

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 18th January 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Library, Norton Canes

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

238/2012 Public Participation:

Community Award - Cllr.A.Gilbert presented the Community Award for 2011 to Mrs.Pat Littler for her volunteering within the community.

Presentation of \$137 Awards - Cllr.A.Gilbert presented funding to local groups in the community to support their continued work and development. The full list of groups is attached.

Festive Window Competition - Cllr.A.Gilbert presented the winners of the Festive Window Competition for 2011 with their trophies as follows:

1st Place - Chequers Hairdressers
2nd Place - Creations Hairdressers
3rd Place - J.D.Nevell

239/2012 Apologies: Cllrs.J and A Bernard

240/2012 Declaration of Interest

Declaration of interest were noted as follows:

CllrsJ.Beddows, Hopley and Davies re Koncas

241/2012 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st December 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st December 2011 were taken as a true and accurate record.

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

242/2012

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 21st December 2011

Page 1 - Richborough Estates - Cllr.R.Bishop wished clarification on the statement of 14% of the proposed development would be affordable housing. Cllr.Z.Stretton explained the percentage split of the development.

Page 2 – Ivy Gardens - a meeting has taken place with John Hemminsley from the Planning Dept Cannock Chase District Council with the residents of Ivy Gardens. He has advised them that any grievance would need to followed through as a civil matter and that the District Council would not be able to be involved.

Page 3 – Cema Project – Cllr.S.Harding outlined the next steps for this Project following the lottery funding application being rejected. The group were now looking to identify different funding streams to support the development and will be getting the field registered as part of the Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields initiative which may attract funding. It has been established that the field belongs to the District Council and a meeting is being arranged to take this forward in terms of the upkeep and maintenance in the future.

Page 3 – Jerome Road – work is still to be completed.

243/2012

Police Report

There was no Police Report available.

244/2012

Reports from Councillors

Practitioners Committee - Cllr.S.Harding gave feedback from the Practitioners Committee. Cllr.Harding referred to Health & Well Being Board meeting on the 1st April.

Friends of Norton Bog – Cllr.S.Harding informed the meeting that she had attended the first session of the volunteering project for carrying out conservation tasks at Norton Bog. This had been well attended with about 12 volunteers and the next date is set for the 12th February.

245/2012

Reports from Committees

Audit & Governance – Cllr.P.Gilbert informed the meeting that the Audit and Governance Committee had met on the 5th January where discussions relating to the Precept for 2012-13 and Koncas took place. Recommendations will be considered under Confidential matters.

Projects & Village Enhancement – Cllr.A.Bernard gave an update on the Projects Committee. A request is being made to the District Council for a peppercorn rent to be agreed and the land opposite the Croft Bakery be

transferred to the Parish Council to enable this to be developed as a feature for the village.

A sub committee has been formed for the Queens Diamond Jubilee which includes schools, Community Partnership, Friends of Norton Canes and will involve wider community groups in the future. The event will take place at the Community Centre on the 4th June and Councillor A.Bernard outlined the programme for the day which was being taken forward by the sub committee.

Cllr.A.Bernard requested the Parish Council to consider ringfencing a sum of money to underwrite this community event to ensure that it can move forward in the planning. Any profits that are made on the day could come back into the Parish funds. It was also agreed that the Partnership would be approached.

The item for expenditure will be discussed under the Precept in Confidential matters.

Planning

The following planning applications were considered:

CH/12/0006 – Application for change of use from a house with bed and breakfast to a ground floor flat with 3 bed sits on first floor.

Application was considered and felt to be in keeping with its current facility and that there was ample car parking spaces available. Cllr.Z.Stretton agreed to look into this application on behalf of the Council and inform the Clerk

CH/12/0020 – Retention of change of use of part of garden to private parking area.

No objection

246/2011

Chairman's Report and Correspondence

Cllr.A.Gilbert referred to a letter that had been received from Richborough Estates which contained information relating to the queries raised at the last Council meeting. As the letter was lengthy in its response it was suggested that this should be circulated to Councillors after the meeting for them to consider and report back to the Clerk.

Action: Circulate letter to Councillors.

Other incoming and outgoing post was noted.

Confidential Items

249/2012 Precept for 2012-13

The Precept for 2012-13 had been prepared following discussions at the Audit and Governance meeting held on the 5th January when a review of the expenditure for 2012 had taken place.

Cllr.P.Gilbert discussed the budget and made recommendations for efficiency savings where necessary. In particular the budget for the skatepark maintenance was reviewed and considered that as we employ a Lengthsman the tasks undertaken on the skatepark sit within the remit of this job description. It was agreed therefore that notice should be given to the Community Centre that as from the 1st April 2012 we would not require the services of the Community Centre in maintaining the upkeep of the skatepark. Cllr.J.Davies suggested that the expenditure for the Lengthsman should be broken down into labour costs and expenditure for items which would enable a true picture of expenditure for this post.

The Clerk raised the issue of the energy costs for the Parish Office and confirmed that undertaking research on the running costs a more favourable supplier has been found which will provide significant savings.

It was resolved:

Authority given for the Clerk to negotiate new contract for energy costs for the Parish Office.

Cllr.J.Hampshire raised the costs associated with hire of rooms and suggested that the Library should be considered as a venue for Council meetings in the future as this was free of charge. It was stated that whilst this would be a saving this amount paid for hiring the rooms is seen as a support regarding income for the Community Centre and if required to save money in the future then this could be revisited.

Other amendments to the budget were an inclusion of a contingency for forthcoming elections which should be made in each financial year running up to the next elections. Previously the Lantern Parade had not received any funding in the Parish budget but it was felt that this was a valued event for the community and that an amount of £350 should be included in the budget for this event to take place in 2012. The Queens Diamond Jubilee celebration was taking place in 2012 and this was a one off expenditure against the budget. It was suggested that the Parish should support an event of this type and agreed to ringfence a sum of £1,500 to enable this event to take place.

It was reported that the Precept for 2012-13 with the above inclusions had remained at £49,000 with no increase.

It was resolved:

That the Precept for 2012-13 as circulated was agreed. All members present voted in favour of acceptance. Clerk to write to the District Council to confirm that the Precept for 2012-13 will be £49,000.

250/2012

Koncas

Cllr.J.Beddows presented a Business Plan to the meeting giving aims and objectives for the Project post September 2012. Discussion ensued on the contents of the business plan which was felt to have some inaccuracies and outdated information. It was noted that the lease on Unit 13 expires in September 2012 and the Parish Council is required to give notice on the lease in March 2012. Koncas are looking to identify other funding streams to support the Project but wish to approach the Parish Council to continue its financial support in some way to sustain the Project. Other alternatives for this type of youth provision were discussed together with other suitable venues.

Councillors felt that they required more indepth information relating to finance and other relevant information to enable them to consider the request as follows:

1. Amount of funding requested to support the Project.
2. Information relating to how Koncas can sustain itself in the future through income generation.
3. Contact with Sunflex re terms of lease to ascertain if they would agree to extend Lease for Koncas and at what cost.

Date of next meeting scheduled for 25th January 2012. Clerk to email details to Councillors.

Signed **Dated**