

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th October 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 J Maltby
Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)

County Councillor T Kershaw
Borough Councillor R Shepherd
Mr D Southwart – Internal Auditor
19 Members of the public

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

03/128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E Harrison and K Croysdale, Borough Councillor D Slater and the police

03/129 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Sue Holt from School Lane asked the Chairman whether any consultation with the residents of School Lane is planned before the implementation of additional youth facilities on the park. The Chairman gave his assurance that consultation would take place and would be coordinated by Cllr Croysdale as a member of the working group appointed to explore the provision of youth facilities.

Mr Alan Southam from Wood Lane raised the matter of the bus shelter outside Rawlins College which has been a source of concern to both the college and the village. He wondered whether, should be relocated, it could be transferred to the junction of Wood Lane and Leicester Road. The Chairman noted that the County Council had agreed to the removal of the shelter outside Rawlins and its replacement with a more suitable type for that location. Discussions had taken place with the County Councillor and it was likely that the shelter would be moved to the end of Wood Lane.

Mr John Siddons asked the Chairman whether the Council was in agreement that the village neither wants, nor can sustain a new development such as the application

currently under consideration for Meynell Road. Mr Chairman replied that it is the intention of the Council to debate the application later on in the meeting.

Mr Terence Chadwick from Huntsman Close addressed the Council on transport and traffic flows within the village. He noted that prior to this meeting a limited census had been taken and the results showed that Quorn needs an integrated traffic management plan. He urged the Council not to support piecemeal solutions especially before final decisions have yet to be taken on Barrow Road and the new Meynell Road application. As a supplementary statement he noted his and other peoples' difficulties in obtaining responses from County Councillor Kershaw during recent attempts to contact him. The Chairman replied that the Planning and Policy group would consider the matter and make a formal request to the County Council to undertake a review of traffic management within the village. He requested that Mr Chadwick and his neighbours prepare a paper on the perceived issues for councillors to consider.

Mr Paul Carroll from Station Road asked that the Council takes into consideration the possible future access to Rawlins when debating the Meynell Road planning application. He felt that the introduction of the access into the application is undemocratic and should be rejected as it is not part of the Local Plan and therefore has no relevance.

Mr Richard Guise from Cradock Drive asked how did the Council know that the majority of Quorn residents wanted money spent on Christmas Lighting? The Chairman replied by assumption.

03/130 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2003

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

03/131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests declared:

Cllr I Bexon (*New Shakespeare Company – grant application*) – personal interest as his wife is a member of the group

Cllr J Maltby (*installation of new village entry signs*) – personal interest as his company is currently storing the signs.

03/132 POLICING MATTERS

An e-mail has been received by the Council concerning the increase of aggressive driving through the village, particularly in the area of Leicester Road. It was agreed that the police have the necessary equipment, skills and legal powers to deal with this issue and therefore the concern will be passed to them. Cllr Mrs Templeman agreed to raise the matter at the following night's meeting of the Charnwood Road Safety Committee. Cllr

Bexon commented that people need to come forward as witnesses to anti-social behaviour. Cllr Child noted that the same equipment which records traffic flows can also record average speeds.

03/133 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Confidential matter It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Child and agreed that this matter be no longer dealt with in confidence.

The Clerk had circulated notes of a meeting held on 17th September to discuss the provision of affordable housing on Meynell Road. Officers of Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council had been present. It was noted that the possibility of including an element of affordable housing in the current application is not viable as the site is not big enough. The adjacent land is now under consideration. Although not in the Local Plan as development land, it has received a strong indication from the planning officers that it might meet the criteria as an 'exception site'.

- 2 Village Hall Committee. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September had been circulated. Cllr Bexon warned that expenditure is increasing over expectation in the budget. If the committee foresaw this rate as continuing, it might be necessary to vire monies from other budget heads. Cllr Child expressed his concern that the health and hygiene standards in the kitchen might not meet the requirements for a village hall. It was agreed that the Clerk will seek advice from the Borough Council..
- 3 Play Equipment for 10-14yrs It was noted that the application forms for the Borough Council Community Sports Development fund have now been issued. Cllr Mrs Templeman agreed to make inquiries as to the type of project likely to be funded. Borough Councillor Shepherd offered his assistance. It was agreed that any new facility should encompass more than enhanced skateboarding.
- 4 Epinal Way Extension. A plan has been received with a suggestion for revised lane markings. Cllr Stirling felt that the proposed hatching would push traffic out and towards the traffic joining the roundabout from Loughborough. Members agreed that it would be better to leave as two carriageways.
- 5 FLAG grant Planning permission with conditions has been obtained for the Jubilee Gardens. Charnwood Borough Council is due to discuss the grant application for the site in the near future. For the suggested phase 2 of the scheme, involving the surrounds of the Church Rooms, the Church Rooms Committee (CRRAM) has been appraised by Cllrs Bexon and Hutchinson of the plans and the members are most enthusiastic. A meeting will be arranged with members of the Council, the CRRAM committee, the Rev Bowler, Leicestershire County Council highways officers, a WREN grant officer and Fenella Bellinger (landscape designer) to consider a joint funding application. It was noted that

consideration should be given at this planning stage for power provision and ducting for future Christmas lighting in this location.

- 6 Christmas lighting A new company (Blachere) has been approached for a quotation and the committee unanimously agreed that the new scheme was the best submitted and therefore an order has been placed in accordance with the expenditure sheet submitted by Cllr Mrs Templeman. Confirmation of a successful grant application to the Borough Council for festive lighting (matched funding up to £2,000) has been received. The possibility of extending the order placed, and thereby maximising the grant offer, by lighting the shops on Station Road was discussed and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Child and agreed to vire £2,000 from the Village Hall redevelopment budget to Public Lighting for this purpose.
- 7 New Shakespeare Company The company has requested £100 for the purchase of props. It was proposed by Cllr Tyler, seconded by Cllr Hutchinson and agreed to make a grant out of the S137 fund.
- 8 Installation of village entry signs Three companies were approached to tender for this work. One response has been received from E Hassall & Son for £875. It was agreed to accept this quote. Cllr Bloodworth agreed to join the village enhancement group and it was suggested that another meeting might be in order to discuss future enhancement projects.
- 9 The Slabs footpath Cllr Stirling has made contact with Lafarge Ltd which will examine the slabs and give an opinion on their condition. Mrs Joyce Noon from the CPRE has agreed to provide any background historical information required to support a listing or funding application.
- 10 Street Cleansing schedule It was noted that this is not yet available on line.
- 11 New entrance to park at Station Road The park gates are now padlocked as children had been observed swinging on them.
- 12 Barrow Road closure At a recent meeting convened by local residents in connection with traffic problems in the village, a county council officer had stated that the closure of Barrow Road 'was not a foregone conclusion'. County Councillor Kershaw assured those present that the closure will be made permanent as soon as possible and that a landscaping consultation had been requested.
- 13 Inoperative light outside The Thatch Borough Councillor Shepshed suggested several ways forward to motivate the design and conservation department into getting this light fixed. He was requested to use whatever authority he could to bring a swift conclusion to this on-going problem.

- 14 Caves Field Cllr Mrs Templeman had produced a draft public statement for issue calling for interested parties to offer themselves as possible Trustees. After debate it was agreed to refer this matter to the next agenda for further consideration.
- 15 Disability Discrimination Act Cllr Hutchinson had attended a course run by the L&RPLC and noted that the village hall lavatories at present do not comply with the Act.

03/134 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Pedestrian crossing at Farley Way The County Council has stated that St Bartholomew's school has shown no interest in compiling a 'travel plan' which would greatly increase the chance of obtaining a pedestrian crossing at Farley Way. Cllr Mrs Templeman offered to attend the Governors Annual Meeting with parents to see if she could raise any support for working with the Parish Council to bring pressure on the County Council. Cllr Child also offered to attend. County Councillor Kershaw noted that with the lack of accidents and without the support of the school he would find it very difficult to press for money to construct a crossing.
- 2 Rawlins bus shelter and the Startrak system Councillor Kershaw noted that 'terrible problems' were occurring with the system and follow up for repairs is not happening. He also cannot obtain a date for the removal of the Rawlins shelter.
- 3 Overgrown shrub bed on Loughborough Road One quotation has been obtained, others are being sought.

03/135 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Christmas events. The annual list of events has been received.
- 2 Local Plan Comments on the modifications are sought. It was agreed to write and support the inclusion of the area of Quorn Park, off Armston Road into the village limits.
- 3 Charnwood Together – Corporate Plan Tabled for information.

03/136 PLANNING MATTERS

- 1 Planning applications received.

03/2634 Site for residential development, land off Meynell Road

The following observations were made

- The Parish Council's policy document 'Plan for Quorn' states that the Council will not object to proposed development within the Local Plan.
- There is enough local interest and concern over this application that planning conditions and a Section 106 agreement should be pressed for.
- Should affordable housing on or adjacent to this site be permitted, an access to Rawlins through a housing development is not desirable or practicable.

After discussion it was resolved that the Council will not object to this application subject to the planning authority negotiating the following conditions with the County Council's Highways Department:

- That a 30mph speed limit is introduced on Meynell Road
- That traffic calming measures are installed on Meynell Road

The response will also comment that the land reserved as a possible new entrance to Rawlins Community College is considered impracticable and would be better served leading off the roundabout at the end of Barrow Road.

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:

03/2475 Single storey extension to rear of garage at 8 Rumsey Close

03/2718 Erection of first floor extension to front and side and single storey extension to rear of detached house at 14 Beardsley Road

03/2902 Uprooting of 1 silver leaf maple tree at 24 Soar Road

Unauthorised development at Quorn Borrow Pit The planning authority is seeking the view of the Parish Council on the unauthorised construction of a car park and pedestrian bridge access to serve angling on the Borrow Pit. It was agreed to respond by urging commencement of enforcement action. The Council has consistently objected to any development within this ecologically sensitive area.

03/137 CORRESPONDENCE

1 Mr Bill Edwards of Chaveney Road has written to the Council resigning his position as 'Archaeological Warden'. He will be thanked for his efforts.

2 Mr Phil Hubbard of Kelcey Road has e-mailed the Council concerning problems he is experiencing with school students using the public seat near his house during the daytime and by others late at night. He regards the bench as a focal point for nuisance and anti-social behavior. The point was made that the seat had been installed at residents' request and with consultation. One councillor noted that he regularly walks his dog in this area late at night and has never witnessed anybody near the seat. It was agreed to write to the

residents in the area, noting that the bench had been situated at their request and would they now like it to be removed.

3 Wicksteed Play Inspection The inspection has highlighted that the damage (wear and tear) to the Spiraglide has now reached medium risk level. It was agreed to accept the company (and manufacturer) quotation of £1100 to repair the equipment. Minor damage has been caused to the skateboard ramp and Mr Mick Lee, local builder will be asked to repair. Severe damage has been caused to the fence and gate surrounding the multi-play area. The inspection considers that the gate is beyond repair and a quotation will be sought for its replacement. The damage was reported to the police. Once again the issue of monitoring by CCTV was discussed and Cllr Croysdale's report is due for consideration in the near future.

4 Barrow-upon-Soar's Remembrance Day An invitation to the Remembrance Day service has kindly been received.

03/138 FOOTPATH REPORT

The first draft footpath leaflet has been produced and reviewed. It was considered to be very good and grateful thanks were passed to the footpath wardens for their hard work monitoring the paths in Quorn and surrounding parishes.

03/139 TREE WORK QUOTATIONS

A fairly large amount of tree works needs to undertaken within the village and the Clerk has sought to obtain three quotations. Two have been received from Oakdale and Quorndon Tree Services. The quotations were considered and the work apportioned.

03/140 PLAN FOR QUORN

The working group has met and produced an up to date checklist for outstanding work. The medical centre has forwarded a quotation for repairs to the clock, but more are to be obtained.

03/141 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

All members had received a print out of the cash book showing receipts and payments to date and bank reconciliation. The payments were approved.

03/142 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

Notice was given of the creation of a fund to raise money to place a seat in the War Memorial garden in memory of Miss Armston who owned the newspaper shop where the Thai restaurant now is. A £50 donation has already been received.

Quarry blasting. The 'big bang' in the summer has led to a board of inquiry. The quarry has given assurances that this was a freak incident and will not occur again.

There have been many complaints about the condition of the brook running through the park. Townlands Charity is attempting to resolve the matter with the Environment Agency.

The question was raised as to whether Parish Councillors should join the County and Borough Councillors' surgeries. It was pointed out that the Council now holds public participation sessions and that being local, councillors should make themselves available to the public at any reasonable time.

Cllr Bexon noted the circulation of a BNP leaflet in the village which he found offensive and sinister.

Cllr Stirling reported that the day trip to visit HMS Quorn was most interesting. He will be preparing a report for 'The Quorndon'.

Cllr Stirling reported that 30 street lights are currently out including 15 on the bypass and roundabout. These have been reported to the Highways Agency.

Cllr Mrs Templeman reported that she had had a conversation with an expert on allotment gardens who had commented that privately owned allotments which are not well used are difficult to protect from development applications.

The meeting concluded at 22.40

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Chairman.....

Date.....