# QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th October 2004.

## PRESENT

Cllr Mrs J Backus
Cllr P Child
Cllr Mrs S Templeman
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr Mr K Croysdale
Cllr T Tyler
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr T Stirling
Cllr Mrs E Harrison
Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)

County Councillor Tony Kershaw
Police Constable N Smith

Mrs K Paterson - Clerk to the Council
Mrs B Holland - Administrative Assistant

## 04/149 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors David Slater and Richard Shepherd.

## 04/150 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7 members of the public were present.

Issues raised by the members of the public were:

1. Seating by the lake and problems in the vicinity. The residents of Kelcey Road raised concerns, not just regarding children in the area, but also of health and safety aspects. Damage to part of the fencing near the bench had caused a large hole and the path appeared to be slipping into the lake at the same spot – causing the health and safety problems to users of the path. One of the residents had written Charnwood Borough Council and spoken to the police. There had been no problems before the bench was sited and no previous damage to the fence. He requested that consideration be given to the bench being removed. I

   Another resident Kelcey Road spoke of the noise levels generally in that area, especially Friday and Saturday evenings. Groups of children also gathered during weekdays from 9.30 onwards.

   It was agreed that this item be discussed under Matters Arising later in the meeting.

2. An update was requested regarding the feasibility of a ‘bus shelter at Wood Lane. Cllr J Hutchinson advised that he had recently met with Peter White of Mountsorrel. It was agreed there is room for a ‘bus shelter, which would be subject to adjacent properties being agreeable to one being erected. Cllr Hutchinson had spoken to Mr. Quincy of County Hall and he advised however

there are no surplus 'bus shelters and the minimum cost for a new one would be £3700 installed – but could be more if services are in the vicinity. If the Parish Council is not able to buy one County may consider partnership funding and fund half the cost.

**04/151 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

Amendments requested were: Deletion of '(or another landscape architect)' from the paragraph on page 4 commencing 'Discussion was held regarding The Banks Project ….). 04/142 Christmas Lights subcommittee – It was agreed that it was in order to order the lights and if there is a deficit it can be transferred to capital. Caves Field: £250.00 was agreed for re-seeding and skip. £12350 for the 2005/6 budget should be referred to Finance Committee.

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

**04/152 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Interests declared:

Cllr Mrs S Templeman – *personal interest in Caves Field*
Cllr P Child – *personal interest in Caves Field*
Cllr K Croysdale – *personal interest in Quorn Churches Holiday Club*
Cllr I Bexon – *personal interest in grant application by New Quorndon Shakespeare Company as a member and wife is Chairman.*

Standards Committee meetings:

This is now being set up locally. The agenda and minutes will now be found on the Borough Council website (rather than sending out papers). The Clerk has the last paper copy of the minutes but future ones will be found on the website.

**04/153 POLICING MATTERS**

PC Neil advised that, as detailed in the Neighbourhood Watch paper, overall crime figures had increased 100%. There were: 3 burglaries – dwellings, 1 burglary – other, 1 theft of a motor vehicle, 3 thefts from motor vehicles, 9 incidents of damage to motor vehicles, 5 of damage, 2 of theft, 3 of theft of cycles, 10 assaults, 3 robberies, 1 Public Order offence and 1 Indecency offence. Issues which should be taken into account were (1) impact on the recent fair in Quorn and the 'drawing in' of people from outside the village, (2) 3 regular offenders on LPU in the area, which always effected figures , and (3) start of the new school year and the opening of Rawlins. Rawlins itself had been a victim of crime. There had also been a problem this year with assaults in and around Rawlins.

Preliminary work was undertaken but small elements coming into the school had indicated problems - assaults being dealt with by Police and the College all working together. There being a number of arrests and also permanent exclusions and disciplinary measures by the college plus support from the Police.

Early indications had been good and a marked improvement, especially with regard to litter, had been made, but since then there have been a number of issues in the Station Road area. Station Road was 'cleared' recently and there was a high profile police presence to get them back to school – with a public order offence against 1 person. The school has offered additional staff for 'teacher patrols' and to help break up groups. There had been issues of non-Rawlins students trespassing and abusing staff. These appeared to be associates of the new intake from Loughborough and 'excluded' students. The Principal, David Brindley is giving consideration to keeping year 10 on campus at lunchtimes.
However, there is an much work being undertaken by staff and the police and more is planned and the figures do not paint the true picture. The school are looking at ways of reducing the numbers out of school, and proposing to start a poster campaign 'Abuse it and you lose it' 'Do not obstruct – rather have respect.'

Thanks were expressed to PC Neil Smith and tributes paid for all the hard work beforehand which should pay dividends. Thanks were given to the police for their help and diligence.

**04/154 MATTERS ARISING**

1 Christmas lights: Cllr Mrs S Templeman reported that 4 firms had been invited to quote and 2 responses had been received. The quote for £3100 had been agreed and the order confirmed. The budget had been revised and the scheme had been finalised at a recent meeting, and Cllr Mrs Templeman circulated information to the meeting. It was hoped the electricity would be installed to The Banks and budgeting had also been included for a tree. The Clerk advised that a definite answer will be given within the week regarding electricity to The Banks. If electricity can be installed before Christmas there will be no time to go to tender. In order to save the Council £60, the Clerk offered to pick the old lights up from Unwins.

Evening arrangements are in hand.

Thanks were given to the sub committee.

2. Casual litter picking: Cllr Mrs S Templeman had made enquiries regarding the payment of casual staff. They do not have to be formally appointed, but tax would need to be deducted etc. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Finance Committee regarding rates etc. Wakeleys had accepted responsibility for litter in their area, although it was felt that the litter bin close to the shop should be moved nearer to the bus shelter. Other 'hot spots' should be looked at.

3. Tree work. Cllr J Hutchinson advised that as well as the tree work required in the park, the 2 lime trees in front of the Village Hall also required attention.

4. Seat on Caves Field: Still waiting to be sited by G Gamble & Sons.

5. Churchyard bins: Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth advised that the matter had now been sorted and the new bins had already arrived.

6. Leicestershire Rural Partnership. Cllr Terry Stirling had read this – we need to make sure we have explored all avenues of grant application – i.e. Countryside Agency and Doorstep Green. The Banks were mentioned in this paper.

7. Old People's Fellowship Harvest Festival: Cllr Mrs J Backus and the Clerk attended and very much enjoyed it.

8. Seat by the lake. Discussion was held regarding the concern around misuse, noise, etc. etc. and it was unanimously agreed that arrangements be made for the seat to be moved. It was suggested that it be re-sited on the cricket field.

9. Thanks to Cllr Mrs J Backus's assistance, a watercolour of Quorn Cross has been given to Ian and Karenna Galer to take on their trip to Quorn in Australia as a gift to the local council.

**04/155 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Village Hall Committee. Minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr P Child reported that an architect was not needed regarding the redevelopment - rather someone to draw plans. Steps should now be taken to proceed to get plans redrawn on a CD from our own design.
Future caretaking and a retirement gift for Mrs Bruce had also been discussed.

There were no funds available for any redecorations and thoughts given to any costs must be put to the Finance Committee.

**04/156 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

1 Availability of SHIRE environmental grants. There is still money available and discussion was held regarding projects that could be considered. Options were discussed and it was felt that bow-top railing for Caves Field would be most suitable and Cllr Mrs S Templeman agreed to check this out.

2. Request for County Council's view in principle on keeping children in schools at lunch time and do they support or not? It was agreed the Clerk should write to the new Director of Education at the County Council (when in post) attaching crime figures and details and saying we hadn't had a proper response to our query at the Annual Meeting with Parishes and can we have a response from him plus comments on the attached crime sheet.

3. Flightpaths – Coventry Airport. C Cllr T Kershaw advised that the planning application had been rejected.

4. Details from C Cllr Kershaw's 'surgery': A member of the public had asked why they couldn't get a 'bus to hospital on Epinal Way. There is no actual 'bus stop although buses go within 50 yards of the hospital. County Hall are now looking at whether there is a suitable site for a safe 'bus stop after the University.

5. Farley Way crossing: C Cllr Kershaw was asked to formally put the item in writing as a firm programme is presently being prepared. He has verbally done this and will now confirm in writing.

6. Epinal Way roundabout – no news yet.

Thanks were given to C Cllr Kershaw.

**04/157 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS:**

1. Community Lights projects: Information was circulated at the meeting. Suggestions for additional items were (a) extra light at Love Lane and (b) light at Tom Long's meadow. The Clerk will ask for these to be considered.

2. Local Development Framework: The Clerk has received information on the Local Development Scheme and proposals to involve residents etc. Comments were welcomed on draft community involvements, training sessions and sessions for groups were to be arranged. Consultation drafts were available. Cllr Terry Stirling and Cllr K Croysdale will look at the documents and feed back.

**04/158 PLANNING MATTERS**

Refusal of Permission: Beacon View Business Park.

**04-2525 and 04-2526** 2 applications re 106 Station Road. 1 was withdrawn – planning permission was granted for the extension.

**04-3041** Cutting down of 2 sycamore trees 1 Meeting Street. To be passed to the tree wardens.

**04-2961** 8 Swinfield Road Erection of first floor extension to side of dwelling.

**04-3308** 34 Kelcey Road Erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling.

**04-3312** 27 Mansfield Avenue Erection of a two storey extension to front and single storey extension to side of detached house.

Affordable housing – Meynell Road. The Clerk had been advised that the Housing Association had experienced delay in communicating with the County Council regarding potential access. The Clerk will chase John Sadler at the County Council for news.

**04/159 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Quorn Churches Holiday Club. A letter of thanks has been received from Howard Ketton regarding the use of Stafford Orchard. 140 took part and the event was very successful. A letter to be written to Howard as he is shortly leaving, to thank him for all he's done and his services to the Parish.

2. Crimestoppers Appeal: General appeal letter received. It was unanimously proposed to donate £30.00 to this appeal.

3. Barrow-upon-Soar Parish council – invitation to Remembrance Day service (14th November). Letter to be sent regretting we are unable attend as we have same commitment in Quorn.

4. New Quorndon Shakespeare Company – appeal for funding. Cllr Bexon took no part in this discussion. Letter received requesting consideration be given to grants for The Taming of the Shrew for restoration costumes, for the Christmas production in the Village Hall for rehearsals and for Richard III in May 2005 for rehearsals and the production. It was agreed to grant £200.00 (£100.00 costumes and £100.00 letting fees). Consideration will be given in the new year for the May 2005 production.

5. HMS Quorn: Lieutenant. D H Wilkinson sent his thanks for support – he was leaving and Lieutenant Commander T A Price would be taking over. The Clerk read out the news from HMS Quorn.

6. Mr B Sayers – Station Road shops disabled ramp. Mr Sayers' comments regarding extension of the ramp were very much appreciated but the Parish Council has no authority and it was very much up to individual shops what action they took. Cllr Mrs S Templeman will find out who is the Disability Awareness Officer for Charnwood and get in touch and ask if they are able to walk round the village to look at issues.

7. LAPC updates. An officer has been appointed to look at Achieving Quality Status. Information is available via e mail. Other items covered were Taking Complaints against Councillors, Employment Contracts, etc. Cllr T Stirling agreed to look through papers.

**04/160 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS**

1. Environmental Matters:
(a) Wood Lane planting. 2 costings have been received - £155 and £236 (the second is for more mature plants). Severn Trent have said they will give approximately £200.00 towards the planting. The next step is to consult with County Hall who will give licence to do it if they approve. The Clerk to pursue.
(b) The Banks maintenance – Cllr Mrs J Backus.
There is no problem with the hard landscaping. Apart from the Christmas tree socket all is in order. The weeds are all 'own grown – and 3 quotes have been received for one-off clearances. It was proposed and agreed that Parkdale be approach to do a one-off first hit. The Environmental Committee to look at long-term maintenance issues for The Banks and other areas in the village to be considered, and then feed back to the Parish Meeting. Cllr I Bexon presented the final account figures for Phase I.

2. CCTV – Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth. Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth had met with 3 more companies and 2 had fed back to her. It was suggested a working group be set up, and then a site meeting arranged with Mr Squires and also look at the system in operation at the Grammar School.

3. Alcohol free zones – Cllr J. Hutchinson – to be discussed at next meeting.

4. Entrance to the churchyard – Cllr T Stirling: Cllr Stirling reported he has been in touch with the Highways Department at Mountsorrel with regard to the area in the vicinity of the entrance to the churchyard where the drain had collapsed. Severn Trent is to be contacted and asked to clear it as a first

step, but improvements are needed. It was suggested that this could be considered as part of the Phase II project.

**04/161 PAYMENTS LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET FOR SEPTEMBER:**

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

A reminder was given that bids from committees and sub-committees should be made to the Finance Committee to ensure that they are considered.

**04/162 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS**

1. Nuneaton Signs have now arranged for a Perspex covering to go on all Village signs.
2. Medical Centre Clock. This is going backwards – Medical Centre staff have access to the clock and have been asked to rectify. Several months ago the Clerk obtained instructions from the repair company on how to do this and relayed these to the Practice Manager.
3. Village signs near to station were reported as being covered with nettles etc.
4. Nettles in Love Lane were large and blocking the path.
5. 2 Seats in the vicinity of the churchyard/High Street (sculpture garden) require attention.
6. School Travel Plan – Specification in for path from Beacon Avenue to the playground.
7. Barrow Road – New bollards are now in place to stop traffic squeezing through.
8. Litter bins – New ones to go on The Banks and Environmental Committee to look at siting of other bins.
9. British Legion has requested that the lettering on the slate plaques in the War Memorial are painted gold.
10. A Plaque made for the Memorial Garden advising that dogs and ball games are not allowed needs fixing. Cllr Hutchinson agreed to do so.

Meeting concluded at 10.32

Chairman …….. Date ……