

Norton Canes Parish Council

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on 19th January 2011 at 7 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Norton Canes**

Present:

Cllrs: **N.Booth (Chairman)** **A.Gilbert**
 J.Beddows **A.Bernard**
 Z.Stretton **J.Bernard**
 J.Bridgen
 T.Hurl
 L.Florence (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Apologies: **Cllrs. T.Hodges**
 L.Bullock
 R.Bishop
 J.Toth
 R.W.H.Wilkinson

(6 members of the Public were in attendance)

Presentation of \$137 awards were made to organisations prior to the commencement of the meeting.

84/2011 Public Participation

Street Sign in School Road - query raised as to when the street sign in School Road would be replaced as this was going back to March 2009. Cllr Booth stated that it had been suggested that the County Council were not replacing any road signs. Following discussion about the lack of other signs in the village for example where the location of the Church is, it was agreed that these issues should be taken through the Projects Committee and liaison with the County Council. Cllr J Bernard informed the meeting that the Highways Dept are concentrating on getting the roads repaired first and it is in then in the plan to look at road signs but there is not timescales around when this may happen.

Precept 2010-11 - This item was for discussion under Confidential matters but members of the public felt that as this was public money they had a right to know whether the Precept was being allocated for the financial year 2011-12.

It was agreed therefore to discuss this as an agenda item:

Proposed: **Cllr.Z.Stretton**
Seconded: **Cllr.A.Bernard**

Travellers – concern was expressed with regard to the continued situation regarding travellers on Kingswood Lake area of the village and residents felt that the County Council were not dealing with this in a timely manner. Cllr. Stretton outlined what she felt was the process for dealing with these matters and that it would be a good idea for the District Council and County Council to make developers aware that if travellers occupy any land that they are developing they should take the necessary action to deter travellers occupying the land. The onus should be on the developers.

The meeting was informed that there was a Gypsy Officer located in the County Council and it was suggested that a representative of the County Council should be asked to attend a future meeting to explain why the travellers continue to occupy land in the village at regular times and why there is a delay in dealing with the issue.

The Clerk outlined that she had contacted the County Council prior to the Council meeting and was informed that the papers had been served to leave the site concerned and would be listed in Court within 10 days from the date of serving the papers.

Cema - it was highlighted that there are increasing problems with horses and riders using the Cema which is causing problems with the field which could result in a health and safety issue if an accident occurred.

It was suggested that the District Council be asked to consider erecting signs encouraging riders to use the identified bridle paths in the village rather than the park areas which should remain as playing fields. Contact to be made with the District Council requesting the possibility of signs being erected stating regulations for use of the park area. Issue then raised about quad bikes using the area which also causes problems with the churning up of the field. The Police stated that it is an offence to ride a quad bike in park areas and that they should be contacted to enable them to take action.

Bus Shelter – confirmed that this will be installed sometime in February 2011.

Koncas - the meeting was informed that there is an Extra Ordinary General Meeting on the 10th February 2011 at 7 p.m. to identify people to become involved and look at the future of the Project.

85/2011 Declaration of Interests

The following Councillors declared interests:

Cllr.Z.Stretton - WRVS & Backstreet re S137 Awards
Cllr.J.Beddows – Koncas
Cllr.L.Bullock - District Planning Committee
Cllr.J.Bernard – District and Council Planning Committee

86/2011 Minutes of Meeting held on the 15th December 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 2010, were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: J.Beddows
Seconded: A.Bernard

87/2011 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) – Burial Ground - this is on going. Meeting to be arranged with Lichfield Diocese.

(b) – Proposed Housing Developments – objections sent to District Council re Brownhills Road Development. Cllr.Stretton stated that this was a green belt area where the District can be called in by the Government because of the change of usage.

Public meeting held on the 18th December 2010 regarding the proposed development at Norton Hall Lane. Members of the District Council and Developers were present and despite difficult weather conditions a number of residents attended who were able to raise their concerns and questions were answered. Cllr Beddows outlined some of the discussion at the meeting.

(c) – Skatepark – ongoing discussions no further information.

88/2011 Precept 2011-12

A draft Precept for 2011-12 was presented to the meeting by the Clerk. Discussions ensued on the allocations and Cllr J.Bernard stated that given the District budgets for this financial year that the Parish Precept should be maintained in the same figure as 2010-11 which was £49,000.

It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a new budget to reflect the Precept remaining at £49,000.

89/2011 Police Report

PSCO Neil Griffiths attended the meeting and gave a verbal report regarding the activities within the village.

The meeting was told that there have been two incidents of theft in the village which are being investigated. There are issues with regard to nuisance noise outside the Co-op and planning to have more of presence there in the next few weeks. If this issues still persists then may have to implement the ASB policy.

Parking issues at Norton Canes Primary School are still a major concern. Police are powerless to act when parking on double yellow lines as they have been decriminalised. PSCO Griffiths outlined some of the problems that they have experienced and he felt that there was a need for Parking Enforcement Officers. He asked the Parish Council for support in this and if a letter could be sent identifying the problems.

There is a problem with one of the Police bicycles relating to the rear wheel. Not sure how the problems have arose which could be down to wear and tear due to the poor condition of the roads. It was suggest that this may be covered by the insurance and agreed that the Clerk should look into this.

Cllr.J.Bernard talked through the processes as he was a member of the Parking Committee. Currently anyone parking on a double yellow line has to be given a 5 minute waiting which the District are trying to get to zero. The timeframe for this going through Council is 6 weeks.

The meeting was also informed that Inspector Shannan is leaving the Chase District to take up a new post in South Staffs. Chief Inspector Chapman will be taking over at the beginning of March 2011. The Police will be passing a zero budget and have given a commitment not to let front line services suffer for next two years. PSCO's may be looked at as they come from a different Government grant.

PSCO Griffiths was thanked for an excellent report.

90/2011 Chairman's Announcements

(a) Projects Committee - Discussion ensued relating to the membership of the Projects Committee. As Cllr Stretton will be involved with the liaison relating to the burial ground it was agreed appropriate that she be co-opted on to the Projects Committee.

Proposed: Cllr.A.Bernard
Seconded: Cllr.J.Bernard

(b) Electoral Review of Staffordshire – the Clerk referred to correspondence that had been received relating to the Electoral Review of Staffordshire. Discussion ensued on this process and why it was being implemented. It was felt that this may not affect Norton Canes at this present time.

(c) Royal Wedding – discussions ensued on what activities the Parish wished to be involved in to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Various ideas have been suggested to mark the occasion and it was felt appropriate that this be an agenda item for the Projects Committee.

(d) Poppy Day Party – the British Legion are inviting Parish Councils to get involved in a Poppy Day Party event on the 10-12th June 2011. A letter has been received from Bridgtown Parish Council stating that themselves are unable to commit but would be happy to support and help another Parish to take the event forward. Agreed that this should be an agenda item for the Project Committee.

(e) Queens Diamond Jubilee - notification had been received from the Staffordshire Office of the Lieutenancy inviting participation in celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. It was agreed that this should be discussed as an agenda item for the Projects Committee. Some suggestion that if the piece of land opposite Croft Bakery was going to be developed that this could named to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations.

91/2011 Reports from Councillors

Forum -Cllr.J.Beddows reported from the recent Forum meeting held in December where he was disappointed with the public attendance. It was felt that it was important to publicise this better to make the public aware. Next date is the 8th March 2011 at Heath Hayes.

Action: Cllr J.Bernard agreed to publicise the next date of the Forum.

Leaflet – Cllr Stretton stated that the leaflet that had been circulated via the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association which gave information on the projects that other Parishes have undertaken in the year was very informative and gives ideas of good practice for other Parishes to follow.

92/2011 Reports from Committees

No reports from Committees

93/2011 Kingswood Lake – Cllr J.Beddows stated that there was no further new information with regard to the proposed Incinerator. However, he felt that Biffa now know that they have a fight on their hands as all surrounding Parish Councils are against the development.

94/2011 AONB Symbol

Discussion ensued on the request for the Parish logo to be used alongside the symbol for AONB.

It was resolved:

That this be agreed.

95/2011 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for January 2011 had been previously circulated and were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Z.Stretton

Seconded: Cllr.J.Bernard

96/2011 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 16th February 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre.

SIGNED: DATED

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM OF MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2011.

97/2011 Precept 2011-12 Salaries of Clerk and Lengthsman

Discussions ensued on the salaries of the Clerk and Lengthsman for 2011-12

Clerk – it was agreed that the Clerk's salary should receive an incremental rise of £800 per annum with effect from the 1st April 2011.

Lengthsman – discussions ensued on the expanding role of the Lengthsman. It was agreed that the Lengthsman's hours be increased to 18 per week and an increase of £1 per hour i.e. to £11 per hour be implemented to take effect from the 1st April 2011. The Lengthsman's hours should be aggregated throughout the year as he requires more time during the Summer months than the Winter months. Clerk to monitor this process.

SIGNED DATED