

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd August 2004.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs J Backus

Cllr P Child (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs S Templeman

Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth

Cllr Mrs E Harrison

Cllr T Tyler

Cllr I Bexon

Cllr T Stirling

Cllr J Maltby

Borough Councillor D Slater

PC N Smith

Community Support Officer C Kendal

Mrs K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

Mrs B Holland – Administrative Assistant

04/123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hutchinson, County Councillor T Kershaw and Borough Councillor Shepherd

04/124 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public present.

04/125 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th JULY 2004

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

04/95 addition to the end of paragraph 4 *'It was accepted that Councillor Stirling's views as expressed during the police open meeting were his own and he was not speaking on behalf of the Council'*.

04/126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests declared:

Cllr Stirling – *Personal interest in the planning application for floodlights on Rawlins playing fields as a neighbour.*

04/127 POLICING MATTERS

a) Community Support Officers As agreed, Cllr Bexon has drafted an article for The Quorndon requesting comments on the possibility of the Parish Council partly funding a CSO from next year. Although his initial comments on the draft were favourable, Chief Superintendent Feavour has now asked for a eight week delay before publishing in order to clarify the situation with central government. If this were to happen, the council would miss the deadline for publishing and consequently would not be able to report the village's views to the budget setting in November. Chief Superintendent Feavour is out of his office for the next few weeks and therefore is unaware of this problem. It was proposed by Cllr Stirling, seconded by Cllr Mrs Harrison and agreed that with a minor alteration, the draft be submitted for publication.

b) Police report The police reported that 16 incidents had occurred during July, the most serious of which were 3 dwelling house burglaries and 2 other burglaries. The statistics were reasonably good given the time of year. Generally the incidents were of a minor nature. Attention was drawn to the bottom of Barrow Road where cars were still getting thorough the bollards. The situation of young people gathering at the end of Nursery Lane has worsened since a back gate has been unlocked at Rawlins. CSO Kendal agreed to approach the school requesting that it be closed again. The police are aware of a certain 'instability' at the start of each new school year and will be vigilant. The police were thanked for their attendance.

04/128 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Report of confidential meeting It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Stirling and resolved that this item should no longer be treated as confidential. A planning application for the provision of affordable housing adjacent to the proposed development on Meynell Road is due to be submitted by the East Midlands Housing Association. The Parish Council has acted as prime instigators in promoting this scheme and has facilitated meetings during which the project has been discussed with the County and Borough Councillors, and County and Borough Officers together with the Rural Housing Trust and East Midlands Housing Association. Some aspects of the application are still unresolved such as the cul-de-sac serving the site. It has been the wish of the Parish and Borough to see this road curved round into the original development site to prevent any future access to Rawlins. There will have to be discussion with the Education department to find out whether this option can be closed off. It was proposed that a letter be sent from the Parish Council to the planning department stating that the application when submitted would have the support of the Parish Council and that full comments will be made in due course. This was carried unanimously.
- 2 Pedestrian barriers In order to solve the problem of people climbing over the new flowerbeds, a staggered barrier will be created next to the main entrance to the park. A price of £868 has been obtained from DTM Gardens to create a

pedestrian barrier to prevent accidents by cyclists on The Banks. In addition to the cost, a licence would have to be sought from the highways authority and negotiations would have to take place with the utility companies which own the manholes over which the barrier would be sited. In view of the cost and complexity the matter will be referred back to the Environment subcommittee..

- 3 Nursery Lane shrub bed After meeting with residents it was agreed that no remedial work would be carried out to the shrub bed at this time and the school would be asked to control the problem of young people meeting there during school hours.
- 4 Best Village Competition Quorn has won the large village section. A presentation of the plaques will take place in the village on 7th August. A further event when the cheque is presented will occur at the offices of the Leicester Mercury on 12th August. Cllr Bexon and the Clerk will attend.
- 5 Tree work on the park Deferred to obtain more quotations.
- 6 Flood risk assessment document. This document has been circulated around some of the Members. Cllr Child felt that it was an excellent document but questioned whether the Environment Agency had adopted the correct approach to the problem. Cllr Bexon noted that there is soon to be published a post-code map of 'at risk' properties. It was agreed to make no formal response and continue to circulate the assessment.
- 7 Review of front gardens competition Agreed to 'rest' the competition as from next year and look for new ideas.
- 8 Rawlins planning application Representations have been received from residents concerned about the implications of noise and light pollution should permission be given for the college to erect floodlights and extend the hours of use of the playing fields. Although the Council passed no comment when this application was tabled last month, the new information supplied by the residents did raise concerns. A letter will be sent to the County Council drawing these issues to the officers' attention and noting the Council's disappointment that no official notification of the intended increase use of the fields had been received. A copy of the letter will be sent to the residents.
- 9 Castledine Street flats The Borough Council has agreed to regularly inspect the flats and keep a closer eye on any tenants causing anti-social behaviour.
- 10 Christmas lights It has now been clarified that a raffle is legally permissible. The £35 licence fee will be met by the Council. A draft article for The Quorndon was tabled and approved. Cllr Bexon reminded the subcommittee that £5,000 was in the budget for lighting, of which £2,000 was allocated for new lights.

- 11 Wind Farms. Cllr Stirling felt that the Council should formulate a wind farm policy. Referred to Plans and Policy subcommittee.

04/129 COMMITTEE REPORTS

1 Village Hall The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to install a new phone line to Mrs Holland's house to enable her to access the internet. Mrs Holland will investigate the various packages on offer.

Cllr Bexon noted that the debris on the balcony referred to in the Minutes belongs to the Phoenix Players.

2 Finance Committee The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July had been circulated prior to the meeting. The accounts for 2003/4 have now been sent off to the external auditor. It was agreed to order a new seat for Cave's Field without arms at a cost of £380.

3 Environment Subcommittee The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th July had been circulated. It was agreed to obtain three quotations for the provision of an electricity supply to The Banks. Mr Lester, the Council's handyman, will be asked if he would undertake an extra two or three hours work on occasion to keep the weeds under control on The Banks. There will be a recommendation made to the next Council meeting with regard to phase 2 of The Banks following a meeting with the Church Rooms representatives. Cllr Bexon noted that Holloway House are offering three decorative planters to the Parish Council. Cllr Maltby offered to transport them.

04/130 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1 The Slabs footpath Cllr Stirling felt that he could not progress much further with the Slabs scheme as the money available for improvements is related solely to the sustrans cycle route. The use of the path for cycles was believed to be impractical and open to dangers. It was agreed that the Slabs was still in need of general maintenance and improvement. A letter will be sent to the County Council requesting consultation on any further proposals to do with The Slabs.

2 Library opening hours A consultation has been circulated asking for comments on the current library opening hours. It was agreed to respond by stating that the Council is content with the current level of opening but would resist any reduction in hours.

3 Best value bus review Tabled for information.

4 Footpath Report Tabled for information. The Clerk to chase up outstanding issues.

5 Best Value Performance Plan. Agreed to write approving of the proposal to increase

consultation with Parish Councils.

04/131 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

1 Economic Development Strategy consultation. Cllr Bexon offered to read this and report back to Council.

2 Review of Local Plan – Issues paper A summary of comments received has been forwarded. Borough Councillor Slater noted that he had identified that any additional housing land proposed for Quorn had comprised people's back gardens. Cllr Slater also noted that he was chairing a committee appraising street cleansing and requested a collective response to a consultation document which is about to be circulated.

04/132 PLANNING MATTERS

Beacon View Farm development. The agents for the applicant have written to the Council asking for the objection to this application to be withdrawn on the grounds that it is not incompatible with the Local Plan as it seeks to replace buildings which already exist. The Clerk reported that she had viewed the farm with a planning officer and it was clear that the proposed layout included a block of development outside the existing site. Cllr Stirling withdrew his vote against the objection and it was unanimously agreed to maintain the objection.

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:

Marconi – proposed development on behalf of airwave MMO2 Ltd for the Leicestershire Police radio system involving the installation of three airwave antennas on the existing (O2) sectorised column at Quorn Football Club, Sutton Park, Farley Way.

04/2257 Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling at 38 Poulteney Drive.

04/2374 Single storey and first floor extension to side of dwelling at 77 Leicester Road.

04/2618 Erection of a single storey extension to side, fire escape to opposite side and single storey extension to rear at The Manor House, Woodhouse Road

04/2427 Single storey extension to rear of dwelling (revised scheme) at 46 Station Road

04/2368 Erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling at 3 Rumsey Close

04/2495 Topping of one Ash tree (TPO) at 1a Wood Lane

04/2510 Removal of condition 4 to allow the use of the annex as a separate dwelling

at 23 Soar Road

04/133 CORRESPONDENCE

1 Reverend Ketton has written to the Council requesting use of Stafford Orchard park on Saturday 21st August for a family BBQ. This was agreed.

2 Mr A Southam from Wood Lane has written to the Council requesting that consideration be given to the provision of a bus shelter at the end of Wood Lane. He suggests that the funding could be obtained through the partnership funding for rural bus shelters, a County Council scheme. It was agreed to give this proposal consideration at budget setting time in November. There was some concern expressed over the width of the footway and this will be investigated.

04/134 PAYMENTS LIST AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR JULY

The list and summary had been circulated and it was agreed to approve all payments.

04/135 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

CCTV A demonstration had been held prior to the meeting. It was agreed to seek other quotations, that councillors should read the information provided and that the matter be referred to the next meeting.

It was noted that the pavement behind the public lavatories is in need of sweeping.

The Clerk was asked to devise a letter which can be used by councillors to request the cutting back of overhanging trees and branches by residents. It was noted that there are overhanging bushes on the Council's own land on the High Street. These will be cut back.

Cllr Stirling felt that a general maintenance policy on benches and seats should be written. He also drew attention to metal studs protruding out of the ground by the play equipment on the park. The Clerk will arrange to have them removed when the repairs are carried out following the recent playground safety report.

The meeting concluded at 22.37

Chairman.....

Date.....