

QUORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Quorn Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 2010
at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Quorn Village Hall.

PRESENT

Cllr P Child (Chairman)

Cllr I Bexon (from minute 10/27)

Cllr E Harrison

Cllr J Poland (from minute 10/21)

Cllr D Cawdell

Cllr G Hughes

Cllr T Tyler

Cllr J Bloodworth

Cllr I Marron (for minutes 10/27 – 10/31)

Mrs Lindsay Swinfield, Clerk

Mrs Melanie Burdett, Assistant Clerk

Borough Cllr D Slater (for minutes 10/26 - 10/31)

County Cllr T Kershaw (for minutes 10/27 - 10/30)

Thirty 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.

10/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Charles Martin of Sanders Road attended in respect of allotment provision in Quorn. A group of residents had written to QPC via the Clerk, thanks were extended to the Clerk for circulating the letter to all residents who are currently on the allotment waiting list. Mr Martin read through the detail in his letter and reminded QPC that they have a duty to provide allotments. Mr Martin has requested a response from QPC within 6 weeks, detailing their plan for tackling the issue.

Alison Yates of Loughborough Road, also in attendance regarding allotment provision in Quorn, wished to add that the majority of public members in attendance were here because of allotments. The RoSSCOE group would also have attended in support of allotment provision had they not had to attend a meeting elsewhere.

Dr Chris Barlow of Sanders Road wished to encourage Council to explore options regarding allotments as there is no provision for allotments within the village at present.

The Chairman advised public members that allotment provision would be discussed under agenda item 9 and were welcome to stay to hear the discussion.

A resident of Unitt Road, wished to raise the issue of provision for disabled drivers in Quorn. Non-disabled drivers appear to be abusing the disabled parking spaces, both on Station Road and within the car park. The Chairman advised that QPC can alert CBC to the problem and ask their Street Wardens to pay particular attention to the area and the plight of disabled drivers, **AGREED**. It was noted that Street Wardens had issued parking tickets at the weekend.

Mr Kam Chaghan of the IMPACT Project gave an excellent presentation to Council on tackling anti-social behaviour within the area. Literature and DVD's were circulated for display in the Parish Office. The project has been set up to work with young people aged 10-19 years old; other agencies don't currently work with this age group. There are 36 members of the team who work closely with the Crime Prevention Team, Case Managers and the Police to target 'hot spot' areas. Teams will work 3 nights per week and weekends based on need. Areas will be prioritised through Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinators and the Youth Service. The Parenting team will help deal with parenting issues and help manage difficult behaviour. Young people will be encouraged to access provisions in the local area. Fun packed events are being set up during school holidays. The first point of contact for any

concerns re anti-social behaviour would be with Wendy Brown in the Community Safety Team at CBC. The Chairman thanked Mr Chaughan for his attendance and excellent presentation.

10/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paterson, Cllr Stirling, Borough Cllr Shepherd, PC Orton and CSO Kendall. Apologies for late arrival were received from Cllr Bexon, Cllr Marron, Cllr Poland and Borough Cllr Slater.

10/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

10/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th January 2010 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record.

10/21 POLICING MATTERS

There were no Police Officers in attendance.

The Neighbourhood Watch report for the period 1st January 2010 to 27th January 2010 had been previously circulated. PC Orton had advised that the beat priority for February to April would be to tackle theft from motor vehicles.

Cllr Hughes noted his concerns over 'Cold Calling' within the village and felt that this issue should be added village concerns.

There had been further incidents of anti-social behaviour at the Station Road toilet facility. Cllr Tyler added the toilets are now in a terrible state. The Gent's toilet facility has already been closed due to vandalism, therefore it was suggested that the Police should be asked to monitor the area.

10/22 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Car parking in Quorn

There are number of occasions where the Station Road car park is full is increasing. As a result access areas are becoming blocked with cars waiting for spaces to become available. Cllr Cawdell believes QPC should press for time restrictions to be levied on the car park, with allowances for residents. The Chairman reminded Cllr Cawdell that management of the car park is the responsibility of CBC. Cllr Cawdell requested the item be deferred to the March meeting, **AGREED**.

10/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) Street naming in the Parish – Update

This issue is still ongoing. CBC has conceded that they were wrong and have further agreed the Main Street signs should be moved, but will not be renamed. As the name Terry Yardley Way was decided by CBC Cabinet it is unlikely to change. However, consideration may be given to moving the sign or reducing the length of Terry Yardley Way. It was suggested that Terry Yardley Way should be reduced to cover the area to the William Davis Bridge (from Loughborough).

b) Press release from LCC re proposal to 'rebuild' Rawlins Community College

The Director of the project has offered to meet with QPC before the end of the consultation period to discuss the proposal. Council felt this would be a useful exercise, with an evening meeting preferable. Clerk to arrange the meeting and circulate details to all Cllrs.

c) Village Liaison Group

Cllr Cawdell wished to encourage village participation with external groups, with suggestion of liaison with the Parks group for litter picking, removal of graffiti and brook cleaning exercises etc. Cllr Hughes suggested involving students in the May Day celebrations, possibly an art competition? The Chairman advised that whilst the ideas had been welcomed in the past, it had always been difficult to get attendance on the day. Cllr Cawdell agreed to pass feedback to the Rawlins Liaison Group meeting.

d) Barrow Upon Soar Charities

Correspondence had been received by the Clerk advising that Cllr Paterson's membership to the Dr Babington's Alms House Charity had expired in November 2009. Cllr Paterson had confirmed that she was happy to continue her membership on the committee, **AGREED**.

e) Email received from Simon Jackson, Monitoring Officer at CBC

The Chairman briefly went through an email from Simon Jackson, Monitoring Officer at CBC, which had been circulated. Cllrs were reminded of certain criteria of the Code of Conduct for Parish Cllrs. Respect should always be shown, debate the issue and not the person. Council business is generally confidential and therefore should not be discussed outside Chambers where public members may be present.

10/24 EMAIL ETIQUETTE FOR QUORN PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman asked for more thought and consideration to be shown when sending emails to everyone. Many of the emails received are irrelevant and serve no purpose, with the 'All Cllrs' email address being grossly overused. The Chairman suggested the 'All Cllrs' email group be removed, with any email which requires distribution being sent via the Clerk & Assistant Clerk. Cllr Poland felt it of use and interest to be kept in the loop and would not like to see the email group removed. The general opinion was there are only a few 'All Cllr' emails received and is therefore not an issue. Some emails in the past have not shown respect to everyone, and in those circumstances the sender should be reprimanded. If any future emails are disrespectful or unnecessary it should be dealt with through the code of conduct.

10/25 CLERK'S REPORT

a) Request to use Stafford Orchard for car parking in March 2010 (Charnwood Marathon)

A request has been received from the Rotary Club of Blaby Meridian to use the Stafford Orchard for car parking on 27th March 2010, for the annual Charnwood Marathon, **AGREED**. Requests for next year and beyond should be referred to the Park Management Committee. Prior to the committee being established, any requests for use of the Stafford Orchard beyond the refurbishment should continue to be referred to QPC.

10/26 ALLOTMENT PROVISION

A copy of a letter from a group of residents on the allotment waiting list had been previously circulated. Cllr Cawdell, having read the letter from Mr Martin, felt heartened that residents ideas supported his own feelings, and suggested that QPC request CBC to investigate their powers to obtain land for the provision of allotments. Borough Cllr Slater confirmed that compulsory purchase would only be entertained when all other avenues had been exhausted. Officers at CBC would be willing to listen to a proposal from QPC if they so wish. Firstly, a piece of land must be identified and QPC must clearly demonstrate the following; 1) it is not a way of opposing any planning application which may or may not arise in the future, and 2) there is a genuine list of people who do actually want an allotment. CBC's legal department would be consulted to see if a compulsory purchase order can be made, based on suitability of the land and a genuine strength of need. QPC would be required to pay for the land, all legal costs and costs of obtaining a CPO. Further to discussions held with Dr Barlow on the possibility of a compulsory lease, Borough Cllr Slater has not been able to locate any information about compulsory leasing. Cllr Cawdell felt that the number of residents in attendance at the meeting, about this issue, clearly demonstrated a genuine strength of feeling re the need for allotment facilities within the village. Borough Cllr Slater advised the first step would be to approach Colin Bailey of CBC with a formal written application. The Borough Council has a duty to act on the application.

RESOLVED, unanimous – proposed by Cllr Cawdell, seconded by Cllr Harrison.

QPC write forthwith to Colin Bailey at CBC with a formal application to commence a compulsory purchase order.

10/27 THE OLD SCHOOL UPDATE

a) Old School budget and finance management

Following a meeting of the Old School working group a financial review has been circulated. Cllr Paterson forwarded a request for further reports to be circulated more frequently than suggested.

The incentive now is to get the job done; QPC can only gain if the project goes ahead and is completed, but can only lose if the project is not completed.

The following recommendations were put forward by the working group;

1. That Council notes the financial risks associated of proceeding with, and of cancelling, the project.
2. That given that it can establish confidence in the strategic, financial and business plans provided by the Old School Trust, Council continues to underwrite the project financially, with the objective of recovering the loan capital and interest from the Old School Trust over an agreed period.
3. That financial reviews of the project are conducted by Council annually.
4. That Council's representatives negotiate a long leasehold agreement with the Trust, to include:
 - a. Recovery of the Council's loan capital and interest expenditure using a formula which also enables the Trust to develop the School as a financially viable community facility, based on the draft template attached.
 - b. Reversion of the site back to QPC as freeholder at no cost if the project does not proceed, or is cancelled at any stage before refurbishment is complete.
 - c. Provision that a future Council may consider gifting the freehold to the Trust when the lease expires, when the loan debt is paid off, or at another time of its choosing.

Recommendation 4c is not to preclude or prevent a future Parish Council from disposing of the freehold lease.

RESOLVED, unanimous – proposed by Cllr Child, seconded by Cllr Cawdell.

Recommendations 1 to 4 be ratified by Quorn Parish Council.

b) Car park provision

This item was requested by Cllr Stirling who was not present at the meeting, **NOTED**.

c) Approval to submit funding applications (i) CBC Community Facilities Grant

RESOLVED, unanimous – proposed by Cllr Cawdell, seconded by Cllr Bloodworth.

Quorn Parish Council approves the submission of an application to Charnwood Borough Council for a Community Facilities Grant in the sum of £30,000.00.

10/28 PARKS FOR PEOPLE (P4P - STAFFORD ORCHARD)

The main contract has been put out to tender, with all tenders due back on 22nd February 2010. The opening and viewing of the tenders will take place in the parish office. Tree works have now been completed, but not to the satisfaction of the landscape architect. The trees required much less treatment than expected.

Station Road toilet facility

A loose arrangement has been in place with CBC to continue to open and maintain the Station Road toilet facility. The Gent's toilet was closed recently due to vandalism, with the Ladies toilet now being used as a unisex facility. Complaints are being received about the general state of the toilets. The options are; a) close the toilets until the refurbishment commences in the summer, b) keep the toilets open and negotiate with CBC to continue to monitor, or c) take on the responsibility of management ourselves. CBC has not yet informed us how much they intend to charge for this service.

A recent report advised CBC is to close public toilets, with payments being made to Parish Councils for taking over their running. It was queried if QPC have missed out on such a payment by taking over the toilet facility now. Borough Cllr Slater confirmed the favoured option is to outsource and toilet provision in the whole Borough is being reviewed. These are

all pre-proposals at this stage. Officers will report back to Cabinet with a feasibility study, Cabinet will then make a decision.

Cllr Hughes felt the pride of the village was at stake and that action was needed. Cllr Bexon noted it would be a cheaper and better option to close the toilets. It was suggested the Clerk contact a couple of local businesses to enquire if they would be willing for public members to make use of their facilities for a small fee.

Cllr Cawdell proposed the Clerks be given leave to approach local businesses to provide toilet facilities for a small remuneration (£50.00 per month), **AGREED**.

10/29 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The minutes of the HR Sub Committee held on 11th January 2010 and the Village Hall Committee held on 11th January 2010 were **NOTED**.

The following statement was read by Cllr Tyler, Chair of the HR Sub Committee;

“The HR Sub Committee requests that Quorn Parish Council fully supports staff, this Committee and current procedures which the HR Sub Committee find acceptable and appropriate.”

The Chairman, Cllr Bloodworth and Cllr Poland wished to offer their support, Cllr Bexon wished to abstain.

Cllr Cawdell felt the Committee was in support of staff but it should also be made clear that it also supports Cllrs when they feel they have been wronged. All paperwork seems to be a mechanism for staff to voice their concerns. Cllr Bexon confirmed that he fully supported the staff but has concerns regarding the approach taken to issues with Cllrs. The Chairman added there appeared to be a lack of protocol or procedures to be followed and that it should be publicised how anyone should raise an issue. Taking this into account Cllr Cawdell felt happy to offer his support.

10/30 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Proposal to ‘rebuild’ Rawlins Community College

Cllr Marron noted the Rawlins proposal had been discussed earlier in the meeting, with a meeting to be arranged. Cllr Bexon felt that QPC ought to make representation and decide which option to back. The consultation period ends on 2nd March 2010 and it was suggested that the Clerk as for one days grace to allow a decision to be made at the March meeting. County Cllr Kershaw advised there is a tight deadline and QPC would risk their comments not being viewed if delayed. The Chairman suggested delegating responsibility to Cllrs present at the meeting with LCC to compile a report for submission in time for the deadline, subject to the meeting being quorate, **AGREED**. Cllr Marron confirmed that it should be simply providing feedback.

Slabs Footpath

County Cllr Kershaw is expecting to hear further information on the Slabs footpath in March, Clerk to add item to the April agenda.

Proposed new Recycling Facility / Household Waste Site – Granite Way

The Development Control Board met on 17th December 2009 to discuss the above proposal. The Secretary of State has since had no objections and today it has been made public that permission has been granted. Work will commence in the next month or so. The site should be up and running by the end of the year.

An article in the Leicestershire Matters publication detailed what items can be recycled at all County Council amenity sites, additional copies can be ordered for Cllrs and the Parish Office.

A meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at County Hall with the Old School Trustees and Heather Broughton re Quorn Library.

10/31 PLANNING

The planning application for 8 Loughborough Road (**P/09/2032/2**) was refused, as was the application at Pilling’s Lock Marina (**P/09/2217/2**). The planning application concerning Nursery Lane was withdrawn immediately prior to a refusal decision being issued. A further application for 8 Loughborough Road has been submitted; however the planning portal shows the application as invalid. There were no other applications to note.

Cllr Bexon wished to extend a vote of thanks to the Clerk and CBC's Planning Enforcement Department for their quick action following the installation of unauthorised illuminated signs at the top of the cash machine on Station Road. The signs were removed within one week.

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/09/2422/2: Erection of first floor extension to create two storey dwelling. (Re-consulting due to change in description), 17 Chaveney Road, Quorn, LE12 8AB.

C/10/0008: Land adj to car park, Station Road, Quorn, LE12 8DP, 3 x unauthorised illuminated advertisement panels on the ATM at the location.

2009/0680/02: LCC – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 2009/0680/02 (to increase the size of the plant room and install a bio-mass boiler), St Bartholomew's Primary School, Willowcroft, Quorn. (County Council Identity Number: 2010/L186/02).

P/10/0035/2: Application to extend the time limit for a further three years, of the outline permission P/05/2785/2 for the siting of a business and technology centre (3936 sqm) and associated infrastructure and access, Beacon View Farm, Farley Way, Quorn.

P/10/0040/2: Erection of roof extension to side, dormer extension to rear and porch to front elevation, 25 Beacon Avenue, Quorn, LE12 8EW.

E/09/0274: Unauthorised construction of front boundary wall, 16 Loughborough Road, Quorn, LE12 8DX.

2009/L115/02: LCC – Proposed new recycling and household waste site (to replace existing facility in Sibleby) – Land off Granite Way, Mountsorrel (County Council Identity Number: 2009/L115/02).

Decisions had been notified concerning the following applications:

P/09/2238/2: Erection of single storey extension to front and two storey extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling. (Revised scheme P/09/1591/2 refers), 21 Northage Close, Quorn, LE12 8AT, **Grant Conditionally.**

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

P/09/2032/2: Demolition of no. 8 Loughborough Road and the construction of access road to serve 21 dwellings, 8 Loughborough Road, Quorn, LE12 8DX, **Refuse.**

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

P/09/2422/2: Erection of first floor extension to create two storey dwelling, 17 Chaveney Road, Quorn, LE12 8AB, **Grant Conditionally.**

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

10/32 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) PRIDE request for home security assistance
RESOLVED, unanimous – proposed by Cllr Cawdell, seconded by Cllr Bloodworth.
QPC fund two home security installations, (with funds restricted to the Parish), against the need to a total of £370.00.
- b) VISTA (local charity supporting blind and partially sighted people – request for donation
Any donation must benefit Quorn residents or the Parish. Clerk to send and S137 form together with the criteria which must be met.

10/33 CCTV Q&A

An email regarding CCTV had been previously circulated by Cllr Cawdell. Two meetings have now been held with the Clerk and the Police. There has been a misconception that if the picture is not screened in the office then it has not recorded – this is not the case.

The Police are very supportive of the CCTV system. They support the view that it is major deterrent for anti-social behaviour. There is one camera covering an enormous area which can give the Police feedback as to who was in the area at the time a crime was committed,

but cannot provide evidence. There will be questions to be answered next month over CCTV as the system will reach the end of its guarantee period, and therefore QPC will need to look at future maintenance plans.

Q: Have the Police used the system and has it proved to be useful? **A:** Yes

Q: When can we have more cameras? **A:** Cllr Cawdell was unable to answer.

There are four cameras planned to cover the park area with potentially good coverage. The main purpose of the cameras in the park is as a deterrent and to protect play equipment.

There will be a camera covering the toilet block area with a view of the car park. It will have maximum effect if people know it is there.

10/34 PAYMENTS, RESERVES LIST AND SUMMARY SHEET

RESOLVED, that the payments list totalling **£11,627.78** be approved. The payments list was signed by the Chairman.

- a) Section 137 request for £287.00 to purchase Heritage items

Cllr Bexon declared a personal interest.

It was suggested this money could come under Heritage funds rather than S137.

RESOLVED, unanimous – proposed by Cllr Tyler, seconded by Cllr Hughes.

QPC grant £287.00 for the purchase of Heritage items, with the amount to be deducted from Heritage funds.

- b) Finance Committee meeting to be held on 9th February 2010, items to be passed to Committee Chairs for inclusion

NOTED

Meeting ended @ 9.55 pm

Chairman Date