

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Projects Committee held on 20th February 2012 at Norton Canes Parish Office

Present: Cllrs, A.Bernard (Chair) A.Gilbert, P.Gilbert J.Hampshire, S.Harding, J.Bridgen. J.Davies and L.Florence (Clerk)

1. Apologies: Cllrs.J.Preece and Z.Stretton

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 26th October 2011

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th October 2011 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Matters arising were listed as agenda items.

4. Bus Shelters

The newly erected bus shelter at Norton Green Lane as had some scratch patterns in the Perspex glass. Some discussion about the cost of powder coating the shelters with anti graffiti material.

**Action: Clerk to ask Lengthsman to look at this.
Clerk to look into the costs of anti graffiti material**

Further discussion ensued as to other bus shelters which needed maintenance in Norton East Road and at the bottom of Brownhills Road.

Action: Clerk to liaise with County Council re responsibility for the maintenance of bus shelters.

5. Community Pathways Initiative

The meeting was informed that we are still trying to establish the maps for the pathways to enable us to proceed with the leaflet giving information for residents as discussed at previous meetings. This process has been somewhat lengthy due to the process that needs to be followed. Discussions have been had with Staffs County Council about providing the relevant maps and it is hoped to have these within the next few weeks. Cllr. A.Bernard requested the names of the person at the County Council as she wished to contact them to expedite this matter.

6. Burial Ground Update

Cllr P.Gilbert informed the meeting of his discussions with the District Council relating to the suggested piece of additional burial ground. Expenditure between £2,500 and maximum of £8,000 would be required to test the watertable which is a specialist process.

The meeting was informed that the Holford Group have stated that they would be prepared to sell 2/3rds of an acre to the Parish Council at a cost of £45,000. Some discussion ensued on this and it was agreed that the land quoted would only give a short term solution to the problem and that looking at the longer term picture more land would be required.

Action: Clerk to write to Holford Group outlining the longer term plan and requesting consideration of purchasing land up to a maximum of 4 acres and requesting a quote for agricultural land at price per acre.

Some discussion ensued as to the issue of car parking outside the church if the additional land was provided. This issue could cause a problem with any planning application due to access to the churchyard. It was agreed that other options may have to be considered dependant on the response from the Holford Group.

7. Skatepark Update

The Clerk informed the meeting that we now have 3 quotes for the skatepark which is required for the bid application. Some consultation has taken place and we are currently liaising with Veiola with regard to the evidence available. Deadline for submission is the 13th April.

Cllr.A.Bernard suggested Cllr.P.Gilbert support the bid application process.

8. Queens Diamond Jubilee

Cllr.A.Bernard informed the meeting that the Sub Committee for the Diamond Jubilee event have met and are looking at the format for the day. Cllr.S.Harding has stepped down as Chairman of the group and the reigns will be picked up when the Committee next meets.

9. Development of land opposite Croft Bakery

Cllr.A.Bernard informed the meeting that the District Council have now confirmed that they will transfer the piece of land in question to the Parish Council for a peppercorn rent. The project for this land can now move forward and the Committee were shown two drawings and a costing that had been received with suggestions of how this could be developed. It was agreed that this proposal for funding would need to be referred back to the full Council. In the interim consultation with local groups and residents should take place via the website, library and putting the plans on the fenced area itself. Other funding streams should be looked into to sustain the project but felt more appropriate to put a bid into Veoila for the skatepark which is a more

expensive project. It was suggested that we approach the District Council and say that we have a maximum of £10,000 to spend on the Project and ascertain what can be achieved for that sum.

Further discussion ensued on the memorial garden and the fingerpost which would all be part of the overall Project.

10. Update on Cema Project

Nothing further to report re funding of the Project. The District Council have now confirmed that they own the land in question which may change the way the development proceeds. As previous lottery funding has been unsuccessful it may be necessary to consider doing separate smaller bids.

11. Right Stuff Project

PC Lucy Spicer has approached the Parish Council to request financial support for a pilot project relating to engaging young people in a boxing activity. It was suggested that PC Spicer be asked to attend the next Projects Meeting to discuss the aims and objectives for this Project and clarify what they are looking for as contribution.

12. Amenity Signs for the Church

This issue is still ongoing and could form part of the fingerpost sign but also other signage needed as you come into Norton Canes from both the A5 access and off Walsall Road. Cllr.Audra Gilbert is meeting Father Hibbins regarding another issue and will discuss the signage with him.

13. Green Communities Report

The meeting was informed that some Council homes in the village will be receiving installation of solar panels as part of a District Council pilot.

14. Community Speedwatch

Police are progressing this initiative in the village and training will be undertaken shortly when they have the number of volunteers required. Agreement has been reached with Heath Hayes Speedwatch group to share their equipment and make a contribution to the standard testing costs.

15. Any Other Business

Maintenance of roundabouts at Turf Island and Blakeney Way - Cllr.J.Hampshire raised the issue of the condition of the roundabout particularly at Turf Island. The response from the Highways Agency was that this was something they would undertake and there were some issues of access for health and safety reasons. It was agreed that Cllr.J.Davies would look into this matter further and report back to a future meeting.

Action: Cllr.J.,Davies to investigate further to see how we can progress this matter.

Stones on Church Road

Cllr.S.Harding informed the meeting that the stones from the Winding Wheel base from Jerome Colliery are transferred to the green area on Church Road /Butts Lane. CHAPS are working with the Mining Historical Society to get some form of recognition for the stones.

Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Signed: Dated