

QUORNDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Quorn Annual Parish Meeting held on
Tuesday 12th May 2009 at 7pm at Quorn Village Hall,
Under the Chairmanship of Cllr P. Child, Chairman of Quorn Parish Council.

PRESENT

Cllr P Child (Chairman)
Cllr I Bexon
Cllr J Bloodworth
Cllr D Cawdell

Cllr T Stirling
Cllr T Tyler
Cllr S Templeman
Cllr E Harrison

Borough Cllr D Slater (for Minutes 09/01 – 09/08)
Borough Cllr R Shepherd (for Minutes 09/03 - 09/08)

4 electors

Mrs L Swinfield – Parish Clerk
Mrs M Burdett – Assistant Clerk

09/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Paterson, Cllr T Rodgers and PC Matt Orton. Borough Cllr R Shepherd would arrive late due to attending another Annual Parish Meeting.

09/02 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2008 were signed as a correct record.

09/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Being a member of Quorn Parish Council is not like being a member of any other Parish Council, it is challenging and exciting. Cllr Child hoped to illustrate this point in the topics covered in his report.

- The Old School

The Old School is now in the ownership of Quorn Parish Council, the Trust has been set up and we are busy fundraising for the restoration of the Old Building. This will undoubtedly be a long but exciting project.

- Parks For People

Quorn Parish Council has been granted £645,000.00 to finance the complete refurbishment of Stafford Orchard Park. The dedicated team are busy making detailed plans, work will commence at the end of this year with the main visible works taking place next year. The work is expected to be complete by 2011.

- Planning

There have been numerous planning applications, running into hundreds, over the last year. The Parish Council continue to resist development on the Loughborough Road Allotment area and up to date have been successful. The Phone Box/Cash Machine, affectionately known as the 'Tardis', on Station Road has now been passed, although the initial application was rejected. There are now further issues relating to car parking etc. The Chaveney Walk development was rejected, however the developers are continuing talks with residents. The subject of Advertising on Roundabouts remains ongoing; however things appear to be happening.

- Environment

The Caves Field Footpath has been improved; elderly residents at Holloway House can now use the footpath safely and without risk of getting muddy. A planter in the Churchyard has had to be removed due to ongoing vandalism. Quorn Parish Council will continue to pressurise LCC into making sure the Santa Maria bridge doesn't disappear into the river. The bridge is part of Quorn's heritage and should be restored.

- Security

A CCTV camera has been installed on the side of The White Hart. There have been no convictions to date but it is helping to control problem areas. The subject of Alcohol-Free Zones within the Village had been previously discussed. This may cause some problems to Community Events as it would prevent the sale of alcohol.

- Leisure and Community

There are two community books on sale in the Village which have been published by residents of Quorn. The Kelcey Walks book by Kathryn Paterson and the Quorn Now & Then book by Mike Speight. Cllr Child thought it wonderful to have such talent in the Village. The 2009 May Day event was a great success, thank you to all who were involved. The Christmas Lights switch on and Farmers Market received a marvellous turnout as did the Brass Band Concert, which was a wonderful event.

- Thanks

Cllr Child wished to extend thanks to the following people/organisations;

Pc's Mike Green and Matt Orton, C.S.O. Chris Kendall.

Borough Councillors Slater & Shepherd and Charnwood Borough Council officers.
County Council.

May Day Organisers: Joan Bloodworth, Helen Spiby and Georgi Glover.

Christmas Lights: Joan Bloodworth and Terry Stirling.

Brass Band Concerts: David Cawdell.

Old School Trustees: David Saville and team.

Tree Warden: Peter Gamble.

Footpath Warden: Ken Brown.

The Parish Office: Clerk – Lindsay Swinfield & Assistant Clerk – Melanie Burdett.

Colleagues: David Cawdell, Elizabeth Harrison, Georgi Glover, Ivan Bexon, Joan Bloodworth, Kathryn Paterson, Sue Templeman, Terry Stirling, Tim Tyler and Tim Rodgers.

Finally, you, the people of Quorn for supporting us in our attempts to support you and provide the community you desire.

09/04 POLICE REPORT

No Police Officer was present at the meeting and there was no report.

09/05 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chair of the Finance Committee has changed recently, however Cllr Bexon reported to the meeting as he was Chair during the accounting period 2007/8 & 8/9. The current financial year had just ended and therefore accounts not yet audited. Cllr Bexon advised that Village Hall income figures include rent payments received from the tenant in the Village Hall Flat. The Village Hall has become a success story over the last couple of years. For the financial year 2006/7 the Village Hall almost broke even, and for the financial year 2007/8 the hall more than broke even and now covers its own running costs.

In light of recent media coverage, Cllr Bexon wished to make a statement regarding expenses. Allowances for Parish Councillors are offered, however Quorn Parish Council voted against claiming allowances for its Councillors. Cllr Bexon reconfirmed that no expenses have been claimed by Quorn Parish Councillors.

There were no questions asked by the electors present.

09/06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Kershaw was not present at the meeting and there was no report.

09/07 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

A copy of Borough Cllr Slater's report will be submitted as soon as possible, a copy can be made available upon request.

Further to minute item 09/05 (Financial Report), Borough Cllr Slater also wished to note that neither Borough Councillors claim expenses from Charnwood Borough Council. However, Borough Cllr Shepherd wished to confirm that he had claimed travelling expenses.

It was confirmed that as Borough Cllr Shepherd had declared both a personal and prejudicial interest, only Borough Cllr Slater can deal with issues relating to the proposed development of the Loughborough Road Allotment Area.

The subject of Proctors was raised. Borough Cllr Slater confirmed the matter was ongoing. Borough Cllr Shepherd advised that new information had been received at 7pm this evening. An email from Sanjit Sull, Principal Litigation Solicitor at Charnwood Borough Council read as follows; "...the position is that the Council (CBC) has applied to the High Court for a declaration (interpretation) of an agreement made in 1989. That application will be listed for hearing in January 2010. The reason for the delay in the court hearing is due to

the availability of court time to hear the case.” This confirms that Charnwood Borough Council has commenced legal proceedings.

Borough Cllrs have assisted with two Charnwood Grant applications regarding the Parks for People project and the Station Road Toilet Block. Both Cllrs have also been involved with RoSSCOE, a local residents association, offering assistance with various problems covering the area.

Borough Cllr Slater added this next year will be financially tight for CBC. A new Environmental Services contract has been entered into with Serco, which will save CBC around £1.2 million and improve services, recycling rates etc. Environmental Officers will be asked to attend a Parish Council meeting before the contract commences in August.

Mr Alan Southam of Wood Lane, wished to ask why, with finances being tight, was £1 million invested in an Icelandic Bank, and following the collapse what will happen to this money? Borough Cllr Slater confirmed that the money was still in the bank and it was highly likely that 80% would be returned. The investment was made in Heritable Bank, which at the time of the investment had the highest credit rating possible and was detailed on a list of approved investment sources. Shortly after, the credit rating plummeted and CBC could no longer withdraw the funds. The investment was tied for a period of 12 months, when really it should have only been 3 months.

Mr Southam asked what, if any, action had been taken against the officer responsible for making the investment. Borough Cllr Slater confirmed that CBC’s disciplinary procedure had been followed and the person in question had been taken through stage 1 of the procedure. The officer is still employed by CBC. Mr Southam felt that more action should have been taken. Borough Cllr Shepherd didn’t wish to diminish what had happened at CBC but a number of other Councils around the Country had also invested in Icelandic Banks and some of these investments were made much later in the year when the problems would have been visible. To put it in a sense of context, the audit commission has lost £10 million in Icelandic Banks.

09/08 ITEMS RAISED BY ELECTORS PRESENT

Mr Southam, asked for action to be taken to remove the plethora of signs in the School Lane area. There are still illuminated signs for the Old Primary School and Old Peoples Home which should have been removed years ago. The signs are not needed or wanted. Cllr Child confirmed that this issue had been raised with Highways some years ago. Cllr Child agreed to remind Highways.

Cllr Bexon added that Quorn Parish Council is fighting signs in other areas of the Village. Seven flashing signs have been planned for Sarson Street, Castledine Street, Orchard Estate, Church Lane and part of Loughborough Road as part of a 20mph speed restriction scheme.

Meeting ended 7.45 pm

Chairman Date