

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th July 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 Mrs S Templeman
Cllr Mrs J Backus	Cllr T Tyler
Cllr Mrs E Harrison	

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

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

1 member of the public

06/90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the police (via Cllr Child).

ABSENT

Cllr J Maltby and Cllr K Croysdale

06/91 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Geoffrey Smith wished to bring to the Parish Council's attention failures to enforce planning conditions. He spoke regarding the rebuilding of a wall adjoining Soar House. The wall had fallen down during bad weather. It had been rebuilt and was not in line with the original shape and material. The house was presently being adapted to form apartments. Mr Smith advised that the views of residents were supportive of the planning application in the original shape and original materials. The planning requirements then included this.

Mr Smith said his concerns were on 2 matters. 1. The wall was not built as agreed and spoils the street elevation. 2. Some of the original sash windows were being replaced by opening PVC type windows. The ground floor windows had been replaced by plastic sash windows and part of the windows on the 1st floor had PVC sections.

Borough Councillors Shepherd and Slater had been supportive and a report was going to the next Planning Meeting.

Mr Smith wished the Parish Council to add its voice to the concerns.

Cllr Hutchinson thanked Mr Smith very much for his comments and also for keeping the matters under observation. He advised that the matter would be

discussed again under Planning later in the meeting.

06/92 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2006

Cllr Mrs Templeman wished an amendment to be made that her Declaration of Interest regarding 06/1661/2 planning application was personal and prejudicial (not just personal).

With this amendment the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

06/93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs S Templeman	-	Personal regarding Cave's Field
Cllr I Bexon	-	Personal regarding item 6 (ii) of the agenda regarding Dower House Gardens
Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth	-	Personal and prejudicial regarding item 13 and 6 (iv) on the agenda, and regarding electrical connections
Cllr T Tyler	-	Personal regarding planning application at 28 Northage Close.

06/94 POLICING MATTERS

There was no police presence at the meeting. PC Darren Chalk had sent his apologies via Cllr Child,

1. Mrs Paterson advised that she had written to Inspector Cathy Yallop advising that the Parish Council were extremely concerned regarding the large amount of vandalism etc. which had taken place recently and asked what action was being taken. She had listed a number of the incidents in the letter.

The Parish Council members felt matters were serious and it was important that there was a police presence at Parish Meetings. The police had advised at a previous Parish Council Meeting that they would be concentrating on the Stafford Orchard area. After a recent incident in that area they were seen to drive round in cars – but suspicious behaviour could not always be seen from vehicles.

Cllr Mrs Templeman advised that at a recent Police Consultative meeting she had attended she had raised issues and in particular the fact that there had been little police presence in the village since beat changes. Cllr Mrs Templeman had been informed that the police were getting a double strength of CSOs from October time.

Cllr Hutchinson felt that as the matter was urgent, rather than call Inspector Yallop to the next meeting, he would personally meet with her to discuss the serious concerns. Mrs Paterson will arrange the meeting.

2. Skateboard ramp: The skateboard ramp had recently been severely damaged. The Parish Council felt they would like to preserve this facility but could not keep repairing it and felt its future was in the balance unless information was forthcoming regarding who had vandalised it.

It was proposed and seconded to put in process the repair of the ramp under the Parish Council's insurance policy providing there were no significant additional costs to the insurance premiums. Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Bexon, Cllr Mrs Templeman, Cllr Tyler and Cllr Child voted for this proposal, and Cllr Mrs Bloodworth, Cllr Mrs Backus and Cllr Stirling voted against this proposal.

It was imperative the health and safety concerns were addressed and the skateboard should be rendered unusable and notices to say it was unsafe put up. It was suggested photographic evidence should be taken to show that this had been done. The village handyman to be asked to keep the ramp under observation. Also to publicise to the people of Quorn the cost of repairs and list of damages etc., and that if they see any acts of vandalism etc. the incidents should be reported. Advice to ring Crimestoppers and a suggestion of a £50 reward if information leads to a conviction to be given – posters with details to be displayed.

Cllr Bexon said a provision for criminal damage should be made in the budgets.

06/95 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Unauthorised works at land adjacent to Quorn Manor (a report was enclosed with the agenda on recommended enforcement action). Borough Cllr Slater advised he was on the planning committee that heard the application and all members of the committee were seriously concerned at the tree felling. All the trees are to be replaced, with protective barriers where necessary to prevent accidental vehicle damage. He advised that the prosecution was still ongoing, and that it would be ensured that the current planning application would be heard by Planning Committee 2.

The planners felt the culvert works would not have caused problems, however, and in all probability would have been allowed. The trees were to be put back in exactly the same place as those removed.

The Parish Council members supported the views of Borough Cllr Slater, and felt the problems should be looked at as a whole and agreed that the trees should be put back in the same place.

(ii) Prohibition of waiting – Dower House Gardens. Mrs Paterson said a response had been received advising that the request to use narrow lines had been noted. Also advising that 'no waiting' signage was not now a requirement and steps would be taken to remove them.

(iii) Soar/Wreake Valley initiative. This had been deferred from the last meeting. It was felt the Linear Walk project or Tom Long's Meadow could come under this initiative.

(iv) 1-3 High Street – copy of a refusal notice was enclosed with the agenda. The exterior had now been re-pointed (not rendered). Borough Cllr Slater was asked if there was a right of appeal for refused retrospective applications. He advised that there was a right of appeal for all refused planning applications.

(v) Removal of redundant signs/barriers. Mrs Paterson advised that Paul

Coeshaw from Mountsorrel Depot had written apologising for not replying to previous letters and stating he was going to arrange a full investigation with a view to removing all redundant structures.

(vi) Verbal report on Parks for People Seminar. Cllrs Bexon and Mrs Templeman had attended this Seminar and met with the people who would be judging applications. They said the persons would come and see the Stafford Orchard and project as a whole and give their advice and guidance on where to go from there. Timescales were going to be long and in 2 stages. Stage 1 would not happen before September 2007. Many thanks were given to Cllr Bexon and Cllr Mrs Templeman for attending the Seminar and representing the Parish Council and for all their hard work put into the preparation of the bid.

(vii) Electrical connections. Mrs Paterson advised that Balfour Beatty, on behalf of Central Network, would be starting work on 28th August. Adrian Bloodworth would install the cabinets before that date. A substantial amount of money would be saved by having the cable laid in the War Memorial Garden and there was unlikely to be any disturbance to the garden at all. However the County Council had advised they were intending to resurface the rest of roads in the village and non-essential work could be stopped. The contractors have been asked to liaise with the County Council.

The connection to the Banks was progressing, but slowly. Mrs Paterson had provided a plan of ducting and indicated where the Parish Council wished it to go and it was hoped that a price would be forthcoming and the work tied in with the other works at the Banks. Thanks were given to Mrs Paterson for all her hard work regarding the connections.

Mrs Paterson circulated copies of the Schedule of Works programme for the Banks project. Cllr Bexon advised that it was essential that any problems or concerns should be first raised with Mrs Paterson who, in turn, would raise them with the contract engineer.

(viii) Grass cutting: Mrs Paterson read out a response she had received from Mrs Payne, the senior engineer. The present contract was due to be re-negotiated shortly and there was no indication at present of the new rates. If the Parish Council wished to take over the work whilst the present contract was in operation then there was a 'loss of income' clause in this contract. A copy of the grass cutting schedule had been received for information. It was suggested that contact be made with Mountsorrel Parish Council which undertakes its own grass cutting to see what they pay out etc.

(ix) Cllr Mrs Bloodworth had obtained a copy of Barrow Parish's 'Village information' for information (as mentioned in paragraph 2 of Public Participation in the last Parish Council minutes).

(x) Policing priorities. Cllr Stirling drew attention to this item in the last meeting minutes. Concern had been felt for some time regarding lack of vigilance from the police at Station Road and Stafford Orchard area and he said the Parish Council were right about the need for monitoring.

(xi) Mill Stone at Wakerley development. A request has been made for a copy of the details.

(xii) Kelcey Road lake: Charnwood Borough Council are arranging for the dog bins to be emptied twice a week. Cllr Stirling advised that the life buoys at this location and the river at the Brinks are being dealt with.

(xiii) Chalkboards outside premises. These were actually on the walls, not on the pavements. Mrs Paterson had been advised that there had been no infringements of planning regulations whatsoever. Borough Cllr Slater said problems had occurred before and it appeared non-illuminated signs below a certain height were not covered under planning regulations. Mrs Paterson was asked to respond stating the Parish Council was appalled about this, especially in a conservation area (copy to go to Borough Cllrs Shepherd and Slater for them to pursue).

06/96 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) Village Hall Committee meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2006 were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Mrs Harrison advised she had not been able to give her apologies as she had not received the e-mail regarding the meeting.

Cllr Child reported that there had been problems with the contract cleaner and a new contract cleaner had been appointed. Quotations have been requested for painting of the lower part of the hall walls (to match the front of the stage) and financial advice would be sought when the quotes were in. Cllr Child proposed, and this was seconded, that the Parish Council asks the Finance Committee to make provision for the painting of the woodwork in the hall. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Child also advised that the public entertainment licence had now been amended to commence at 12 noon each day (grandfather rights on the original licence had stipulated from 6 pm each evening).

(ii) Environment Committee meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2006 were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Mrs Backus advised that Chris Lester would litter and leaf pick the area at the bottom of the railings at the park entrance on Station Road and Parkdale Landscapes would take over the maintenance of the brick planters. The planters at Barrow Road were now looking very good and Mr Buck had kindly volunteered to take care of the watering etc.

Mrs Paterson advised she would be contacting Miller Homes regarding the security of the old gated road very shortly.

(iii) Cave's Field Committee meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2006 were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Mrs Templeman said she had received a number of responses regarding the Linear Park and there were some lovely ideas. There were a number of suggestions regarding the path being surfaced, but there was a long way to go yet before getting to that stage. Mrs Paterson advised that Stowfledge had visited the site to look at damaged railings and will take sections away, panel by panel, to repair.

A response had been received from Jelsons and Mrs Paterson is attempting

to arrange a site meeting – although she is having problems contact Mr McGeal again. Cllr Bexon asked that the possible acquisition of the area to Woodhouse Road be raised again with Jelsons when contact was made. Cllr Stirling advised of 2 low branches that needed attention at Cave's Field.

06/97 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Mr J Gibson – Station Road roadway ramping. Copies of correspondence were attached with the agenda. Mr Gibson wished to know the Parish Council's view on the roadway ramping. Mrs Paterson was asked to reply to Mr Gibson stating that although the Parish Council had not been consulted at all, even so they felt that the result was much safer for all users. The Parish Council had always been concerned about persons crossing from the car park to the shops and it was also a traffic calming measure.

(ii) Mr G Chapman – traffic calming on High Street. A copy letter to Leicestershire County Council was enclosed for information. Mrs Paterson read out the copy response she had received that had been sent to Mr Chapman from Mike Bradford.

(iii) Branchline information. Received and passed to Cllr Mrs Backus.

(iv) Consultation on Leicestershire Statement of Community Involvement. Mrs Paterson read out the information received.

(v) Medium Term Corporate Strategy to 2009. Information received and passed to Cllr Stirling.

(vi) Advance notice of road closure. Leicestershire County Council has advised they will be undertaking carriageway resurfacing in Meeting Street/Station Road/Leicester Road and High Street sometime during the 3 months from 24th July. A press release would be issued shortly but actual dates are not known. Cllr Stirling requested that LCC be asked to ensure that 'bus companies are fully aware and give information to their users.

(vii) Police Authority Questionnaire re merger: County Cllr Kershaw asked that people are encouraged to respond to this questionnaire, even though the merger had been deferred at the present time. Date for the return of the questionnaires was 5th July but he asked people to respond even if their response was late.

(viii) The Slabs. County Cllr Kershaw advised that the minutes of a previous meeting of Barrow upon Soar Parish Council had said they would be getting in touch with Quorn Parish Council to arrange a meeting re the Slabs. Mrs Paterson advised that no one had yet been in touch and she would ring the Clerk to the Council for information.

(ix) Trees on Woodhouse Road: Cllr Stirling reported that there were a number of overhanging trees on the north side of Woodhouse Road that required attention. Mrs Paterson will contact Mountsorrel Depot.

06/98 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Street naming 1 and 3 Leicester Road. The name Wakerley Court had

been suggested by the developer, and this was agreed.

(ii) Scrutiny Review – Improving working with Parish Councils. Cllr Stirling attended on behalf of the Parish Council. He had requested copies of the minutes be sent to Parish Councils and these were awaited. There was movement towards more internet communications. Comment was made that it was often difficult to get plans off the website. Borough Cllr Slater said he had taken advice and was informed that Acrobat version 7 was needed on computers in order to read the plans.

(iii) Charnwood Design Awards 2006. Mrs Paterson had received information and nominations were requested by the end of July. It was suggested that Quorn Parish Council nominate The Banks under the heading 'Streetscape', Holloway House extension (under garden landscaping) and the Quorndon for the Special Category (publications etc.).

(iv) Proctors. Borough Cllr Shepherd gave an update from Helen Robinson. She had advised that work was progressing and they were ensuring that the correct legal approach was being made.

06/99 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Planning applications – earlier applications had been e-mailed.

P/06/1841/2. Improvements to field access and culverting of ditch, (retrospective application), land adjacent to 5 Armston Road Mrs Paterson read out a letter of explanation for the application applicant's consultant. She was then asked to write to the planning department objecting in strong terms to this application and referring to removal of hedging and interference with a natural watercourse and state the surfacing was out of character with the environment. Committee members felt this was planning by stealth, and the hedges being ripped out and the stone surface did not enhance the natural environment. This was a retrospective application – and there would have been no justification for it if application had been put in beforehand.

Other applications.

1 Chestnut Close (original application withdrawn) another application now submitted.

06/2020 Wyvenhoe House, Wyvenhoe drive – erection of 2 storey dwelling (demolishing original house).

06/1898 77 Warwick Avenue – single storey extension.

06/1745 28 Northage Close – extension.

06/1755 79 Barrow Road – demolition of workshop. Resubmission.

(ii) Planning permissions granted.

29 Beardsley Road

1 Paddock Close

43 Chaveney Walk

2 Northage Close (trees)

27 Deeming Drive

63 Meeting Street

17 Warwick Avenue

11 Armston Road (attention to tree)

14 Sanders Road (attention to tree)
33 Chaveney Walk (attention to tree)
17 Toller Road
2 Trevis Gardens
107b Meeting Street
18 Kelcey Road

(iii) refusal
31 Orchard Estate (for a garage)

(iv) Soar House (as raised by Mr Geoffrey Smith earlier in the meeting).
Mrs Paterson was asked to write to Charnwood Borough Council and ask that enforcement action was being taken as this was non-compliance with planning conditions. Copies of the letter to go to Borough Cllrs Shepherd and Slater and to Mr Smith.

06/100 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received.

06/101 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

Consideration of a 6-day litter pick. Cllr Child asked that consideration be given to a 2 hour litter pick on Saturday mornings. There was a great deal of activity on Friday nights and Stafford Orchard looked dreadful the next day. Cllr Hutchinson advised that there was a lockable litter bin that could be used to store the refuse until the Monday.

Discussion was held and it was agreed to initially approach Mr Chris Lester, the village handyman, to ask if he would swap his Friday afternoon and then use the hours on Saturday morning (at overtime rates of time and a half). Mrs Paterson will discuss this with Mr Lester. If he is not able to then other options to be looked at.

06/102 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

It was agreed to discuss item 14 of the agenda before item 13 because item 14 affected item 13.

Mrs Paterson, Clerk to the Council, asked the Parish Council to consider her reducing her hours to 3 days a week from April 2007, with a view to ceasing working for the Parish Council approximately 6 months after that.

Cllr Bexon proposed that a small group be set up to look at the staffing, personnel and financial implications regarding recruitment of new clerk etc. Cllr Child and Cllr Mrs Templeman to form the group and put forward proposals before the November Budget meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended and the meeting went into Committee for the next item. Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth left the room whilst this was discussed.

06/103 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Standing Orders were resumed and Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth returned to the meeting.

06/104 PAYMENTS LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

Copies were enclosed with the agenda.

Cllr Bexon advised that the £40000 was the opening cheque for the Co-op bank account. Accounts for the legal work for the Banks had all been sent to the church. The Financial Committee were going to look at budgets again at their next meeting.

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

06/105 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

- (i) Open Gardens and Village Design Statement exhibition reports. Mrs Paterson advised that approximately £2400 was raised from the Open Gardens. Reports had been received that the Village Design Statement was very highly thought of.
- (ii) Cradock Drive/Warwick Road/Elms junction. Cllr Child advised that he had checked accident records since 1994 and there had been no incidents at this location. There had never been any injury accidents at Wood Lane or at the Barrow Road junction, and 3 slight injuries at The Cross.
- (iii) 'Bus shelter by Quorn Exchange. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth asked that Mr Fred Harris be thanked for cleaning the 'bus shelter. He said he would clean it every 6 months.
- (iv) Quorn brook: Cllr Stirling reported that this was choked with weeds and reeds, plus he counted 70 + items of rubbish earlier that day. He requested that an appropriate letter to be sent to whoever is responsible for its upkeep. Cllr Mrs Templeman will check who has responsibility for cleaning this area and then future attention could be discussed again.
- (v) Baptist Chapel. Cllr Stirling advised that a number of filled plastic refuse bags that had been put out had been ripped open. Mrs Paterson will speak to someone at the Baptist Church over this problem.
- (vi) Light at side of Bradley's. Mrs Paterson said the lamp had been received and would be fitted shortly.
- (vii) Seat at 'bus stop by Quorndon Fox. Mrs Paterson advised that work was in hand for this to be repaired.

The meeting ceased at 22.25 hours.

Chair Date