

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th January 2010
at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Quorn Village Hall.

PRESENT

Cllr P Child (Chairman) (from minute 10/06)	Cllr J Poland (from minute 10/11)
Cllr I Bexon	Cllr G Hughes
Cllr T Stirling	Cllr T Tyler
Cllr K Paterson	Cllr J Bloodworth
Cllr E Harrison	Cllr I Marron

Mrs Lindsay Swinfield, Clerk
Mrs Melanie Burdett, Assistant Clerk

Borough Cllr R Shepherd (for minutes 10/10 - 10/14)
Borough Cllr D Slater (for minutes 10/08 - 10/14)

Two 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.

Due to the late arrival of Cllr Child (Chairman), Cllr Paterson (Vice-Chair) opened the meeting as Acting-Chair.

10/01 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr David Highton, Acting Chair of The Old School Trustees, attended on behalf of The Old School Trustees. The Trustees continue to commit to the Old School project and see fit to take the opportunity for Quorn Parish Council to show their continuing support of The Old School. Cllr Paterson thanked Mr Highton.

10/02 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cawdell, PC Orton and County Cllr Kershaw. Apologies for late arrival were received from Cllr Child (Chairman), Cllr Poland, Borough Cllr Shepherd and Borough Cllr Slater.

10/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

10/04 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 2009 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record, with the following amendments to be taken into account –

09/222: Cllr Bexon had declared a personal interest which had been omitted from the minutes. The Clerk confirmed and agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

09/221: Item b), paragraph 2 – Cllr Stirling did not recall the opening statement being made, it certainly had not been made by either himself or Cllr Bloodworth. There had been no decision by the Trustees to hold a temporary suspension of The Old School Project. Cllr Bexon confirmed he had read out the statement three times. Cllr Paterson added that all Cllrs had voted on the resolution and therefore the minutes cannot be deemed inaccurate.

09/224: Item a), the word to should be amended to within, with the sentence now to read as follows “Cllr Marron asked Cllr Kershaw if he would lobby LCC in support of the library re-locating within Quorn”, **Agreed**.

10/05 POLICING MATTERS

There were no Police Officers in attendance. A copy of the Neighbourhood Watch Report for the period 27th November 2009 to 31st December 2009 had been previously circulated.

A theft from a vehicle on Church Lane was noted. It was asked if the CCTV had been of any value, unfortunately the CCTV was out of action again. It was suggested that Cllr Cawdell present a report on the CCTV system and any issues to full council at the February meeting. Clerk to add to agenda.

It was noted the bear shaped litter bin on Caves Field had been set alight, quotations for a new fire proof bin have been requested. Cllr Hughes noted the apparent spate of fire damage in the Village, mainly to the Primary School playing fields. The Police are aware and continue to monitor the situation.

Cllr Child (Chairman) arrived, Cllr Paterson stepped down as Acting-Chair.

10/06 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

It was agreed to defer this item until the Borough Cllrs arrived.

10/07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) **Street naming in the Parish – update**

An email has been received from Kevin Biddulph which has been circulated to all Cllrs. Michael Hopkins has become involved and has requested that the subject be deferred until the next meeting, by which time he will have had the opportunity to reply.

b) LCC have been asked to give the consultation regarding Schools the go ahead on 12th January 2010. If the go ahead is granted Council will be able to discuss in full at the February meeting.

From reading through information on the LCC website, Cllr Stirling was unable to determine if QPC would be consulted formally as a part of the consultation process. Due to the large schools located in the area it was felt that both Quorn and Barrow Parish Councils should be consulted. It was suggested that QPC formally request to be part of the consultation process.

10/08 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

The Chairman advised Borough Cllr Slater that street naming in the Parish had been discussed and will be deferred to the February meeting. Borough Cllr Slater confirmed he has a meeting scheduled with Dave Hankin in two weeks time and will report back at the February meeting.

Cllr Marron requested an update on the enforcement action regarding Soar House. The Plans Committee resolved to prosecute the builder and action is being taken. The builder still owns one of the properties. Borough Cllr Slater was unsure how the decision will affect the owners of the other two properties, the builder should really be expected to resolve.

Cllr Bexon wished to query if the £50k grant from CBC could be spread over this financial year and next or would monies be lost if not claimed during this financial year. The Clerk had cleared with John Leney that the £25k which would have been claimed this year can be carried over to the next financial year. Cllr Bexon also wished to ask if Section 106 monies have a finite time limit, Borough Cllr Slater believed there to be no prescribed time limit.

Borough Cllr Slater wished all Cllrs a Happy New year.

10/09 CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

10/10 THE OLD SCHOOL UPDATE

a) **Old School Budget and Finance Management**

A meeting has been scheduled for 18th January 2010 to discuss the Old School Finances in more detail. Cllr Paterson raised concern over piecemeal dissemination of information regarding the Old School.

RESOLVED, 7 in favour, 2 abstentions, proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Hughes.

Some Council members have been made aware through informal channels that key trustees have tendered their resignations. In view of these significant and other fast moving changes and in the knowledge that the council has several new members who may not be fully conversant with the Trust, its personnel and the progress made to date, Council requests of the Trust to submit at its earliest convenience a briefing document covering the following issues:

- a) List of Trustees. Composition of the project team, its roles and responsibilities.
- b) Financial statement in light of the concerns raised at the meeting held on 14th September.
- c) Timeline projection in light of concerns raised at the July meeting as to personal time commitment by the Trustees.
- d) Executive summary as agreed at Trust meeting.
- e) Update on charity status.
- f) Progress made on the following:
 - Engagement of professional services. Has a brief been prepared as agreed?
 - Has an overall costing been obtained? This was raised as a key issue at the Trust meetings in September and November. Strategy for raising the refurbishment funding.

Clerk to pass details to Cllr Stirling and request a formal update.

b) Car Park Provision

The Chairman read the following statement;

In a letter of 15th December 2009 Council received a formal request from the Old School Trust for an “agreement in principle to release an area of Stafford Orchard for car parking if highways requirements, usage for planning consent dictated that it was a pre-requisite for planning approval.”

The Parish Council records its continuing support for the Quorn Old School Project and the Old School Trustees. Council recognises that the Old School Trustees need to progress negotiations with stakeholders and resolve potential planning issues in order to further the objectives of the Old School Project. Council also acknowledges its responsibilities as custodian of Stafford Orchard on behalf of the village, and needs to be confident that any changes to its character and use have been carefully considered and have the support of the community.

RESOLVED, unanimous, proposed by Cllr Child, seconded by Cllr Paterson.

Subject to:

- a) The Old School Trust providing a justification and further information (see below) concerning need, and satisfying Council that highways requirements, usage or planning consent dictate that it is a prerequisite for planning approval;
- b) Agreement between the Old School Trust and Council on a specific proposal;
- c) Subsequent favourable feedback from consultation on the proposal within the local community,

Council agrees, in principle, to release land on the Stafford Orchard to provide parking facilities associated with the Old School community building project.

With reference to item (a) of the proposal, Council requests a written case from the Trust for the facility, covering the following:

1. Is parking, in addition to that already available in School Lane and the Station Road car park, a stated requirement? If so by who and how many spaces are required?
2. Responses, requests and statements from County Highways, LCC Library Services and any other consultees or stakeholders.

3. What is the imperative to provide additional parking on the Stafford Orchard? What alternatives been evaluated and why were they rejected?
4. The implications for the Old School project of not providing additional parking?
5. Has Charnwood BC's Planning Department been approached in general terms? Can Council see the correspondence?
6. Has there been any initial consultation with local residents in School Lane? What was the result?
7. Safety aspects of the adjacent children's unfenced playground, including ball games, and lighting issues.
8. Avoiding damage to the roots of protected trees – has initial contact been made with Charnwood BC tree conservation officer?
9. A specific proposal and sketch plans for the parking arrangements.
10. How will the Trust support and assist Council with a village consultation on the proposal?

Cllr Stirling tabled the following resolution;

RESOLVED, unanimous, proposed by Cllr Stirling, seconded by Cllr Bexon.

With reference to items a), b) and c) of the previous resolution, and to deal with ongoing co-ordination, Council accepts a formal joint co-ordinated committee, comprising three members of Council with representation from Quorn Old School Trust, be established.

Cllrs Child, Marron and Bloodworth volunteered to sit on the committee, **AGREED**. Detail of this resolution to be forwarded to the Trustees prior to their meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13th January.

c) Update on Library Situation

With reference to minute ref: 09/221 (meeting of 1st December 2009), Cllr Bexon asked if there had been a response to the letter sent to LCC regarding relocation of Quorn Library. The Clerk was advised not to forward the letter until such time as information had been extracted from files relating to the LCC contract. It was agreed the letter should be forwarded to LCC (Heather Broughton, cc. Margaret Bellamy and County Cllr Kershaw) before LCC's Cabinet meeting scheduled for February 2010. A draft copy to be sent to the Chairman of the Old School Trustees for approval; the letter to include endorsement of the library inclusion by County Cllr Kershaw.

10/11 PARKS FOR PEOPLE (P4P - STAFFORD ORCHARD)

At the December meeting implicit approval was given by Council to let the contract for remedial tree work in Stafford Orchard following a tendering exercise and approval by the Parks for People Project Board and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). HLF rules require that approval has to be explicit – the following clarifying resolution is therefore tabled:

RESOLVED, unanimous, proposed by Cllr Bexon, seconded by Cllr Paterson.

“For the avoidance of doubt, Council approves the letting of a contract for remedial tree work in Stafford Orchard within the Parks for People Project to George Walker Tree Care Ltd of Syston.”

The approval of the letting of the main contract will fall between two Parish Council meetings, around 11th March, therefore a special Council meeting may have to be called to formally approve letting of the contract. The Project Board will then approve before being submitted to HLF.

10/12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There had been no committee meetings.

Cllr Tyler (Chair of HR committee) wished to invite additional members to the HR committee as membership was now down to only two Cllrs. One or two additional members would be sufficient. Meetings are usually held during the day time. Cllr Hughes volunteered to join the committee, **AGREED**.

Cllr Bexon noted that it had been agreed that members of the HR committee and staff would meet to discuss and review any issues, and asked the Clerk how frequently the meetings are held. The Clerk confirmed that meetings to discuss issues were held on a need basis, there had not been any issues to discuss recently. Cllr Bexon felt there were several unresolved issues with staff, which was supported by Cllr Paterson. Cllrs Bexon & Paterson proposed to produce a report and discuss the nature of these issues with Cllr Tyler prior to the next HR committee meeting.

10/13 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Cllr Kershaw was not present at the meeting.

The Chairman advised he had been invited to attend a meeting on Friday 5th February by County Cllr Kershaw regarding the Santa Maria Bridge and Barrow Gravel Pits SSSI.

Cllr Stirling advised that an elderly gentleman had unfortunately slipped on the footpath from Sanders Road through Tom Long's Meadow and required hospital treatment. LCC's Customer Services department dealt with the situation in an extremely off-hand manner, which was completely opposite to QPC's staff. Cllr Stirling wished to praise the actions of QPC staff in promptly resolving the issues.

LCC's Cabinet documents show no provision for replacing Quorn Library in the next financial year. Cllr Stirling confirmed the whole school has to be completed before the Library would move into the building, therefore it is unlikely to be during 2010/11 in any case, more like 2011/12. An established timetable is required from the Library Service. The Chairman agreed to write to County Cllr Kershaw asking him to lobby in support of the Library relocating to the Old School.

Cllr Marron asked if any member of QPC attended the consultation meeting regarding the proposed new recycling facility, it was confirmed no one from QPC attended. Borough Cllr Slater confirmed the proposed site had been approved by County's Planning Department.

10/14 PLANNING

a) Planning Enforcement Policy

A discussion on CBC's Planning Enforcement Policy, led by Cllr Paterson, ensued. Cllr Paterson felt very strongly about several points in the document and agreed to produce a report to pass to the Clerk, who would forward to CBC's Planning Department.

b) Soar House Concerns, Feedback from CBC Cabinet Members

This item was discussed under 10/10 Borough Council Matters.

P/09/2305/2: Retrospective application for retention of fencing and decking to side of first floor flat, 22A High Street, Quorn, LE12 8DT. **NOTED.**

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/09/2163/2: Removal of overhanging branches of one Scots Pine tree (Conservation Area Notice), The Lodge, 9 Meynell Road, Quorn, LE12 8BG.

P/09/2300/2: Felling of one Willow tree and lopping of overhanging branches of Willow tree (Tree Preservation Order), 28 Poulteney Drive, Quorn, LE12 8EY.

P/09/2306/2: Felling of four Conifer trees, one Cherry tree and one Holly tree and removal of lower limbs from one Beech tree and one Lilac tree (Conservation Area Notice), 100 Meeting Street, Quorn, LE12 8AQ.

P/09/2321/2: Erection of two storey extension to front of dwelling, 18 Buddon Lane, Quorn, LE12 8AA.

P/09/2305/2: Retrospective application for retention of fencing and decking to side of first floor flat, 22A High Street, Quorn, LE12 8DT.

P/09/2422/2: Erection of first floor extension to dwelling, 17 Chaveney Road, Quorn, LE12 8AB.

P/09/2343/2: Installation of 5 x rooflights and 3 x windows to dwelling, 80 Chaveney Road, Quorn, LE12 8AD.

Decisions had been notified concerning the following applications:

Mr Graham Smith, Senior Planning Officer, is recommending refusal of the Allotment Site application (**P/09/2032/2**). If the application is decided under delegated powers then refusal will be the outcome. If it is not to be decided under delegated powers, the application will be referred to the Planning Committee.

P/09/1931/2: Erection of 2 two-storey, four bedroomed dwellings with associated garages (Revised scheme P/08/0904/2 refers), Rear of 56 Woodhouse Road, Quorn, LE12 8AJ, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/2131/2: Advertisement graphics to windows, 20 Station Road, Quorn, LE12 8BS, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/2135/2: Application of opaque film to three shop front windows and installation of shop front (part retrospective), 20 Station Road, Quorn, LE12 8BS, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/2163/2: Removal of overhanging branches of two Austrian Pine trees (Conservation Area Notice), The Lodge, 9 Meynell Road, Quorn, LE12 8BG, **Do not make Tree Preservation Order.**

P/09/2029/2: Erection of first floor extensions to rear and side of dwelling, 10 Toller Road, Quorn, LE12 8AH, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/2300/2: Felling of one Willow tree and lopping of overhead branches of Willow tree (Tree Preservation Order), Adjacent 28 Poulteney Drive, Quorn, LE12 8EY, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/2141/2: Erection of first 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, **Grant Conditionally.**

P/09/2306/2: Felling of four Conifer trees, one Cherry tree and one Holly tree and removal of lower limbs from one Beech tree and one Lilac tree (Conservation Area Notice), 100 Meeting Street, Quorn, LE12 8AQ, **Do not make Tree Preservation Order.**

10/15 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Impact Project – Leicestershire Youth Offending Service

A request to deliver a presentation to QPC has been received from the Impact Project. Cllr Stirling felt QPC ought to accept the request in light of previous problems in the village, **AGREED.**

10/16 PAYMENTS, RESERVES LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

Cllr Bloodworth declared a personal interest in the payments list.

RESOLVED, that the payments list totalling **£13,379.76** be approved. The payments list was signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Bexon queried why there had been payments to two contractors for Christmas Lights installation when it was agreed there would be only one contractor. The Clerk confirmed one of the charges was for installation of new sockets and a transformer, which was not a part of the tender specification. Cllr Bexon also wished to note that costs for Village Hall water were high.

All budgets should be closely monitored during the last quarter.

Meeting ended @ 9.15 pm

Chairman Date