

# NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

**Present:** Cllrs:A.Gilbert  
              J.Bernard  
              P.Z.Stretton  
              J.Bridgen  
              J.Toth  
              Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

R.Bishop  
T.Hurl  
E.J.Hodges  
L.Bullock  
J.Beddows

**Apologies:** Cllr.A.Bernard  
              Cllr.R.Wilkinson

**106/2011 Public Participation: 7 members of the public were present.**

- (a) **Path leading to Chasewater from Norton East Road** - concern raised about dog walkers leaving behind dog mess and not utilising the bins that are available. It has been found that some people even tie the bags that they collect the mess in and hang it on the trees which is not acceptable as people can easily walk into it.

The meeting was told that the District Council do visit the area with cameras and where necessary do fine people.

**Action: Clerk to contact Cannock Chase District Council and request that they monitor the area.**

- (b) **Kingswood Lake Proposed Planning Application for Incinerator by Biffa**

A discussion ensued on the proposed planning application for an incinerator at Kingswood Lake. Serious concerns were raised about the impact of this and in particular the unknown health issues for residents living in close proximity. The deadline date for consultation is the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The Parish was requested to investigate a number of issues as per the attached list to these minutes and report back. Cllr.J.Toth informed the meeting that whilst the visual impact is a main reason to object, health issues are more difficult to prove. The Cannock area should not be considered a waste disposal town but one where more diverse industries are needed.

It was agreed that Councillors have a duty of care to residents in the village to oppose this application. It was agreed that the Parish should request an extension to the closing date of the 28<sup>th</sup> March to enable more information to be obtained. A letter should also be sent to all County Councillors who sit on the County Planning Committee to inform them of the concerns and issues.

Proposed: Cllr.L.Bullock  
Seconded: Cllr.Z.Stretton

**Action: Clerk to write to the County Council to request an extension to the consultation date to enable more information to be obtained.**

(c) **Friends of Norton Canes**

Mrs.S.Harding informed the meeting that the Friends of Norton Canes group had been set up to look at improving the look of the village and improve outdoor spaces. An overview of the plans for the Cema were given. A consultation event regarding this initiative will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Railway Tavern and flyers will be sent out to all residents promoting this.

The Group are also looking to celebrate the forthcoming Royal Wedding as a community event but because of the short timescale have chosen to hold a party on the 21<sup>st</sup> April at the Community Centre which will be linked to the Fun Club. They wish to request a donation from the Parish Council to support this event in the sum of £150.

- (d) **Planning Application DHL** - issue raised of how planning applications are dealt with and in particular the proposed extension to the DHL Warehouse on Kingswood Lake. When the original building was erected there were problems with television aerials in the village and question raised as to whether this was taken into account for the new extension. Clerk confirmed that the application had been received and no objection raised.

(e) **Sign for Church**

The issue of the sign directing location of Norton Church was raised and the fact that Jerome Primary School have a sign erected on a lamp post. The Parish was asked to look into this as there was an understanding that there was some legal issue regarding signs and where they are located.

**Action: Clerk to contact County Council and explore the situation and report back to the next meeting.**

(f) **Bus Shelter**

Question raised as to the installation of the bus shelter. The Clerk stated that whilst the bus shelter is awaiting installation this has been put on hold until confirmation about the permanency with regard to the bus routes was confirmed as it was felt a mis use of public money if the bus route did not continue. It was suggested that in the interim the shelter should be taken down as it is an eyesore.

Some concern expressed about Committees agreeing expenditure which should come through full Council. Full Council had initially agreed the costs of the replacement bus shelter but this had required to be changed due to the type of bus shelter chosen. This amendment went through the Projects Committee for authorisation.

Public Participation closed at: 7.45 p.m.

**107/201 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr.J.Bernard - District and County Planning Committee  
Cllr.L.Bullock - District Planning Committee  
Cllr.J.Beddows - Koncas

**108/2011 Minutes of meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record apart from the following amendments:

**Page 1: Apologies** -Cllr. J.Toth apologies were given for the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February and should be recorded.

**Page 1: Litter on Newlands Lane** - request to District Council to clear this has been made. Clerk to follow up.

**Page 2: Incident on Brownhills Road** – word missing on second line – should read ‘rope had been put .....’

**Proposed: Cllr J.Beddows**

**Seconded: Cllr.J.Bridgen**

## **109/2011 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes other than those already discussed under Public Participation or appear as an agenda item.

## **110/2011 Police Report**

PCSO Andy Turnock attended the meeting and gave a verbal report on the activities within the village since the last meeting. He reported that Anti Social Behaviour incidents were low in the area. Still some issues around the Co-op area but the store itself are not always informing the Police when young people are congregating outside but it is the residents who are reporting the problems. PCSO's are still covering both Norton Canes and Heath Hayes temporarily but there does not appear to be any issues with covering both areas and Police are able to respond in a timely manner to incidents. There is an action plan in place for Sainsburys and Co-op areas to be monitored. The mini moto season is about to start and the use of these will be monitored and where necessary S59 will be issued to those offenders. Question raised about the use of quad bikes and whether they could be used on the road. It was confirmed that they do need insurance and plates. No problems have been reported around the One Stop shop in Norton East Road.

PCSO Turnock was asked about the number of incidents relating to theft of cars and burglaries in the area and it was suggested that future reports should contain statistical information around these two areas also.

It was reported that PCSO Griffiths bike has completely broken. Damage cannot be claimed on the insurance and the cost of replacement is costly. It has been agreed therefore that he will use the Heath Hayes bike as he is also covering both areas.

PCSO Turnock informed the meeting that they wished to set up a Community Speedwatch Scheme in the village. This has proved very successful in other areas and the plans were outlined in terms of numbers and the way the operation would be carried out. They were looking to the Parish Council to initially fund the training at a cost of £1,000 which would include the equipment.

Cllr.J.Toth raised some concern about the route that policing was now going given the cut backs that are being imposed. Cllr.Bullock raised issue of the use of camera safety vans in certain areas and whether this was a good use of resources. It was suggested that a letter be sent to

the new Inspector for Cannock asking for his explanation about what is happening to Police roles and responsibilities.

**Action: Clerk to contact Police Inspector for Cannock.**

### **111/2011 Reports from Committees**

Project Committee - a meeting with Cllr.A.Gilbert, Cllr.Z.Stretton, Father Hibbins and a representative from Lichfield Diocese had recently taken place to discuss the future of the graveyard at St.James. Before any decisions can be made the PCC have got to agree to maintain any additional land that may be provided. A decision is still awaited from the PCC March meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of additional land and whether in fact the Parish would be paying twice as they pay separately for burial fees. It was recognised that burial fees in Norton Canes is considerably less than other areas. There is an issue of a gas pipe that runs at the back of the current graveyard and if this land was to be extended planning permission may have to be considered.

### **112/2011 Report from Councillors**

Norton Hall Lane Development – Cllr.J.Beddows informed the meeting that he had attended the District Planning Committee and confirmed that outline planning permission had been granted. Concerns had been expressed at the meeting about the development but it is only a planning issue that can affect the decision. Concern was expressed about the intensity of developments in the village.

### **113/2011 Authorisation of Accounts**

The accounts for March which had been circulated were agreed.

**Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard**

**Second: Cllr.L.Bullock**

**114/2011 Date of Next Meeting: This will be the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting commencing at 6 p.m. with full Council at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Norton Canes Community Centre.**

**The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.**

Signed: ..... Dated .....

**115/2011 CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION**

**Contract of Employment** - this has now been signed by Clerk and Chairman.

**Computer** – the meeting was informed that a recent virus on the computer had required it to be cleaned. This had been carried out at a cost of £50.

**Request for funding for Royal Wedding Celebrations** – discussion ensued on the request from the Friends of Norton Canes for contribution towards the celebration event. Question raised as to whether the Parish had the scope to administer grant aid under the S137 funding. It was agreed that the money that was being held on behalf of the Friends of Norton Canes which originally was towards the costs of Christmas lights should be returned to them which would enable them to have revenue for other events they wished to support.

Signed: ..... Dated .....