

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st February 2005.

PRESENT

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chair)
Cllr Mrs J Backus
Cllr T Stirling
Cllr P Child
Cllr J Maltby
Cllr K Croysdale

Cllr T Tyler
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr Mrs E Harrison
Cllr Mrs S Templeman
Cllr I Bexon

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

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

Mr R Beardsley
8 members of the public
Photographer

05/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the police (who were involved with major incidents).

05/16 PRESENTATION OF CHAIRMAN'S CHAIN OF OFFICE – Mr Robert Beardsley

Mr Robert Beardsley was welcomed to the meeting. In recognition of the work of the Parish Council he wished to present a Chairman's Chain of Office to the present Chairman, Cllr John Hutchinson. The chain, which is made of sterling silver and each piece hallmarked, incorporates local 'jewellery' in the form of polished Charnwood granite.

On behalf of the Council, Cllr Hutchinson was most grateful for the chain and had pleasure in accepting it for the chairman and future chairpersons. He gave thanks for the generosity and kind thoughts.

05/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mr George Wright, of M Wright and Sons, spoke regarding the written report from the recent public meeting regarding the School Lane area, and wished to reinforce the comments made and said the report was a fair representation of the meeting. He wished to add that the number of incidents had increased since the closure of Barrow Road.

Mr Paul Webster of 10 Swinfield Road also spoke regarding School Lane. He advised he had been involved in an collision with a lorry in School Lane.

Mr Webster also requested a zebra crossing from the Medical Centre to the shops. He felt this would also act as a traffic-calmer in Station Road.

Mr Rodgers of Wood Lane said he agreed with the report. However, he asked for sensitivity with regarding the placement of any increased signage etc. and to go for efficiency not quantity.

Concern was expressed by those present at the significant number of incidents that are either not reported to the police or not passed onto the County Council. It was felt that people involved in incidents are encouraged to exchange details and not report to the police, and therefore many more incidents occur than those reported.

County Cllr Kershaw said Mr Webster brought the matter to his attention at one of his surgeries. He confirmed police do not want to get involved unless there are injuries.

C Cllr Kershaw had now received drawings on new signage which has been or will be installed to improve the situation. Following the meeting he had put on 'hold' a large 4' x 2' sign for the time being. He thought the rest of the signs would improve matters and there were no strong feelings against them at the Saturday meeting.

With regard to the possibility of a zebra crossing in Station Road – officers are looking at it and will report back to C Cllr Kershaw with their findings. The logic/need of a crossing from the shops to car park/park etc. was accepted and he was hopeful but could not make any guarantees.

Vehicle Damage in School Lane: A road marking line in the centre of the road did not appear to have any benefit or logic. Suggestion have been made for the parking area to be marked to stand out more as a parking area, and hatching to move vehicles away from parked cars.

Speed down School Lane from Soar Road: C Cllr Kershaw said traffic calming measures could not be undertaken quickly. As an interim measure officers will be out with speed guns very soon. If there is a serious problem from the records, arrangements will be made for strips to go across the road to record all traffic. Other potential signage in road and air are on 'hold' until the results of the monitoring are known. A suggestion had been made for a 'turn left' sign to go in the vicinity of the public house.

CCllr Kershaw advised that most things from the meeting were in the course of being attended or would be. He will report back to the next Parish Council Meeting.

2. Mr Southam spoke regarding a recent Parish Council Meeting he attended when Declarations of Interest had been discussed. He had witnessed one councillor considering retiring over the matter and another Councillor calling the discussion to a halt through exasperation. He said in his opinion, unless common sense was used, the workings of the Parish Council could be paralysed in the future. Cllr Hutchinson advised that an informal meeting had recently taken place between the Parish Council and the Standards Monitoring Officers from Charnwood Borough Council and he was hopeful that the Council was now more at ease with the regulations.

3. Mr Rodgers of Wood Lane spoke regarding quarry noise and he said he was blighted by noise from the quarry. He has complained to the quarry and to Charnwood Borough Council and in the last 3 months the noise has been very bad. Last month he sent out 200 questionnaires to households in the area and had received over 30 replies from people who were adversely affected by noise from the quarry (1 in 6 replied with problems). He will also raise the issue at Borough Council level and with the local MP, but wished to advise the Parish Council of what is happening.

Cllr Bexon advised that he attends a Quarry Liaison Meeting every 6 months with Cllr Tyler and he asked Mr Rodgers to contact him before each meeting in order that any issues can be raised. Mr Rodgers will keep Cllr Bexon and Cllr Tyler up to date with information.

Cllr Shepherd advised that some years ago concerns were raised regarding the cumulative effect on structures of blasting. Research at the time showed it does not have any effect and does not cause long term damage, and asked that this be raised as well at the Quarry Liaison Meeting. It was appreciated that this was a different issue to Mr Rodger's concern which is how the noise affects the way people live.

05/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2005

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2005 were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

05/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Templeman	Cave's Field – personal as living near and with friends associated with the Scouts, Guides and Cricket Club
Cllr Child	Cave's Field – personal as a member of the Cricket Club
Cllr Maltby	personal regarding planning application Freehold Street (son lives nearby)
Cllr R Shepherd	interested party regarding quarry blasting
Cllr Croysdale	personal as governor at Rawlins

Cllr Bexon suggested if in doubt councillors should explain what their interest was and if others thought the interest should be declared then it would be. If no-one did that should be the end of the matter and not raised outside of the meeting.

05/21 POLICING MATTERS

None as police or representatives not able to attend.

05/22 MATTERS ARISING

1. Regarding 04/197 point (iv). Cllr Stirling asked for clarification regarding what comments had been made and by whom. Councillors stated that several remarks had been made, indicating disappointment and surprise that he had not given a reason for voting against the budget. Cllr Mrs Templeman said she presented the budget in the absence of Cllr Bexon, and it was explained as a draft budget after detailed calculations; it would have been fair to give an explanation when voting against. The processes were discussion/debate/proposal and vote, and Cllr Stirling had not previously voiced an opinion. Cllr Stirling did not state why he had voted against accepting the precept at the time. Cllr Stirling replied that he was not asked for a reason and would have given one had he been asked. Cllr Stirling stated that the reason he voted against was he thought the precept was too high.

2. Litter bins in churchyard: The Clerk advised that Mr Spooner at Charnwood Borough Council had been in touch and said money was not available for reimbursement as none had been transferred to him by the previous postholder. Mr Spooner is looking at whether or not it is cost effective for him to remove the old bins. The Clerk was requested to ask Mr Spooner if money could be transferred, and Borough Councillors Shepherd and Slater offered their support. It was felt disappointing that Charnwood Borough were not taking a more corporate and less departmental approach regarding this matter.

3. Quorn Wakes 2005: Concern was expressed by Cllr Stirling that the Wakes were open last year on a Sunday. It is hoped that all will have gone by the Sunday this year, so this should not be a problem. Mr Cox, the fair owner has been advised that Rawlins no longer allow year 10 out at lunchtimes so he might want to reconsider opening during lunchtimes.

4. Light by Quorn Medical Centre: The Clerk has written to the Medical Centre asking them to attend to the light, but it is still not working.

05/23 COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Village Hall Committee Minutes for 17th January 2005 circulated with the agenda:

(a) Centre Screen: Congratulations were given to Cllr Mrs Bloodworth and Cllr Stirling for highly successful cinema afternoon. They will be reporting to the next Village Hall Committee Meeting.

(b) Charging rates: It was proposed at the meeting to take to the Parish Council recommendation to leave the rates of £5 and £10 per hour but to introduce a new rate of £7.50 per hour for non commercial community groups/users from outside Quorn. The proposal was agreed and to operate from 1st April 2005. It was also suggested to look at the remit for devolved responsibility. All were agreement that it would be appropriate for the Committee to set the Hall charging rates.

(c) Sensor light at entrance to hall: This is in hand and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

2. Cave's Field Management Committee Minutes for meeting held on 27th January 2005 – these were distributed at the Parish Council Meeting. As the minutes were only received on the day of the Parish Council meeting it was

suggested that discussion be deferred until the March Parish Council Meeting.

A decision was needed regarding fund raising, in order that an article could go in the Quorndon. It was agreed that agreement to the fund-raising did not have to come to the Parish Council for approval and that Cave's Field Management Committee could make the decision themselves.

3. Environment Subcommittee: A recent meeting with Bellinger Design was held regarding Phase II of the Banks and a plan Cllr Mrs Backus went through the plan with those present. Concerns were expressed regarding lighting and security. Security lighting (CCTV) is still being looked at by the Parish Council. There will be extra street lighting – heritage lighting. Decision regarding the scheme will depend upon grants awarded. The costing to date was estimated at just over £73000 plus 10% contingency for this year and 5% for 2005/6 – giving a rough total of £84500 (including £11000 in contingencies). The Parish Council's contribution would be £30000 (£15000 from the 2005/6 financial year and possibly a further £15000 from the next financial year). Drainage work and fees to be added.

Lefarge to be approached for materials, and highways work and lighting to be part-funded by County. The Church Room Committee would see if grants can be applied for. The balance to be found in way of materials, grants etc. Cllr Stirling asked that when a Parish Council was spending money on someone else's land (the church's) under what statutory power was this done under? The Clerk will check and report back. Cllr Stirling advised he agreed with the work on the entrance to the churchyard as the churchyard was regarded more as a public facility than the rest of the project. He also expressed concern regarding other projects connected with The Banks that have had to be stopped/ceased because of costs.

Cllr Bexon said that there was a ceiling on the costs of the Parish Council's commitment - of £30000.

The next step was to employ a quantity surveyor for advice and estimates. Recommendation was put forward for the Council to go forward and then consult with the Church Rooms Committee. This was agreed.

The condition of the drains need to be examined. The Clerk to check if free advice on this is available from Charnwood Borough Council.

Consultation would take place with the Church Room Committee – possibly around half term.

There would be costs involved to pursue the project to a stage where a decision whether or not to proceed is made. It was proposed and agreed to pursue, and that when a decision was made it would be on the understanding that adequate funding was available. Fees would come out of the £15000.

Plant pots: Cllr Mrs Backus advised that there was a need to look at replacing pots on the A6. Cllr Mrs Backus will report back to the next meeting.

05/24 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

C Cllr Kershaw had also already made comments under 'public participation'.

Cllr Child advised he had received a detailed account of incidents since 2002 from a resident in School Lane, and will pass the information to CCllr

Kershaw. Discussion was held regarding ways of 'distracting' traffic and encouraging it to use the correct routes. It was agreed a working party be set up to meet with County Council officers and feedback to next Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth, Cllr Mrs Backus, Cllr Huchinson and Cllr Stirling will form the working party. It was agreed that no further signs should go up yet. The public meeting on 29th January wanted something to happen soon and to arrive at a safer solution which would not necessarily be more signs, and the working party etc. should meet, walk and talk through the systems.

Cllr Mrs Templeman thanked CCllr Kershaw for his support in obtaining the Shire Grant for Cave's Field.

Cllr Stirling advised that recently 3 fire engines had gone down Barrow Road seemingly unaware that Barrow Road was closed off, and asked how emergency systems know the roads that are closed. Also Barrow Road extends further than where it is closed. CCllr Kershaw advised that this was a known incident and it had now been resolved and the fire service were now aware that part of Barrow Road is closed. When the road was closed temporarily for a year there was consultation with emergency services. Also, the fire service personnel may not have been local people. Thanks were given to C Cllr Kershaw.

05/25 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

1. The Clerk to the Council advised she had received invitations for the Annual Charnwood Biodiversity Lecture and anyone wishing to attend should contact her.
2. The Clerk has received a letter from Charnwood Borough Council regarding the renewal of the lease of the land the Parish Council rents near the church (statues). The offer is for a further or similar lease (which must be registered with the Land Registry) or an offer for the Parish Council to buy the land at local market value (an informal valuation may be available). The Clerk was requested to ask for a valuation.
3. Charnwood Development Statement of Community Involvement: Comments are requested by 11th March and the Clerk has the document for anyone wishing to look at it.
4. Invitation received to Charnwood's Strategic Partnership Event on 11th February. The Clerk has details. B Cllr Slater advised that this was with regard to looking at the future of approximately 6000 council houses. The Borough Council has to report what it is going to do with regard to them. A request was made for the Borough Councillors to provide information on public housing in Quorn.
5. Street Cleaning: Quorn does not appear to be receiving the 4 promised mechanical cleanings. BCllr Slater is aware of this and chairs a committee which will be reporting that the Council is not getting good value.
6. Affordable housing: The application has not been withdrawn but appears to be facing difficulties. A report is going to the Planning Committee on 10th or 31st March and the Parish Council must be clear regarding access road. It was agreed that the Clerk to write to C Cllr Kershaw on behalf of the Parish Council emphasising how strongly they feel regarding the blocking off of the entrance to Rawlins. Cllr Croysdale will informally talk to Mr Brindley to ascertain his views.

05/26 PLANNING MATTERS

04/4353 Demolition of light industrial premises and erection of three storey end terrace building comprising two flats at 33 Freehold Street.

It was agreed to register an objection to this application on the following grounds

- Proposed parking inadequate for development and would lead on on-street parking creating an unacceptable pressure on Freehold Street.
- Sight lines from Freehold Street onto Soar Road would be adversely affected by on-street parking.
- Impact on conservation area. Design out of keeping with the conservation area and does not reflect the character of the surrounding Victorian terraced housing. The roof line would be visually intrusive.

Other planning applications were considered but no comment passed to the planning authority:

05/0087 & 05/0088 Erection of a single storey garden room to side of dwelling (LBC) & Erection of a single storey extension to side of dwelling at Chaveney Manor, Chaveney Road.

05/0010 Erection of two storey and single storey extension to front and single storey extension to side of dwelling at 27 Mansfield Street (Revised Scheme)

05/4357 Single and two storey extension to rear of dwelling at 4 Orchard Estate

05/0112 Erection of single storey side extension at 98 Chaveney Road

05/27 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mrs Joan Parkinson – Rawlins lunchtime improvement strategy. A letter has been received from Mrs Parkinson thanking the Principal of Rawlins and PC Smith and Community Support Officers for a very big improvement this term, mainly as a result of younger pupils being kept in at lunchtimes. Cllr Hutchinson, to whom the letter was addressed, has passed on her appreciation to PC Smith and colleagues and to Rawlins.
2. Transfer of Licence – The Manor. 8.3.05 Notification of a transfer of licence for a new landlord at The Manor has been received. It was agreed the Clerk to write to Magistrates Court drawing attention to the running of The Manor and state the Parish Council are hopeful that new management will improve matters.
3. Rawlins Reprographic Services – authorisation of services. There has been recent increased use of these services and Mrs Gilliver has queried who is authorised to request the services from the Parish Council. Any serving member of the Council, the Clerk and administrative assistant are authorised to use the service. It was agreed to put a financial limit of £10.00 per councillor and if anyone needs to go above this limit they should check with the Clerk to the Council.

05/28 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Finishing time of Council meetings – Cllr Mrs J Backus. Cllr Mrs Backus said that other Parish Councils had a finishing time of 10 pm as part of their standing orders, and asked that discussion be held regarding the finishing time of Quorn's. It was agreed to aim to end by 10 pm but there may be

occasions when this may not be possible and a meeting would need to overrun.

05/29 PAYMENT LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET FOR JANUARY

- 1. All payments were approved.
- 2. The bank reconciliation sheet to 31.12.04 was circulated with the agenda for information.

05/30 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

- 1. Pastor Cooper’s 90th birthday 2.2.05. Request was made for a card to be sent from the Parish Council.
- 2. Mr Bosley has spoken to Cllr Croysdale regarding the possibility of a crib scene by the churchyard next December, and would like dialogue with the Xmas Lights Committee regarding this.
- 3. Barrow Road: Cllr Child reported that vehicles still appear to be getting through the barriers in Barrow Road. The Parish Council are awaiting tree planting at that location which should stop any vehicles getting through.
- 4. The Mayor’s Art and Sports Fund – Following a request from Cllr Bloodworth, the Clerk will contact the Mayor’s secretary to ask how to apply for funds.
- 5. Footpath Mansfield Street – Castledine Avenue: Cllr Stirling reported that the hedge alongside 1 Mansfield Street is being replaced by a 6’ fence. He also queried any planning application for a garage being built at the side of No 23 Mansfield Street. It was thought planning permission may not have been required.
- 6. Chairman’s chain of office: The Clerk asked for consideration to be given to the purchase of a safe. In the meantime Cllr Mrs Bloodworth advised of a secure place for it.
- 7. Drains: Cllr Stirling reported that two drains (1 by the Thatch and 1 by Home and Garden) have not been attended to. Cllr Hutchinson will request that they are included in the next schedule.

The meeting concluded at 22.10.

Chair Date