

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chairman)
Cllr P Child
Cllr T Stirling
Cllr T Tyler
Cllr Mrs J Backus

Cllr Mrs S Templeman
Cllr K Croysdale
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr Mrs E Harrison

Borough Cllr D Slater
Borough Cllr R Shepherd

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

2 members of the public

05/151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth and Cllr J Maltby.

05/152 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mr Alan Southam gave an update on the issue he raised at the last Parish Council Meeting (fee reduction for adult education courses). He had written on the matter to a number of persons, including the local MP, who was going to raise it with the Chief Executive of the Council. Mr Southam thanked the Parish Council for their support.

2. Mr Tim Rodgers advised that, after checking the internet and finding one did not appear to exist, he had started a database of Village Design Statements in order that all design statements could come under one umbrella and was asking for the support of the Parish Council when the Village Design Statement was discussed. He was starting with the Charnwood area and hoped that others would want to use it. It was suggested that the Countryside Commission may offer support. On a personal level Cllr Hutchinson gave his whole-hearted support and advised the database would be discussed by the Parish Council under item 12 of the agenda.

Mr Southam and Mr Rodgers were thanked for their comments.

05/153 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4TH OCTOBER 2005

There were two small alterations noted – Armston Road (not Armsden Road) and Quorn Country Hotel (not county). The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record.

05/154 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr Mrs Templeman - Personal regarding Cave's Field
 Cllr P Child - Personal regarding Cave's Field and
 Personal and prejudicial regarding allotments
 off Loughborough Road
- Cllr K Croysdale - Personal regarding Cave's Field

05/155 POLICING MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Templeman advised that 5 or 6 youths had been seen camping on Cave's Field 28th/29th October 2005, which had been reported to the Police.

05/156 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Bottle Bank – responses to consultation. Mrs Paterson read out 3 responses received. The first advised that the noise and disturbance was very bad, and the writer had raised issues of using the bottle bank with a local commercial user. The commercial user did not realise he should not be using the bank. Another spoke of a lot of disturbance both day and night. The third spoke of the noise and disturbance etc. He also commented that he thought the bottle bank had only been moved to its present site as a temporary measure and would want it moved completely or to another site in the car park.

Discussion was held and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Borough Council and ask that they take it away, and reiterate what people have said. It was felt that moving the bin would just move the problem.

(b) Environmental Sub Committee Remit (from last meeting) Cllr Bexon proposed and a vote was taken that was passed unanimously that the present Environmental Sub Committee be set up as a Full Standing Committee and that all existing members and chairman stay as they were. This would not be making any change to Standing Orders. Cllr Stirling volunteered to join this Full Standing Committee. The full committee would therefore consist of Cllr Mrs J Backus (Chairman), Cllr Mrs E Harrison, Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth, Cllr I Bexon, Cllr J Hutchinson and Cllr T Stirling, and would initially meet every 6 weeks subject to the instructions of the Chairman.

(c) The Slabs footpath – recommendation to form a working party (Cllr T Stirling). A response had been received from the Environmental Agency advising that the Slabs foot path had a 1 in 100 year flood risk. Cllr Stirling felt it a good argument to get the Slabs refurbished in existing materials. This item was now ready to move into formulating a policy either with a sub group or the Environmental Committee. It was agreed to refer it to the Environmental Committee.

(d) Dower House Gardens road marking – complaint to Leicestershire County Council from a resident. Mrs Paterson had received a copy letter to Mr Moxon from LCC following a complaint letter he had sent to them regarding the road markings. Mrs Paterson read out the letter, which stated the Parish Council had been involved in the discussions and the road marking had been undertaken as an interim measure only and new kerbing work would be undertaken in the future.

(e) Electoral arrangements for Parish Councils. Correspondence had been circulated with the agenda for information.

(f) Rivers Trading planning application. A meeting with the architect was to be arranged and 3 dates (22.11.05, 24.11.05 or 28.11.05) were suggested. Mrs Paterson will contact the architect to make arrangements.

(g) Barrow Charities: Mrs Paterson advised that more than one representative was requested from Quorn Parish Council. Mrs Paterson volunteered to stand as an additional representative with Cllr Mrs E Harrison. Thanks were given to Mrs Paterson.

(h) The Banks 2: In order to provide a much more accurate costing for the project it was felt that a Quantity Surveyor should be appointed at a cost of some £750.00 for the work. It was proposed and agreed to approve the £750 for the appointment of a Quantity Surveyor. This amount would also be eligible for grant funding.

It was also agreed to choose the Cardiff heritage style lighting columns for the project (as recommended by the County Engineer). Funding equivalent to the cost of standard lighting columns would be given by the County Council. It was felt important that the columns should be suitable for mounting CCTV cameras.

The County Council had raised concerns regarding the stone wall at the entrance to the area and recommendation had been made to refuse the planning application with regard to these and alterations needed to the kerbing. The Parish Council members were disappointed that this distinctive feature may have to be omitted and felt that modifications could be made to accommodate objections. Bellinger Design would negotiate on these matters.

Standing Orders were suspended to discuss the next item:

(i) New Draft Job Description and Work Rota for village handyman: It was suggested that a working party be formed to sort out issues and report back to the Parish Council. The working party would meet as soon as possible and would consist of Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Stirling, Cllr Croysdale and Cllr Child. This was agreed.

Standing Orders were resumed.

(j) Welbeck College – invitation to a community open evening.
15th November 2005 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Mrs Paterson advised that over 60 people had replied so far, and there were still a number of vacancies for people interested in attending.

(k) Station Road car park design: A summary of consultations information had been circulated by Mrs Paterson for information, and had also been sent to Charnwood Borough. Cllr Mrs Templeman had received a copy of the consultation document from Mr Gibson, Clerk to the Townlands Charity, together with a letter advising that the charity did not like the central section in the design as they felt it would delay work and increase costs. Cllr Templeman had replied (in writing) giving her views supporting the whole scheme and explaining her views on the central section. She had then

received a letter from Mr Unwin (Chairman, Townlands Charity). Her comments had been misinterpreted as though she was agreeing to not having the central section – which was not the case at all. The letter further stated that Mr Unwin had instructed the Clerk to write to Charnwood Borough Council expressing the contrary views. Mrs Templeman had then written to Mr Unwin to say that she could not give her support as a member of the charity to the letter and did not agree with the comments regarding the central section. It was agreed that a letter go to the Trustees of the Charity stating the Parish Council were dismayed about their view, and ask that they reconsider their decision.

(l) Conservation area alterations. Cllr Hutchinson advised that he had personally delivered the letters himself. Cllr Stirling asked and it was agreed that the Clerk write to the owners of No. 16 High Street to congratulate them on the very pleasing window renovations, which were very much appreciated.

(m) Quorndon Terrace entrance – uneven pavement and surface crumbling away. Cllr Stirling advised that the work had still not been undertaken. It was agreed that a letter go to the County Council regarding this.

(n) Meeting Street area, flooding issues: Cllr Hutchinson advised he had delivered letters to households in the area including Chaveney Manor, as requested asking people to object to the planning application for the Loughborough Road allotment site as it was felt that this would increase the flooding problems.

(o) Love Lane: Cllr Stirling reported that the County Council had been advised of problems with the footpath surface. The County Council had replied that they had no footpath officer at present. Cllr Stirling would be writing a personal note, not as a Parish Councillor.

(p) Caravans/Meynell Road: Mrs Paterson advised she is still awaiting an update from Mr Winnington.

05/157 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Village Hall Committee meeting held on 10th October 2005 – copies of the minutes had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Hutchinson advised that he had dealt with the drain problem reported in the minutes. Thanks were given to Cllr Hutchinson. Cllr Child reported he had received a written complaint regarding members of CAMRA making a nuisance of themselves whilst regular users were in the hall on the Monday and Tuesday before the Beer Festival, and he would be discussing the issue further with Mr Towers. Cllr Child said he would pass estimated budget figures to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

(b) Cave's Field Committee meeting held on 27th October 2005. Cllr Mrs Templeman gave a verbal report of the meeting - the minutes would be going to the next Parish Council meeting. Copies of the updated Development Plan were circulated.

Sutton Close gate: The 'no right of way' sign had been ordered. The date for the gate to be closed had been agreed as Christmas Day – 25th December. This will be raised and minuted at the Parish Council meeting in January.

3 litter bins have been installed. Ranch type fencing to the value of £500 will be ordered for the play area on the ditch side of the path, to stop children running into the meadow. Safety surfacing: The grass has been wearing away leaving the surface very hard. Safety surfacing costing around £5000 was needed and a grant may be available. It is proposed to install more play equipment – possibly swings and equipment suitable for children with disabilities/special needs. The Wicksteed check had appeared OK and Mrs Paterson advised that the initial report on the DDA Audit had indicated things did not look too bad. The handyman had been requested to move a post on the Cave's Field. The work had not been undertaken and Mr Brian Pheasant had kindly dealt with it himself. A new sign for Cave's Field was being included in the budget for next year. The Development Plan and draft budget for 2006/7 had also been discussed.

A 'camping incident' had been referred to earlier in this meeting. The Pavilion project was now being looked at.

It was generally felt by relevant members that this was a very rewarding Committee to work on.

(Cllr Bexon commented that the Development Plan, to be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting, would be after the Finance Committee met and that £2000 should be budgeted for additional play equipment.)

Linear Park area: Ideas were requested and would be collated before the next meeting. Members were asked to pass any comments to Cllr Mrs Templeman. It was pleasing to note that the guides, brownies and scouts were interested in participating. Cllr Hutchinson asked if thought could be given to extending this through to Woodhouse Road but it was agreed that this was not in the remit of this committee.

05/158 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) New gateway sign to village at Meynell Road: Mrs Paterson advised that the developer had agreed to pay for a more suitable sign than the standard 30 mph signs. It was agreed to approach Malcolm Lane for a suggested design which would incorporate the 30 mph sign and would hopefully be sympathetic to other signs in the village.

(ii) Loughborough Road, in the vicinity of the vicarage: Cllr Child reported that there was still a hole with a piece of board across it and 1 cone outside number 34 Loughborough Road - after work undertaken by Transco earlier in the year. The Parish Council had asked the County Council and County Councillor Kershaw to take action, but nothing had yet been done. There was evidently a drainage problem to do with a property at that location and a dispute between the owner and Mountsorrel depot which had not been settled. It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to write to Mountsorrel depot asking for action to be taken. There appeared to be a similar dispute regarding an area near to Rawlins.

05/159 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Review of Community Strategy: The working draft of the new strategy has been received and comments invited. Ms Paterson has the information for anyone wishing to see it.

(ii) Loughborough Station redevelopment: Cllr Croysdale, who had responded on behalf of the Parish Council earlier in the year, asked if there had been any feedback.. B Cllr Slater said he would check this out but he knew that a preferred developer had been chosen and was working on the original plan.

(iii) Local Development Framework: A query had been raised at the Village Design Statement Meeting regarding the time limits of the Local Development Framework – Borough Councillors reported that the framework was endless to keep within a constant framework.

Thanks were given to B Cllrs D Slater and R Shepherd for their attendance and comments.

05/160 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Planning applications received – notified by e-mails. This system of notification appeared to be working well – except Cllr Mrs Harrison who had not received the e mails. Checks to be made regarding the e-mails.

39 Unitt Road/ single storey extension: Application recently received.

(ii) **106 Station Road:** Granting of permission with conditions. It was noted that 1 condition was that no materials were to go on site before agreement with Charnwood Borough – planning permission dated 14.10.05. As at 14.10.05 the shell of the new building was already up and conditions applied could not be related to timings etc. B Cllr Slater advised that retrospective agreements can occur. Concern was expressed that there could have been a breach of planning permissions. It was agreed that a site meeting be arranged. The Clerk will contact Helen Robinson at Charnwood Borough to arrange the meeting and Cllr Stirling and Cllr Hutchinson will attend.

(iii) Angling at Cornfield Farm: Mrs Paterson read out a copy letter she had received to Helen Robinson at Charnwood Borough from Joyce Noon of CPRE regarding enforcement action re angling at Cornfield Farm. B Cllr Slater will ask Helen Robinson for a copy of her response.

05/161 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Wicksteed play inspections. Stafford Orchard: The Clerk advised that there was only 1 high risk issue – that of the teenage shelter having a litter hazard including broken glass. Work to the motor cycle shroud to the sum of £1116 was requested, and there was damage to a cradle seat which they suggested should be replaced in 3 to 6 months' time.

Mrs Paterson and Cllr Hutchinson will arrange a site meeting to agree locations for the new litter bins. Cllr Stirling produced a sketch plan showing possible sitings for litter bins. Suggested locations to be considered for this and next year's allocations.

(ii) Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Plan for 2006/7 draft consultation received. Cllr Croysdale took the paperwork and will feedback to the next meeting.

(iii) Station Road notice board – letter received from Mr and Mrs Newcombe. The Parish Council were sympathetic to the points raised by Mr and Mrs Newcombe but needed more time to look at the implications of any re-siting

and this item to go on the next agenda. One comment made was that it was felt the notice board was very well used, not under-used.

(iv) Quorn Phoenix Entertainers: Mrs Paterson read out a request forwarded by Quorn Phoenix for a grant. It was proposed and agreed to give £100 towards their new sound system.

(v) Land Registry: The Clerk read out a letter which had gone to all Parish Councils, regarding voluntary registering of unregistered land. Mrs Paterson was asked to check for any unregistered land as it may be best to consider this now before it becomes compulsory to register. One point raised was that no response had yet been received from David Bird regarding the Parish Council's interest in acquiring the 'sculptor' area next to the churchyard. The Borough Councillors' support was sought in acquiring this land, and the District Valuer would obtain an independent valuation. The Borough Councillors suggested an e-mail to David Bird asking for a response.

05/162 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

(i) Report of meeting held on 20th October 2005: Cllr Stirling advised that the meeting had been very successful with attendance around 60 persons plus 5 or 6 Parish Councillors. There were 19 named commitments from persons wishing to get involved plus other people expressing interest since. A tentative date – Thursday 12th January – had been made for the first meeting. Grant funding was being looked at and Cllr Stirling will feed back to the next meeting. It was suggested that an allocation of some £500 be considered at the next Financial Meeting.

(ii) Mr A Southam: Mr Southam had sent comments regarding the meeting. Some speakers and parts of the meeting were difficult to hear and he suggested microphones be used in the future to ensure a clearer presentation. Cllr Child commented that the Village Hall Committee was actually pursuing this very topic at the present time. It was agreed that thanks be given to Mr Southam and advise him of steps being taken.

(iii) Mr T Rodgers – request for support for a national database of Village Design Statements: Mr Rodgers attended the earlier part of the meeting. It was proposed and agreed to give Mr Rodgers the full support of the Parish Council for a national database.

05/163 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Mrs Paterson had circulated her report on efforts to obtain electrical supplies with the agenda, and Cllr Mrs Templeman gave her report. Cllr Hutchinson commented that he was personally extremely concerned about Cllr Mrs Templeman's present workload and asked all present for their willing support.

The electrical supply was inadequate for the car park side of Station Road, but temporary measures were being taken for the shop side. There would also be temporary measures taken for the Memorial Gardens. With regard to the Banks – there were huge problems and a permanent supply was not possible until next year. Also the socket for the tree was too small and too expensive for this year. Installation of Xmas lights this year: Cllr Mrs Templeman produced a draft letter for all shopkeepers/business and a schedule of works for electricity. A provision for pea lights for Station Road to go in next year's budget. Glow sticks were being ordered.

The switching on to take place on Thursday 1st December at 6.30 pm with the format similar to that of 2003.

A design for the poster was agreed. A piece is ready to go in The Echo. Cllr Child will be MC and using a PA system. Cllr Hutchinson will switch on the lights. Contact has been made to the school for children to sing 1 or 2 carols. Cllr Mrs Harrison will deliver the letters to shopkeepers/businesses and talk to those that have changed hands in the last year.

It was felt that the letter mentioned earlier to go to Townlands should include this event and Mayday celebrations as the central area would be needed to get people off the streets, away from any danger, and this was precisely the reasons for having the area.

05/164 AUDIT REPORT

No problems whatsoever. It was noted that £5.30 per head can be asked under Section 137.

05/165 PAYMENTS LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

Copies were distributed with the agenda. These were formally agreed and approved.

05/166 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

- (i) Jobs for handyman. Deferred.
- (ii) 17 Station Road: Cllr Hutchinson advised he had been approached by residents at this address regarding a plum-type tree overhanging their garage and they were worried children may climb on their (asbestos) garage roof. They asked if the tree surgeon could look at the tree and remove any offending branches.
- (iii) The Banks phase 2: Cllr Bexon advised the plans had gone to the church and the work agreed. Funding packs now needed to be put together. The Project and design to be looked at at the next Parish Council meeting and funding/finance to be discussed, and whether to go ahead or not as agreement was needed by the end of the year.
- (iv) Bat sculpture: Cllr Tyler commented that this appeared to be becoming hidden under the tree.
- (v) Basketball post: Cllr Stirling suggested that the old board be painted to match the new one.
- (vi) Loughborough Road allotments – Planning Meeting: Cllr Stirling asked that the Parish Council spokesman be identified. Cllr Stirling and Mrs Paterson will draft a 5-minute statement to be read out at the planning meeting.
- (vii) Memorial Gardens – steps and railings: Cllr Mrs Templeman was concerned regarding any health and safety issues for this area because of its condition. The Environment Agency has claimed that it is the Parish Council's responsibility. Mrs Paterson will make checks.

The meeting closed at 22.20 hours

Chairman

Date