

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 27TH April 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

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

R.Bishop
A.Bernard
J.Bridgen
T.Hurl

Apologies: Cllr.T.Hodges

116/2011 Public Participation - 11 members of the Public were present.

(a) Proposed Incinerator development at Kingswood Lake -

Neil Adams, Public Health Consultant at the PCT attended the meeting to listen to residents views and discuss issues relating to the proposed Kingswood Lake Incinerator. He confirmed that the PCT have been consulted by both the Planning Dept and the Environment Agency due to the environment permit now being applied for by Biffa. Mr.Adams outlined to the meeting the procedure and process the PCT follow with regard to this type of planning application.

Councillors and residents had the opportunity to put forward their questions which Mr.Adams answered and where answers were not available he agreed to investigate and feedback at a later date.

The outcome of the meeting was that there were still a number of unanswered questions relating to this development and uncertainty around the reports that are available as there was no conclusive evidence that there is no harmful health issues relating to this type of development and no guarantee about the effective monitoring of the incinerator. The view is that this development is not welcome and all objections should be put forward. Representation at the County Planning Meeting will be made.

Mr.Adams was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

It was suggested that we should ask a member of the Environment Agency to come to a future Parish meeting to explain how the use of the incinerator would be monitored.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr.Mike Smith from the Environment Agency.

117/2011 (b) Bus Shelter - question raised about the bus shelter at Norton Green Lane. The meeting was informed that a new bus shelter has been purchased and awaiting installation but was pending the decision re a permanent bus route. Confirmation has now been received from Staffordshire County Council regarding a commitment for this route to continue and a date for installation will now be expedited.

The bus shelter that is situated on the Brownhills Road that lies back into the service road area is also in need of repair as it is leaning forward. This shelter is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. A query was raised with regard to a bus stop that had appeared by the Turf pub on the Walsall Road and it was unclear as to whether there was a stop there and if so which buses this related to.

Action: Write to the responsible authority and request that the shelter on Brownhills Road be taken down.

Clerk to look into the bus stop on Walsall Road.

Norton Funeral Directors – the Directors attended the meeting to outline their business. They informed the meeting that they are employing a Bereavement Counsellor who will offer a service free of charge for residents of Norton Canes. Whilst they had received bad press initially when first starting up they wanted to reiterate that they are following all the right processes and procedures relating to the nature of their business and trying to offer a service to the Community.

The issue of the second funeral director to come into the village P.Emery who had not appeared to have received the same response as Norton Funeral Directors and yet they would have had the same challenges posed to them in terms of planning applications and parking

Action: Parish to write to the District Council enquiring about the use of the shop as P.Emery funeral director and question the parking issues.

118/2011 Declarations of Interest

Cllr.J.Bernard, District and County Planning Committees
Cllr.J.Beddows, Koncas

119/2011 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th March 2011

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr.T.Hurl

Seconded: Cllr.J.Bernard

120/2011 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Sign for Church - the meeting was informed that the issue of signs had been explored. The process is that an application for a sign has to be sent to the County Council who will charge a planning application fee which is non refundable of £100. If the application is agreed the work can be carried out by the County Council at a cost to the Parish. An approach has been made to the Church to ascertain if they would be prepared to contribute to the cost of this. It was suggested that 2 signs would be preferable as coming into the village from the A5 and in the centre of the village. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next Projects Committee.

Cllr.J.Beddows stated that one resident had taken matters into his own hands and replaced a sign in Butts Close at his own expense. A letter had been sent to him thanking him for his initiative.

121/2011 Change to Standing Orders

It was reported that two letters had been received requesting a change to the Standing Orders to allow the members of the public to speak on agenda items at certain times. It was agreed that this should be taken forward by the new Council. It was suggested that residents could always ask a Councillor to bring the issue forward at the meeting on their behalf.

122/2011 Police Report

No Police report was available. It was suggested that due to the frequent changes that are taking place in the Police that a request be made for the Inspector for the area to attend a future Council meeting to explain the cuts and how this will impact on the community.

The meeting was informed of an incident that occurred in the village recently whereby someone walked into a home in daylight took car keys and drove off. Residents should be reminded to make themselves safe in their own homes.

Action: Clerk to write to the Inspector responsible for this area to request attendance at future Council meeting.

123/2011 Reports from Councillors

Kingswood Lake Incinerator -Cllr.J.Bernard informed the meeting that he had recently attended a meeting called by the Health Protection Agency held at Biffa offices but at which Biffa were not invited. The meeting was held to discuss the proposed Incinerator. The Agency at that meeting outlined the procedure involved and gave ideas about how objections can be raised firstly on visual impact followed by health grounds.

Highways Division – Cllr.J.Bernard informed the meeting that the Highways Division were now using their works team to ensure that the pot holes were repaired.

Tip Island - the road by the tip island is becoming broken up due to the use of lorries. Commercial vehicles are not using the M6 Toll due to the cost.

Action: Cllr J.Bernard will inform Highways Dept of the problem.

124/2011 Reports from Committees

There had been no meetings of Committees.

125/2011 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for April which had been circulated were agreed.

Proposed: Cllr.Z.Stretton
Seconded: Cllr.J.Bernard

126/2011 Date of next Meeting - Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 18th May to take place at The Library,Norton Canes at 7 p.m.

127/2011 Items for future agendas

Development of car park area at the rear of Co-op.

The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.

Signed: Dated: