

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 16th November 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Present: Cllrs:A.Gilbert P.Gilbert
A,Bernard J.Bernard
J.Hampshire J.Beddows
Z.Stretton S.Harding
R.Bishop J.Davies
J.,Bridgen J.Preece
Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

Also in Attendance: Emma Beaman-Green, Cannock Chase AONB

213/2011 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllr.M.Hopley.

214/2011 **Public Participation**

A presentation was given by Emma Beaman-Green on the AONB which the Parish Council were now members of. The AONB is funded 75% from Defra with the remaining 20% funded from the Local Authorities of the AONB area.

Details of the membership scheme were outlined and a leaflet was distributed to the meeting giving further information. Parish Councils are on the Advisory Group which meets 4 times per year and there are 2 yearly Parish Council meetings. The AONB provides small funding opportunities for projects in local communities which this can be applied for by completing a short form and the decision is usually known within 10 days. The membership scheme enables people to take advantage of themed events which take place within the AONB area and details of the events were outlined. The meeting was told that cyclists are causing problems on the Cannock Chase.

Mrs.Beaman-Green stated that she was aware of these issues and that the Ranger Service are monitoring this and putting forward suggestions to deal with the problems.

Ivy Gardens – residents from Ivy Gardens attended the meeting and were informed that a verbal response had been received from the District Council which did not clarify anything more than was already known which was disappointing. Cllr.A.Gilbert said that she would write to the District regarding this issue and the amount of time that it

has taken for them to reply. It was suggested that residents need to check their Deeds relating to their properties and ensure that they are not exceeding their legal rights.

Lido Working Mens Club Planning application – this was raised as an issue but was agreed to discuss as an item on the agenda under Planning Committee.

Allbutts Road – residents attending the meeting raised issues relating to the closure of a bridlepath that has been in use for 42 years. West Midlands Police had put concrete bollards on the pathway to stop 4 x 4 vehicles and motorbikes using it but this has also stopped horses accessing the path. Discussion ensued on background to the pathway in question. It was stated that if the matter is not dealt with properly then the right of way will be lost. It was agreed to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer at the County Council to seek guidance relating to the designation of this right of way.

It was resolved:

Clerk to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer at the County Council and feedback to the residents concerned.

Brock Metal in Norton Green Lane – the issue of lorries parking and blocking the entrance to Norton Green Lane and the B4154 which is a highway. Suggestion that the Police be asked to look into this and also a letter be sent to the Company as a reminder to use Bettys Lane.

It was resolved:

To write to Brock Metal about the issues and remind them to use Bettys Lane.

Public Participation closed at 8.05 p.m.

215/2011 Declaration of Interest

Cllr.J.Bernard – Planning Committee District Council
Cllr.J.Preece and Cllr.R.Bishop re Lido Working Mens Club

216/2011 Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th October

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th October 2011 were taken as a true and accurate record.

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

217/2011 Matters Arising from the Minutes on the 19th October

Page 1 – Jerome Road is on the Highways list and hopefully work will be undertaken before Christmas

Page 2 – Church Road - response from Highways Dept read out to meeting.

Page 3 – Skatepark - letter has now been received from the District Council confirming that they will release the S106 money in the sum of £9,375 for use in match funding for the development of the Skatepark and the funds will only be transferred if the bid is successful. Some discussion ensued on the changes to the process for S106 funding as from 2013.

Page 3 – Koncas – it was reported that following some contact with young people in School to promote the Project 23 young people attended the Monday night session.

Page 5 – Lantern Parade – confirmation that funding had been received in the sum of £350 from Cllr.J.Rowley Community Fund to support the Lantern Parade. Schools have been asked to be involved in the making of the lanterns.

Page 6 - Remembrance Day – Cllr.A.Gilbert thanked all those who attended the Remembrance Day. Some discussion ensued on future events as it is recognised that the Norton Canes event is not as well attended as other areas and the discussion looked at ways this could change. One of the suggestions was that whilst it is remembrance day it does not always fall on a Sunday and therefore does not have to be linked to a Church Service. Other ways of remembering the event by involving local groups, schools in a more co-ordinated approach should be explored.

218/2011 Police Report

A written report from PSCO Griffiths was read to the meeting which reported that since the last meeting there has been a quiet period in the village which has been most encouraging given that Halloween and Bonfire Night events are included in this period. The meeting was informed that there has been suggestions that burglaries had taken place in Church Road but this was said to be incorrect. Some crime incidents are being experienced at business premises in Lime Lane but Police are working with the business involved to look at security measures. A Police Officer on a motorcycle will soon be seen around the village supporting the PSCO's and will be looking at speeding, use of mobiles whilst driving and seatbelts.

219/2011 Reports from Councillors:

Cllr.J.Bernard – informed the meeting of the new emergency number for the Police is 101.

Cllr.A.Bernard – raised the issue of the closure of Stafford Hospital A & E department between the hours of 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily which is ongoing for the next 3 months. This will have implications for residents as they will have to either go to Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock, or A & E Depts at Walsall Manor Hospital or New Cross, Wolverhampton. Mid Staffs Hospitals have implemented a working committee whose sole agenda item is for A & E Dept.

Discussion ensued on the issues and there was concern that as the winter months were approaching more accidents would occur at times of bad weather where hospital treatment was required. The Parish Council agreed to do what they can to help and with this in mind a suggestion that the Parish Council through the lengthsman can support gritting of public areas such as the Community Centre, area at the back of the Co-op, Library etc to help prevent accidents occurring. Cllr.J.Bernard highlighted the County Council initiative to encourage Parish Councils to support the work of the Highways Team locally. The meeting was told that the County Council cover 43% of the roads which is much more than in other areas in the UK.

It was resolved:

That the Clerk approach the County Council with regard to the local community initiative.

Cllr.S.Harding spoke about the Poppy picture which was located in the Methodist Church which had been painted by a local girl as part of her Queens Award and which was quite impressive.

220/2011 Report from Committees.

Projects: Cllr.A.Bernard gave feedback on the following:

Bus Shelter - it has been agreed to request a pole and bus stop sign to put erected on the Brownhills Road site where the previous shelter was taken down. Also request for a bus stop to be placed outside the Drs surgery which would benefit older and vulnerable people when accessing the surgery.

It was resolved:

To contact the County Council and Arriva to request bus stops be placed on the Brownhills Road and outside the Drs.Surgery.

Community Award

Nominations are being sought for the Community Award for 2011. Anyone can be nominated by writing to the Clerk at the Parish Office stating the reason why they should be considered. It was agreed that this Award should be publicised on the website, library, local schools and press.

Festive Window Competition

Letters have been circulated to shops confirming the date for judging will be the 7th December with awards being presented at the January Council meeting.

Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights will be installed and switch on is the 18th November. Christmas trees have been ordered for the Community Centre, Library and Millennium Garden and these have been supported by a grant from Cllr.J.Rowley.

Development of Land opposite Croft Bakery

The meeting was informed that 3 companies have been asked to plan and quote for the development of this piece of land to bring forward ideas for memorial theme for Remembrance Day and the heritage of the coal mining industry in the village. Also located on this site will be signposting for the village. The plans once available will go out to public consultation. It is hoped the plans are ready for January 2012 when there is an opportunity for us to bid for funds for the development.

Community Speedwatch

The meeting was informed that agreement has been reached with Heath Hayes and Wimblebury to share their equipment and contribute to the running costs. Liaison with the Police now needs to take place to take this initiative forward.

Planning - an application has been received for the development of land at 125 Norton East Road which is the rear of the Lido Working Mens Club. The application is for 3 houses on the front of the area and 3 at the back with no garages attached but allocated car spaces. Question was raised from residents about the development and the issue of car parking together with problems with access/egress from School Road which already experiences traffic problems. Discussion ensued on the application and it was agreed to take this matter

forward that a meeting be arranged with the Parish Council Planning Committee, John Hemminsley from the District Council and a resident representative to go through the application to discuss the issues and concerns before it goes to District Planning Committee. There was a general consensus amongst Councillors that this application should be opposed. Residents were also advised to individually put forward any objections to the District Council.

It was resolved:

To arrange a meeting with Parish Council Planning Committee, John Hemminsley from District Council and a resident representative.

Grid Reference 402655 308 346 10 Pool Avenue, Norton Canes

Application has been received for conservatory at rear of above property. Application considered by Councillors and no objections raised.

Grid Reference 402312 308044 50 Lingfield Road, Norton Canes

Application received for a single storey extension at above property. Application considered by Councillors and no objections raised.

Audit & Governance – no meeting has taken place.

221/2011 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was circulated to the meeting.

222/2011 Chairs Report and Correspondence

Patient Participation Group

Letter has now been received from Dr.Singh's Surgery requesting a Parish representative Patient Participation Panel which considers patients complaints and points of view. It was agreed that as Cllr.S.Harding already sits on this Panel as a resident that she should also be the Parish representative.

It was resolved:

To write to Dr.Singh's surgery nominating Cllr.S.Harding as the Parish Council representative.

A question was raised as to why this process was not inclusive of all the Drs located at the Health Centre and that this should be available to all the residents of Norton Canes. It was highlighted that this was set up for Dr.Singh's Surgery but that if other Drs wanted to set up their own panel or be part of an overall Panel there was no reason why this could not be proposed by residents themselves who needed to approach their own Drs directly.

223/2011 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for November having previously been circulated were approved for payment.

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

A request had been received from the Lengthsman to look at purchasing equipment for the collection of leaves around the village as this proves time consuming and he feels this would support his role. Discussion ensued on the costs and Cllr.J.Hampshire put forward a proposal that he loan the lengthsman the equipment o see if this is the type required and thereafter this could be looked at to purchase a new one in the next financial year ready for the Autumn.

224/2011 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 21st December at 7 p.m.

SIGNED: **DATED**