

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 15TH February 2012 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Library

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

Also in attendance: PC.Lucy Spicer (for first part of meeting)
PCSO Andy Turnock (for first part of meeting)

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

257/2012 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllr.J.Beddows

258/2012 **Public Participation**

Precept 2012-13 – query raised as to why the Precept was discussed under Confidential matters at last Council meeting. The process for discussing the Precept was explained and made clear that this information is for the public domain and copies can be obtained via the website and at the Parish Council office.

Norton Canes Primary School Ofsted Report – concern raised relating to the Ofsted Report which was deemed inadequate in every area and enquiry as to what steps are being taken to address this matter. Discussion ensued on the process that should be followed and residents were asked to personally write to the Governors with their enquiries.

It was resolved:

That the Clerk write to the Chair of Governors regarding the issues raised at the meeting relating to the Ofsted report.

Traffic on Newlands Lane - issue of traffic on Newlands Lane which involves large lorries going to the DHL Building was raised at this road should not be used for this type of traffic and it is also causing damage to the road. It was suggested that as part of the planning application it was agreed that the gates would be closed which appears not to be what is happening. The signs have been erected at each end of

Newlands Lane to state that the road is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles but this seems to be ignored. Need to explore adding a weight restriction on the notice.

It was resolved:

To contact the District Council about this issue and request they take some action to alleviate the problem.

Dog fouling - it was reported that dog fouling in the village is becoming a problem. Some concern expressed as some of the areas in question are play areas. The bins that are provided seem to be always full which pre-empts people from using them. Signs need to be reviewed to ensure they are there to deter people. It was suggested that one route to tackle the problem would be to alert residents to the issue by putting notice in the press.

It was resolved:

To write to the District Council requesting help with this problem.

Development of land re Lido Working Mens Club - the meeting was informed that the application for this development was going before the District Planning Committee on the 22nd February. Mr. James Harris representing Quality Properties Ltd who are the developers outlined to the plans to the meeting and answered questions relating to the development.

Public Participation closed at 8 p.m.

259/2012 Declaration of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors as follows:

Cllr.J.Bernard District Council Planning Committee

260/2012 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18th and 25th January 2012

The minutes of the meetings held on the 18th and 25th January 2012 were taken as a true record. .

Proposed: Cllr.S.Harding
Seconded: Cllr.P.Gilbert

261/2012 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 18th January 2012

Page 1 - Cllr.A.Bernard wished it to be recorded that she was in attendance at the meeting held on the 18th January.

Page 2 – Jerome Road – this work still remains to be completed.

Page 3 – Richborough Estates – although a response has been received from developer regarding the concerns raised it was felt that it still did not address the issue of improving the ground as this requires to be reseeded to enable proper grazing to take place and some question if this is not done would it be ready in the timescale suggested. Question raised as to the cost of the keeping the horses on the new site and will this be subsidised as currently the rents are quite low. The response received also stated that parking was in the plan for those people who use the area for grazing horses. The developer had referred to the inclusion of an area for allotments which was viewed as a positive contribution which may be something that the Parish Council wish to manage.

It was resolved:

To write to Richborough Estates outlining the queries raised and ask for clarification.

Cllr.Z.Stretton raised the issue of the S106 money which was stated in the letter and referred to a sum of £50,000 being allocated to develop football pitches in Heath Hayes. She informed the meeting that she felt that any S106 money should be for the benefit of Norton Canes and feels that the identified money should go towards the sports hall development at the Community Centre. Included in the S106 money was some development for Five Ways Island and discussion ensued on the need for this to be looked at in terms of the amount of traffic control required with the additional cars from the new developments.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 25th January 2012

Page 1 – Koncas - no feedback at present.

262/2012 Police Report

PC Spicer outlined some changes in Staffordshire Police workloads.

PCSO's

will be having some extra powers which includes the power to detain and search someone for drugs which is seen as a positive move. PCSO's can also now issue a ticket for disorder enforcing S20 or 527 but this would not really affect Norton Canes. The question was raised as to the crime in Norton Canes to which the Police responded that there is no real trend in the village. Burglary in the village is very low and it was reported that a property marking initiative has been undertaken re bikes and mobile phones which would help to identify stolen items more easily.

PC Spicer outlined a Project called the Right Stuff which they want to pilot in Norton Canes. The benefits of the Project were discussed and PC

Spicer was requesting financial support to set up the Project and gave a breakdown of the costings.

PCSO Andy Turnock gave an update on the Community Speedwatch initiative which he was leading on and informed the meeting that he is awaiting the information leaflets to be distributed to residents. Once these have been delivered the Police will be visiting addresses to enlist 5-6 volunteers. The Parish Council have already agreed with Heath Hayes and Wimblebury that the equipment they use can be shared. A question was raised about whether the volunteers would directly have to confront the motorist which PCSO Turnock explained the process.

PCSO Andy Turnock informed the meeting that he and PCSO Neil Griffiths were undertaking a half marathon with proceeds going to the Cema Project and requested support for this. It was agreed to circulate the sponsor sheet.

263/2012 Reports from Councillors

Chasewater – Cllr.J.Bernard informed the meeting that 100,000 ton of concrete has now been poured into Chasewater and it is intended to let it fill up naturally and if not full within 12 months will be topped up.

Friends of Norton Bog – Cllr.John Hampshire informed the meeting that the working group had met and there had been 20 people in attendance which was very impressive.

Highways – Cllr.John Hampshire referred to the schedule of work that had been previously agreed with Mark Keeling from the County Council. Some work had been completed but it was felt that this list now needed to be refreshed.

264/2012 Reports from Committees

Planning – the following planning applications were considered:

CH/12/0024 -Retention of change of use of unit to car sales/storage 2 Maple House, Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes.

Some concern about the application as more information required to make a decision for example, what is the opening hours and how many vehicles will this involve. Also issue of parking in the corridor between factory and unit and on grass verge would be deemed to be a problem.

Action: Write to the Planning Officer to request more information.

CH/12/0025 – Single Storey rear extension. 61 Brownhills Road, Norton Canes

No objection raised.

Projects – Cllr.A.Bernard informed the meeting that the District Council, have now confirmed that they would transfer the land on on the junction of Brownhills Road/Burntwood Road (opposite Croft Bakery) to the Parish Council for a peppercorn rent. The Project for the development of this area can now proceed and consultation will be taking place with local groups.

Queens Diamond Jubilee – Cllr.S.Harding reported on the progress regarding the Queens Diamond Jubilee event to be held on the 4th June at the Community Centre and gave an update on where we were at in terms of planning for the event.

Community Pathways Initiative – Information relating to the Community Pathways initiative for 2012-13 was mentioned and Cllr.J.Hampshire was given the letter as he is leading on the public pathways in the village.

Audit and Governance – no meeting has taken place.

265/2012 Chairmans Report and Correspondence

Civic Service – the meeting was reminded of the date of the Civic Service as Sunday 11th March 2012 at 3 p.m. at St.James Church followed by light refreshments at the Community Centre. The Chairman circulated a list of those groups which she had identified to give donations to.

Correspondence – a request had been received from a resident to query the signs coming into the village which referred to being twinned with Western Springs and wanted information relating to this. Cllr.Z.Stretton clarified the position with regard to the signs as this is required to be done in this way as Cannock and Rugeley towns form part of the Cannock Chase but Cannock itself is twinned with Dattelen in Germany whilst Rugeley is twinned with Western Springs.

Action: Clerk to respond to the enquiry.

266/2012 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for February having previously been circulated were agreed for payment.

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

267/2012 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Community Centre, Norton Canes.

SIGNED **DATED**