'greening fund'.

2 Plan for Quorn (Cllr I Bexon) In response to a paper submitted by Cllr Bexon and subsequent debate, the following resolution was passed: *'that a Policy and Plans sub-committee be set up, meeting quarterly to a) monitor and report to Council on progress against the 'Actions' in 'Plan for Quorn'; keep the 'Plan for Quorn' up to date and arrange for publication of the 'Plan for Quorn' at appropriate intervals.'* Cllrs Hutchinson, Bexon, Child and Stirling volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

3 Public participation at Council meetings (Cllr I Bexon) In response to a paper submitted by Cllr Bexon and subsequent debate, the following resolution was passed: *'That for an experimental period of six months, an agenda item limited to 15 minutes duration of 'Public questions and contributions' is scheduled immediately following 'Apologies'. At the discretion of the Chairman members of the public may ask questions, raise matters of concern and suggest topics for future Council agendas'*.

4 Coat of Arms and Flag for Quorn (Cllr T Stirling) This matter deferred for future debate subject to Cllr Stirling producing a paper for consideration.

5 Overgrown hedges and trees (Cllr T Stirling) It was agreed that prior to the official letter being sent by the County Council to owners of overhanging trees and hedges, the Parish Council would prepare and send a more 'friendly' informal letter requesting cut back to prevent footpaths being obscured.

6 Structure of Committees and Council meetings (Cllr T Stirling) This matter deferred for future debate subject to Cllr Stirling producing a paper for consideration.

7 Motion for debate 'That this Council considers the cleanliness of the pavements, streets and footpaths to be unacceptable' (Cllr T Stirling) This motion after discussion failed to achieve a seconder.

8 L&RAPLC delegates report (Cllr T Stirling) Cllr Stirling reported that the meeting he had attended had been addressed by a representative of the Leicestershire Primary Health Care Trust. Cllr Stirling had drawn the meeting's attention to the intrusive signage at the end of the bypass and had warned other representatives that they too may be subject to similar signs following the building of new roads. The next meeting will be held in Quorn in November.

9 Aircraft Noise Regulations (Cllr P Child) Cllr Child noted that an EU directive has introduced new legislation managing aircraft noise. The law will formally demand that airports give consideration to how they will manage noise control. Unfortunately this only applies to the ten busiest airports and excludes East Midlands. A letter will be sent to the Department of Transport querying the exclusion of EMA especially as it is the only one involved in night flying.

10 Charnwood Road Safety Committee and the governing body of St Bartholomew's primary school (Cllr P Child) Cllr Child is not able to represent the Council on the Road Safety committee. Cllr Mrs Templeman, as the council's other representative, will ascertain if the requirement is for two members, or whether she can continue as the Council's sole representative. Cllr Child also gave notice that he has had to resign from the governing body of St Batholomew's Primary School due to pressures of time.

03/111 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM (APPENDED FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

03/112 PAYMENTS

The following payments were approved:

Philip King – decorator	£720.00
Severn Trent – water connection	819.91
Severn Trent – supply	223.41
Rawlins – photocopying x 3 months	£102.71
CBC – varnish benches	£141.00
Crystal Glass – reglaze bus shelter	£1,410.00
Charnwood Town & County Tree Services	£170.38
Dell Products – computer memory	£38.74
Wicksteed Leisure – play equipment repair	£687.38
British Gas	72.80
Employment Relations Services	£70.50
CPRE – subs	25.00
Salaries & expenses	£2,182.13
Inland Revenue	£737.47
CBC – hedgelaying	£131.91

TOTAL = £7,533.34

03/113 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Harrison requested that a seat be provided within the fenced-off portion of the children's playground

Cllr Mrs Backus felt that the County Council should be called out to view the state of the shrub bed on Loughborough Road

Cllr Stirling reported that the Diana bed requires weeding

Cllr Stirling reported that a bench seat on the park needs repairing

Cllr Stirling reported that the allotment site behind Loughborough Road has been surveyed by Severn Trent. Cllr Child noted that yet again he has been approached by a developer to sell his allotments.

Cllr Stirling noted that the brook through the park is in poor state with weeds and debris choking it.

Cllr Hutchinson reported that a couple of willow trees on Cave's Field need cutting back as they have become top heavy and are overhanging properties on Sutton Close.

Cllr Hutchinson reminded members of the first Parish Walk, due to be held on August 7th.

The meeting concluded at 22.40.