

## **QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 September 2007 in the Council Chamber at Quorn Village Hall at 7p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr P Child (Chairman)  
Cllr I Bexon  
Cllr J Bloodworth  
Cllr G Glover

Cllr E Harrison  
Cllr T Rodgers  
Cllr T Stirling  
Cllr S Templeman

County Cllr T Kershaw (for Minutes 130 to 135)

Borough Cllr R. Shepherd (for Minutes 123 to 127a)  
Borough Cllr D. Slater

Mrs L Swinfield - Parish Clerk  
Ms K Newman - Village Hall Administrator

Insp C Yallop (Commander, Syston LPU) (for Minutes 123 to 127a)  
PC Chris Kendal (Community Safety Officer) (for Minutes 123 to 127a)

### **07/123 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Three members of the public were present.

Mr. Patrick Allen gave an account of the Party in the Park held in August. Unfortunately the weather had been very poor, so receipts had not been as high as hoped, but taken with other events, they had raised £3,000 for charity, of which £1000 had been donated to Ruby Rainbows. The Party accounts would be published in the Quorndon.

Mr. Allen drew to the Council's attention the problems of vandalism in the Park, which had directly affected the Party – as soon as the fences were installed, people were trying to damage them. A suggestion was put forward to hire a security firm in future.

### **07/124 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Tyler and D Cawdell, and from PC Darren Chalke.

### **07/125 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Child declared a personal interest in Item 6 as an acquaintance of three of the candidates for co-option. Cllr Templeman declared a personal interest in Item 6 as an acquaintance of two of the candidates. Cllr Rodgers declared a personal interest in Item 6 as partner to one of the candidates.

### **07/126 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 August 2007 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- i. That the words 'a very large rock' in Minute 07/106 (c) (2) be substituted with the words 'very large rocks';
- ii. That Cllr Bexon be removed from the list of Environment Committee members in Minute 07/110 (4) b and Cllr Glover added.

and signed by the Chairman.

## **07/127 POLICING MATTERS**

a. **Stafford Orchard – police action.** There was a lengthy debate on the public order and criminal damage problems occurring in the Village, especially in and around Stafford Orchard.

The Council was concerned that

- There had been several incidents of vandalism, causing serious damage to the Park when the gateposts were demolished;
- People using the Park and other village facilities felt intimidated by the attitude of, and comments made by, groups of young people;
- Motor bikes were being ridden around inside the park and around the Station Road/School Lane/Leicester Road loop at high speeds;
- Various incidents had been reported to the police by Councillors and by the Parish Clerk, but the low numbers of crimes recorded over the summer did not appear to tally with the larger number of reports made. If incidents reported to the police (some attended by officers) were not appearing in the crime statistics, this suggested that policing might be operating at a lower level than the problems warranted;
- Evidence that might assist the police (for example CCTV footage) appeared not to be reaching them.

It was noted that the Street Wardens had been very helpful and their regular patrols were most welcome. However, they had limited powers and were therefore unable to help in cases outwith their remit. The Council felt that a higher level of policing was necessary to solve the problems, particularly as it was believed that the trouble was at least partly caused by people who were not Village residents and whom the Council therefore had no way of contacting.

The police were concerned that

- Incidents were not being reported by the appropriate route, for example fairly urgent matters were being reported by e-mail, which was a low-priority route;
- Witnesses were refusing to make statements for fear of reprisals. This meant that no action could be taken as there was no evidence;
- They were not being told about potential evidence and couldn't access it if they didn't know about it.
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PC Kendal assured the Council that even if reported incidents were not given a crime number, they are still logged and the information used as intelligence to help build a picture of the policing needs of the Village.

Insp Yallop and PC Kendal undertook to:

- Follow up the incident at Rawlins and view the CCTV footage
- Ensure that crime numbers were assigned to previous incidents that had not yet received such a number
- To liaise with the Clerk to produce information that would help members of the Council and the public to know how to report serious and less serious matters to the police, the Clerk to ensure that any information so produced would be made available to residents.

Insp Yallop advised the Council that if they wished to use the Neighbourhood Watch CCTV cameras in and around Stafford Orchard and post notices accordingly, this was something that should be arranged directly with the Neighbourhood Watch.

- b. **Stafford Orchard – School Lane entrance.** People had been displacing the rocks that had been placed to block the entrance. The only alternative was to install fixed bollards. Concrete bollards would cost around £180 each to install; cast-iron ones around £350 each. Aesthetic and durability considerations made cast-iron bollards the more desirable choice.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) To consult with the Landscape Architect for the Parks for People bid to agree a scheme to install cast-iron bollards that would fit with the park's refurbishment as envisioned under the Heritage Lottery bid, with a view to installing the bollards as soon as possible;
- 2) To contact Lafarge Aggregates and request removal of the rocks.

**07/128 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Since the previous meeting, there had been a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund officials, to whom a very successful presentation had been made concerning the Parks for People bid. It would be known by around 15 September whether the project had made it through to Stage I of the funding process, after which the Council would have a year to work up to Stage II. The team felt that no more could have been done to secure the bid.

**07/129 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR**

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in this item as acquaintances of one or more of the candidates:

Cllrs Bexon, Bloodworth, Harrison (Mrs Paterson)  
Cllr Rodgers (partner of Mrs Paterson)  
Cllr Child (Mr Brown, Mrs Paterson, Mr Pheasant)  
Cllr Stirling (Mr Pheasant)  
Cllr Templeman (Mrs Paterson, Mr Pheasant)

Cllr Glover said that, in a situation where potential co-optees would be likely to have strong community links, it was also likely that some, if not all of the candidates would be known to some of the decision-makers. She explained how the selection process had been constructed to be as fair as possible to all candidates. Standard questions had been devised, put to each candidate in the same way, and each candidate was offered the opportunity to ask questions of the panel within a standard time limit. After the end of an interview, answers had been scored individually by each member of the interview panel. The individual scores had then been discussed by the panel until an agreed collective score had been reached. It had been agreed prior to the interviews that if the final scores were close, the panel would bring two candidates to the Council for decision. However, Candidate 3 had scored far higher than any other, and the interview panel recommended that this candidate be co-opted.

**RESOLVED** (7 in favour, one abstention due to personal interest)

That Candidate 3 (Mrs Paterson) be co-opted to serve on Quorn Parish Council.

Cllr Glover suggested that it would be useful to prepare a bank of alternative standard questions for future co-options.

**07/130 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Cllr Bloodworth outlined options for the Christmas lights switch-on venue and for upgrading the Village Christmas lights. New low-voltage lights would consume around 80% less than the current ones. She suggested that the question of lights on the Banks should be referred to the Environment Committee.

It was proposed to apply to Charnwood Borough Council for a grant towards the costs of upgrading. Borough Cllr Slater advised that community grants were in a state of limbo at the present – they were no longer available through the Borough Council. Cllr Bloodworth had already been sent a form to apply for the grant, and she undertook to ascertain the exact situation as a matter of urgency.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous)

- 1) That the Christmas lights switch-on event take place in the Station Road car park;
- 2) That volunteers be sought to staff a rota to ensure that the car park was clear on the day (6 volunteers 7am-9pm);
- 3) That replacement lights for the War Memorial Gardens be white.

**07/131 QUORN/BARROW PARISH BOUNDARY, BARROW RD. RAISED FOOTPATH**

The boundary line between the parishes runs along Barrow Road from the bridge, in the direction of Quorn until it reaches the vicinity of the Lodge, then turns across the fields towards Pillings Lock. The line is deemed to run along the centre of the raised footpath. Any decisions made regarding the footpath would therefore need to be made jointly by Barrow and Quorn Parish Councils.

If the footpath were removed, the alternative route would be via the Slabs, which would once again raise the problem of the Slabs' use as a cycle path. It was suggested that a cycleway could be installed in place of the raised footpath. This could not be done by the Parish Councils; although they are responsible for the raised footpath, the highway land over which it runs is owned by County.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That a request in writing be made to Charnwood Borough Council for a definitive statement of the exact position of the boundaries;
- 2) That the issue of the raised footpath be referred to the Barrow/Quorn Slabs Consultation Committee;
- 3) That the appointment of an extra delegate to the Barrow/Quorn Slabs Consultation Committee be referred to the next meeting of the Council.

**07/132 CHARGING SYSTEM FOR EVENTS/ACTIVITIES ON STAFFORD ORCHARD**

Since events for which a fee might be chargeable were uncommon, it was not thought worthwhile to set up a system for this, and the Council would continue to deal with it on an as and when basis.

**07/133 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk detailed the arrangements made for the opening ceremony at the Banks, to include sprucing up the area, installing plaques, installing the light, arranging a public address system and refreshments for invited guests. Two guests would be invited to make short speeches and the Hathern Band would be in attendance.

**07/134 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting held on 13 August be received.

Cllr Glover reported on the work of the Old School Committee. The Parish Consultation on the future of the Old School was well underway and much interest had been generated.

However, the Old School Committee did not have a budget to cover the costs of the consultation.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous)

That the Old School Committee be allocated a budget of £1,000, to be taken from the election budget, for carrying out the consultation exercise.

**07/135 COUNTY COUNCIL**

a. **Minerals Consultation.** The Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework would be posted to the County Council website ([www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk)) for final consultation in early October and a final report would be made to the Secretary of State in November. Noted.

b. **Incinerator.** There was a need to reduce the quantities of waste sent to landfill, and that meant that at some point in the future, it would be necessary to build one or more waste incinerators in Leicestershire. The views of local people on the siting of any future incinerators will be sought.

c. **Old School.** Cllr Kershaw undertook to supply a copy of the revised terms and conditions of the sale.

d. **Meynell Road Safety Scheme.** It was noted that the plans for this had been approved with construction due to take place in October 2007.

**AGREED**

To write to the County Highways Department to ask for a site meeting before construction of the safety scheme commenced, to seek an explanation of

1) how the safety scheme and cycle path integrate, and

2) why there was no consultation before the installation of the cycle paths.

e. **Supported accommodation for older people.** The County Council had produced a consultation document on future provision of this type of housing in Leicestershire

**AGREED**

That Cllr Harrison produce a response.

**07/136 BOROUGH COUNCIL**

a. **Meynell Road Affordable Dwellings Lettings Policy.** In order to ensure that tenants were people with Quorn connections, it was important that as many Quorn people as possible should put their names on the housing list. It was also important that the Council make its views on priority for non-Quorn people (the 'concentric circles' criterion for housing allocation) known to the Borough Council.

**AGREED**

(i) That Charnwood Borough Council be requested to alter the final paragraph of their draft local lettings policy for Quorn to read: housing at Meynells Road to

"If there are insufficient households in housing need with a Quorn connection, then any remaining properties will be offered to people in housing need and with connections to Barrow, Woodhouse Eaves, Old Woodhouse or Mountsorrel, or failing that, through the Council's normal allocations process."

(ii) That the imminent availability of the housing, and the criteria for judging whether an applicant had a Quorn connection, be advertised widely, and eligible persons be advised to join the Borough's Housing Register as soon as possible.

b. **Charnwood Borough Council Local Development Framework.** Borough Cllr Slater reminded the Council that Loughborough might be expected under the Regional Development Plan to build 4,000 to 8,000 houses, to be built as a unified extension to the

town, and that after the Garendon Park site, the second choice was south of Loughborough. He would not want the views of Quorn to go unrepresented.

**AGREED**

That Cllrs Stirling, and Child attend the Local Development Framework meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September if possible.

c. **Heritage Lottery Fund bid.** Cllr Bexon sought clarification of the process for applying for a grant to support the Parks for People bid if it reached Stage I. Borough Cllr Slater advised that the sum involved meant it would be capital expenditure and that the application should be made as soon as possible so that any grant awarded could be incorporated into the Borough Council's 2009/10 budget.

**07/137 PLANNING**

**Notification of the following applications had been e-mailed to councillors with no requests for any to be considered at this meeting:**

P/07/2503/2 Various works to 12 trees (TPO), 37 Northage Close.

P/07/2103/2 Erection of single storey extension to rear, two storey extension to the side and loft conversion to dwelling, 13 Elms Drive (amended scheme).

P/07/2299/2 Erection of single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling, 3 Cradock Drive.

P/07/2344/2 Erection of single-storey extension to rear, increased roof height and detached garage to side of dwelling, 31 Leicester Road.

P/07/2360/2 Erection of first floor extension, increase height of roof, conservatory and single storey extension to rear and dormer to side of dwelling, 55 Leicester Road.

It was **NOTED** that the amendments to P/07/2103/3 – 13 Elms Drive did not address the Council's objections concerning the rooflines and over-dominance of the scheme. Those objections therefore still stood.

No additional applications had been received.

**The following application had been granted conditionally:**

P/07/1801/2 Erection of conservatory and first floor extension to rear of dwelling, 23 Paddock Close.

**07/138 CORRESPONDENCE**

a. **Quorn Churches Holiday Club.** A note of thanks for the use of Stafford Orchard for one of the Club's events had been received.

b. **Swyne Green.** A letter received from Chris Traill, CBC Director of Leisure & Environment concerning the future of the car park on Station Road had implications for the Council's purchase of Swyne Green from Town Lands Charities.

**AGREED**

2) That the Clerk contact Lynn Twigg (CBC) to arrange a meeting

3) That Cllr Bexon and Mrs Paterson represent QPC

b. **Quorn Old People's Fellowship.** It was **NOTED** that the Fellowship's Harvest Festival would be held at 2.15 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> October and that Members were cordially invited to attend.

**07/139 CHARNWOOD CRIME AND SAFETY FORUM, DONATION REQUEST**

The Forum dates were noted.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous)

To make a S. 137 grant of £50.00 to support Charnwood Crime and Safety Forum.

**07/140 PAYMENTS AND SUMMARY SHEET**

The list of payments and the summary sheet had been circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous)

That the payments list and financial summary be approved.

**07/141 QUORN VILLAGE HALL LIGHTING QUOTATIONS**

Quotations of £9,704.00 and £9,287.63 had been received for installing new stage lighting in the Village Hall. There was shortfall of £800 between the sum available from the grant and other monies allotted to this project, and the price of the lower quotation.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That the lower of the two quotations for the Village Hall lighting be accepted and the work put in hand;
- 2) That the shortfall be covered from contingency funds or by virements from other budgets.

**07/142 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

Under Financial Regulation 2.1, Committee Chairmen should provide budget estimates for the November meeting of the Finance Committee and the 2008/09 budget should therefore appear on October Committee agendas.

Meeting ended 10.31 pm

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