

## QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006 in the Council Chamber at Quorn Village Hall at 7 pm.

### PRESENT

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

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

Police - CSO Chris Kendall

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

### 06/106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Templeman.

### ABSENT

Cllr J Maltby and Cllr K Croysdale

The Clerk to the Council, Mrs K Paterson, advised that this was the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive Parish Council meeting that Cllr Croysdale had not attended – the last meeting being February 2006. Mrs Paterson said that under statutory regulations Cllr Croysdale was disqualified a Parish Councillor as he had not submitted a reason for his absences which had been approved by council. It was also pointed out that Cllr J Maltby would be in a similar position if he did not attend the next Parish Council meeting in September. Mrs Paterson was asked to check timescales etc. and arrange formal notices, and feedback to the next meeting as there was now a vacancy.

### 06/107 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

### 06/108 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006

Kelcey Road lake: Cllr Stirling said he had said that the situation regarding the life buoys at this location had been reported. Those at the Brinks, on common land, were also reported as being dealt with. With regard to Charnwood Design Awards 2006 – ‘under garden landscaping’ to be deleted as it was being nominated as a new building.

With these amendments the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

## **06/109 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- |                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Cllr I Bexon          | - | Personal regarding item under County Council matters (being a resident of Dower House Gardens) and also as a member of another applicant regarding 11(ii) application for S137 grant. |
| Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth | - | Personal and prejudicial regarding Confidential item 6(v) of agenda and Item 11(ii) regarding Quarts application For a S137 grant   |

## **06/110 POLICING MATTERS**

CSO Chris Kendall was welcomed to the meeting.

The Council was advised of a rise in burglary/dwellings in the village. There had been 4 incidents in the village – 1 involving an insecure dwelling and, worryingly, a distraction burglary. 1 person had been arrested. The police were working with Charnwood Borough Council with a view to making properties more secure. There had been a similar distraction incident in a nearby village. A stained glass window had been destroyed at the Chapel and the builders had been asked to be more aware of security of their site. That development site, Cave's Field and Stafford Orchard were being patrolled by Special constables

Chris Kendall said he had been absent on holiday and Darren Gray had had medical problems, so they had not been seen in the village recently.

(i) Report of meeting with Inspector Yallop.: Mrs Paterson and Cllr Hutchinson had met with Inspector Yallop since the last Parish Council meeting, and Inspector Yallop had confirmed that a group of special constables would be patrolling specific areas within the village. Inspector Yallop asked that people be urged to report any incidents, whether urgent or not, as they would be recorded and actioned as necessary. People should feel confident to report matters, especially distraction burglaries. Those present at the meeting felt that The Quorndon and Neighbourhood Watch could be used to drive home this point.

(ii) Pavement parking and dangerous parking. Cllr Stirling said he was concerned that it appeared to have become custom and practice for vehicles to park partly on pavements and partly on roads in the village, despite a previous parking 'blitz' by the police. Added to this problems of overhanging trees etc., then there was a real obstruction to pavements. He also expressed concern regarding cars parked right up to the junction at Freehold Street and Soar Road.

(iii) Stafford Orchard. Cllr Stirling spoke regarding an incident at the School Lane end of Stafford Orchard recently when teenagers were seen at 6 am in the park throwing a glass bottle against at litter bin. This had been reported to the police station. By 8 am the teenagers were still there and the village handyman reported a lot of broken glass on the Stafford Orchard. Cllr Stirling had tackled the youngsters about throwing the bottle against the bin and they

said the police had not visited them. Cllr Stirling was very disappointed as there appeared to have been no response from the police, particularly as glass on the Stafford Orchard was very dangerous.

CSO Kendall said that, with regard to parking partly on roads and pavements, persons were not actually committing an offence unless they were causing an obstruction and a complaint would have to be received that there was not space to pass. People's safety came first but action could not be taken unless a complaint was received.

He said issues in Freehold Street had been raised at a recent councillor's surgery and as a result advisory notes had been issued, people had been advised re parking and residents spoken to. Recent roadworks had caused problems which had been dealt with. A 'bus stop in the vicinity was not a mandatory one – so parking could take place near, and yellow lines were still waiting to be done. Contact had been made with Highways Engineer Debbie Payne to get these lines re-marked.

With regard to the Stafford Orchard incident, CSO Kendall had not been aware of this and will look into it. Issues regarding Stafford Orchard and the area in the vicinity of the car park had been raised as a beat priority for the whole station. He will check out what steps were taken. A suggestion was made that the high hedge at the Stafford Orchard could be lowered. Cllr Bexon said that the lottery bid should look at security at the park and input regarding security etc. would be welcomed.

(iv) Mrs Paterson had received 2 items of correspondence regarding policing matters.

(a) Mr David Cawdell had written praising the police regarding a recent 2 am incident which he had reported. He felt it most satisfying that the culprit had been caught and convicted.

(b) Mr Hall had written to the Parish Council regarding the concerns of drinking etc. on the pavement on Saturday evenings in the centre of the village. Persons drinking would not move recently and a relative with poor sight had had to go onto the road to move past them. Cllr Child advised that he had recently spoken to the police regarding the situation. The police had said that the pavement area must be maintained but, due to shift commitments, the police were not often there at those times of night. Cllr Bexon said that the seating area was all right, but that on Fridays and Saturdays people were spilling onto the road and this was a very busy corner. There were concerns from a safety aspect and Cllr Hutchinson advised he would make checks regarding the ownership of the pavement land.

CSO Chris Kendall was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

### **06/111 MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Skateboard ramp – repaired by Luke Richards and Sam Edwards. The members present were full of praise for the public spiritness of Luke Richards and Sam Edwards from Ibstock and Coalville in undertaking the repairs to the skateboard ramp. Cllr Hutchinson had met with them personally and passed on the Parish Council's thanks. Mrs Paterson, on behalf of the Parish Council, had sent them both a £20.00 cheque in appreciation.

(ii) Advertising chalkboards. Mrs Paterson reported that she had been advised that these boards fell within the relevant planning regulations and were permissible. Cllr Stirling pointed out plan EV13, which dealt with advertising controls in conservation areas in the vicinity of listed buildings, and felt it may be worthwhile taking this up with Charnwood Borough Council as the boards did not fit in with the area. Mrs Paterson was asked to write a personal, friendly letter to the licensees on behalf of the Parish Council pointing out the representations the Parish Council were making regarding representations due to concerns received re boards in the conservation area.

(iii) Scrutiny review. Copy of the minutes of the meetings were enclosed with the agenda. Cllr Stirling pointed out that adobe 7 was not on a number of older computers and without it it was not possible to check on plans. Borough Councillor Slater said that he had taken up on behalf of Mountsorrel Parish Council the financial issue to Parish Councils where computer equipment is not able to access adobe 7.

(iv) 6 day litter pick. The village handyman, Chris Lester, had been asked and did not wish to undertake a Saturday litter pick. It was proposed, seconded and agreed (7 in favour and 1 abstention) to pay an enhanced rate of £7.50 per hour, being a self-employed rate, for 2 hours on a Saturday morning. Mrs Paterson will put a notice on the board. (An enhanced rate for weekend work at the village hall to be discussed at the next Village Hall Committee Meeting).

(v) Confidential item. Cllr Mrs Joan Bloodworth left the room whilst this was discussed. The meeting went into committee and standing orders were suspended.

*Standing orders were resumed and Cllr Mrs Bloodworth returned to the meeting.*

(vi) The Banks II. Cllr Bexon reported that 1 or 2 issues had arisen since the work had commenced. The drainage should go to soakaways but these were not working properly. Arrangements were in hand for new soakaways to be put in. The County Highways Department work to a season ending on 31<sup>st</sup> July and therefore the Church Lane resurfacing work would not be done until next year. There may have to be a separate contract with the County for this to go into their resurfacing programme for next year. If the church wished any resurfacing to be done at the back then they would be asked to contribute. The contractors had expressed concern regarding a house wall and Charnwood Borough Inspectors are to be notified.

vii) Electrical connections – War Memorial etc. Mrs Paterson advised that these were on track. The cables will be run in a ducting box along the war memorial garden. The cabinets had arrived and were ready for installation. A request to be made for the cabinets to be securely concreted in.

(viii) Kelcey Road lake. Cllr Mrs Backus advised that a life belt and lines had gone. Mrs Paterson was asked to write to Charnwood Borough Council asking them to put up notices similar to 'The life being saved could be yours!'.

(ix) Litter and leaf pick Station Road and Parkdale Landscapes taking over of the maintenance of the brick planters. It was pointed out that these works had not yet taken place.

## **06/112 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(i) Village Hall Committee meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Child reported that since the meeting quotations had been received for the painting of the hall walls and these would be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting. He also advised that information had now been received regarding Community Funding. The applications would be in two stages. Stage 1 had a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007, with submissions by 30<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Stage 2 to be submitted within 9 months of approval of Stage 1. This to be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting.

(ii) Finance Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Minutes of the meeting were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Bexon reported that £5000 was to be transferred from balances to meet the provision of the electricity supplies in Station Road, the War Memorial Garden and The Banks. It had also been agreed to transfer £4000 from General Reserves to meet the provision of a parish office. Provision had been made in the revenue account under minor improvements for the cost of new lighting in the Village Hall. The Village Hall Maintenance fund now had a balance of £1600.

## **06/113 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

(i) Link road from Barrow Road roundabout to A6 and Barrow Road – proposed revocation of 30 mph speed limits. Information received.

(ii) One Ash roundabout. Cllr Stirling advised that the chevron sign had still not been replaced. Cllr Stirling was disappointed that this was still outstanding, and also hedge cutting at various locations (ie Kelcey Road lake etc.) had taken a while to be done and not all hedge cutting etc. had been undertaken properly or adequately.

(iii) Station Road street parking and signage. Cllr Stirling said that he was not happy with signage in the area, particularly by The Thatch. there were 'no waiting signs' by the building wall and also outside a house because of the isolated parking bays, and these were not at all attractive. It was agreed to ask a representative from Mountsorrel Depot to walk the area and identify redundant signs etc. Cllr Stirling will meet with Mrs Paterson and the representative from the Depot.

(iv) Quorndon Terrace. Cllr Stirling advised that the work he had reported had still not been done and no action taken by Severn Trent or the County Council. County Councillor Kershaw said that he had requested that the problem be resolved as soon as possible.

(v) Cycleway signs on Leicester Road. Cllr Stirling was concerned regarding the duplicity of posts and signs. Signs immediately near to a lamppost could have been incorporated on the lampposts and he felt 2 into 1 signs should be encouraged. Mrs Paterson to contact Mr Coeshaw and request he meet with Cllr Stirling.

(vi) Ironbridge on Soar Road. Mr Tony Dakin had advised that this bridge had been condemned following a structural survey. Mr Dakin said he was willing to buy the bridge for £1 and take over the maintenance of it. County Councillor Kershaw said that Mr Dakin had been in touch with him and he had asked Mr Dakin to put it all in writing. Parish Council members said that it was imperative that the bridge remained. Mrs Paterson was asked to write to the County Council to state that there had been rumours and that the Parish Council would be outraged if the bridge was removed.

(vii) Traffic calming. Thanks were expressed to County Councillor Kershaw for his efforts regarding concerns raised by Mr Chapman. The Parish Council had sympathised regarding the issues but agreed they had to be guided by the specialists in this matter.

(viii) Flight paths: County Councillor Kershaw and others had received comments regarding perceived changes within the last month or so. They had been advised that there had been no change of policy but that the wind direction had on occasions affected the flight paths.

(ix) Speed guns. There is a recent County Council/Police initiative regarding the use of speed guns. Mrs Paterson was asked to write to the Neighbourhood Watch to advise of the scheme and it was also felt that a resident of Meynell Road may be interested in it.

(x) Minerals and Waste Development Framework. Mrs Paterson advised that a recent update had been received and the Mountsorrel option had been confirmed.

(xi) White Street. County Councillor Kershaw advised that the lengthening of the white line to improve visibility had been reported.

County Councillor Kershaw was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

#### **06/114 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

(i) Development Service Delivery Forum. Information was included with the agenda. The first meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Stirling will attend this first meeting with a view to Cllr Child becoming the Council's representative afterwards (subject to future meetings not being held on Wednesdays).

(ii) Staffing issues and delivery of service – parks department. Mrs Paterson expressed concern regarding the speed and standard of services (ie re cutting of hedges, life buoys etc.). The level of staffing within the department at Charnwood Borough did not appear to be able to cope with the demands, which did not help the Parish Council and the parishioners. Mrs Paterson was asked to write to the Chief Executive pointing out the practical problems the services caused. In the interim Cllr Mrs Backus suggested they should be asked if the Parish Council carried out the work would the Borough Council pay for it?

Cllr Bexon suggested that a list of all problems raised before that had not been dealt with should be made in order to save them being raised again at future meetings.

(iii) Graffiti. Cllr Stirling said there were a number of areas in the village with problems of graffiti. Charnwood Borough was having a blitz on graffiti and it was suggested the Cleansing Department be requested to deal with the problems within Quorn, with a copy of the request to go to Chloe Nicholson for attention.

(iv) Proctor's caravan site. Cllr Stirling requested an update. Borough Councillor Slater advised that work on this was still ongoing.

(v) Mechanical street cleaning. Cllr Stirling said he felt that cleaning was of poor quality and he felt there was no value for money from the contractor. The last visit was in March. Mrs Paterson was asked to obtain a copy of the schedule

## **06/115 PLANNING MATTERS**

1. Borough Councillor Shepherd gave an update and advised that consideration of 'Limits to development' around towns and villages would take place via the Allocations Development Plan Document. The first consultative stage of the allocations DPD was Issues and Options. The timetable was to take place February/March 2007.

2. Listed building application at The Cross. There had been no further developments.

(i) Charnwood 2021. Summary of contents and main issues document. This had been received and was being circulated.

(ii) Planning applications

**06/2251** 4 Long Close Retention of single and two storey extension to rear of dwelling

**06/2053** 24 Meynell Road. Erection of two storey side extension and construction of pitched roofs on front and rear dormer windows and gable to garage. A letter from a resident had been received regarding this. Although the Parish Council were sympathetic to the comments raised, it was incumbent on the planners department to decide whether any planning policies had been contravened.

**06/2069** 5 Huntsmans Close. Erection of 2 storey side extension, single storey extension to rear of dwelling and covered link to existing garage. It was felt the proposed extension did not mould with the existing. Cllr Stirling to e mail comments on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Stirling asked if clarification could be sought regarding the statement "enough space around" on the letter that accompanied plans.

2 Rumsey Close. Cllr Stirling expressed concern regarding the extension matching the existing etc. The closing date had gone but Cllr Stirling would send an e mail on behalf of the Clerk (who is going on annual leave) on behalf of the Parish Council.

**06/1950** 41a Meeting Street. Conservatory which would be part of the street scene of Sanders Road. Cllr Stirling would e mail comments on behalf of the Parish Council.

**06/2176** 117 Leicester Road. Erection of a single storey extension to side of dwelling

**06/2072** 20 Swinfield Road. Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of dwelling

**06/2029** 10 Freemans Way. Erection of a two storey extension to rear of dwelling.

(iii) Planning consents All trees were checked by Peter Gamble, the village tree warden.

26 High Street – 1 Ash tree.

6 Meynell Road

100 Meeting Street

Spinney Drive

101a Meeting Street

33 Northage (ash tree etc.)

It was suggested that a small group be set up to look at planning applications and could then report back to the Parish Council meetings. This item to go on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

#### **06/116 CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) Central Networks. Mrs Paterson advised that she had received information regarding grant assistance available.

(ii) Quarts – application for S137 grant. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth left the room whilst this was discussed. Discussion was held and it was agreed that Mrs Paterson be asked to request more information and explain the difficulties of possible recycling of money.

Cllr Mrs Bloodworth returned to the meeting.

#### **06/117 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS**

(i) The Slabs. Mrs Paterson advised that Barrow upon Soar Parish Council had been in contact and were happy to meet to push for an overall refurbishment of the Slabs. 2 representatives from Barrow were to be identified and they would meet with Cllr Stirling and Cllr Mrs Backus next Monday at 6.30 pm

(ii) An overall policy for Station Road. Cllr Stirling spoke regarding issues of parking spaces, signage, moving of noticeboard etc. and asked how the Parish Council would really like Station Road to look. It was felt at the present time there were more questions than answers to this and that the matter should be referred to the plans and policies subcommittee

#### **06/118 PAYMENTS LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET**

Copies were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Bexon said that the £40000 should show in the General Reserve on the sheet.

The payments list and summary sheet were formally agreed and approved.

Cllr Stirling advised that the Co-op had environmental grants available and he would obtain more information.

**06/119 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS**

- (i) Stafford Orchard hedge – School Lane. Cllr Stirling mentioned this required attention.
- (ii) Footpath and pavement cleansing. Cllr Stirling advised that some areas in the village required attention and did not appear to have been done at all.
- (iii) The Banks. Cllr Bexon advised that Neil Fuller had been in touch regarding a formal grand opening of the Banks when the work was completed. A letter to be sent to Mr Fuller saying the Parish Council have it in mind and would get in touch nearer the time. This to incorporate both projects (1 and 2) of the Banks. Cllr Stirling asked that attention be given to the Banks 1 before the opening.
- (iv) Request received for litter bin opposite Unitt Road. This was already in hand.
- (v) Cllr Mrs Bloodworth advised that Mr Barry Rivers would arrange for anyone to look around 1 and 3 High Street if they wished.
- (vi) Light No 7 in churchyard. Cllr Child advised that this was not functioning.

The meeting ceased at 22.26 hours.

Chair ..... Date .....