

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th April 2005.

PRESENT

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chair)
Cllr T Tyler
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr T Stirling

Cllr P Child
Cllr Mrs J Backus
Cllr K Croysdale
Cllr Mrs E Harrison
Cllr Mrs S Templeman

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

PC Neil Smith
PCSO Chris Kendell

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

5 members of the public

05/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Maltby.

05/45 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Sue Ridley of 93 Leicester Road spoke on behalf of the members of the public present regarding the application to erect a mono pole, antenna, etc. by a mobile 'phone company. The proposed site of the pole was adjacent to number 123 Leicester Road, near to the Mountsorrel cemetery and next to the 'best kept village' sign. The area was used by badgers, birds, bird watchers etc. for several months of the year and villagers were very proud of their village and were concerned regarding the effect of this siting. Ms Ridley spoke of research into the siting of masts, and in particular the Stuart Report, and asked for the support of the Parish Council to comment on the residents' behalf against the proposal.

Mrs Joan Davis of 123 Leicester Road, the resident most effected by this application, then spoke regarding the issue. The proposed application advises that the mast would be located by trees, hedges and shrubs etc. and would therefore not be visible. Mrs Davies advised that the particular trees, hedges and shrubs and green railings detailed on the proposed plan were on her property and belonged to her. Indeed, in the near future Mrs Davies would be cutting down the trees to make a hedge because of their condition and for health and safety reasons, and the equipment would then stand out "like a sore thumb". She was also concerned that the mast could deter birds, badgers etc. and also said the verge was used constantly by people including children because of the narrow path.

Mrs Davis expressed disappointment that Borough Councillors Slater and Shepherd had not responded to a letter to them regarding these concerns. B Cllr Slater advised that from a planning point of view, members of the Planning Committee must not fetter a decision before they sit on the committee, and legal advice meant he could not respond before anything went to committee. Failure to do this would result in the Standards Committee being involved. B Cllr Shepherd supported this and advised that a similar incident had happened to him and that although the lack of response may mean the persons felt unsupported, unfortunately the due and proper process must be adhered to. Mrs Davis said she still felt let down and that a short note acknowledging the receipt of letters could have been sent.

Mr David Millington of 119 Leicester Road also commented on this proposed site and the fact that 9 other sites had been examined in the village. He advised that 3 of the sites were on County Council land and they did not allow masts on their land, and commented that the land by 123 Leicester Road was actually county council land. He also commented that the photographs taken from Mountsorrel side looked reasonable, but 300 yards towards Mountsorrel they appeared very obtrusive.

The proposed site was just in Mountsorrel and had been chosen as being on the border of 2 villages. It has 'deemed consent' in principle already for a telecom determination. Comments could only be made on the siting and design. Because of the time frame it may not go to Committee and if no comments were received then after 56 days consent could go ahead. B Cllrs Slater and Shepherd could try to put on pressure for it to be brought to a Planning Committee but may not be legally able to do so.

Cllr Hutchinson thanked everyone for their comments and asked that the matter be discussed further under item 10 of the Agenda (Planning Matters).

05/46 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1ST MARCH 2005

With regard to 05/35 (ii) deployment of PCSOs, Cllr Bexon advised this should read that if pressure was brought to bear for Council's to pay for a share of Community Support Officers, then we should be aware of it and could take action, not 'any possibility of sharing should also be considered'. The Clerk advised that 05/34 comments were invited by 17th June not 17th March 2005.

05/47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Hutchinson-		A personal and prejudicial interest in item 12 of the agenda for which special dispensation to deal with the matter has been sought and granted.. (NALC & SLCC new pay structure, contract of employment and working conditions for Clerks).
Cllr P Child	-	As above for item 12 of the Agenda Caves Field – personal
Cllr T Tyler	-	As above for item 12 of the Agenda
Cllr Mrs J Backus	-	As above for item 12 of the Agenda

- Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth - As above for item 12 of the Agenda
- Cllr Mr K Croysdale - As above for item 12 of the Agenda
Caves Field – personal
Rawlins - personal
Church - personal
- Cllr Mrs E Harrison - As above for item 12 of the Agenda
- Cllr Mr T Stirling - As above for item 12 of the Agenda
- Cllr Mrs S Templeman - As above for item 12 of the Agenda
Caves Field – personal
- Cllr Mr I Bexon - As above for item 12 of the Agenda

Cllr Hutchinson reminded members to regularly check the Register of Interests to ensure it was always up to date.

(i) Standards Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March when Quorn’s request for special dispensation was discussed are with the Clerk to the Council.

(ii) Report of Standard Panel Hearing regarding member of Birstall Parish Council being suspended for 3 months. Information also with the Clerk.

(iii) Mrs Paterson, Clerk to the Council, advised she is to attend a meeting shortly for Parish Clerks with the Standards Officer.

05/48 POLICING MATTERS

PC Neil Smith and CPSO Chris Kendal presented the Crime Figures for the month of March 2005. These included 1 Burglary dwelling, 1 Burglary other, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 3 damage to motor vehicles, 3 theft, 2 theft of pedal cycles, 1 fraud, 4 assaults and 2 public order offences. The 3 damage to motor vehicles were scratch damage to cars and difficult to prevent. The thefts were preventable. 1 assault was within a family and 1 of the public order matters had no direct link to the village. There have been concerns regarding The Manor Public House. The new licensee is making a stand against youths and unwanted customers, and will continue to make a stand with police support. There were no major issues regarding Rawlins.

There had been a recent incident of a discarded syringe being left by a litter bin, and when the police were telephoned it was passed to the cleansing department for them to deal with. PC Smith said it was important that police were advised and information could be left on his voicemail, but it was also essential that syringes etc. should be cleaned up correctly and quickly.

Willowcroft/Warwick Avenue – parking on corner. There are still problems when there is no police presence. Other ways of solving the problem, including letter writing, were discussed.

(i) Visit to Call Centre. The Clerk advised that the date has now changed to 26th April at 7.30 pm at Police Headquarters in Narborough and 2 places were available. Cllr Hutchinson will attend. Cllr Bexon will advise the Clerk if he is able to attend.

05/49 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(i) Station Road Car Park. It was agreed that the whole environment around the car park area needed to be enhanced and discussion was held regarding the best way forward. If there were suitable plans then the engineering works could be undertaken in accordance with the design. It was vital that car parking spaces were not lost. Concern was expressed regarding the present condition – litter, leaves blown down, gutters not swept etc. It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to write to the owners, Townlands Charity, and ask them to request it is maintained on a monthly basis. Ease of maintenance should be fed into any design. A basic design/concept was needed and an artist's impression would be ideal.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach the landscape architect employed for Banks project and ask for an estimate for a new design and layout for the car park environment, to include liaison with other interested parties such as Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and Townlands Charity.

(ii) Litter bins in churchyard. Mrs Paterson will be attending a site meeting to agree the placement of the litter bins in the churchyard and also The Banks at 9.30 am on 6th April 2005.

(iii) Railings and pedestrian entrance at Cave's Field. Correspondence from Mrs Pollard had been circulated with the Agenda. There had been written consultation with nearby residents beforehand, and the Chairman of the Committee felt that Mrs Pollard's concerns had been taken into account when the design for the railings was finalised. Leicestershire County Council has awarded a SHIRE grant based on the submitted design. The order was now in with Stowfledge. Cllr Child recalled, and had had it confirmed, that the pedestrian entrance to Cave's Field prior to 1976 was exactly where it was at the present time.

It was agreed that the dog bin be moved to the left of the new gap. Cllr Mrs Templeman and Cllr Croysdale will meet on site to measure exactly where the new gap will be etc. and then Cllr Croysdale will speak to Mrs Pollard.

(iv) Airport – changes to controlled airspace. This was circulated with the agenda for information.

(v) Correspondence had been received from Mr and Mrs Allwood regarding action taken by the Parish Clerk in connection with the concerns regarding a recent planning application. It was agreed that the Clerk acted in good faith, had endeavoured to assist the Allwoods, and her actions were fully in accordance with the Parish Council's wishes

(vi) Quarry Liaison Meeting. Cllr Bexon and Cllr Tyler attended a Liaison Meeting on Monday 4th April 2005. A discussion was held regarding the problems of noise and it had been proposed/suggested that the quarry should

improve their public relationships with people. Initially there will be more noise and then there should be a significant improvement. The Clerk was asked to write to the company asking that the management improve liaison with local residents disturbed by the workings and advise them as to what is happening, together with timescales etc. They should explain what they are doing (and why), and when. B Cllr Shepherd suggested reference should also be made to the recent survey carried out of person affected by quarry noise.

(vii) Street Lights. The Clerk has been advised that 2 signs up to 0.3 sq.m could go on each street lighting pole. Hanging baskets can also go on the poles but a structural survey would need to be carried out and public liability insurance purchased at the Parish Council's expense. It was suggested that identification of posts with independent traffic signs can be made and then contact made with Traffic Section to see if they could be attached to a lamp post.

(viii) Affordable Housing situation. The Clerk read out an e mail from Jim Packman from East Midlands Housing and a letter from Senior Planning Officer, Peter Blitz. The main site on Meynell Road has now been purchased by a developer and Mr Patman is due to meet with their representative soon. The letter from Mr Blitz suggests moving the location of the flats and rearranging the car parking. He also notes that the developer would welcome the opportunity to discuss a joint scheme that distributes the affordable housing more within an overall scheme rather than being at the entry to the site. B Cllr Slater advised that the policy is normally to spread social housing in an estate and 16 affordable units are being talked about on this particular site. Cabinet had approved £220000 to come out of the enabling grant to help with the 16 affordable units – subject to planning approval.

(ix) Play equipment on Cave's Field. Playdale will re-site the equipment to the correct location during the week commencing 11.4.05. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth, Cllr Mrs Backus and the Clerk will meet them on site.

(x) Loughborough Endowed Schools – use of field as community land. Cllrs Hutchinson, Child and the Clerk have visited the site and met with youngsters involved. A meeting is now to be arranged with Mr Allardyce, the Estates Manager

(xi) Poulteney Brook – height. Cllr Child has reported this and been advised it will be dealt with.

(xii) The Banks II project. Feedback to be requested from the designer.

(xiii) State of tidiness of public areas in the village. Cllr Stirling has met with the village handyman. General discussion was held regarding issues within the village. Possibility of larger litter bins, weed spraying on various footpaths and The Banks, lack of litter bins in the area of the 'bus stop in Loughborough Road and by the Apple Tree (these are the responsibility of Charnwood Borough Council) were discussed. Cllr Stirling was asked to prepare a schedule of what is needed around the village. This can then be compared with the present schedule and consideration given as to whether an assistant handyman is required in the future.

(i) Minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting held on 7th March 2005 – these were circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Child advised that another very successful event had taken place – ‘Ladies in Lavender’ – on 9th March. Cllr Stirling reported that £265 would be handed over at the next Village Hall meeting. This was after floor mats costing £50 had been purchased. The next Centre Screen event takes place on Saturday 30th April for families – ‘Finding Nemo’.

Cllr Bexon advised money should be put into the correct budget/place. The Village Hall Maintenance Fund was suggested and it will appear on accounts as such.

The new windows have now been installed in the village hall flat.

(ii) Minutes of the Cave’s Field Management Committee meeting held on 17th March 2005 – these were circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Mrs Templeman reported that the play equipment is well appreciated and well used. Thanks were given to Cllr Mrs Backus and Cllr Mrs Bloodworth. Mrs Paterson was also thanked for her work in liaising to arrange for the equipment to be moved to the correct location. The equipment will not be deemed to be the Parish Council’s until it is moved and paid for.

The railings have been ordered.

05/51 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Adoption of Structure Plan 1996 – 2016. The Clerk has the information.

(ii) Branchline newsletter. The Clerk also has this information.

C Cllr Kershaw reported that the Farley Way Improvement/traffic lights will be undertaken at the same time as the traffic calming in Loughborough Road – ie scheduled for the summer holidays. This would be subject to Parish Council agreement and request was made for this agreement to be made speedily. Hopefully the work will be completed ready for the new school year.

No information has yet been received regarding any zebra crossing in Station Road (which in any event would be part of an overall design and traffic management scheme).

05/52 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Corporate Plan 2011/12. The Clerk as received this documentation.

(ii) Key stakeholder consultation: Leading in design. A good practice guide to access for disabled people. Information received.

(ii) B Cllr shepherd advised that the refuse and recycling service exemptions are being reviewed to see if any changes are required. Copies of information will be going to householders on the assisted service.

05/52 PLANNING MATTERS

Notification of contentious planning applications.

(i) Marconi – proposed radio base station Quorn Football Ground. A letter has been received from Marconi on behalf of Orange, giving pre-planning advice and information regarding a shareable structure on a floodlight for a new G3 mast. Formal consultation will be forthcoming. The Clerk was asked to write to ask for confirmation of the permanent removing of the existing mast etc. on Loughborough Road and also to thank them for their environmental consideration.

(ii) Siting and appearance of proposal by White Young and Green on behalf of Hutchinson for a 3G 13 m monopole etc. south of Leicester Road. The trees, shrubs etc. are on private land and it is understood the owners of the land will shortly be lopping the trees to approximately 2 m (for safety reasons and as some of the trees have died and others are in a poor condition). The mast would then be exposed. The Clerk was requested to write strongly objecting to this application and suggesting that other site options be considered.

A number of letters have been received regarding opposition to the mast – names and addresses as follows:

Mr Willimot	37b Leicester Road
Susie Sharp	51 Leicester Road
Mrs Joan Davies	123 Leicester road
Mr Kendrick and Ms Ross	39 Leicester Road
Paul East	117 Leicester Road
Mr Garlick	121 Leicester Road
Mr Millington	119 Leicester Road
Sally Harrison	113 Leicester Road
Mr Harvey	111 Leicester Road
Mr & Mrs Pritchard	6 Armston Road
Mr & Mrs Pathan	109a Leicester Road

(iii) 05/0464 Single storey extension, side and rear 7 Warwick Avenue – no comment

(iv) 05/0558 Single storey extension 1 Whall Close – no comment

05/53 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council – Invitation to Civic Service 17th April 2005. Cllr Hutchinson and his wife will attend.

(ii) Mr T Rodgers – street lighting in Wood Lane. Mr Rodgers advised that the lights had recently been upgraded with new modern fittings and 150 watt bulbs, as opposed to the 90 watts bulbs previously. He asked if the bulbs could be replaced with lower wattage ones. It was proposed that the Clerk write to the County Council and ask that the bulbs be replaced with reduced wattage ones on the grounds of light pollution etc. Also this was observed to be another instance of consultation with the Parish Council not taking place before the work was undertaken.

(iii) Mr B Pheasant (a) Various matters (letter dated 1st March 2005) Mr Pheasant expressed concerns regarding dog mess, litter bins, overhanging garden front hedges, and encroaching grass and mud on the tarmaced footpath across Stafford Orchard. Some issues have been, or will shortly be, dealt with. Regarding the overhanging hedges – Mr Pheasant will be asked to provide offending addresses and a letter will be sent. The Clerk was asked to design standard letter requesting hedges etc. are cut back to boundaries. The widening of the footpath may be in a future plan, but no details or date known yet.

(b) Problems on Caves' Field (dated 21st March 2005). Mr Pheasant advised of youths climbing on play equipment, beer cans and broken glass that he has removed from the play equipment area and the pavilion. Also drink cans and bottles. There have been instances of noisy people outside the pavilion and play equipment and youths on the pavilion roof. Mr Pheasant suggested that Caves Field be designated an alcohol free area.

A meeting is due to take place on 18th April with Charnwood Borough Council regarding alcohol free areas.

Litter bins will be provided when the railings are installed.

It was felt this letter should be discussed at the next Caves' Field Management Meeting.

(iv) Letter received from BT Conservation Volunteers. They are looking for work to be contracted out to them.

(v) Summer Playscheme Grant. Following a request received from Marcie Douglas, a grant of £250 was proposed and agreed.

(vi) Memorial Garden. Mrs Jane Hollingworth requested £200 to £300 for expenses for the Memorial Garden for this year. This was proposed and agreed.

05/54 NALC & SLCC new pay structure, contract of employment and working conditions for Clerks. *Confidential report of working party circulated at the last meeting.*

05/55 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

(i) 2005/6 budget – explanatory notes provided by Cllr Bexon for information.

(ii) The Slabs footpath – Cllr T Stirling. Cllr Stirling advised that a formal request from the Parish Council was needed in order that the status and condition of the slabs be examined. A letter from a resident had also been received regarding the condition of the slabs. The Clerk pointed out that a letter had been sent last August to Mr Bradford and to date there had been no reply. The Clerk to chase a response. Copy to go to County Councillor Kershaw.

(iii) New lamp in the churchyard – Cllr J Hutchinson. This was at the entrance to the church yard from the back of the shops. Costings are being sought by the Clerk to the Council. It is a health and safety issue and money should come from contingency budget.

05/56 PAYMENT LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET FOR MARCH

This was circulated with the agenda. All payments were approved.

05/57 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Presentation of Garden Cup to Mr G Taylor. Mrs Paterson purchased a cup and arranged for the engraving. Cllr Hutchinson presented the Garden Cup to Mr G Taylor of Unit Road, who was very appreciative and it was well received. Mr Taylor is a very keen gardener.

(ii) The Clerk advised that she has received an e mail from Richard Guise advising that he was ceasing to be a footpath warden. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Guise for all his hard work.

The meeting ceased at 20.45 hours

Signed Date