

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st June 2004.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs J Backus

Cllr P Child

Cllr Mrs S Templeman

Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth

Cllr J Maltby

Cllr T Tyler

Cllr I Bexon

Cllr T Stirling

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)

Borough Councillor R Shepherd

Borough Councillor D Slater

County Councillor T Kershaw

4 Members of the public

Mr D Southwart – Internal Auditor

K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

04/91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Harrison and Croysdale

04/92 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Furniss from Station Road raised concerns about the behaviour of Rawlins students in the village at lunchtime. She noted the recent front page headline in the Leicester Mercury describing the village as ‘under siege’ and although the headline was unwelcome, she felt that it should have come as no surprise. Mrs Furniss was of the opinion that Rawlins will accept no responsibility for the behaviour of its students and that a great number of them behave very badly. She felt that the only contributions the community college makes to the village are litter and food waste, vandalism, trespass, drug-taking, abuse of the toddlers’ play equipment, monopolising of the pavements and general anti-social behaviour. Mrs Furniss questioned why the students cannot be prevented from leaving the campus at lunchtimes.

Mrs Parkinson from High Street endorsed these comments wholeheartedly. She questioned why villagers cannot use the shops when they want to at lunchtimes with over 800 students ‘swarming’ through the village. She drew attention to the recent incident reported in the press as one of those caught up in a ‘stampede’ of well over 100 people.

Cllr Hutchinson commented that he was aware of more than 30 students reported as hiding in a private garden. He gave notice that the concerns would be related to the

Liaison Committee.

Mrs Galer from Station Road drew the Council's attention to the damage being caused to the newly built flower beds at the park entrance on Station Road. People are climbing over the brick built beds as a shortcut into the park. She warned that the Council could be liable for any accidents. Solutions such as the planting of large berberis bushes or raising the railings were discussed. Mrs Galer was keen to point out that the culprits were not all Rawlins students.

Cllr Hutchinson suggested the installation of a hand gate with a pedestrian barrier (subject to the consent of Leics Highways).

Mr Southam from Wood Lane was of the view that locating the May Fair on the park did not have the same atmosphere as when it is held in the village streets. Cllr Bexon noted that this is not a matter for the Council, the fair is a privately organised event. Cllr Child, as a member of the organising committee, drew attention to the considerable difficulties experienced in trying to obtain road closures. He also noted that the fair was traditionally held in the park and that he hoped that a better atmosphere can be created in future years.

04/93 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th MAY 2004

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

04/94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests declared:

Cllr Mrs Templeman – *Personal interest in any discussion on Cave's Field*

Cllr Child – *Personal interest in any discussion on Cave's Field..*

04/95 POLICING MATTERS

There was no police presence at the meeting. Cllr Mrs Templeman noted her intention to contact PC Smith with regard to cars, and especially Kinch buses, speeding along School Lane.

Two letters have been received in connection with the front page article in the Leicester Mercury 'Village under siege'. The headteacher, Mr Brindley and the college Librarian, Mrs Arthur have expressed their dismay at the tone of the article and Mr Brindley in particular wishes to ascertain whether the comments attributed to Cllr Stirling reflect the view of the Parish Council. If this is the case, he sees no point in maintaining a dialogue through the Liaison Committee. He sincerely hopes this is not the case.

Cllr Mrs Backus felt that these letters should be copied and sent to the editor of the Mercury as the article was extremely unhelpful, exaggerated and should be challenged. Cllr Bexon's view was that communication had broken down and must be got back on course. He felt that the residents should go into Rawlins and face the students and staff

with their concerns. It was generally felt that the Liaison Committee had not been effective in dealing with this problem and that some major new initiatives are required.

It was proposed by Cllr Backus, seconded by Cllr Maltby and agreed to seek Mr Brindley's permission to copy his letter to the Mercury and challenge the editor on the aggressive reporting. A letter of acknowledgement to be sent to Mr Brindley with the desire to continue communication through the Liaison Committee, but also not underestimating the problems caused in the village. The Parish Council endorses the appointment of two Student Managers and would welcome their attendance at the Liaison Committee meetings.

Cllr Stirling commented that he views he had expressed were personal and any quotation from him in the newspaper came from comments he had made publicly at the meeting with the police.

A letter has been received from Mr Reed MP in response to the Council's endorsement of the comments made by the school standards minister re: keeping students in at lunchtimes. Mr Reed has made an appointment to view Mr Brindley to discuss this matter.

04/96 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 The Banks The certificate of Practical Completion has been issued. There are a few outstanding matters which will be addressed within the next few days. It was agreed to ask for a bark mulch for the large shrub bed as it is getting heavily weeded. Due to difficulties in recruiting somebody to keep the new turf watered, Tim Rodgers has offered to do it and will invoice the Council for the work at a later date. He has hired on behalf of the Council, a standpipe from Severn-Trent.

Litter bins are now considered to be an urgent requirement. The Clerk will deliver brochures to Cllr Mrs Backus tomorrow for the Enhancement Group to decide upon. It was agreed to write to the police asking them to be especially vigilant over litter dropping. It was felt that one or two fines levied would make people think about disposing of refuse properly.

The County Council has written with a suggested protocol for inviting County Councillors to the opening ceremony. It was agreed to delay until the £18,000 grant from CBC and the remaining £4,000 Shire grant is received.

- 2 CCTV A new demonstration has been arranged for Thursday 17th June at 3.00pm on the park and then afterwards in the hall.
- 3 Environment Agency – 'enmainment' of Poulteney Brook The Clerk has sought clarification of the term 'enmainment'. It has been explained as a technical term

with no physical implications. The Environment Agency are taking over responsibility for water courses from Local Authorities. At the end of March 2006, the Agency will assume responsibility for Poulteney Brook. They will visit to see whether any improvements are required. The Parish Council has asked to be kept informed of any proposals.

- 4 Wood Lane planting scheme Plans are being laid for planting later on during the year.
- 5 School Travel Plan Cllr Mrs Templeman was delighted that the launch had been such a success. The Quorndon Fox licensee has agreed to a permanent park & stride usage of the car park and a walking school bus will complete the journey.
- 6 BMX track A meeting is being arranged with the Bursar of the Endowed Schools Trust. Cllrs Hutchinson and Mrs Templeman will accompany the Clerk.

04/97 COMMITTEE REPORTS

1 Cave's Field The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members had been asked to consider either the sale of some of the land to the Scouts and Guides for a new building or to grant a long lease. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to let the land go as a freehold purchase but a long lease is open for debate if this would satisfy the requirements of the Guide Trust.

2 Village Hall The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May had been circulated prior to the meeting.

04/98 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1 A Report of a meeting on highways matters held on 12th May had been circulated. Cllr Mrs Templeman requested that her name be added to the list of those present. The question was asked as to why chicanes could not be used on the High Street. It was agreed to compare the width of the road with that in Mountsorrel where chicanes have been used. Cllr Mrs Backus confirmed that the Parish Council will have an input into the re-design of the car park entrance when the time has come for resurfacing. The remaining old village entry signs need to be removed.

2 Branchline Pamphlet circulated.

04/99 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

1 Improvements in the delivery of development control services Paper circulated for information.

2 'Towards a Charnwood local development framework' Consultation. Cllr Stirling

offered to attend the associated seminar.

3 Green Spaces Strategy Consultation Event Cllrs Child and Stirling offered to attend the consultation event on 16th June. The Plans and Policy Subcommittee were delegated to submit the Council's response which is due by 30th June.

4 Civic Service An invitation to attend the Civic Service on 20th June has been received

Borough Councillor Slater sought permission to pass a copy of the Highways report onto Planning Officer Peter Blitz as there is some confusion over the 30mph speed limit discussions for Meynell Road.

Borough Councillor Shepherd sought advice on some tree matters. These will be passed to the tree wardens for observations.

04/100 PLANNING MATTERS

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:

04/1293 Erection of a single storey extension to retail area at Bradley & Son, 20 Station Road

04/1552 Erection of ramp for wheelchair access to front of shop at 16 Station Road

04/1743 Erection of two storey extension to the side of detached house at 124 Station Road

04/1675 Erection of conservatory to rear of detached house at 7 Alexander Road

04/1672 Erection of a two storey extension to side of dwelling to include carport and erection of conservatory to rear at 14 Meeting Street

04/1620 Erection of two storey and single storey extension to rear of dwelling at 87 Meeting Street

04/1537 Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwelling at 3 Giles Close

04/1792 Erection of single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling (revised scheme) at 35 Mansfield Street

04/1362 Erection of single storey extension to rear of semi-detached dwelling at 63

Beardsley Road

04/101 CORRESPONDENCE

1 Loughborough Women's Aid – A letter of introduction from the newly appointed Outreach Worker has been received. The description and offer of her services will be posted on the noticeboard.

2 Rev D Bowler – Nursery Lane shrub bed – a letter of concern has been received from the Rev Bowler about the condition of the shrub bed in the Churchyard. Although the twin of it, on the Nursery Lane side seems to be thriving, this bed has been thoroughly trampled on by people sitting on standing on it. Rev Bowler offers to work with the Council in finding a solution to the problem. It was agreed to seek a price for placing random granite stones on the upper walls to prevent climbing and to fill the bed with spiky mature plants.

3 LeicestershireRural Partnership - An invitation to the annual conference has been received.

4 Rural Community Council - Best Village Competition – *Cllr Hutchinson declared a personal interest in this item as a judge of the competition – although he will judge villages other than Quorn.* In a departure from the normal procedure, the judging panel would like to meet with a representative from the village immediately prior to viewing the area. Cllr Bexon offered to meet the judges

5 Mrs G Bexon - NQSC – Mrs Bexon has written to the Council thanking Members for permitting some use of the village hall without charge.

04/102 APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The interview panel recommend Mrs Beryl Holland for the post. This was agreed. Mrs Holland will be invited to start work on 1st July and will also be invited to meet the Council at the next meeting.

04/103 ACCOUNTS 2003/4

It was agreed to defer approval of the accounts. The external audit company had called 30th June as the date of the audit. This proved impossible to comply with, so dispensation has been sought and obtained for a revised date of 31st July. It was noted that in future the procedure for preparing and approving the accounts must be tightened up. It was resolved that the approval and preparation of the annual accounts be delegated to the Finance Committee. The next committee meeting on 11th July will approve the 2003/4 accounts.

04/104 PAYMENTS LIST AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR MAY

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

04/105 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

Some observations were made about the village entry sign at the bottom of Barrow Road. The inset 'Quorn' insisted on by the highways department was made of plastic and had been maliciously damaged.

Cllr Mrs Bloodworth noted that the paving slab in the Cross remains cracked.

Cllr Stirling felt that an inventory of street furniture is required. He offered to compile one.

Cllr Hutchinson has been approached with a request for permission to bury human ashes in the War Memorial Garden. It was agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting. Cllr Hutchinson will seek the views of Mrs Hollingworth and the Royal British Legion.

Cllr Hutchinson requested the provision of topped litter bins in the park.

The meeting concluded at 22.14

Chairman.....

Date.....