

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th January 2004.

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
Community Support Officer C Kendal

4 Members of the public
K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

The Chairman wishes all present a Happy New Year.

04/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Maltby.

04/02 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Alan Southam from Wood Lane wished the council a Happy New Year and offered his congratulations on the new Christmas lighting scheme. He hoped it would be extended in future years. He offered the suggestion of holding a Christmas market. The Chairman noted that there had been many complimentary remarks on the new lighting and offered the Council's appreciation of the hard work carried out by the subcommittee.

Mr Byron Chatburn from Meynell Road queried whether the policy subcommittee had considered the document prepared by residents and contacted the County Council for action. There was some confusion as to whether the document had been received. Mr Chatburn offered to e-mail it to the Clerk. The Clerk offered to send a copy of a recently received traffic study in support of the Meynell Road application to Mr Chatburn.

04/03 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:

- 03/148 (3) Jubilee Gardens to read ‘...and the Parish Council applying solely for a WREN grant.
- 03/153 Report of the Finance Committee to read ‘...setting of a precept of £124,500’

04/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests declared:

Cllr P Child – *Caves Field. As previously minuted.*

Cllr Mrs S Templeman – *Caves Field. As previously minuted.*

Cllr K Croysdale – *Caves Field. As previously minuted.*

Cllr Mrs J Backus. *Lafarge aggregates Ltd. A personal and prejudicial interest as her family own property in the area affected by the quarry.*

04/05 POLICING MATTERS

Officer Kendal spoke about his role as a community support officer. There are only four support officers in the villages covered by the LPU so Quorn is privileged. Mr Kendal was questioned on his views concerned a tentative proposal to organise a ‘park and stride’ scheme from The Quorndon Fox to St Barts school as part of the school travel plan. Mr Kendal did not feel that this would be helpful as the pub car park is already congested with Rawlins parents. He noted that he has seen a voluntary one-way system working at another school.

Cllr Mrs Harrison agreed to attend a meeting to discuss the securing of more community support officers on 29th January.

04/06 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Lakeside public seat The Borough Council has agreed to repair the fence and will consider re-siting the dog waste bin. The litter problem will be referred to the contractor and the street sweeping to the Cleansing section.
- 2 Village Hall Committee. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December had been circulated. Cllr Child noted that a new hall floor will take 2-3 to complete and the work will have to be scheduled into the summer months. The Minutes were ratified.
- 3 Dog Wardens A briefing note from Charnwood Borough Council’s Cabinet meeting had been forwarded by Borough Councillor Shepherd. It was believed

that Charnwood is in the process of drawing up procedures to nominate a body to hand out fixed penalties. It was agreed that public awareness is required. Mr Kendal noted that it is part of his remit to hand out fixed penalties for dog fouling. It was noted that Mountsorrel are going to employ a dog warden as of April and it was agreed to liaise with the Parish Council over the success of the scheme.

- 4 Village Event – Cllr T Stirling Cllr Stirling asked the Members to consider how much involvement the Parish Council should have in the promoting or sponsoring of village events. He cited examples such as this year's visit by USA ex-servicemen, Shrove Tuesday and the impending 400th anniversary of Guy Fawkes.
- 5 Review of the Christmas Lighting A large invoice from Unwins for the installation of the new lights will be passed to the working party to analyse and to pay if in agreement. Cllr Bexon suggested that tenders should be sought in future for the electrical installation and dismantling.
- 6 Meynell Road planning application. The County Council has prepared a traffic impact study which has been circulated to all Members. Responses to be received by 16th January.
- 7 Medical Centre Clock The Clerk has ascertained that the medical centre is not VAT registered. It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Hutchinson and resolved that the Council under S137 will be invoiced directly for the clock repairs totalling £595.
- 8 Play equipment for 10-14yrs Cllr Mrs Templeman is working on a questionnaire with Charnwood. The results will be used as a consultation exercise to secure 'Awards for All' funding.
- 9 Slabs footpath Cllr Stirling queried what form of lighting would be acceptable on this footpath
- 10 Inoperative light outside The Thatch Work should be starting on the repairs tomorrow (7th January).
- 11 CCTV Cllr Mrs Bloodworth agreed to work with Cllr Croysdale to prepare a report to Council on CCTV pricing and options..
- 12 Installation of village entry signs The County Engineer has viewed the proposed sites and has no objection to the placement of the village entry signs with planters. The work will commence when the builder has finished his current project in Leicester.
- 13 Bowls Club Cllr Child reported that the Club has been instructed by the planning

department to remove gravel stored around the base of trees.

- 14 Westley Close It was reported that the developer has promised to carry out the conditions of hard surfacing and visibility splays as soon as possible.
- 15 Quorn Brook Cllr Hutchinson reported that Townlands Charity are liaising with the Probation Service for litter picking and maintenance through the community punishment scheme.
- 16 Barrow Road Cllr Kershaw commented that 31st December was only an indication which he had been given of the permanent closure date. He is meeting with the contractor the next day. It was noted that the Parish Council were supposed to have viewed the landscaping plans. Cllr Kershaw agreed to investigate why this had not happened.

04/07 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Footpath report Mr Richard Guise attended to present an up to date footpath report. The main issue for discussion was the printing and distribution of a 'free sample' of the Quorn footpath walks leaflet. Costs had been obtained and it was agreed to accept the quote from Foxprint of £107.56 for printing plus £25 distribution costs for 2200 copies to be inserted in the next issue of 'The Quorndon'. Costs would be obtained for reprints. The Council asked to consider by the next meeting, the price that the leaflets would eventually be sold for, who will manage the distribution and sale and whether the leaflets should be included for free on the website. An approach will be made to the County Council to determine whether any funding is available for the leaflets.

Mr Guise noted that generally the footpath problems have diminished. Dog waste bins would be requested on Chaveney Road and Tom Long's Meadow.

- 2 Leicestershire Local Transport Plan Progress update circulated.
- 3 Consultation with Leicestershire County Council Cllr Kershaw noted that he had recently received a query over an application to store commercial vehicles off Barrow Road. He had been informed that the County Council is only a consultee in the process and does not issue licences for commercial vehicles. This opened a wider debate about consultation and in particular, the seeming lack of it from the County to the village. It was noted that later on in the agenda an item concerning an application by the quarry is raised. This item was due to be determined by the County Council but Quorn Parish Council fought for a delay, since the parish had not been consulted. It was felt that on many occasions work is carried out in the village (such as the installation of signs and road and path maintenance) without the knowledge or opinion sought of the elected members. A letter will be sent to this effect to the Chief Executive. County Councillor Kershaw offered his support.

- 4 Star Trak system The electronic bus notification system is still not working at some locations. Cllr Kershaw agreed to pursue.

04/08 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Urban housing potential study. An external firm of planning consultants has been employed by the Borough Council to identify areas within the urban environment of Charnwood where housing might be considered. The company has written to the Parish Council requesting assistance with identifying such areas within the village. It was agreed to write back stating that Quorn does not consider itself part of the urban environment and prides itself upon still being a village. It wishes to retain the characteristics of a village which includes resisting most applications for housing development that would cause a severe strain on the already overloaded social infrastructure and road network
- 2 Parks, Open Spaces and Wildlife Strategy This draft strategy, circulated for consultation contains some very useful statistics about the lack of reasonably sized open space in the village and the lack of public allotments. One of the proposed strategies is to resist development of allotment sites in such areas of need. Cllrs Croysdale and Child agreed to review the draft and write a letter on behalf of the Council offering the Members strong support for the securing of public allotments and open space.

04/09 PLANNING MATTERS

Local Plan – Notice of intention to adopt has been received

Planning applications received:

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

A traffic impact assessment report has been received related to this previously lodged application. Observations to be received by 16th January. Agreed that Members would comment as individuals if desired.

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:

03/3582 Two storey extension to side of dwelling at 124 Leicester Road.

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

**03/3624 Display of non-illuminated fascia sign at Units 9 & 10 Beacon View
Business Park, Farley Way**

03/3490 Single and first floor extensions to side and rear of semi-detached house at 73 Leicester Road

04/10 CORRESPONDENCE

Mr D Cox – application to hold Quorn Wakes Fair Mr Cox has made his usual application to hold a fair during September. The dates proposed are 6-19th September. This was agreed, the rate being £310 for the first week and £205 for the second, irrespective of opening days. Mr Cox would be asked to supply copies of his safety certificates for council records.

Association of Airport Related Councils An invitation to join this group has been received. As the night flight path affects Quorn, it was agreed to join at a cost of £10. Cllr Mrs Backus would also discuss the association at the next meeting of the Joint Soar Valley Parish Councils

04/11 JUBILEE GARDENS PROJECT

Cllr Bexon noted that the tenders submitted for Phase I (the Jubilee Gardens) had been substantially higher than estimated possibly due to the extremely tight time schedule allowed for the work in order to be able claim the FLAG grant. An extra £5,000 has already been granted by the County Council. There will be a shortfall of £11,000 this financial year and £24,000 next year. Cllr Bexon suggested underwriting from council reserves this year and reallocating the money proposed for Phase II to complete Phase I next year. The acceptance of the tender submitted by DTM Gardens was formally proposed by Cllr Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr Tyler and resolved to accept.

The tenders received were as follows:

- DTM Gardens £98,389.27
- Blakedown Landscapes Ltd..... £116,574.26
- English Landscapes..... £117,319.41
- Fitzgerald Contractors Ltd..... £127,134.76

04/12 CAVE’S FIELD

Cllr Child left the room during this discussion. A draft public statement written by Cllr Mrs Templeman had been circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting. A letter from Mrs Margaret Gamble expressing her concerns should Cave’s Field be given over to a trust. It was agreed that given the history of the acquisition of the field, it would be difficult to get the public to support the idea of the council giving over the ownership of the field to a Trust. After discussion the following proposal was put by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Mrs Backus:

‘A Committee of Management for Cave’s Field be established to:

- make proposals and recommendations to Council concerning the future use and development of Cave’s Field as a public amenity.

- produce a development plan and a repair and maintenance policy for the land, with an analysis of funding options.
- assess and advise Council on any proposals received for developments on, or any other use of the land by interested parties.
- liaise and manage relations with the lessees, other users of the land and local residents.

The Management Committee to comprise up to six councillors and four coopted members.

This motion was approved unanimously. Cllrs Stirling, Mrs Backus, Mrs Bloodworth, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Templeman would sit on the committee. Cllr Mrs Templeman was asked to coordinate the first meeting where the first business would be election of Chairman.

A letter received from Mr Cox of the Cricket Club concerning protection measures to screen residents from cricket balls was referred to the committee.

04/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Signing of the precept It was proposed by Cllr Croysdale, seconded by Cllr Templeman and resolved to raise a precept for 2004/5 of £124,500.

Expenditure statement Cllr Mrs Templeman kindly offered to write the expenditure statement required by the Borough Council when the precept reaches £100,000 or above.

The Audited Accounts for 2002/3 have been signed off and returned. The only comment received is that the Council should increase its Fidelity Guarantee insurance.

04/14 PAYMENTS LIST

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

04/15 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

Cllr Hutchinson has been able to obtain an additional litter for outside Wakerleys the bakers.

Cllr Bexon noted that a large branch has come off one of the Willow trees in the park. Cllr Mrs Templeman offered to let the Townlands Charity know.

The meeting concluded at 22.00

Chairman.....

Date.....