

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th May 2006 in the Council Chamber at Quorn Village Hall at 7 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr J Hutchinson (Chair)	Cllr P Child
Cllr I Bexon	Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth
Cllr T Stirling	Cllr T Tyler
Cllr Mrs E Harrison	Cllr Mrs S Templeman
Cllr Mrs J Backus	

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

PC Gavin Gray
Sgt Gosling

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

2 members of the public

06/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received. It was agreed to mark members not present at the meeting and who had not sent their apologies as 'Absent'.

ABSENT

Cllr Mr K Croysdale and Cllr Mr J Maltby.

06/56 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mrs Paterson, Clerk to the Council, asked for nominations for Chairman. Cllr Tyler nominated Cllr Hutchinson. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Backus and unanimously agreed. Cllr Hutchinson was elected as Chairman. Cllr Hutchinson offered his grateful thanks for this appointment. He signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Cllr Hutchinson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

06/57 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Bexon nominated Cllr Child. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Harrison and agreed unanimously. Cllr Child was appointed Vice-Chairman.

06/58 APPOINTMENT OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO)

Mrs K Paterson was appointed as Responsible Finance Officer.

06/59 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Mr David Southwart was not able to attend the meeting because of illness, but had sent a message that he was willing to continue, health permitting. Mr David Southwart was appointed Internal Auditor.

06/60 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN

The following Parish Council Representation on Committees, Standing Committees, Subcommittees and Working Groups and their Chairs were proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed en bloc. Alterations, changes and additions are noted in bold italics.

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES:

Dr Babington's Charity – Councillor Mrs E Harrison and Mrs K Paterson.
Leicestershire and Rutland Parish and Local Councils – Councillor T Stirling.
Rawlins Swimming Pool Committee – Councillor Mrs J Bloodworth.
Townlands Charity – Councillors Mrs S Templeman and Mrs J Bloodworth.
Redlands/Lafarge Quarry Liaison Committee – Councillors T Tyler and I Bexon.

Charnwood Safety Committee – Councillor Mrs S Templeman

Soar Valley Liaison Committee – Councillors T Tyler and Mrs J Backus.

Councillor Mrs J Backus advised that this committee will now meet 3 times a year, not 4 times a year as previously.

Police Consultative Committee – Councillor Mrs E Harrison.

Rawlins/Village Liaison Committee – Councillors J Hutchinson and Mrs J Bloodworth. **Councillor Mrs J Backus stood down as representative on the committee this year.**

Thomas Rawlins Educational Foundation – Councillor K Croysdale.

STANDING COMMITTEES

In addition to the external committees, the Parish Council also have a properly constituted Finance Committee, Village Hall Committee, Cave's Field Committee and Environment Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Councillors Bexon (Chairman), Hutchinson (as Chairman of Council), Cllr Child (as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee), Mrs Templeman (as Chairman of Cave's Field Committee), Cllr Mrs Backus (as Chairman of the Environment Committee), Cllr Maltby, Cllr Tyler.

Cllr Maltby, who has not attended any Finance Committee meetings, to be asked if he wished to stay on the committee. His name will be deleted if he does not.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE – Councillors Child (Chairman), Tyler, Mrs Bloodworth, Mrs Backus, Hutchinson, Mrs Harrison and Stirling. **Councillor Stirling now joined the committee.**

CAVE'S FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Councillors Mrs Templeman (Chairman), Mrs Harrison, Mrs Backus, Child, Mrs Bloodworth, Croysdale and four co-opted members.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – Cllr Mrs Backus (Chairman), Cllr Bexon, Cllr Mrs Bloodworth, Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Stirling and Cllr Mrs Harrison.

SUBCOMMITTEES

The Council also has subcommittees and working parties. These are informal and meet on an irregular basis, when and as needed. They do not have the authority to act without ratification from the full Council meeting other than to meet small items of expenditure (less than £200). They act as advisory bodies to the Council.

Policy and Plans Sub-committee – Councillors Child (Chairman), Bexon, Hutchinson and Stirling.

Christmas Lighting Sub-committee – Councillors Mrs Bloodworth (Chairman), Mrs Backus and Stirling.

WORKING GROUPS

These are temporary or semi-permanent groups formed to look at specific projects or advise the council on particular issues. The current list includes:

Tree Wardens – Mr P Gamble, Mr F Gilbert

Footpath Wardens – Mr L Coe. Footpath group – Mr L Coe, Mr K Collie, Mr T Rodgers, Mrs K Paterson. ***Mr Coe and Mr Collie would shortly be leaving and it was agreed there was a need to publicise vacancies – Loughborough Echo, the Quorndon and at Annual Meeting.***

Village Design Statement – Cllr T Stirling (Chairman) and various co-opted members.

CCTV group – Cllr K Croysdale, Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth

Play equipment group – Cllr Mrs S Templeman, Cllr K Croysdale

Village greening (reports to Environment Committee) – Cllr Mrs Backus (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Bloodworth, Cllr Mrs Harrison, Mrs J Hollingworth.

Major projects/public space management (reports to Environment Committee) – Cllr Bexon (Chairman), Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Stirling.

Traffic, Highways and village cleanliness (reports to Environment Committee) Cllr Stirling (Chairman).

Lottery bid – Cllr Bexon (Chairman), Cllr Child, Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Mrs Templeman and Cllr Croysdale

06/61 TO FIX THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2006 at 8 pm. Cllr Child advised that there would be a sound system in the hall on the night.

06/62 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Alan Johnson of Armston Road and a neighbour attended the meeting with regard to item 16 on the agenda under Planning Matters – tree felling at land rear of Armston Road. Mrs Paterson, Clerk to the Council, had met with a number of residents on Paddock Close on Easter Sunday with regard to a mass cutting down of trees. The Charnwood Borough Council emergency line had been contacted and the police had been sent out. Many complaints from residents had been received. Mr Johnson said the particular area had

been taken out of limits to development, but now the soft edge to the village had now been destroyed. The Tree Officer and enforcement officer had visited the site and were preparing to interview those responsible under caution and advised there was no reason whatsoever to remove the trees.

Cllr Hutchinson said this was a very serious matter and the Parish Council and Borough Councillors would take whatever action they could. It was also suggested that contact be made with the Environment Agency and also English Nature, pointing out the concerns, especially with regard to the water course.

Borough Councillor Shepherd advised that the Enforcement Officer was due to interview and take evidence from residents. This was an evidence-gathering, case-assembling exercise at present. An officer had visited the site and debris was allowed to be cleared.

The members of the public present had revisited the site and noticed that a small stream was being filled in and piping was now being put in. There had been no planning permissions for the work. The person who felled the trees did not actually own the land at the time.

The police present were asked if the cutting down of trees with Tree Preservations Orders on them was an offence. They advised that although it sounded like criminal damage it was in fact a civil law matter and not within their jurisdiction.

Concern was expressed by those present at this seeming flouting of the planning laws as it is perceived that people could undertake work without consent because enforcement appeared difficult. From the increasing number of retrospective planning applications it was felt that the Borough Council appeared reluctant to do anything about them. County Councillor Kershaw commented that the Charnwood Borough Council may appear to be reluctant but this was not the case at all and the Legal Department were dealing with cases even more promptly than ever.

The members of the public present were thanked for attending the meeting and assured that the issues would be considered later in the agenda and the Parish Council would give them their full support.

06/63 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2006

Cllr Bexon pointed out that the Electrical connection for the Christmas lighting was originally included in the Banks 1, not 2, Project but had to be taken out.

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

06/64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<i>Cllr I Bexon</i>	-	<i>Personal and prejudicial regarding item 18 (vii) of the agenda</i>
<i>Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth</i>	-	<i>Prejudicial regarding confidential item under Village Hall meeting</i>
<i>B Cllr R Shepherd</i>	-	<i>Personal regarding confidential item under Village Hall meeting</i>

06/65 POLICING MATTERS

PC Gavin Gray and Sgt Gosling were welcomed to the meeting.

They reported that the police had attended the May Day celebrations and found it worthwhile. 150 UV pens had been distributed and bicycles had been postcoded, and high visibility stickers etc. handed out.

There had been no increase in motor vehicle thefts recently, but there had been an increase in thefts from homes especially during the daytime and when doors etc. had been left open. They were now looking at Neighbourhood Watch and making changes to crime prevention notices.

5 new Neighbourhood Watch schemes had been set up. Neighbourhood Watch had also had a stall at the May Day fair.

Priorities recently had been around car parking in Quorn centre, and the police felt that they had made an impact and there were now not so many problems. Their main priority over the next few months would be Station Road and Stafford Orchard.

Councillor Hutchinson commented that the Old School had been vandalised as had the half pipe. The Old School had become a meeting area and the village handyman had recovered many drink bottles etc. from there. The police advised that temporary fencing had been put up and they were checking the area more often. Councillor Stirling said there had been damage the previous Thursday evening and hoped that the new police priority would help.

He also said that there appeared to be an increase in the number of heavy vehicles passing through the village and he was not sure if they were delivering to Quorn or just going through.

Councillor Mrs Backus said that on Sundays traffic was parking all down the verge in the vicinity of the entrance to Budgens. Accessing Budgens car park was not a problem but exiting was very dangerous because of the lack of visibility because of the parked cars. She asked if no-parking cones could be used either side of the entrance. The concerns would be passed onto the Mountsorrel officers.

Councillor Child said he was concerned about the 30 mph sign that had been moved for the new development in Meynell Road as traffic speed appeared excessive at times. The police advised that monitoring had been in place but they will look at it again.

Thanks were given to PC Gray and Sgt Gosling for their attendance and input to the meeting.

06/66 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Post Office card accounts. A copy of the response from the MP was enclosed with the agenda. A copy of this response had also been given to Mr and Mrs Newcombe.

(ii) Electrical connections. Cllr Child advised that he had looked at the electronic maps and there was a low volt supply along Church Lane and also

on the lower side of High Street. There should be no problems, with the shortest supply being from Church Lane for the Banks.

Mrs Paterson advised that she was having no success in communicating with Central Network regarding the Station Road and War Memorial supplies. She had spoken to someone yet again on the 2nd May and they had not called back, and again on the 8th May. It appeared that a file that should have been retrieved by them had not been. She felt she was being “fobbed off” and was not getting anywhere and it was very frustrating. Cllr Child said he would endeavour to identify a contact at Central Network for Mrs Paterson to get in touch with to take things forward.

Cllr Bexon advised that there was approximately £9000 surplus from last year and he proposed that when a price was eventually forthcoming this could be earmarked for the electrical connections and put in the Capital Reserve Fund. The Finance Committee will deal with this virement at their next meeting.

(iii) The Banks 2. Mrs Paterson advised that she had received a second licence in duplicate – this was to be signed after the meeting. To be effective following the deconsecration. Cllr Bexon advised that the date when works might commence, subject to the agreement of council, had been given of 24th May. Bellinger Design were at the present time trying to negotiate with the lowest tenderer to see if the price could be held.

(iv) Land Registry – including War Memorial land. Mrs Paterson reported that The Banks and Cave’s Field were already registered. The whereabouts of the deeds to the Stafford Orchard and Village Hall are known so these can be registered. Mrs Paterson has located a paper dated 4th February 1970 that shows the War Memorial was in the ownership of the Parish Council as of 1970. It appeared to be a common registration. It was agreed that Mrs Paterson should proceed with the registration of the Stafford Orchard and the Village Hall, and make enquiries regarding the document for the War Memorial.

(v) The Wakes. Mr Cox has been given the new dates. There has been no feedback so far from him.

(vi) ‘Bus shelter Leicester Road/Wood Lane: This had been installed and was looking good.

(vii) ‘Bus routes: Mrs Margaret Gamble had requested an update on the issue she raised with regard to ‘bus routes. County Councillor Kershaw said that he and a number of other county councillors are in accord on this matter and the Leader of the Council is to argue the case. There is no answer yet but the likelihood is that there might be a positive outcome, but not immediately. It had been the ‘bus company that wished to changed the route. He was hopeful of having something to report by the next meeting and will also keep Mrs Gamble advised of development. He advised that ‘Dial a ride’ was available but agreed this did not answer the problem.

(viii) Village Design Statement: Mrs Paterson has received a thank you letter for the £500.00. Comment was made that they had a very good stand at the May Day celebrations. Cllr Stirling said they were very pleased with the input from the children with their paintings and the whole collection would be on display over the Open Gardens weekend.

(ix) May Day Celebrations. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Child and his team for all their hard work – it was a great credit to them.

06/67 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Village Hall Committee meeting held on 8th May 2006.

Cllr Child gave a verbal report on the meeting. He said the new lights were now in the hall – they were a great improvement.

Standing Orders were suspended for the next confidential item. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth and B Cllr Shepherd left the room whilst this item was discussed.

Cllr Bexon commented that the painting of the front of the stage was excellent and asked that consideration be given in the future to painting the walls.

06/68 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) The future of the old school. Request for urgent meeting to C Cllr Kershaw. C Cllr Kershaw advised that he meets weekly to get updates and look at all options. Concern was expressed by members that the County Council appeared to be proceeding to dispose of the property and it was felt they should consider that Best Value as other than money. The vandalism at the old school was getting worse and the building was deteriorating but it could be made vandalproof. The Parish Council were trying to make proposals to save it for the community but felt they were not being given the opportunity to do so. Cllr Bexon said there were other options and Best Value was not 'highest price'. Cllr Mrs Templeman commented that English Heritage documents regarding old schools in conservation areas advise that experts should be consulted.

A draft letter had been circulated via e-mail to the members and it was proposed and agreed that the letter, with some discussed amendments, should be forwarded to Dr Feltham at the County Council, with copies sent to Jonathan Hale and Dave Hankin at Charnwood Borough Council and Andy Reed MP. It was important to insist that consultation is undertaken with English Heritage. A vote was taken to send the letter, with modifications, from the Chairman. This was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed. Request should also be made to be kept informed of any decision made or recommendation for it to be sent to Cabinet.

(ii) Road markings – Cradock/Warwick/Elms. Cllr Stirling advised that Mr Dunsmore had raised concerns regarding this junction and asked about the feasibility of double white markings. The Highways Depot at Mountsorrel to be asked to look at the area and report back.

(iii) Mr J Gibson – copy of letter addressed to Cllr Kershaw re ramp outside Post Office. A copy of the letter was enclosed with the agenda. C Cllr Kershaw advised that he had given the Highways director the letter to respond to and he himself had not responded to Mr Gibson as he had assumed it would be dealt with promptly. He will chase it up and agreed to make personal contact with Mr Gibson.

(iv) The Slabs. Cllr Stirling said he had e-mailed members with his proposals and advised that if all agreed he would try to get support from Barrow upon

Soar Parish Council to getting the Slabs restored as a footpath. It remains in a dangerous condition. Cllr Child suggested that tarmac should not be used, and a surface such as Bredon gravel could possibly be looked at. After discussion the Clerk was requested to submit ideas to Barrow upon Soar Parish Council and see what the response is.

(v) Rawlins Playing Field. Cllr Stirling reported that the area continued to be a mess. There was a lot of rubbish lying about and sycamore saplings by the fence on Rawlins side needed to be grubbed out. Comment was made that the gate was sometimes open and sometimes locked – and it was felt that access to the playing field at lunch times should be allowed for pupils. When it was locked Cave's Field was used by some pupils at lunch times which was causing excessive wear and tear on particular areas. A request was made for a letter to be sent to the Principal asking for action to be taken to the playing field area and also asking if Cave's Field could be out of bounds for pupils at lunch times.

(vi) Centre Screen Project. Cllr Stirling advised that money had been made available and more information would be known after a meeting in May. There was a possibility that a supply of equipment could be received, which would enable monthly screenings in Quorn to be looked at.

(vii) Mini roundabouts. Cllr Stirling asked that this subject be raised as he felt that mini roundabouts appeared to be a complete waste of time and caused confusion, with vehicles traversing the roundabouts constantly. Cllr Child advised he would look at accident data on roundabouts in Quorn and feedback to the next meeting – although it was pointed out that not all accidents were reported as such.

06/69 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Good practice guide to access for people with disabilities. Mrs Paterson advised that she had received 3 copies of the guide.

(ii) Private view of art collection. An invitation had been received to this event on 19th May from 6 pm to 8 pm. Cllrs Hutchinson and Stirling advised they would attend.

06/70 PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) **Planning applications.** Earlier applications had been e-mailed – later ones were enclosed with the agenda. Mrs Paterson advised that a planning order had been made with regard to 20 Station Road. Planning permission had been granted and that within 3 months existing units should be removed and repositioned. Other applications included:
 P/06/1191 6 Meynell Cottages –Demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of 2 storey extension to side of to listed building.
 P/06/1324 1 Paddock Close – 2 storey extension to side.
 P/06/0844/2 1 detached house at rear of 1 Chestnut Close
 P/06/1120/2 17 Toller Road – Single storey side, two and single storey rear extensions (revised scheme)
 P/06/1192/2 43 Chaveney Road – single storey extensions to side and rear
 P/06/1162/2 Replacement windows and siting of meter boxes. 1 -3 High Street Quorn – **meters causing visible intrusion. It was felt that this**

changes the character of a listed building and objection should be made to the planning department on the grounds that the applicant must have known before the works commenced and included the details in the original application

P/06/1115/2 29 Beardsley Road – single storey extension to side and rear
 P/06/0951/2 63 Meeting Street – demolition of single storey extension to rear.
 P/06/0993/2 18 Kelcey Road – single storey extension to rear.
 all others were e mailed.

(ii) **Planning decisions granted:** 20 Station Road (as above). It was agreed to request an update on the frontage.

61 Farnham Street
 128 Station Road
 45 Barrow Road
 8 Wrights Close
 11 Beardsley Close
 36 Northage Close

15 Disraeli Street – this was deferred and would be considered by the planning committee later in the week.

(iii) **Tree felling at land rear of Armston Road.** Discussed also earlier in the meeting under Public Participation. It was agreed that a letter of support be sent expressing concern at the unauthorised tree felling and work on the water courses. To ask for enforcement to be rigorously pursued.

06/71 ACCOUNTS 05/06

Cllr Bexon asked Council to approve the 2005/6 accounts before they go to the external auditor. They had been approved by the internal auditor and would go to the next Finance Committee meeting for approval and submission to the external auditor. Just over £9000 had been carried over and can be used this year.

Cllr Bexon proposed they accept the 2005/6 accounts for referral to the Finance committee and to be submitted to the external auditor. This was seconded and unanimously agreed.

06/72 CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) DEMAND newsletter and grant appeal was enclosed with the agenda. It was agreed that this should be deferred to the next meeting (after enquiries had been made).
- (ii) Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2006-2009. Information received.
- (iii) Mrs J Parkinson – appreciation of village handyman. Mrs Parkinson sent her appreciation regarding the improved conditions at lunch times and also on his emptying of dog bins. Letter to be acknowledged.
- (iv) NQSC grant appeal. Cllr Bexon left the room whilst this was discussed. Request received for £100 from S137 money for raised seating for their production in June. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to give a grant of £100.
- (v) HMS Quorn – introduction of new commanding officer. Newsletter was received. Mark Taylor is the new commanding officer.
- (vi) Local Authority Byelaws – communication from Deputy Prime Minister. Discussion paper received. Cllr Mrs Templeman will look through the paperwork.

(vii) E-mail from Mark Meredith re baseball team. The Clerk was asked to respond requesting more information.

06/73 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

(i) Time relationship between Committee and Council meetings. Cllr Stirling asked that discussion be held regarding timings of meetings which occasionally meant that minutes could not be available at Parish Council Meetings. It was agreed that minutes should wait and be taken to the next possible Parish Council meeting unless there were any burning issues. It was suggested that whenever possible meeting dates should be set in advance after each meeting.

(ii) Confidential item. *Standing orders were suspended for this item.*

Standing Orders were resumed.

06/74 PAYMENTS LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

These were enclosed with the agenda. The payments list and summary sheet were formally agreed and approved.

06/75 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Kelcey Road Lake: Cllr Stirling advised that 7 horizontal rails were broken and 1 Lifeline box was empty and another Lifeline Box only had 1 out of 4 lines in it. Arrangements to be made for these to be reported to Charnwood Borough Council.

(ii) Skateboard damage. The local contractor who has repaired the ramp in the past has been asked to survey the damage and report back.

The meeting ceased at 22.45 hours

Chair Date

