

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd December 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 J Hutchinson (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs E Harrison

County Councillor T Kershaw
Borough Councillor R Shepherd
Borough Councillor D Slater
PC I Clarke

3 Members of the public

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

03/143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Maltby.

03/144 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Alan Southam from Wood Lane brought to the Council's attention that next year will be the tenth anniversary of the Chairman's term of office. He felt that the Council should mark this in some way and suggested a minimum of £500 should be set aside. Mr Southam was assured by the Chairman that the matter would receive consideration by other Council members.

03/145 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th OCTOBER 2003

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- 03/133 (13) Borough Councillor Shepshed to read Borough Councillor Shepherd
- 03/142 Councillor Stirling reported that 30 street lights are currently out to read 13 street lights are currently out.

03/146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests declared:

Cllr P Child – *Caves Field. Since the constitution of the cricket club has changed, Cllr Child is now a member of the club and declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrew as a member of the working party to consider the future management of the field.*

Cllr Mrs S Templeman – *Caves Field. Cllr Mrs Templeman was unsure whether she had an interest to declare since her interest in the cricket club is purely social. After a brief discussion and advice from the Clerk and other members she declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest.*

Cllr K Croysdale – *Caves Field. Cllr Croysdale declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest.*

Cllr T Stirling – *Planning application for 30 Nursery Lane. Cllr Stirling declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in this application as the father of the applicant works part-time for him.*

03/147 POLICING MATTERS

PC Clarke was questioned as to the police view of the possible removal of the public seat by the lakeside on Kelcey Road. Some problems have been experienced by residents being disturbed by youths meeting by the seat. PC Clarke was of the opinion that the situation is under control and being monitored. He felt that relocating the bench would just move the youths elsewhere and the village shouldn't be deprived of a pleasant facility.

Cllr Bexon asked how the police handled truancy in the village. PC Clarke replied that they have occasional day operations organised through the educational welfare service and in addition, they do ad-hoc pick-ups.

PC Clarke was thanked for his attendance.

03/148 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Correspondence arising from last public participation session Letters pertaining to traffic issues and the Meynell Road application had been circulated. It was noted that a paper is still awaited from those residents who called a public meeting to air their concerns on traffic matters. Once received and the issues are fully understood, the Council will approach the County Council to raise the concerns.
- 2 Village Hall Committee. The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November had

been circulated. Cllr Child noted that the new vinyl flooring was down in the kitchen and that the committee had discussed replacing the main hall floor next year. Money to cover this has been included in the budget proposals. Cllr Bloodworth pointed out some inaccuracies with the Minutes which will be rectified at next week's committee meeting. There was some discussion on the accessibility of committee meetings to the public and it was agreed that the two properly constituted committees – Village Hall and Finance should have their agendas and minutes available for public inspection and the meetings should be open to all.

- 3 Play Equipment for 10-14yrs Cllr Mrs Templeman has been inquiring into the availability of the Community Sports Development Grant Fund. The Borough Council has approved money for next financial year but applications will be assessed on a strict criteria of consultation and need. Cllr Mrs Templeman and the Sports Development officer will work closely with Rawlins Youth Club to make sure that any application meets this criteria. It was noted however that the fund will only aid skateboarding and playwall type projects. Cllrs Mrs Templeman and Croysdale will continue to ascertain the needs of this age group.
- 4 Jubilee Gardens project A grant application to Charnwood Borough Council for £18,000 to complete the original project has been successful. The money will be available in the new financial year. Cllr Bexon noted that this will enable Council to restore the £10,000 borrowed from reserves. Cllr Bexon reported on a meeting held with the representatives of the Church Rooms Restoration project and the Rev Bowler. The meeting discussed phase II of the village enhancement scheme which will improve the forecourt and car park of the Church Rooms and the highway between the Gardens and the Church Rooms. There was complete agreement to move forward together with the committee and the Parish Council applying jointly for a WREN grant.
- 5 Lakeside bench Four letters have been received in response to the consultation. It was considered to adopt the police view on this matter and leave the seat in situ for the next few months. The police will be asked to keep up the regular monitoring. Issues raised in the letters such as the condition of the fencing and amount of litter in the area will be referred to Charnwood Borough Council as the land owners.
- 6 Borrow Pit Papers have been circulated showing the planning authority's intention to pursue enforcement action with regard to the establishment of a car park. Planning permission will be refused for the application to use the lake for angling.
- 7 Epinal Way extension It was reported that the County Council is in agreement with the amendments suggested for the revised lane markings at the roundabout.
- 8 Slabs footpath Cllr Stirling reported that he has ascertained that the original slabs

are of Mountsorrel granite and the recently sold section of LaFarge which deals with pre-cast goods has some paving slabs in stock which could be used to replace the modern ones and restore the footpath as near as possible to its original state. It was suggested that he liaise with County Councillor Kershaw for support and was thanked for the hard work and urged to continue.

- 9 Barrow Road It was reported that Barrow Road will definitely be permanently closed by Christmas.
- 10 Installation of village entry signs Some delay is being experienced due to the County Council needing to know more about the planters intended for around the base of the signs. It was agreed to proceed with installing the signs and the planters can then be constructed at a later date..
- 11 Inoperative light outside The Thatch Borough Councillor Shepherd is still working very hard to get this situation resolved.
- 12 Street cleansing schedule Cllr Stirling noted that this is now available on-line.
- 13 CCTV Cllr Croysdale agreed to provide a report in the new year.

03/149 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Pedestrian crossing at Farley Way Cllr Mrs Templeman reported that when a Travel Plan was suggested to St Barts Primary School some years ago, the staff felt that they could not involve the school in the level of commitment required at that time. It is recognised that school support is vital for the School Travel Plan to succeed. Cllr Mrs Templeman has discovered that the traffic lights at the Farley Way crossroads are due for renewal in 2004/5 and if the County Council can be convinced of the need for a pedestrian crossing as identified in a Travel Plan, then upgrading the lights to a crossing should be possible.

Cllr Mrs Templeman has recently met with and got the support of the Head Teacher by stressing that the school staff would not be asked to undertake anything other than minimal effort in constructing the Plan. Mrs Templeman has obtained the names of six governors and parents prepared to help on a working group. An article for 'The Quorndon' and St Bart's newsletter will now be prepared. Mrs Templeman will now visit County Hall to discuss the upgrading of the traffic lights to a pedestrian crossing.

- 2 Bus shelter maintenance It was agreed to suspend the cleansing contract for the two shelters on Leicester Road and Loughborough Road for three months.
- 3 Branchline information Tabled.

03/150 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Recycling consultation. It was agreed that councillors would send individual responses. Cllr Slater recommended attending the public consultation evening which are taking place around the Borough.
- 2 Westley Close (off Farnham Street) Borough Councillor Slater noted that two breaches of planning conditions are under consideration; the lack of hardsurfacing and visibility splays
- 3 Amenity site near Loughborough Cllr Bexon noted his concern with the difficulty of access to the waste skips, that people had to shift bags up slippery metal steps.
- 4 Unauthorised development at the Bowls Club Cllr Child informed Members that he has received confirmation from the Borough Council that they are investigating the development and whether any damage has been caused to trees.

03/151 PLANNING MATTERS

- 1 Planning applications received.

03/2307 Erection of 3 bedroom bungalow and garage land r/o 39 Nursery Lane

An objection will be lodged to this application on the grounds that Nursery Lane is an extremely narrow one-way lane with no passing places and is a thoroughfare for school children. It is felt that too many applications have been, or are being submitted for Nursery Lane and the road cannot safely accommodate the additional traffic these developments would generate.

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:

03/3305 Reduce row of Beech trees by 50% (TPO) by 102 Station Road

03/3135 Cutting down of 1 Poplar tree (Conservation Area Notice) at 3 Stoop Lane

03/3277 Pollarding of 1 Ash tree (Conservation Area Notice) 68 Station Road

03/3198 Removal of 2 lower branches of 2 Douglas Pine Trees (Conservation Area Notice) at 9 Meynell Road.

03/3255 Site for the erection of a single storey dwelling (previously refused) at 40 Woodhouse Road

03/3206 Erection of conservatory to rear of house at 29 Leicester Road

03/0694 Site for the erection of one dwelling at land adj to 87 Meeting Street

03/152 CORRESPONDENCE

L&RAPLC Consultation papers concerning the future of the Parish Councils' Association in Leicestershire had been circulated with the agenda. It was agreed to support the five recommendations and note that this Council has found the training and education seminars useful. Tighter links between the Association and the Society of Local Council Clerks is to be encouraged.

Mr Hearndon of Victoria Street has written to remind the Council that the problems with vandalism to the fence at the bottom of his garden and generally unacceptable behavior in the area continue. The open space is maintained by the Borough Council, although it remains unadopted. The fence is still in the ownership of the developer (now Taylor Woodrow). Correspondence from that company earlier in the year indicated that they were considering a solution. The Clerk will write again asking for the result of their deliberations.

Parish Dog Warden Scheme A letter from a company in Lincolnshire, offering dog patrol services has been received. It was agreed to make enquiries of the Borough Council as to what the legal position would be, should the Council consider employing the company. It was noted that apart from Caves Field and the footpath leading down to Woodhouse Road, there were no significant areas of dog fouling.

03/153 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November had been circulated prior to the meeting together with the half-year accounts and the budget estimates for next year. Cllr Bexon spoke on the budget estimates noting that it is a significant increase from this year's precept but that it involves several major projects which will be dependant on the obtaining of grants in order to proceed. In addition, the auditor's recommendations to build up reserve and contingency funds have been taken into account. Cllr Mrs Templeman had prepared a comparison with other parishes and even with the proposed increase for next year, Quorn is only slightly above average. It was unanimously resolved to adopt the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the setting of a precept of £124,450.

It was resolved to accept the half-year accounts. Thanks were offered to the members of the Finance committee for the preparation of the budget.

03/154 CAVE’S FIELD

There was a fairly brisk debate as to the merits of applying for charitable status for the management of the field. Some Members were reluctant to see a perceived loss of control of the facility whilst others were mindful that the optimum means of obtaining funding would be through a Trust. Eventually it was agreed that motions or proposals for the future management of the field should be submitted in time for distribution with the next agenda.

03/155 VILLAGE HANDYMAN’S HOLIDAYS AND LITTER PICKING

Problems with increased litter have occurred when the handyman takes his holidays during school term time. It was agreed to explore the possibility of a casual contract to cover these absences.

03/156 VILLAGE EVENTS – CLLR T STIRLING

Agreed to defer until next month’s agenda.

03/157 PAYMENTS LIST

The payments list for September-December had been circulated with the agenda. It was resolved to approve all payments

03/158 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

A new quotation of £595 plus VAT has been received from English Clockmakers to repair the medical centre clock. It was resolved to either pay this invoice directly or to make a grant of £595 to the medical centre under S137.

Cllr Mrs Harrison requested that absent councillors be informed when meeting dates are changed.

It was noted that Townlands Charity are attempting to liaise with other relevant authorities to clear the litter out of the brook.

The Chairman wished all a very merry Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 22.00

Chairman.....

Date.....