

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Cllr P Child (Chairman)
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr T Stirling
Cllr D Cawdell
Cllr K Paterson
Cllr I Marron

Cllr J Poland
Cllr G Hughes
Cllr T Tyler
Cllr J Bloodworth

Mrs Lindsay Swinfield, Clerk

Borough Cllr R Shepherd (for minutes 09/213 - 09/218)
County Cllr T Kershaw (for minutes 09/221 – 09/225)
PC Matt Orton and PCSO Chris Kendall (09/213 – 09/217)
Three 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.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the new Parish Councillor Mr Ian Marron.

09/213 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr G. Smith, Soar Road attended and also represented Mr & Mrs Godber, also of Soar Road to discuss the failings of those involved over Soar House (refer November minute 09/209). Mr Smith referred to CBC Plans Committee agenda resolution recommended by officers 'that legal proceedings are not taken but that the Enforcement Notice remains in place as a charge against the property.' If CBC accepts the recommendations the consequences are:

1. The present unsatisfactory windows will remain, despite the ruling of the Planning Inspector, to the detriment of the Conservation area.
2. The owners of the three flats concerned will be unable to sell until the works required by the Enforcement Notice are carried out.
3. Unless all the flats are sold at the same time there will then be different window designs on the frontage of this important building in the Conservation area.

Mr Smith thanked the Clerk and Cllrs Shepherd and Slater for their assistance.

Cllr Paterson asked if, at the Plans Committee meeting, general questions could be asked – only questions which are not specific to the agenda will be answered. The Chairman proposed that this subject be discussed fully under agenda item 12. **All agreed.**

Mr Roger Walton, Neighbourhood Watch Association gave an overview of the traffic speeding issues in the village – especially the crossroads via Farley Way situation, where he reported speeds of up to 80mph; a speed check will be carried out on December 13th. Vandalism in the area included the two lifebelt stations at Spring Field Lake (these have been replaced); however the lifebelt station on Soar Road has been removed – this belongs to QPC and will be replaced. Clerk to report to CBC that a tree by Lakeside is very overgrown and needs cutting back.

Mr Neal Greenhalgh, Waste Operations department, CBC attended the meeting to discuss waste management and the new zoning system for waste collection. Mr Greenhalgh apologised for missing the November meeting, and went on to review several maps of the area which are split into 4 zones to cover ground maintenance, litter collection and street cleaning. The zones are categorised by rectification response times – 1 being the fastest for heavy pedestrian and play areas (includes removal of chewing gum). CBC are looking for feedback from Parish Councils via the feedback forum (details will be passed to the Clerk); this will assist with prioritisation. The public are also encouraged to provide feedback using 01509 634563, or email (details on the CBC website). Feedback forms were distributed.

A brief question and answer session took place. Clarification was requested on how zones were categorised – by the Refuse & Litter Code of Practice legislation – ie. play areas and schools are classed as zone 1 importance. Zones may be added in / removed as local knowledge is utilised. It was noted that the crossroads near to Rawlins College is a zone 3 – this will be investigated. Various roads on the zone map were discussed, Mr Greenhalgh will review these. The street contractors will still have regular cleaning duties, the new reporting/monitoring system is in addition to these, and the 900+ surveys carried out will continue. Cllr Stirling asked if the Clerks would be given the cleaning rota; they will not as the rota is supplemented with additional work.

QPC reported that the new mini street sweepers were much more effective. The Chairman thanked Mr Greenhalgh who left the meeting.

09/214 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harrison, Borough Cllr Slater and M Burdett (Assistant Clerk).

09/215 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded Members to declare any interests either now or at the time that an item was discussed.

09/216 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2009 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record, with the following amendment to be taken into account – item 09/206 (d) should read 'As per a note to Cllr Harrison containing the schedule of works, some major events will not be able to take place next year as the park will be under construction.'

09/217 POLICING MATTERS

PC Matt Orton read latest crime details which included bins at St Bart's Primary School being set alight causing damage to the new tarmac surface, and fire extinguishers being let off. The Police have keys to the school and are patrolling the area on a regular basis. A spate of bicycle thefts has taken place at Rawlins College, however the gates are now locked and pupils are encouraged to lock their cycles. PC Orton and PCSO Kendall will be attending the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 3rd December.

Cllr Bexon asked if the Police are consulted re road safety matters when planning applications are submitted, especially if a school is located in the area – yes the Police are consulted. Are the Police consulted re lighting schemes, especially if energy saving lights may be trialled in future? The Crime Prevention Officers will be consulted.

09/218 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- a. Road naming in the Parish – the Clerk had written to CBC requesting consultation before road naming in the Parish was carried out, and also requesting a change to policy to ensure that roads are named appropriately. The two roads discussed were Main Street and the proposal to name a section of the A6004 Terry Yardley Way – QPC objects to both. QPC are not happy with the response received, and it was **RESOLVED**, unanimous (proposed by Cllr Cawdell, seconded by Cllr Child):
QPC to write to CBC and request that the Main Street sign be removed as there is no actual Main Street within the village, and that the proposal to name the A6004 from One Ash roundabout to the Woodthorpe traffic island is not carried out (proposal was to name this area the Terry Yardley Way), as the other stretch of the road is not named. The Parish Council feels that the above naming of roads only causes confusion in the village. The Parish Council also requests that the Clerk is contacted re naming of roads before a decision is made – this will enable consultation to take place.
- b. Station Road toilet facility rates – QPC feels that by taking over responsibility for the toilet facility, with additional costs for rates, this should have been highlighted when contract details were discussed and before the legal exchange took place. QPC to establish on what basis the rates are calculated.

- c. CBC's new waste contract – Cllr Shepherd had walked some of the route to find out what to expect re the new zoning scheme, and requested feedback from QPC and the public. Community Champions will also interact with the public.

09/219 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Appoint an additional Planning Group member – **all agreed** to appoint Cllr Gary Hughes.
- b. Update on allotment provision for Quorn – an email had been received from CBC following a request for advice on allotment provision and the legal process involved (refer to 09/202 November minutes). QPC to request information on the potential legal costs of a compulsory purchase route re an allotment site.
- c. Tom Long's Meadow area – investigate the status of the land adjacent to Tom Long's Meadow.

09/220 CLERK'S REPORT

- a. Updated contact sheet for QPC – distributed and Noted.

09/221 THE OLD SCHOOL UPDATE

- a. Vehicle parking facilities for the Old School – the Chairman referred to an email he had previously distributed; however he stated that some of the information he had received was not quite accurate, there were still too many variables that could not be resolved at this meeting, so the item is to be deferred to a later date.
- b. Cllr Bexon requested an update on the library situation – Leicestershire County Council (LCC) gave QPC an understanding that the library was to be an integral part of the Old School. It was therefore **RESOLVED**, unanimous (proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Child):
In view of the temporary suspension of the Old School project by the Old School Trust pending decisions by Leicestershire County Library Services about its intentions with regard to the relocation of Quorn Public Library, it is resolved that a letter be sent to the LCC (Heather Broughton, cc. Margaret Bellamy) pointing out that the financial viability of this community project is dependent on the library contribution and occupation, and noting that there was an understanding when QPC purchased the school from LCC that relocation of the library would be an integral part of the project; the LCC was presented with and approved a draft Business Plan to this effect.
Cllr Kershaw agreed to facilitate the discussions.
A general discussion took place and Cllr Stirling expressed concern that the Old School Trustees are in a quandary over the library issues; this is exacerbated by the fact that two of the key people have left LCC. Cllr Bexon is concerned re the impact on QPC's finances if the Old School project is jeopardised. Cllr Kershaw asked if QPC has been told that the library project won't go ahead – no, a decision will be made in mid January 2010. Cllr Kershaw to find out definite timescales for the proposed relocation of the library. QPC to extract files relating to the Old School / LCC contracts and relevant minutes.
- c. Heras fencing and roof leaks – **RESOLVED**, unanimous (proposed by Cllr Stirling, seconded by Cllr Tyler) to remove the Heras fencing surrounding parts of the Old School as it is not effective, and is getting damaged; the insurance premium will not increase. Cllr Stirling had been granted authorisation to ensure roof leaks and general repairs are carried out.
- d. Old School budget and finance management – **all agreed** that Cllrs Stirling, Bexon, Tyler and the Clerk to look at the agreement with LCC in depth and produce a report for the Cllrs and Trustees.

09/222 PARKS FOR PEOPLE (P4P - STAFFORD ORCHARD)

- a. Agree a date for closure of the toilet block pending renovation – council needs to decide (i) whether to repair the damage to the gents and (ii) whether to keep the toilets open from February until they close for refurbishment. Cllr Paterson proposed to keep the Gents closed – **all agreed**. Signs have been placed on the Gents informing the public of the closure, these have been removed, more signs

- to be securely fixed, also onto the Ladies stating that, until renovation has taken place, the Ladies will be a unisex facility.
- b. Tree removal proposal, Dower House Gardens – there will be two contracts let for Stafford Orchard (i) a contract for remedial work to the existing trees in the park (January start), tenders have been received for this work. (ii) A tree report from Symbiosis (Arboricultural Association, AA) registered consultants was commissioned in June 2008 and CBC planning consent obtained for remedial work, this report was updated in September 2009 with minor adjustments. Tenders have been received for the work from three AA registered contractors recommended by the consultant and the Heritage Lottery Fund has approved the choice of contractor. A small amount of work is not on QPC owned land (garden of 7 Dower House Gardens), but is essential as an overgrown Beech hedge now overhangs footpath K47, and as QPC is intending to locate a new street lamp at this point, the Beeches will have to be substantially reduced or preferably removed. **All agreed** to include this in the tree works contract. The Heritage Lottery Grant will fund 80% of the cost of removing the hedge.
 - c. K47 footpath diversion proposal – new figures from LCC indicate that the cost of re-routing K47 will be approximately £2k or twice the figure tabled at the last meeting of Council. As there is no benefit to the Stafford project in re-routing K47, at this cost it cannot be justified to the HLF as a project requirement. **All agreed** that the original decision be negated.

09/223 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. The minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting held on 9th November 2009 and the Finance Committee meeting held of 17th November 2009 were **NOTED**.

09/224 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- a. The Old School / LCC library provision – Cllr Marron asked Cllr Kershaw if he would lobby LCC in support of the library re-locating to Quorn. Cllr Kershaw stated that he was involved in the early discussion stages of the purchase of the Old School, and had met with the Director of Services re the library, but had not been included in latter meetings. However he will assist where he can, but needs more information; he will liaise with the Chairman of the Old School Trustees.
- b. Raised footpath, the slabs – Cllr Cawdell enquired if there was any development. Cllr Kershaw has spoken to Mr Andrew Lorimer, LCC, the Environment Agency has requested further information which has been submitted, the results of the investigation will be available in March 2010.

09/225 PLANNING

P/09/2032/2: 8 Loughborough Road, Quorn LE12 8DX, demolition of No. 8 Loughborough Road & the construction of access road to serve 21 dwellings, public consultation/QPC comments:

The Chairman, Cllr Child declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting. The deputy Chair, Cllr Paterson proposed that the previously circulated comments be slightly amended as discussed, then submitted to CBC, seconded by Cllr Hughes. **RESOLVED**, unanimous. Cllr Paterson wished to thank the Clerk and Asst Clerk for putting this together. The Chairman returned to the meeting.

Soar House, Quorn Conservation Area – Planning Complaint – refer to minute 09/209 November for the resolution; an email had been sent as resolved and a response was awaited – add this to the January 2010 agenda. A draft enforcement policy had been issued by CBC – all Cllrs to read this in readiness for discussion at the January meeting.

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/09/2141/2: Erection of 1st floor extension and single storey extension to the rear of dwelling and formation of pitched roof to canopy to front, 16 Loughborough Road, Quorn, LE12 8DX.

P/09/2217/2: Retention of 10 and erection of 5 storage sheds (Part retrospective), Pillings Lock Marina, Flesh Hovel Lane, Quorn, LE12 8FE.

Pillings Lock retrospective application – Cllr Stirling is concerned that various planning conditions have not been enforced, there is no particular objection to the 15 maintenance sheds being installed, however the original landscaping scheme proposed in 2005 conditions of planning consent have not been adhered to. Cllr Stirling to investigate further. **All agreed.**

P/09/2238/2: Erection of two storey extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling (revised scheme P/09/1591/2), 21 Northage Close, Quorn, LE12 8AT.

P/09/1763/2: Erection of single storey extension to the rear & first floor extension on the side of dwelling, 1 Wood Lane Quorn, LE12 8DA

P/09/2146/2: Erection of two-bedroom detached bungalow, land to rear of 23 Unitt Road, Quorn LE12 8BX

Decisions had been notified concerning the following applications:

P/09/1998/2: Erection of first floor extensions to side of dwelling, 3 Beardsley Road, Quorn, LE12 8UX, **Grant Conditionally.**

09/226 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Barrow Gravel Pits, SSSI update – a letter had been received from Natural England stating that they confirm they prioritise all SSSI for entry into Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and are in the process of trying to secure voluntary management at Barrow Gravel Pits SSSI through HLS. Noted.

09/227 PAYMENTS, RESERVES LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

RESOLVED, that the payments list totalling **£5,841.60** be approved. The payments list was signed by the Chairman.

Budget and Precept for 2010 proposal – the 2010 draft budget and precept had been assembled by the Finance Committee and distributed prior to the meeting. Cllr Paterson enquired if the Committee was comfortable with the 5 year budget plan, Cllr Bexon replied that the plan was only an indication of today's figures and these may change.

RESOLVED, that the 2010 budget of £1,130,716 be accepted by Quorn Parish Council (proposed by Cllr Tyler, seconded by Cllr Child) 9 for, 1 abstention (Cllr Marron too new to the Council to make an informed vote).

RESOLVED, that the 2010 Precept of £159,300 be accepted by Quorn Parish Council (proposed by Cllr Tyler, seconded by Cllr Bloodworth) 9 for, 1 abstention (Cllr Marron too new to the Council to make an informed vote).

Meeting ended @ 10.15 pm

Chairman Date