

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd October 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 S Templeman	Cllr Mrs E Harrison

Borough Cllr R Shepherd
Borough Cllr D Slater

Mrs K Paterson - Clerk to the Council.

06/135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Maltby (working), County Cllr Kershaw (illness), Mrs B Holland (holiday), Community Support Officer C Kendall (working).

06/136 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present

06/137 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2006

Subject to the following amendments, the Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record:

06/126 (h) (ii) The word 'Holloway' inserted instead of 'Soar'

06/128 (vii) The word 'building' inserted instead of 'house'

06/134 (i) The words 'and hard landscaping weed-treated' to be inserted after 'weed-killed'

06/138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs J Bloodworth - Personal and prejudicial as a relative of contractor re electrical work
Personal and prejudicial regarding Parish Office.

Cllr Mrs Templeman - Personal with regard to Cave's Field as residing close to the ground

06/139 POLICING MATTERS

a) Invitation to consultation evening. Cllr Stirling offered to attend.

b) Neighbourhood Watch newsletter The crime figures for September had been e-mailed to the Clerk. It had been a bad month for crime with 5 burglaries, 7 thefts, 2 assaults and public order offences and 8 incidents of criminal damage.

- c) Closure of police station front desk Cllr Stirling referred to rumours he had heard about the closure of the front desk at the police station. The situation will be watched.
- d) Alleged dangerous parking Cllr Hutchinson referred to complaints he had received about alleged dangerous parking at the corner of Sanders Road and Meeting Street. It was agreed to ask the police to issue tickets to drivers parking too close to bends.
- e) College/village liaison group Cllr Hutchinson has recently attended a meeting of the liaison group. He had raised the issue of litter dropping but felt that the police were very hesitant to use their powers to prosecute or issue fixed penalty tickets to offenders.

06/140 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Meynell Road traffic calming proposals Confirmation of last month's discussion and a plan had been received from Mr Hodges at the County Council. It was noted that the plan retained the 'shark's teeth' element of the proposals and these were to be deleted by agreement. Reference was made in the letter to the fact that the Parish Council would have been fully consulted over the cycleway plans for Meynell Road when the new development application was submitted. Members could not recall this and asked the Clerk to check. With regard to the proposal to install additional bollards to prevent vehicles using the closed off end of Barrow Road, it was agreed to support the suggestion but to reject any more signage. Cllr Stirling hoped that the bollards would be placed in the optimum position to deter traffic and suggested that the bollard nearest to the planter on the Farley Way side be moved inwards by about 3ft.
- b) Parish Council vacancy The interview panel reported back on what the members consider to have been a pleasant but difficult task. Six candidates were interviewed and the recommendation that Peter Webster from Meeting Street be selected was put to the Council. This was accepted by a unanimous vote. The unsuccessful candidates would be written to and urged to stand for election in May.
- c) Parish Office (Cllr Mrs Bloodworth left the room). The Clerk reported on a potential problem with the planning department. It is currently being clarified as to whether or not change of use is required. A reply to the Clerk's letter of three weeks ago has not been received and it was suggested that she e-mail a copy of her letter to the head of development control requesting a response as soon as possible.
- d) Planning Subcommittee After discussion it was agreed to leave the matter of how to deal efficiently with planning applications to the new council after the May elections.
- e) Confidential item Resolved that Standing Orders be suspended. *Cllrs Mrs Templeman and Child presented a paper on the implications and costs of the Clerk's request to work 3 days a week from April 2007 and to resign from post approximately 6 months later. After debate, it was proposed and seconded that:*

- 1 *The Council accepts the Clerk's proposal to work 3 days per week from 1st April, with a view to finishing work on 30th September (subject to negotiation)*
- 2 *A new clerk is appointed on point 31 from 1st April 2007, working 30 hours per week for the first six months, rising to full time after this, however the appointing panel will have discretion on hours, starting date and starting salary if a candidate is exceptional.*
3. *Appropriate budget provision is made in 2007/08*
4. *Action is taken when the Clerk formally resigns to start the recruitment process*

The resolution was carried unanimously.

It was then proposed and seconded that Cllrs Mrs Templeman, Child the Clerk be delegated the task of drafting a job advertisement to be placed initially in The Quorndon and then other publications as deemed necessary.

Agreed to move out of confidential session.

- f) Banks 2 There will be practical completion meeting tomorrow although suppliers have let done the project with delayed delivery of the railings and archway. These are expected mid-October and will be installed during the college's half-term week. Legal fees in connection with the deconsecration have been paid by the Church Council. Cllr Child reported that the new middle light is not working, the colour of lampposts should have been green, not black, the bulbs are sodium and would look much better if changed to white and the old lampposts need removing.
- g) Wakeley's Court – Millstone The architect has supplied designs for the public art in the form of a millstone as requested. It was generally agreed to be very attractive.
- h) Weekend drinking in the village centre. Cllr Stirling brought members' attention to the on-going problems. He tabled a letter from a resident of the High Street which detailed a catalogue of anti-social behaviour which culminated in a broken window on 23rd September. Cllr Stirling strongly criticised the police attitude of 'it'll stop during the winter months'. He noted that the police patrol in cars and cannot take the time to stop and watch what is happening. He also felt that the owners/tenants of the White Horse and the Royal Oak were operating to the detriment of residents. It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to the Licensing Department and the police. Cllr Hutchinson urged individuals to complain to the Licensing Department.
- i) Graffiti No clean up has taken place. Charnwood's view was that graffiti on private property is the responsibility of the owner to clear up. It was noted that the closed churchyard wall is not private, yet it has been subjected to graffiti as has the back of the public lavatories and the litter bins.

- j) Quorn in Bloom Cllr Mrs Bloodworth had posted to all members a request for funding next year. It was resolved to offer financial support and provide the funding needed.

06/141 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) Village Hall Committee Meeting held on 11th September 2006 – the minutes were circulated with the agenda of this meeting. Cllr Child reported that the Council's legal advisor was due to attend the next meeting to discuss the confidential matter. The committee had visited the Village Hall flat and it was apparent that some areas were in great need of attention and funds would need to be found.

Cllr Bexon requested items for next year's budget to be forwarded from all committee chairmen.

(ii) Cave's Field meeting notes from 14th September 2006. This meeting was inquorate. The Chairman drew the Council's attention to the Jelson offer to lease their land along footpath K37 to the Council. Cllr Mrs Templeman felt that her remit with Cave's Field management only extended up to Poultney Drive and that the entire Jelson land was too big a project for her committee. After discussion about managing and developing this land as a wildlife area, it was agreed that a plan and costings should be obtained. The Clerk was asked to write a 'holding' letter to Jelsons, confirming the Council's interest in the land but asking the company to hold matters in abeyance whilst grants and management strategies were being sought. The new councillor, Peter Webster, would be asked to join the committee.

Cllr Bexon advised that the Scouts/Guides/Cricket Club should consult with the Council before applying for planning permission for a new pavilion/community centre.

06/142 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) The Old School. The Clerk had circulated a report of a meeting held at County Hall between representatives of the County Council and the Parish Council to discuss the future of the old school building. The County Council representatives stated that they need to sell the old school at its market value to support their medium term corporate strategy. They offered the Parish first refusal providing a firm commitment was made within the month and the money forthcoming by the end of March. Cllr Bexon commented that the County was not prepared to consider 'best value' as meaning anything other than monetary; it was clear that they want to sell it for development. The figures and the timescale involved put it well out of the reach of the Parish Council. It is likely that a planning application will be lodged fairly soon. It was agreed to issue a press release to The Quorndon opposing the disposal of the building. Cllr Stirling suggested approaching the Diocesan Board of Education to discover whether there are any covenants restricting use to the community. He sincerely hoped that the Council could rely on active support from County Councillor Kershaw to fight this threat to dispose of the building for development. Cllr Bexon expressed his concern over the future of the land currently rented from the church. It was agreed to renew the offer to purchase. An approach would be made to the

Borough Council for consideration to list the building. A 'holding' letter will be sent to the County Council.

- (ii) County Service Information passed to Cllr Hutchinson

06/143 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

(i) Staffing levels in the parks department. A letter has been received from Roger Barrowdale, recently appointed Interim Grounds Maintenance Manger giving assurances that the Borough is working to a provide 'a continuously improving, more efficient and effective works unit.' Cllr Hutchinson commented that the soon to be implemented week-killing programme should be monitored

(ii) Disability Equality Workshop. No members were available to attend this event. The Clerk will complete the survey attached.

(iii) Street Management An e-mail has been received introducing the Street Management function and Street Warden scheme. It was agreed that this could be of benefit to the village and the manager would be invited to attend the next Council meeting.

06/144 PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications had been received, but no comment to be passed to the planning department.

06/2800 Management of woodland, various trees (TPO). Woodland next to Quorn Cricket Ground, Tom Long's Meadow. Passed to the Tree Wardens for comment.

06/2773 Extension to garage to form independent residential accommodation at 102 Barrow Road

06/2763 Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling at 89a Meeting Street

06/2650 Erection of a two storey extension to side of dwelling at 4 Toller Road

06/2622 Retention of storage container at The Royal Chequers, 23 Loughborough Road

06/2772 Erection of two storey extension to rear of dwelling at 22 Mansfield Avenue

06/2692 Raising of roof and 3 dormer extensions to front of bungalow (revised scheme – planning permission granted) at 18 Alexander Road (e-mailed)

06/2662 Erection of a two storey extension to the rear and porch to the front of dwelling at 29 Paddock Close (e-mailed)

06/2645 Erection of conservatory to side of dwelling at 6 Brown Avenue (e-mailed)

Planning permission had been granted for:

31 Orchard Estate – garage
Wyvenhoe House – replacement dwelling

18 Paddock Close – two storey extension
 117 Leicester Road – single storey extension
 24 Meynell Road – two storey extension

Planning permission had been refused for:

Land adjacent to 5 Armston Road (Quorn Manor) – alterations to field access and culverting of ditch.

Planning enforcement

Cllr Stirling requested that inquiries are made as to the progression of enforcement action on the replacement windows and removal of meter boxes at the Rivers development on the High Street and also with the Borrow Pit.

Cllr Stirling reiterated his on-going concern with the chalk boards outside the White Horse. Despite the enforcement officer's view that the boards had 'deemed consent' he felt this made a nonsense of what a conservation is supposed to be. Cllr Child suggested he raise the matter with the new member who is a town planner.

06/145 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Rawlins Community College – Quorn swimming pool Mrs Edwards, secretary to the Pool Committee has written to the Council attaching copies of correspondence held between the College and the Borough Council over the future finding of the pool. The letter make reference to the Parish Council's previous offer of 'moral and financial support'. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Edwards requested an idea of what level of funding is required.

06/146 ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS FOR THE BANKS, STATION ROAD AND THE WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN

Cllr Mrs Bloodworth left the room whilst this matter was under discussion.

Adrian Bloodworth, the contractor appointed to install the Christmas lights has submitted a quote for the completion of the electrical connections following the work carried out by Central Networks. In view of the complexity of the matter and the involvement and assistance given so far, which had led to the quotation being in effect a continuation of work, it was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation under section 11. I (a) iv of Financial Regulations. Cllr Mrs Bloodworth rejoined the meeting.

The Christmas lights switch-on is scheduled for 30th November. The Borough Council has given permission for the car park to be used and Cllr Mrs Bloodworth requested that Stafford Orchard be used as a temporary car park. The Banks will not be illuminated as the Christmas tree socket is too small. This will be investigated. Cllr Stirling commented that there would be no deficit in the budget as fewer lights will be ordered.

06/147 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

(i) Cllr Mrs Templeman tabled the draft article she had prepared for The Quorndon. She commented that feedback and contributions would be appreciated.

(ii) Cllr Bexon. Stafford Orchard budget provision for 2007/8. Cllr Bexon commented that regardless of the lottery bid, the Council still has stage 3 of the 'safe routes' plan to consider. He proposed increasing the reserves by stages over 5 years to achieve a total of a year's precept rather than the current aim of 50%. This would then enable the Council to match fund or eventually proceed with the stage 3 alone. This was agreed.

Cllr Hutchinson requested that consideration be given to repairing or replacing the boundary fence. The Clerk reminded members that they had received a request for a baseball court on the park. After consideration it was agreed that this sport is not appropriate for the park and could be dangerous.

(iii) Cllr Stirling Village Website. Cllr Stirling wished this matter to be deferred but gave notice that he had concerns over the future of the site should the current voluntary administrator leave the area.

(iv) Cllrs Child and Stirling Confidential item. Standing Orders suspended. *The revised job description for the Handyman states that from the end of March to the end of October he can work his four morning hours 'in daylight'. Cllr Child felt that this was insufficiently defined and that work was commencing before dawn. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to write to the employee informing him that as from next March he will be expected to work from 7am-11.00am until the end of October and from October to the beginning of March 8.00am-12.00midday. Until the end of October this year, he will be reminded that the work must be undertaken in daylight.*

The employee has expressed his concern to the Clerk about the way he appears to be monitored by stealth. Whilst agreeing that monitoring is good employment practice, it would need to be carried out openly and fairly. Cllr Mrs Templeman commented that once the Parish office is opened, monitoring will be much more effective.

06/148 PAYMENTS LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

Copies were enclosed with the agenda. All payments approved.

06/149 GENERAL VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Cllr Child noted that development work has commenced on the old Texaco site.

(ii) Overhanging trees were reported between The Quorndon Fox and the White Hart.

(iii) Lamp P2 in the churchyard is out.

(iv) The brook is in a poor state, choked with weeds and litter. The Clerk has been negotiated a clean up with the Borough Council which has agreed to do the work provided it can be proven that it is their responsibility under the terms of their lease with Townlands. The Clerk has received an assurance from Mr Gibson (Clerk to Townlands) that he will send a copy of the lease to the Borough and a copy to her.

(v) Parking problems outside the Apple Tree had been brought to the Council's attention.

(vi) Car park. Charnwood Borough Council has been requested by the Clerk to sweep the car park.

The meeting ceased at 23.17 hours.

Chair Date