

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 17th August 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Present: Cllrs:A.Gilbert
 J.Bernard
 J.Bridgen
 S.Harding
 J.Davies
 Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

P.Gilbert
A.Bernard
J.Preece
J.Hampshire
R.Bishop

166/2011 Public Participation

Advertising in the village - an issue of how businesses advertise in the village was raised. This related to the One Stop shop in Norton East Road which advertised funeral business but that when another funeral operator asked for advertisement space this was refused. The meeting was informed that One Stop have a contract with an advertising Company who makes the decisions on what adverts are included.

Use of Disabled Buggies on roads – the issue of disabled buggies being used on the roads was raised by a resident. They were enquiring as to whether this was legal and whether they required tax and insurance. The Parish Council stated that they did not have the information but would ask the PCSO's to give feedback.

Junction Jerome Road/Walsall Road - concern raised with the condition of the road at this junction where the pot hole seems to be getting deeper.

Action: Cllr.J.Bernard to discuss with Highways Dept.

Water Margin - it was stated that this was one of the oldest sites in Norton Canes and that the land still belongs to Little Wyrley Estates. Question raised as to what is happening to this building following the fire.

Action: Clerk to write to Little Wyrley Estates to ascertain what is happening.

Signs for School Road – issues raised with regard to the lack of signs in School Road. It is very confusing as to where this road ends and the others link into. This is more problematic for the emergency services. The Projects Committee are looking at amenity signs in the village and this will be included. Discussion ensued about if the Parish Council allocated money from Parish funds for these signs will this deter the County Council from being responsible.

Action: Write to County Council and put forward the issues for amenity signs for the village and request details of timeframes.

Drs.Surgery Chapel Street – question asked regarding the plans for the old drs surgery in Chapel Street. It was reported that this building had been purchased and was understood to be for housing development.

Restaurant and Public House

Public Participation closed at 7.20 p.m.

167/2011 Apologies: Cllr.M.Hopley
Z.Stretton
J.Beddows

168/2011 Declarations of Interest

Cllr.J.Bernard District Council Planning Committee

169/2011 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd June 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd June 2011 having been circulated were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard

Seconded: Cllr.P.Gilbert

170/2011 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Page 2 – Contact had been made with Mr.D.Wright at the County Council regarding the condition of verges and islands in the village. Mr.Wright had stated that the Turf Island was the responsibility of the Highways Agency and it would be their decision relating to this area. It was suggested that the way the Turf Island had now been left was to do with consideration for the wildlife in that area. In relation to other islands in the village the Parish was informed that businesses support other surrounding areas in the planting of islands making them more decorative. It was suggested that we should be challenging the Highways Dept and asking if the Parish could take responsibility for maintaining the island in question.

Action: Write to the Highways Dept to enquire about the maintenance at the Turf Island.

Page 4 – Community Speedwatch – Cllr J.Bernard has contacted Prospect village re the possibility of purchasing their equipment. However they are in the process of relaunching their Community Speedwatch but would be

prepared to talk to us about the equipment if they were unsuccessful in getting the volunteers.

Page 4 – St.James Church - question raised about the contribution that the Parish Council had agreed following some information that had come to light about the purchase of a considerable amount of land at Bleak House. It was suggested that if the Church had this amount of money then there would be funds to support the decoration of the local Church. A discussion ensued regarding this and it was agreed that the purchase of any land is conducted by the Church Commission which is a completely separate matter to that of the funding of local churches. It was agreed that the contribution agreed by the Parish Council should be honoured but that an invitation to Father Neil Hibbins to attend a future Council meeting to enable questions to be asked.

Action: Invitation to Father Hibbins to attend a future Council meeting.

171/2011 Police Report

No Police report was available. There had been a report to the Parish Office relating to a noise disturbance at the Yew Tree public house on the 31st July which was a bikers convention. The District Council had issued a special events notice. Due to the problems raised the Environmental Health Dept have agreed to put notice into the licence next time to put restrictions on event in the future.

The meeting was informed that a recent fairground event had taken place which had been agreed by the District Council. The Parish Council had been asked if they were aware of any events occurring on that date to which a reply was given but the Parish was not asked to comment about the fairground itself. It was felt that any application for fairgrounds should be made well in advance.

Cllr.S.Harding informed the meeting that she was aware that a complaint was being made against the Police about their handling of a border dispute with a local resident.

172/2011 Reports from Councillors

Koncas – Cllr J.Davies informed the meeting that as the Parish representative for Koncas she had attended the June meeting of the group. She was concerned about the lack of young people now attending and did not want to see young people encouraged to spend time on the streets when there was a facility available for them.

Cllr.Davies felt that the group needed help and support to take it forward. Cllr.A.Bernard said that she was conscious that Koncas has been an asset to the village but also aware that the lease now only has 12 months before it expires. It was suggested that the Parish Council have financially invested

in this Project over the last 5 years and that the Parish should now look at what help can be offered. Three points to be raised:

1. Need to establish what costs are associated with refurbishment of Unit 13.
2. Funding for the future. Link in with the Partnership to work in together to support Koncas in identifying funding streams.
3. Set up a Steering Group to work together to support Koncas.

Action: Write to the Chairman of Koncas with proposals from Parish Council.

CHAPS – Cllr.S.Harding gave information to the Parish as a representative for CHAPS. The Hednesford Mining Memorial is scheduled to take place on 28th April 2012. There is an opportunity for Parish Councils to purchase a paving slab to recognise the coalmine in their area. Discussion ensued on whether Norton Parish Council would like to purchase a paving slab. It was agreed that this would be a nice gesture for those miners in the village. Cllr.A.Gilbert agreed to meet the cost of £50 for the slab from the Chairman's allowance.

Community Event – Cllr.S.Harding attending a community event in Cannock for all areas. This proved to be a good networking experience with lots of ideas and information exchanged.

One Stop Event - this was organised by the Community Partnership at which the Parish Council had a table. Cllrs.attended to answer questions most of which were about cemetery land and allotments. It was felt that more enquiries would have been received if the location of the Parish table would have been in a better position. It was agreed that as a Parish we should be more involved in similar events in the future.

Cema Project – Cllr.S.Harding gave an update on the project which is progressing and are now in a position to apply for funding.

Remembrance Day – Cllr.J.Bernard enquired if the Parish Council was considering doing anything special for Remembrance Day. Some discussion ensued and it was agreed to talk to groups in the village and also liaise with the PCSO's to support this.

173/2011 Reports from Committees

Planning - the procedure for Planning applications to be considered by the Parish Council was discussed. It was agreed that Cllrs, Stretton, Bridgen and Beddows be given the authority to approve applications but that

these are reported to full Council. Unless at any time an application requires full Council approval.

Projects Committee - Cllr.A.Bernard gave feedback on the issues being discussed at Projects Committee as follows:

Bus Shelters – different avenues are being explored to enable the shelters to be cleaned as they are looking rather tired and worn. Discussion ensued on the expenditure for this.

It was resolved:

That the bus shelters should be cleaned twice yearly and that the money received from the County Council re the contribution towards the new bus shelter at Norton Green Lane should be ringfenced for this expenditure.

The Clerk has been successful in obtaining a contribution of £895 from the County Council towards the cost of the new bus shelter purchased for Norton Green Lane.

Public Footpaths - a leaflet is being developed to include information relating to public footpaths, walks and other information pertaining to the village. Other groups in the village will be involved in the development of the leaflet. A quote of £2,895 has been received for 6,000 copies but other quotes are required.

Queens Diamond Jubilee – contact with Friends of Norton Canes has been made to work with the Parish Council to hold an event next year to celebrate the Jubilee. Cllr.S.Harding and J.Hampshire are the Parish representatives on the sub committee.

Amenity Signs – the Projects Committee are looking into signage for the village and there is some suggestion of an Information Board to be located centrally which will identify most of the information required for the village.

Low Carbon Initiative - Cllr.A.Bernard is the representative on this Committee. Cllr.Bernard gave feedback to the meeting about this issue. A number of people in the District have expressed an interest and the District Council are considering 25 houses across Cannock Chase to have this installation some of which may be nominated from Norton Canes. The High School is also interested in considering this option.

Community Speedwatch – still in negotiations with the Police with regard to taking this issue forward. When all the information is available this will come to full Council to approve expenditure.

Lantern Parade – the Parish Council have received confirmation from the District Council that they will not be financially supporting this event this year. This will be discussed at the next Projects Committee.

Action: Lantern Parade to be an agenda item for next Projects Committee

Skatepark – Cllr.J.Davies raised the issue of the Skatepark and this is an ongoing agenda item at the Projects Committee. Currently the plans for the development of the park area on the Brownhills Road is still under discussion with the District Council. Cllr.J.Davies feels that something needs to be done now as the skatepark is now quite old and needs refurbishment. She referred to the plans that a Company called Freestyle had originally produced to update the park. From a health and safety point of view certain maintenance needs to take place such as special paint on the equipment which could be taken forward as a Project by the young people themselves.

Action: To be included for discussion at next Projects Committee.

Audit & Governance – Cllr.P.Gilbert gave feedback on a recent meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee. It was a report that the budget monitoring systems that are in place were considered to be adequate with just a few minor amendments which have already been put in place.

Risk Assessments for the Skatepark are being implemented for the lengthsman to carry out on a monthly basis.

Unit 13 – there is a potential shortfall on the payments for Unit 13 but enquiries of HMRC are being made about the reclaiming of the VAT element.

Parish Plan – the Clerk is seeking guidance from the Community Council of Staffordshire regarding producing a Parish Plan in the future.

174/2011 Clerk's Report

The Clerk referred to the Report a copy of which was available.

175/2011 Chair's Report & Correspondence

The Chairman gave details of the incoming and outgoing post.

Cllr.A.Gilbert referred to the AONB initiative and to its membership scheme. Parish Councils are invited to become a member of the AONB in support of the scheme at a cost of £120 per year. Cllr.J.Bernard gave feedback on the subject as Heath Hayes Parish Council have recently joined and he was able to provide information of what the membership included. Following

discussion about the membership it was agreed that Norton Canes Parish Council should apply.

It was resolved:

Those members present voted for the Parish Council to become a member of the AONB. Cllr.R.Bishop abstained.

176/2011 Nomination for Parish Council representative on Norton Canes Community Partnership

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Council representative on Norton Canes Community Partnership. Nominations were requested for this vacancy.

Cllr.John Hampshire was nominated for this post.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard

Seconded: Cllr.P.Gilbert

Action: Clerk to write to the Partnership informing them of the nomination.

177/2011 Update on Kingswood Lakeside Proposed Incinerator

Cllr.J.Bernard informed the meeting that following the Planning Meeting held at the County Council the signing of the legal paperwork had not gone through and a decision is awaited about the next steps.

Parish Councils in the surrounding area have come together to fight this collectively and representation has gone to the Government and European Government. There is already concern about the number of cars that are using the stretch of road leading from the Orbital centre with the opening of the new Veiola building.

178/2011 Parish Website

Following the presentation at the previous Council meeting by the website provider it was agreed that this should be proceeded with and that the expenditure as outlined in the presentation should be approved.

It was resolved:

To proceed with the implementation of a Website for the Parish Council.

179/2011 Development of area on Burntwood Road/Brownhills Road

The meeting was informed that the piece of land on Burntwood Road and Brownhills Road (opposite Croft Bakery) was being suggested for development into a Memorial Garden. This suggestion had culminated from the questionnaire completed by residents in the Link sometime ago when they expressed a wish to have a memorial garden in the centre of the village. The piece of land belongs to the District Council who are prepared to hand the land to the Parish Council to maintain along the similar lines as the Millennium garden.

Following the initial request a small working group had been set up and a few meetings with the District Council, Parish Council and Friends of Norton Canes had taken place to take this project forward. The Projects Committee have discussed this and a decision to bring it to full Council for approval was made.

The Project should be lead by the Parish Council as they would have the responsibility for the maintenance of the garden area but the Friends of Norton Canes group are happy to be involved and support the project. It was suggested that as the Queens Diamond Jubilee was imminent that a link with this Project could be made and the local schools should be asked to be involved in the artwork for the area depicting the history of the village.

It was unanimously agreed:

That the proposal for the Project should be taken forward.

180/2011 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for July and August which had been circulated were authorised.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard

Seconded: Cllr.P.Gilbert

181/2011 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 21st September 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

SIGNED: DATED: