

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 22nd June 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Present: Cllrs:A.Gilbert
P.Gilbert
J.Bridgen
S.Harding
J.Beddows
M.Hopley
J.Davies
Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

R.Bishop
A.Bernard
J Bernard
J.Preece
Z.Stretton
J.Hampshire

Visitors also in attendance:

Mr.Carlton Ratcliffe, Chief Inspector Cannock Chase Police
Cllr.Derek Davis, Link Councillor for Police Authority
Mr.N.Ferguson

Apologies : There were no apologies

146/2011 Presentation from Chief Inspector Ratcliffe

Chief Inspector Ratcliffe gave a presentation on local policing outlining the recent changes and the impact on the community. The meeting was informed that over the next three years the division has got to save £39 million but reiterated that front line service delivery should not be adversely affected. Within the recent restructure there were 3 main commitments being delivering a quality service, reducing crime and disorder, protecting people from harm. There was a clear commitment that there will be very little change in local officers and neighbourhood officer numbers would not be reduced.

Questions were raised about foreign commercial vehicles and the problems that these cause and what powers the police have. Chief Inspector Ratcliffe stated that he was a member of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership and that road safety is one of the top 10 priorities. This issue is monitored on a regular basis.

Chief Inspector Ratcliff stated that he was happy for people to email him direct with any problems that they had within the community. Cllr Davies stated that he would be in post for next 12 months but after that this liaison post was being deleted. He stated that there was funding available in the County Council to address issues of problems on the roads for example rumble strips etc and that the links needed to be made.

147/2011 Presentation by Mr.Nigel Ferguson

Mr.Ferguson had been invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the possible implementation of a website for Norton Canes Parish Council.

Mr.Ferguson gave an indepth presentation on what can be included in a website and how this can be administered. He also gave a breakdown of the initial costs for domain and hosting server together with ongoing costs. Mr.Ferguson was thanked for the information he provided and that this would be considered at the next Council meeting.

148/2011 Public Participation

Brownhills Road/Red Lion Lane Development – question raised about the planning application for proposed housing development on this site. The meeting was informed that due to a petition being lodged on the day of the planning committee this has now had to be put forward before next planning meeting to enable objectors petition to be considered. View expressed that this outline planning permission should be refused as any green belt should be kept and also concern that the heritage of horses and trotting around the village will be lost if the application proceeds. The meeting was informed that even if the planning application was agreed there was still an option to write to Government and request a public enquiry. It was stated that there had been no objection from the Parish but the Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to the District outlining the objections.

Action: Clerk to resend the letter of objection to the District Council.

Bus Shelter on Brownhills Road - following a previous meeting the County Council had been requested to maintain the bus shelter due to the health and safety concerns. This has been actioned.

Verges on Norton Hall Lane - query raised about the condition of the verges on the new section of Norton Hall Lane and who has the responsibility to maintain them.

The condition of other areas in the village were also discussed regarding the condition of the island at the Turf, Brownhills Road and request to be made of District Council about whether they could be made decorative. It was felt that these areas need to be made presentable when coming into the village and suggestion made as to whether sponsorship could be looked into. Suggestion that under the Freedom of Information Act we can request information from Highways Dept.

Action: Clerk to write to Highways Department of County Council and request how much money is allocated to Norton Canes for highway maintenance.

149/2011 Church Road – Cllr.J.Davies raised a question from resident relating to heavy lorries going the back way into Biffa late at night. It was stated that this was to do with the Anerobic-Digestion plant and the back way is the only route that can be used. Some query as to why the lorries required a police escort.

Action: Cllr.J.Bernard to raise questions and feedback.

Pathways in School Road – issue of condition of pathways still not been resolved. The condition is getting worse and action needs to be taken before the Winter. Cllr.J.Rowley informed the meeting that there is money available to address this issue and agreed to discuss this with Highways Dept. Cllr.P.Gilbert also stated that he was happy to speak to Mr.D.Wright at County Highways Dept regarding the pathways and verges in School Road. It was suggested that Mr.Wright be invited to attend a future Council meeting.

**Action: Cllr.J.Rowley to liaise with Highways Dept regarding this issue.
Cllr.P.Gilbert to speak to Mr.D.Wright at Highways Dept**

Parking issues – concern expressed about the parking issues on a number of roads in the village particularly Norton Hall Lane, Church Road, Chapel St and Bridges Road. The parking in these areas is becoming dangerous and there is a request for double yellow lines to be considered. Although the PSCO's have been undertaking awareness training with residents particularly around the schools this issue is still ongoing.

Action: Contact Cllr.J.Rowley re this issue.

150/2011 Declaration of Interest

Declarations of Interest were received from the following:

Cllr. J.Bernard District Planning Committee
Cllr.J.Beddows Koncas

151/2011 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd May 2011

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd May 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Proposed: Cllr.Z.Stretton
Seconded: Cllr.P.Gilbert**

152/2011 Police Report

PSCO Andy Turnock gave a verbal report to the meeting re the activities/incidents within the village.

153/2011 Reports from Councillors

Cllr.J.Hampshire informed the meeting that he was making enquiries with regard to public rights of way in the village and that there is a new process now to enable the Parish Council to obtain information. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish have registered and awaiting confirmation.

154/2011 Committee Reports

Project/Village Enhancement - Cllr A.Bernard gave feedback from a recent Projects and Village Enhancement Committee held on 1st June where items discussed were:

Bus Shelters – investigating ownership of bus shelters to give a consistent approach.

Cemetery land – this is being taken forward with St.James Church.

Low Carbon Project – this is a working group with the Community Partnership which Cllr.A.Bernard is a member.

Queens Diamond Jubilee – this is being considered as a community event.

Public Rights of Way – work is ongoing with identification of public rights of way in the village.

One Stop Event – this is being organised by the Community Partnership and the Parish have agreed to have a table at the event to inform people about parish matters.

Community Speedwatch – this is under discussion. Proposal from Police and request for £1,000 contribution to purchase the equipment and provide the training. Two volunteers have been received so far. Some discussion ensued about this matter and Cllr.J.Bernard suggested that an approach be made to Prospect Village to ascertain if they want to sell their equipment as they are currently not undertaking a Community Speedwatch in that area.

Action: Cllr.J.Bernard to contact Prospect Village re equipment.

Audit and Governance – date to be set for first meeting.

Planning - Cllr.J.Bridgen gave feedback from the Planning Committee.

155/2011 Clerk's Report

Clerk referred to her written report which had previously been circulated.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED TO ALLOW ITEM RE ST.JAMES.CHURCH TO BE DISCUSSED:

156/2011 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM ST.JAMES CHURCH

Mrs.J.Hill from St.James Church gave an overview of the reasons why the Church were approaching the Parish Council for financial support relating to a funding opportunity for the redecoration of the inside of the Church which required match funding. Mrs.Hill gave the background to the \$106 money relating to the sale of the Church and what percentage the Church could access and for what purpose. Although the \$106 money was agreed

sometime ago there appears to be a delay in this being distributed. After discussing this item it was agreed that a separate Council meeting should be scheduled to discuss this further. Cllr.J.Bernard suggested requesting Aidan Burley MP to look into this matter.

**Action: Clerk to arrange a Council meeting to discuss funding proposal
Contact Aidan Burley for his support in looking into the matter.**

157/2011 Kingswood Lake Incinerator

The meeting was informed that a planned site visit by County Councillors was taking place on the 23rd June. Cllr A.Gilbert outlined her involvement with radio interviews giving the views of the Parish Council on this development. A protest demonstration had been arranged including other surrounding Parish Councils and anyone interested in attending the demonstration could be transported by the Community Minibus which will be leaving the Parish Office at 10 a.m. on the 23rd June to go to Cley Road where the demonstration will take place.

Cllr.J.Davies raised the issue of the ownership of the land where the development is proposed and queried whether there was a conflict of interest that could be referred to in objecting to the development.

158/2011 Councillors Training - Councillors training is available and should any Councillor wish to attend could they please co-ordinate this through the Clerk.

159/2011 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for June which had been circulated were agreed for authorisation.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard
Seconded: Cllr.P.Gilbert

160/2011 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 21st September 2011

161/2011 Items for future Agenda

- Parish Council representative for Community Partnership.

Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

SIGNED **DATED**