

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st September 2009
at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Quorn Village Hall.

PRESENT

Cllr P Child (Chairman)
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr E Harrison
Cllr D Cawdell

Cllr K Paterson
Cllr T Rodgers
Cllr T Tyler
Cllr J Poland

Borough Cllr D Slater (for minutes 09/163 - 09/176)
Borough Cllr R Shepherd (for minutes 09/163 - 09/176)
County Cllr T Kershaw (for minutes 09/168 – 09/174)

Mrs Lindsay Swinfield Clerk
Mrs Melanie Burdett Asst. Clerk

5 members of the public in attendance

Note: All Minutes are subject to correction before formal approval at the following meeting. Please check the Minutes of the subsequent meeting to see if corrections were made to these Minutes before ratification.

09/163 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Introduction to Borough Councillor Mr Paul Harley (CBC)

Cllr Harley first wished to confirm that he was not employed by CBC but was a Cllr such as Borough Cllr's Shepherd and Slater, working in External Relations. Cllr Harley attended the meeting to listen to QPC concerns and thoughts on CBC.

The main issues were thought to be communication, planning, waste management and street cleansing. Cllr Harley confirmed that most Parish Councils shared the same issues which clearly need to be addressed. Cllr Harley advised that he could be contacted for support with any future or ongoing issues but the most effective way of resolving issues would continue to be through Borough Cllr's Shepherd and Slater.

Mr Tim James of Loughborough Fire Station attended in respect of the planned cut in retained fire fighters at Loughborough Fire Station. Three of Mr James' colleagues also attended. Mr James and his colleagues gave a brief presentation to Council explaining their concerns over the planned loss of fire fighters. There has been no publicity regarding the public consultation period, which ends on 31st October 2009. The IRMP document is available to download from the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services web site, on request the Clerk will download and circulate to all Cllr's. Mr James and his colleagues would be willing to answer any questions relating to the document once Cllr's have had the opportunity to read. The Clerk to make contact with the Combined Fire Authority requesting a representative to attend next months meeting, whereby Cllr's may raise and discuss their concerns. Mr James confirmed there are no posters or publicity materials available for QPC to display.

09/164 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bloodworth (Holiday) and Cllr Stirling advised he would be a late arrival.

09/165 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded Members to declare any interests either now or at the time that an item was discussed. Cllr Rodgers declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 15 – Payments List.

09/166 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th July 2009 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record.

09/167 POLICING MATTERS

There was no Police presence at the meeting and there were no issues to be raised.

09/168 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Station Road Toilets

Completion on the Lock Up land and Toilet Block has now been acquired. Responsibility of the management and maintenance of the toilets now rests with QPC. QPC would like to arrange for CBC to continue with the management/maintenance until such time as the toilet block closes for refurbishment. CBC has replied to this request advising this would be possible but only for one month. Borough Cllr Slater agreed to liaise with Kevin Biddulph to confirm if this period of time can be extended, the Clerk had also requested a time extension.

BT Telegraph Pole

Mr Barry Rivers (developer of Epworth Court) has made contact regarding the BT telegraph pole which has been erected on High Street. Mr Rivers is angry over the telegraph pole which has been situated in front of the converted Old Chapel. Mr Rivers will make contact with Cllr Bloodworth to arrange a meeting to discuss the situation further. Mr Rivers claims the telegraph pole is not required at all. The Clerk will continue to monitor the situation.

Roundabout Advertising

Cllr Rodgers enquired about the ongoing situation with advertising on roundabouts. Borough Cllr Slater advised he would look into the matter and report back to QPC.

Santa Maria Bridge

LCC are committed to restoring the bridge and are seeking funding for the restoration. It was felt that it would be nice for members of the public to use the bridge once restored and the land opposite for walking. Due to the SSSI this would need to be looked into further. Borough Cllr Shepherd had nothing further to report.

09/169 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) Minute Content Review

The Chairman wished to review minute content following the March meeting. The Chairman felt the minutes should be de-personalised as much as possible. This could be tried out over the next few months with a further review. Cllr's liked the full and well reported minutes and felt that names and records of debate should remain, the Chairman should exercise control where necessary.

b) Update on Member Vacancy

There had been no request for an election to be held, therefore QPC is in a position to co-opt a new member to replace Cllr Templeman. Only one written request for interview has been received so far. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 22nd September. The intended date for interviews is Thursday 24th September. It was agreed the interview panel would consist of Cllr's Bexon, Bloodworth, Child and Tyler.

c) Update on Increasing Number of Parish Councillors

A letter has been received from David Dalby, Head of Democratic Services at CBC. A meeting will be held on 14th September where a request for review will be made. It was advised that implementation of the increase would take place at the next Council elections, in May 2011. The review should be fully completed before this date.

09/170 CLERK'S REPORT

a) Update on BT Telegraph Pole

Letters have been received from Andy Reed (MP) and the Planning Department at CBC. It is assumed that BT will choose to submit a retrospective planning application. This is the second instance in the last twelve months that BT have gone ahead with an installation knowing full well planning permission is required. In their letter, CBC gave the impression that permission will not necessarily be granted.

b) Letter of Appreciation

The letter giving thanks for assistance in opposing a planning application had been previously circulated and was **NOTED**.

09/171 MEETING WITH HIGHWAYS – REPORT FROM CLLR’S CAWDELL AND STIRLING

Cllr Cawdell reported that the meeting had been very good. The reception received by both Cllr’s was good and the officers involved appreciated the points which were made, agreeing that QPC had a plausible and logical argument. The plans now rest with the Planners and Engineers, after their consideration QPC will be notified of the outcome. The raised footpath requires some work now as an emergency measure. An update prior to next months meeting is required.

09/172 PARKS FOR PEOPLE (P4P - STAFFORD ORCHARD)

All outstanding legal works have now been completed with reference to the 40 year lease on the lock up land and the purchase of Swyne Green. A sub-lease with the existing tenant of the lock up must be drawn up. The tenant’s solicitor has frozen rent until 26th January 2010 and the existing lease expired three years ago. The new lease should be put in place by mid-January. A valuation in terms of rental value will be obtained before negotiations take place. The renewal of the lease will remain a matter for full Council, not the P4P team. A project timetable has been circulated to all Cllr’s.

09/173 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Cave’s Field Issues

The Chairman and Cllr Harrison met with Mr Keith Shipway of QCC at Cave’s Field to discuss their issues. Following discussions about the meeting at the Environment Committee the following options were put to full Council;

1. Should QPC find out legal responsibilities and liabilities – ie., Recruit a solicitor?
2. QPC to obtain quotes for relaying the driveway.
3. Consider asking QCC to meet QPC half-way with costs.
4. Put a gate from Sutton Close (north-east corner) to enable residents to gain access, and close off existing gateway, thus negating the need to re-lay the driveway.
5. Remove driveway surface and lay turf over the area, this becomes part of the cricket field (many cricket fields do not have access driveways).

No formal quotations have been received as yet, but it will be in the region of £10,000.00 to re-lay the driveway.

QCC are aiming to achieve Club Mark status to enable the club to apply for ECB funding. The Cricket Club is an important part of Quorn and QPC would like to help them achieve the Club Mark status, however £10,000.00 is a large amount of money to spend, would QCC be prepared to contribute? It is crucial to find out if the accreditation can be achieved without having the driveway repaired, until this is clear Council do not feel in a position to table a resolution. Whilst unable to make a clear resolution on the driveway, Cllr Cawdell suggested that QPC proceed to investigate and pursue adding a new gate from Sutton Close to enable residents to gain access to the Cave’s Field footpath, **AGREED**. The current gate onto Cave’s Field is not a Public Right of Way and is locked annually on Christmas Day to keep it as such.

b) Allotments (Borough Cllr Shepherd left the room)

A letter from Lindsay Wilford had been circulated.

Three allotment holders have confirmed they have never received cash or any documents in relation to Nimbus Capital Limited, therefore it would be interesting to discover what hold they have over this land. Independent advice could be sought from a further solicitor. It was suggested the Option be challenged in view of the alternative facts. The Clerk to reply to Lindsay Wilford stating our understanding to be different and ask for clarification of the Option held by Nimbus Capital Limited. (Borough Cllr Shepherd returned to the room).

09/174 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Proposed 20mph Speed Limit

Cllr Bexon wished to discuss QPC’s position in terms of alternative signage for the proposed 20mph zone on Loughborough Road. Photographs were shown of Mountsorrel’s Conservation area. Cllr Bexon is conscious of reports in the press that LCC are intent on installing alternative signage.

It should be reiterated that QPC is against any signage within the Conservation area. County Cllr Kershaw added that the picture on the proposed sign refers to Primary School children. County had previously refused to install signs outside the Primary School, which is not in a Conservation area. It is not obvious what justification there is for these signs and what benefit they would bring. There has been no evidence of speeding or accidents reported so why have the rules changed? LCC promised to re-consult but have not done so to date. A recent traffic survey has taken place on Meeting Street and Chaveney Road.

b) Santa Maria Bridge and Raised Footpath

QPC wished to extend thanks to County Cllr Kershaw for facilitating meetings regarding the Santa Maria Bridge and Raised Footpath. Both meetings have had positive outcomes.

c) Lafarge Planning Applications

County Cllr Kershaw wished to confirm that an earlier application made by Lafarge had not in fact been resolved, the application was withdrawn over questions of whether they could deal with the additional dust and noise etc. The new planning application brings these issues to the forefront. County Cllr Kershaw has brought this to the attention of Nigel Hunt, the planning Case Manager.

09/175 PLANNING

P/09/1340/2: Land at 34 Woodhouse Road. This planning application involves the demolition of number 34 Woodhouse Road and the erection of 13 dwellings. This proposed development would be completely out of keeping with the rest of the area. The main reason for objection should be density and the close proximity to existing properties on Warwick Avenue, Rumsey Close and Woodhouse Road. Woodhouse Road would be used as an access to the site. Planning Group to compile comments for submission.

County Council Identity Number: 2009/L115/02 Proposed new recycling and household waste site (to replace existing facility in Sileby) – Land off Granite Way, Mountsorrel. Many Parishioners' have signed a petition against this proposed development. If successful, this will be the only waste disposal site in the County situated next to a residential development. Granite Way has existing problems with flooding, meaning Loughborough Road and Leicester Road would be used as an access. Traffic issues relating to the Sunday Car Boot Sale were also raised. Traffic surveys have been carried out and LCC claim this would not be a problem, Council disagree with this claim. As so many people are against this development QPC should submit their objections, centred on the proximity to a residential area, traffic and noise. Planning Group to compile comments for submission by 19th September 2009.

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

P/09/1340/2: Demolition of dwelling and erection of 12 dwellings with altered vehicular access (revised scheme – withdrawn P/08/2507/2 refers), Land at 34 Woodhouse Road, Quorn, LE12 8ED.

P/09/1537/2: Removal of 2 lower branches of 1 Purple Beech tree. (Tree preservation order), War Memorial Garden, Junction of Leicester Road, Meeting Street, Quorn.

P/09/1591/2: Erection of single and two storey extensions to the front, two storey extension to the side and single and two storey extensions to the rear of the dwelling, 21 Northage Close, Quorn, LE12 8AT.

P/09/1649/2: Reduction to crown of 1 Oak tree and 1 Yew tree. (Tree preservation order), 12 Sanders Road, Quorn, LE12 8JN.

P/09/1660/2: Erection of two storey extension to the side and porch and single storey extension to the rear of dwelling, 14 Meeting Street, Quorn, LE12 8EX.

P/09/1668/2: Erection of two storey extension to the side and porch and single storey extension to the rear of dwelling. (Listed Building Consent), 14 Meeting Street, Quorn, LE12 8EX.

Decisions had been notified concerning the following applications:

P/09/1102/2: Erection of a summerhouse to rear of dwelling, Bridle House, 11a Nursery Lane, Quorn LE12 8BH, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/0938/2: Erection of a two storey extension to side and rear, single storey extension to the rear and porch to the front of dwelling, 95 Chaveney Road, Quorn, LE12 8AB, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/1163/2: Erection of single storey side extension to dwelling and extension to the south elevation of garage for annexe (revised scheme P/09/0349/2 refers), 74 Meeting Street, Quorn, LE12 8EX, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/1291/2: Erection of single and two storey extensions to side and rear of dwelling, 7 Beacon Avenue, Quorn, LE12 8EW, **Grant Conditionally.**

09/176 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter received from Rawlins in response to footpath litter and other issues, **Noted.**
- b) Copy of letter sent to ROSSCOE (from LCC) reference Castledine Street and Orchard Estate, **Noted.**
- c) Letter from Loughborough Fire Station (concern raised at the proposed threat of the loss of 20 retained fire fighter positions), **Noted (dealt with under earlier item).**
- d) Invitation to attend Area Forum, **Noted.**

09/177 PAYMENTS, RESERVES LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

RESOLVED

That the payments list totalling **£21,396.49** be approved. The payments list was signed by the Chairman.

09/178 THE OLD SCHOOL

This item was deferred awaiting the arrival of Cllr Stirling.

Minutes from the last Trustee Meeting were circulated via email. A meeting has been arranged between the Chairman and Mr David Saville on Monday 14th September, the time of the meeting is to be confirmed. All members of QPC and the Old School Trustees are invited to attend.

As Cllr Stirling had not arrived before the end of the meeting it was agreed to defer agenda items to the next meeting.

Meeting ended @ 9.20pm

Chairman Date