

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th April 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

Borough Councillor R Shepherd
Borough Councillor D Slater
County Councillor T Kershaw

1 Member of the public
K Paterson – Clerk to the Council

Councillor Hutchinson paid tribute to Mr Stan Couzell, a former Member and Chairman of the Parish Council who had sadly passed away. A minute's silence was held in his memory.

04/48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Maltby and Community Support Officer C Kendal.

04/49 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Southam from Wood Lane raised the issue of bus shelter provision for Wood Lane at its junction with Leicester Road. He was under the impression that the shelter removed from outside Rawlins could be transferred to Wood Lane. Mr Southam had contacted the relevant officer at the County Council and had been informed that a shelter for Wood Lane had never been under consideration. Cllr Hutchinson confirmed that his own inquiries had yielded the same information. It was agreed to clarify the situation with County Councillor Kershaw and to ask him to bring pressure to bear for a shelter at Wood Lane.

As this meeting marks the end of the trial public consultation period, Members were asked to consider whether they wished to continue with the public sessions. It was agreed that this period does give residents an opportunity to address the Council directly and so the sessions will continue for the time being.

04/50 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2004

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

P5 04/37 (3) Revised to read: It was noted that cars are getting through the closure with two wheels on the pavement.

04/51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests declared:

Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth. – *Planning application for 10-12 High Street. Personal and prejudicial interest as a near neighbour*

Cllr I Bexon – *Dower House Gardens. Personal interest as a resident*

Cllr T Stirling – *Planning application for Rawlins Community College (floodlights). Personal and prejudicial interest as a near neighbour.*

Cllr K Croysdale – *Any matter concerning Rawlins Community college. Personal and prejudicial interest as a Governor.*

Cllr J Hutchinson – *British Legion grant application. Personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of the Quorn Branch.*

04/52 POLICING MATTERS

a) Community Support Officers Two letters have been received from the area Chief Superintendent asking for expressions of interest in joint funding ventures for Community Support Officers. Although the letters were seeking assistance for this financial year, the Clerk has ascertained that Quorn will be able to continue with its Support Officer for this year. Comments were made as to extent of funding required and whether the village would be prepared to contribute. In the first instance it was agreed to invite Chief Superintendent Feavour to a Parish Council meeting to clarify and debate the issues involved.

b) Criminal Damage – Meeting Street Cllr Stirling brought the Members' attention to spate of criminal damage which had recently occurred on Meeting Street. On one occasion it had taken the police three-quarters of an hour to arrive.

c) Guardian Article – 'Keep pupils in at lunchtime, Minister tells schools' Cllr Bexon had requested that this article be distributed to all Members for debate. It was agreed that all the problems noted in the article were those suffered by Quorn at lunchtimes. It was

generally felt that the village would be a better place if students were kept on campus during lunchtimes but pressure needs to be brought on the LE.A to fund such a initiative. It was agreed to write to the local MP, Andy Reed endorsing the comments made by the schools standards minister. It was also agreed to raise the matter at the next College/Village Liaison Committee.

04/53 MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Parking congestion at Dower House Gardens. A site meeting has taken place with representation from the County and Parish Councils and the residents. It was agreed that the congestion is perceived as sufficiently bad to warrant the Parish Council's support in writing officially to the County Council asking for an extension of the double yellow lines. A warning was delivered at the site meeting that any action agreed would take some considerable time to implement.
- 2 Village Hall Committee. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March had been circulated. With regard to the village hall extension, the architect has suggested a sum of £8,000 to prepare drawings and documents sufficient to go to tender stage. The question was asked as to the ownership of the current design and drawings submitted for planning permission. It was agreed to write to the architect and ask her advice on the best way to proceed giving that the Council has no budget allocation for tender preparations. In parallel with this a professional fundraiser would be sought. The issue to be referred to the next Council meeting.

Cllr Child drew Members' attention to a dispute over the invoice for repainting the exterior of the village hall. The estimate obtained had been for £740 excluding the hire of scaffolding. The eventual invoice amounted to £1,670. An explanation had been sought and a 'cherry picker' had been hired by the contractor for 5 days at £125 per day. The contractor has offered to reduce the invoice by £200 as gesture of goodwill. This was agreed and it was resolved to pay the invoice with the proviso that should future work be offered, the contractor must submit a proper estimate and seek authority for any additional work

- 3 Jubilee Gardens Cllr Bexon had prepared and submitted a revised funding plan for Phase 1 of the Jubilee Gardens. Due to a surfeit of money, the FLAG grant administrators are able to offer an additional £10,200 towards the scheme. It was proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Huchinson and resolved to accept the revised budget.

It was agreed that an opening ceremony will be held after the completion of Phase 1. The possibility of an interim opening to mark the contributions from the grant awarding bodies is also under consideration.

It was agreed to re-name the Jubilee Gardens 'The Banks' to commemorate the historical significance of the site. This was the name given to the cottages on the

land which were demolished in the 1960s. Heritage style street name plates will be ordered for 'Church Lane, 'High Street' and 'The Banks'

- 4 Consultation with Leicestershire County Council Cllr Stirling offered to raise the current debate over the quality of consultation with the County Council at the next meeting of the Leicestershire Association of Parish Councils. The purpose being to discover whether other Parish Councils consider that they have received good service. Cllr Stirling will also raise the issue over the LEA funding school supervision at lunchtimes to deter or prevent students using villages at lunchtimes.
- 5 Christmas lighting Cllr Mrs Templeman has submitted a draft remit for the subcommittee which was agreed with the slight amendment that the first paragraph should read 'Membership – up to five councillors'. Confirmation has been received from Charnwood Borough Council that a maximum grant contribution of £2,000 has been awarded for new lighting. Cllr Mrs Templeman was thanked and congratulated for her efforts in securing this.
- 6 School Travel Plan Cllr Mrs Templeman, as Chairman of the working party drawing up the Travel Plan, submitted a paper bringing Members up to date with the current situation. The Plan is now in place and will be reviewed every six months to a year. The official launch will be the week commencing the 24th May to coincide with National Walk to School week. Cllr Mrs Templeman has applied to the Parish Council for a grant of £150 to support the launch with awards, balloons, and stickers. It was resolved to grant £150 under S137. Permission was granted for Cllr Mrs Templeman to send a letter to the local MP on Council headed paper with copies to the County Directors of Education and Highways. Cllr Mrs Templeman was commended for her enthusiasm and energy and urged to involve the media in the launch week.
- 7 Andy Reed MP Clarification has been provided by Mr Reed of the question he asked in parliament concerning the expansion plans for the East Midlands airport.
- 8 Village Enhancement Steering Group Cllr Mrs Backus has submitted a draft remit for the subcommittee which was agreed. It was noted that the village entry signs are now in place and planted. They have attracted a lot of compliments. Thanks were offered to Cllr Mrs Backus and Mrs Hollingworth for their efforts. Mrs Hollingworth is giving thought to a new planting scheme for Wood Lane. It was agreed to review the planting of additional mature trees on The Banks until phase 1 of the scheme is completed.
- 9 Wicksteed Leisure and play equipment repairs A quotation of £1083 has been received to replace the vandalised gate to the play equipment. The Clerk circulated a list of criminal damage activity to Parish Council land and equipment over the past two years, totalling £4,892. It was agreed that the need for CCTV is becoming more urgent. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth has obtained another quotation but

it is similar in cost to the one previously obtained. CCTV will be referred to the next meeting for a fuller discussion. In the meantime it was agreed not to replace the damaged gate but make it safe.

- 10 Quorn Walks Leaflets. The leaflets are now available for sale at several outlets in the village. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Richard Guise for his hard work in writing and designing them.
- 11 Council Tax Borough Councillor Shepherd noted that the 6.3% increase noted in the previous Minutes relates to the Charnwood element alone.

04/54 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Footpath K33 Referred to the next meeting for clarification.
- 2 Waste Management Strategy Circulated for information..
- 3 The Slabs Cllr Stirling reported that progress on this matter is very slow. He felt it is imperative to get the County Council officers to understand that the Parish Council wishes to see the slabs retained, not replaced with tarmac. He has discovered that the officers were of the opinion that the area still flooded frequently and were reluctant to retain the slabs as they felt that the floodwater constantly washed away the sand therefore undermining the stability of the slabs. Cllr Stirling is pressing for edging stones which would prevent any movement and would have been necessary in any case with tarmac. He also felt that the lighting of the path required a compromise, that low-level lighting was not on offer and therefore the Parish Council should press for heritage-style lamps rather than standard street lighting.
- 4 Highways A meeting has been arranged with the Highways department and County Councillor Kershaw for Wednesday 12th May at 10.00am in the village hall. The actions list from Plan for Quorn will form the agenda.

04/55 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- 1 Airspace expansion consultation evening. It was agreed that Councillor Stirling would attend this consultation on 11th May
- 2 End of civic year reception Agreed that Cllr and Mrs Hutchinson would attend.

04/56 PLANNING MATTERS

Fishing development at Quorn Borrow Pit Dr Schofield has sent the Council a copy of his letter of complaint to Charnwood Borough Council that no enforcement action has yet

been taken over the commercial fishing venture. Borough Councillor Shepherd noted that he was investigating this matter.

Planning Decisions Despite the Council's objections, the planning authority has recommended that permission be granted to the erection of a two storey detached dwelling on land rear of 2 Orchard Estate.

Enforcement action is recommended for the unauthorised display of an advertisement sign at units 9 & 10 at Beacon View Business Park

It was proposed by Councillor Bexon, seconded by Cllr Mrs Templeman and resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow Council to enter into committee and treat the following item as confidential (appended for Members only)

Meynell Road site for residential development *Members requested of the Borough Councillors present an up to date report on the initiative to obtain some element of affordable housing within the current application site and on the land adjacent to it. Borough Councillor Shepherd replied that the application has been deferred but currently contains a proposal for 4 affordable housing units or a commuted sum in lieu. It was stressed that the Parish Council wishes to see affordable housing, not a commuted sum.*

Cllr Shephed explained that he had had concerns that the 'planning exception' route might open a development precedent especially in light of the recent wrangle over the Armston Road site and the village development limits. He had had a conversation with Jonathan Hale, the Director of Community Engagement who had suggested an alternative area adjacent to the application site, currently designated 'structural open space' but still within the village limits to development. This area could accommodate 12 additional housing units and a new entrance to Rawlins from the roundabout is also possible. It was agreed that Cllr Hutchinson will approach County Councillor Kershaw to discuss this proposa and, that Mr Jim Patman from East Midlands Housing Association will be approached for support. Borough Councillor Slater agreed to make inquiries as to whether a portion of the S106 sum mentioned in the planning report can be gifted to the Parish Council for play equipment.

Agreed to move back into Council.

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:

04/0596 Change of use from restaurant to two retail units at 10-12 High Street
04/0891 Cutting down and uprooting of one tree at 29 Chaveney Walk. (Considered and passed by the Tree Wardens)

04/0676 Erection of single storey and two storey extension to the rear of the dwelling at 46 Station Road

04/0880 Erection of a two storey extension to side and rear of detached house at 41 Sanders Road

04/0655 Erection of single storey extension to front of dwelling at 102 Chaveney Road

04/0947 Two and single storey extension to side of dwelling (revised scheme) at 123 Leicester Road

04/0930 Proposed first floor extension at side of dwelling at 2 Willowcroft

04/0775 & 04/0776 Erection of 2 storey extension and conservatory to rear of dwelling at 25 & 27 Orchard Estate

04/0705 Erection of a conservatory to rear of dwelling at 9 Swinfield Road

03/2478 Demolition of former petrol station and erection of 3 three storey terrace houses at 21 Loughborough Road (amended proposals)

04/0791 Installation of replacement floodlights and two additional floodlights (8 in total) adjacent to sports pitch at Rawlins Community College

04/57 CORRESPONDENCE

1 MENCAP – Disability Discrimination Act. Impact on play areas. Cllr Mrs Templeman offered to review the information..

2 Charnwood Strategic Partnership – improving health consultation Tabled.

3 Mrs N Morgan the conservative candidate for Loughborough has requested permission to observe a council meeting. Mrs Morgan will be advised that she would be welcome to attend any meeting of the Council held in open session.

4 The Reverend Ketton, branch chairman of the Quorn Branch of the Royal British Legion has written to the Council requesting a grant towards the legion's celebration and thanksgiving service for the 60th anniversary of the 'D Day' landings. The anticipated costs are approximately £700-£1000. It was proposed by Cllr Croysdale, seconded by Cllr Child and resolved that a grant of £250 be made under S137.

04/58 ITEMS RAISED BY CLLR HUTCHINSON

Stafford Orchard hedge line from Station Road to School Lane. Cllr Hutchinson requested that the Borough Council be asked to thin the basal growth along the hedge and tree line and delitter the area. This was agreed.

War Memorial electrics and water supply. The electrical supply to the war memorial gardens can only support 15amps. In order to upgrade the supply to 30amps a quote must be obtained from EMEB. Mr Dilkes, a local plumber is liaising with a builder over the construction of a cabinet to house a tap and hose.

Station Road telephone kiosk. Cllr Hutchinson reminded Members that the Plan for Quorn states that efforts will be made to reinstate a traditional red phone box in Station Road. Cllr Mrs Templeman agreed to made inquiries.

Traffic calming on High Street/Loughborough Road. This issue will be covered in the meeting with the highways department on May 12th.

04/60 PAYMENTS LIST AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR MARCH

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

04/61 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

Cllr Child requested that the grass on Stafford Orchard be cut during the week before May Fair and the park gates left open. Cllr Hutchinson agreed to liaise with Charnwood to ensure that the public lavatories are open.

Cllr Bexon noted from the Quarry Liaison Committee that Wood Lane will temporarily closed during the year for the re-building of a quarry bridge. It was also noted that this year is the 150th anniversary of the quarry

The Cricket Club notice board remains in need of repair and is becoming an eyesore.

Cllr Mrs Bloodworth noted that a paving slab had cracked and broken in the Cross.

Station Road car park is due to be re-tarmaced in the near future.

Cllr Stirling passed on information he had acquired from a Rural Community Council funding seminar.

The meeting concluded at 23.00

Chairman.....

Date.....