

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 19th December 2012 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Present: J.Beddows J.Hampshire
J.Bernard Z.Stretton
A.Bernard M.Hopley
R.Bishop
Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

369/2012 **Public Participation**

Police Action – Mr.R.Knowles raised the matter of police response relating to an incident of a reported theft of items from storage containers located at the Community Centre. The value of the items stolen was reported to be significant but the query raised was to why the Police did not act sooner as the incident was reported as it was actually taking place. Other problems were raised about some minor problems and question asked as to whether the local police do know what is happening in the village. A letter should be sent to the Inspector raising these matters of concern.

The meeting was told that the new Police Commissioner firmly believes in high visibility policing so changes may be on the way.

One of the issues maybe that people are coming into the village to carry out crime and it has been noted that the gate at the toll road is being left open which encourages people coming from the M6 toll into the village. The District Council should be approached to ask why the gate is open as part of the planning application was that the gate should be closed at all times.

Action: Clerk to write to Inspector re local policing and problems with reported crime.

Clerk to write to District Council re M6 toll gate being left open.

Highways Problems – it was reported that there are still outstanding issues with reported highways work that needs to be carried out and the use of signs that are irrelevant. A suggestion that a representative from the Highways Team should attend a Parish Council to address these issues.

Action: Cllr.J.Bernard agreed to liaise with the Highways Dept re attendance at meeting.

Church Road - the patched road on Church Road was raised as it was very poor. The meeting was informed that this matter would be

addressed when the new development takes place as there will be money available to upgrade this road.

Blakeney Way - problem raised with regard to the dirt on the Blakeney Way due to the new APC development. Part of the planning application should have included a wheel wash and roadsweeper on site to alleviate some of these issues.

Aneorbic Digestion Plant - the problem of smells from this plant have been reported. Action has been taken and reported to the Environment Agency. A recent public meeting in Heath Hayes raised further concerns which the Environment Agency have now had to take action on and Biffa who run the plant were given a clear message that they are no longer welcome in Cannock area. The Company have been given until the end of March to resolve the problems and if this is not rectified then there will be a Court Order to close the plant down.

As plant sits within the Norton Canes boundary it was agreed that we should write to the Environment Agency to state that the plant is becoming a nuisance to residents.

Action: Clerk to write to Environment Agency

First Responders – Paul Dadge attended the meeting to make the Parish Council aware of the service provided by First Responders. This is a response service that is run by volunteers who have been specially trained by the West Midlands Ambulance Service but rely on funding to continue the service for the running costs of the vehicle. Mr.Dadge outlined the work of the team and put forward suggestions about how this could be taken forward with the village.

Public Participation closed at 7.30 p.m.

370/2012 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs.P.Gilbert, A.Gilbert, J.Davies S.Harding, J.Preece and J.Bridgen

371/2012 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interests were received from:

Cllr.J.Bernard	District Planning
Cllr.Z.Stretton	District Planning and WRVS, Friends of Norton Canes
Cllr.J.Beddows	Koncas
Cllr.M.Hopley	Koncas, NCCA and Community Partnership

372/2012 Minutes and Matters Arising from meeting held on 21st November 2012

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2012 was agreed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard

Seconded: Cllr.Z.Stretton

Page 1 – Scrap Metal Dealers -it was agreed in the Minutes that the item re Scrap Metal Dealers would be a continuing agenda item to ensure that we do not lose site of this issue until feedback is received of the actions taken. Environment Dept have been informed and request that a visit is made to the area at the weekend as this is the time when most of the problems arise.

Page 1 - Chairman's Civic Service – Cllr.Z.Stretton stated that she had not yet heard from Father Hibbins re a date for the Civic Service despite several attempts to get in touch with him. It was agreed that if no response was forthcoming that consideration be given to the event taking place at the Methodist Church.

Page 1 – Christmas Lights – it was commented that there had been an improvement in the lights being switched on outside the Co-op. It was noted that the whole village was very festive and people had made a real effort in decorating their houses. It was suggested that this could be recognised in the future by holding a festive house competition and donate energy lamps as the prize. This could be promoted in the Village Newsletter.

Page 3 – Norton Lodge Farm – Cllr.J.Bernard informed the meeting that the Gating Order would now completed by the middle of next year. It was reported that not enough complaints had come through.

Page 3 – Kingswood Lakeside – the meeting was informed that once the whole site is completed a new road surface will be available.

Question raised as to whether the District Council when considering the planning have taken into account the actual number of vehicles that will be using this road.

Page 4 – Skatepark - the meeting was told that a group of young people and representatives from the Parish Council had recently met with a Company about the installation of the skatepark and we are currently awaiting a redesigned structure from them.

Page 4 – Norton Festival – the date of the Festival had been changed to Saturday 13th July 2013 due to certain attractions not being able to commit to the original date of the 6th July.

Page 6 – Forensic Marking Scheme – a working group is taking this initiative forward.

373/2012 Police Report

A written report from PSCO Neil Griffiths was read to the meeting which referred to recent activities in the village. There has been two reported

thefts in the village one of a motor vehicle at the rear of the Co-op and a left of a caravan from the Norton Grange area. A report of vandalism along the pathway leading from Jerome Road to the Mount play part which the Police are appealing for witnesses as youths were spotted fleeing this area.

374/2012 Reports from Councillors

Cllr.J.Bernard – informed the meeting that as the representative on the Standards Committee he reported that the Code of Conduct adopted by the District Council and which many Parish Councils have also adopted will be reviewed in July 2013 to ensure that the document is fit for purpose.

Cllr.J.Bernard also informed the meeting of the changes in decisions re planning applications as he had recently been on some training course provided by the District Council. One of the main objections to how planning applications are decided is the influence that Parish Councils have. It appears that currently whilst the Parish Council may put forward their views it is the decision of the Officer involved. The change has now been agreed that should a Parish Council put forward objections to applications that the decision has to be that of the full planning committee and will be included in the District's law.

Cllr.J.Hampshire – as representative on the Community Partnership he gave feedback regarding minutes of a meeting that had been circulated. Some discussion ensued on the contents. Cllr.Z.Stretton stated that she had received an invitation to attend the next meeting.

Cllr.J.Hampshire also reported that the work on the island leading out of Norton Canes on the Brownhills Road had been completed and bulbs have been planted. A vote of thanks to all those involved was proposed by the Chairman.

Cllr.J.Hampshire raised the issue to the condition of the pathway leading out of Norton Canes at the top of Burntwood Road. The potholes on the road in this area are a cause of concern as they are holding the water. One of the main issues is that behind the hedgerow there is a bank which is believed to have a lake behind it between 30 - 50 yds wide and the brook coming from it could be blocked. Further investigation needs to take place to find the source of the problem.

Action: Clerk to contact the District Council to ascertain who owns the land behind the hedgerow.

Cllr.J.Hampshire stated that he felt the Chairman was in a position given his previous District experience to offer support with issues that come into the Parish Office and that a suggestion made that he could visit the Parish office once a week to offer this support.

375/2012

Reports from Committees

Planning - CH/12/0403) - application had been received for a change of use from general industry to storage and distribution at Durapipes Ltd on Walsall Road. Cllr.Z.Stretton informed the meeting that she had become involved in this application due to a number of residents approaching her with concerns and the application has now been deferred until the 31st January to enable further investigations to take place. She has requested further information about the application and a site visit has been arranged for early January with the Planning Dept of the Council and the Director of the Company. The Health Protection Agency have also been contacted in relation to the application.

CH/11/0405 – application for material amended to planning permission to plots 4 and 5 on 12 Chapel Street Norton Canes. Application was considered and no objections raised.

Projects - Cllr.A.Bernard gave an update on the Projects Committee. The village newsletter was progressing well with a number of articles from community groups coming forward. To accommodate all the articles received it had been agreed that a further 4 pages should be included in the first edition. The end of January/early February is the identified date for the printing of the Newsletter.

Development of land on Brownhills Road/Burntwood Road - Cllr.A.Bernard informed the meeting that the draft lease has now been received from the District Council and independent legal advice on the document has been sought from the SPCA. To avoid any further delay Cllr.A.Bernard requested authorisation from Councillors for herself and the Chairman to be able to sign off this document before the next Council meeting.

It was resolved:

That Cllr.A.Bernard and the Chairman should proceed with the signing of the Lease once the independent legal advice had been received.

Audit and Governance - no meeting has taken place.

376/2012

S137 Awards & Community Awards

Applications have been received from various community groups and external organisations such as St.Giles Hospice and Cruse Bereavement. Cllr.J.Bernard as Chair of Audit and Governance had reviewed the applications and to make the process run more smoothly had come up with a suggested list for Councillors to discuss. The list was circulated to the meeting and discussion ensued on the applications.

A format for the provision of S137 grants was agreed for this current year as per the list attached to the Minutes.

It was resolved:

To make the S137 payments as per the attached schedule.

Community Awards – the community award nominations were given to the meeting. Two nominations were received and it was agreed that as not all Councillors were available to make the decision that the nominations should be sent to all Councillors for a decision. The youth endeavour award as nominated by schools was considered. It was agreed that the nomination should go to Jake Groom of Year 7.

377/2012 Floods in Stag Crescent

Cllr.J.Hampshire wished to raised the issue of the problems being encountered by residents on Stag Crescent regarding the recent flooding. This issues has been problematic for some residents that back on to the brook for many years but the recent increase in flooding has now become worse. One of the main problems is finding who is responsible for the maintenance of the brook and where the actual problem stems from. The residents can no longer get insurance for their properties. It was felt that the Parish Council should be aware of these issues and put some pressure on agencies to find out the root of the problem. Cllr.John Rowley is exploring the matter with the District Council.

378/2012 Chairman's Report and Correspondence

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had attended various events including the Darby & Joan Christmas Party, Community Carol Service, District Chairman's Charity Ball, Lantern Parade and Poppy Dance at the Civic Centre.

379/2012 Authorisation of Accounts

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

Proposed: Cllr.A.Bernard
Seconded: Cllr.J.Bernard

380/2012 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th January 2012 at 7 p.m. Venue to be confirmed.

SIGNED: **DATED**