

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: J.Beddows J.Bernard
A.Bernard A.Gilbert
J.Davies M.Hopley
S.Harding
Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

Also in attendance:

Cllr.J.Rowley

Mr.Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer, Cannock Chase

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

329/2012

Public Participation

Mr.Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer for Cannock Chase gave a presentation to the meeting on forensic marking and the pilot areas that the County Council were working on at this time. Part of his role was to look at trends of crime particularly relating to burglary and theft in the Cannock Chase area and look at what can be done to deal with the problems. Norton Canes is identified as a low risk area with only small numbers of crimes being reported. The forensic marking systems used in other areas has seen a significant drop some up to 60% since the initiative came on board.

Mr.Hunt explained to the meeting the process for the forensic marking system. The costs of the system was discussed and although this is a cost to the householder at the beginning their household insurance premiums have reduced because they are signed up to this system. Signs are place in the village to alert people to the fact that forensic marking systems are being used and this deters burglars from coming into the area as they are unsure which houses have the systems in place.

Councillor John Rowley has committed to financially support the roll out of this system by purchasing up to 60 kits from his Community Fund to support the residents in Norton Canes area giving priority to those people who have been burgled in the past, vulnerable group of residents such as pensioners who live alone and those who have learning difficulties. To kick start this initiative in the area Councillor Rowley is seeking the support of the Parish Council for this initiative by requesting a group of volunteers to go and talk to residents about the Project. Some discussion ensued on how the fairness of providing this opportunity to some residents and not others. It was agreed to have a further discussion at the next meeting to see how this would be communicated to residents.

Mr.Hunt confirmed that they would continue to monitor and analyse the area and where changes occur would react appropriately.

The Neighbourhood Watch system was mentioned and information provided on this service which is still in operation in some areas of the village.

It was agreed that the forensic marking system is something that the Parish Council would wish to support and need to look at how best this can be carried out and communicated to residents.

It was resolved:

To put this as an agenda item for next Council meeting for further discussion.

Water Margin – following an enquiry into the Parish Office the Clerk had liaised with Wyrley Estates as to the situation with regard to the Water Margin. It was confirmed that this building has now been demolished and currently awaiting plans of what it is intended to do with this site. The Parish Council have been advised to contact the Estates again in December when more information will be known.

School Road – query raised with regard to the road signs for School Road. Cllr.J.Bernard confirmed that this was being actioned for the entrance from Norton East Road into School Road. 1 sign has already been put up on the school railings to state where school road commences after the Poplar Street turning.

Butts Road – at a previous meeting the issue of the overgrown bushes on the corner of Butts Road was raised. Highways Dept have confirmed that they have undertaken this work but it was felt that the wrong part of Butts Road had been done. The access from Butts Road is still poor. Mr.Knowles stated that he was willing to cut this back to enable the task to be resolved.

330/2012 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs.P.Gilbert, Z.Stretton, R,Bishop, J Preece, J.Hampshire, J.Bridgen.

331/2012 Declarations of Interest

Cllr.J.Bernard - District and County Planning

332/2012 Minutes and Matters Arising from meeting held on 15th August 2012

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th August 2012 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

333/2012 Police Report

No police report was available. Discussion ensued on the lack of attendance or reports at Parish meetings. The Police are now finding different ways of communicating with local communities through their newsletter rather than a presence at meetings. It was agreed that this newsletter should be linked to the Parish website so residents can be informed of what is happening locally and receive the information. Due to the accident involving PCSO Andy Turnock this now only leaves 2 PCSO's covering Norton Canes and Heath Hayes..

Action: Clerk to write to Chief Inspector Ratcliffe stating that 1.5 PCSO's is not enough to cover the area.

334/2012 Reports from Councillors

Cllr.J.Bernard gave feedback to the meeting relating the crime figures in the area that he receives from the Police as a County Councillor. There has been a 70% decrease in serious crime incidents since 2011 to date. Violence incidents with injury was reported as 27 cases in 2011 with 10 in 2012. With less serious violence cases being reported as 26 in 2011 and 9 in this current year.

335/2012 Reports from Committees

Projects - Cllr.A.Bernard gave feedback on the projects being considered as follows:

Norton Festival – this event is being planned for the 6th July 2013 following the success of the Queens Diamond Jubilee event and by public demand. Cllr. John Rowley has supported the event through his Community Fund in the sum of £600 to enable the booking of activities in advance for the event.

Parish Council was asked to consider the contribution for next year's Festival to enable this event to proceed. It was agreed that the sum of £1500 be set aside to support the event.

It was resolved:

That £1500 be put forward to support the Norton Festival event.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard

Seconded: Cllr.A.Gilbert

Lease for Millennium Garden – Cllr.A.Bernard raised the fact that the Lease was due to expire in April 2013. The District Council had been approached with regard to this matter and a letter had been received stating that the Parish Council could continue to occupy the land in question holding over the terms and conditions of the existing lease.

It was resolved:

That the Parish Council should retain the Lease as outlined. All members in attendance were in favour of the proposal.

Burial Ground - the Church PCC have arranged a meeting for the 27th September to discuss the issue. Cllrs.Z.Stretton and J.Bridgen will be representing the Parish Council at this meeting.

Blakeney Island – the clearing of Blakeney Island ready for planting of bulbs needs to be carried out. The Lengthsman and Cllr.J.Hampshire have looked at this but they do not have the available equipment to undertake this work. A quote had been received for £250 to clear the island and Council were asked to consider this expenditure.

It was resolved:

To agree the sum of £250 to clear the island to enable planting to take place in readiness for the Spring.

Development of Jubilee Gardens - the District Council had been approached to ascertain if the if legal costs for this Lease could be waived. A reply had been received that the legal costs of up to £350 would need to be met as this was part of the Cabinet resolution at the time the agreement to lease the land was made.

It was resolved:

To accept the decision re the legal charges

Skatepark – the Lease was now ready for signature and duly signed by the Chairman of the Council and an independent witness. The outcome of the funding bid would be know at the end of October.

Community Leaflet – funding has been obtained through the County Council Pathways Initiative for £250. The leaflet is currently being worked on and aerial photos are being taken. Distribution of the leaflet will be in March/April 2013.

Planning

No Planning applications had been received since last meeting.

One Decision Notice re 1 Church Vale for mono pitched roof over garage, single storey extension and rear conservatory was noted.

Audit and Governance

Cllr.J.Bernard gave feedback on Audit and Governance matters:

Annual Return - confirmation had now been received from the Audit Commission that the figures in the Annual Return were approved and that there were no actions for Council to note.

AONB – the membership for this group was now due for renewal and members were asked if they wished the Parish Council to be a member for the ensuing year.

It was resolved:

To agree that the Parish Council be a member of AONB for the ensuing year.

Insurance Renewal - the Parish Council were taking the opportunity to review its insurance arrangements with Came and Co on the 27th September. The insurance renewal has been received for the ensuing year for £1,470.59. This forms part of a 3 year policy that was taken out in 2011.

The meeting was informed that the Parish strimmer had been stolen from the Lengthsman vehicle. The Police have been informed. Discussion ensued as to whose insurance responsibility this came under and it was agreed to speak to the Lengthsman as it was felt it should form part of a claim on his own insurance.

Website renewal - the web developer had put forward two options for renewal. One being the hosting fee of £75 for the year and the other a hosting fee plus web support at a cost of £275. It was agreed that the hosting fee of £75 should be paid and that the Clerk should now take responsibility for the maintaining of the website in the future.

It was resolved:

To enter into the agreement for the hosting of the website for a further year at a cost of £75.

336/2012 Koncas

A Business Plan had been received from Koncas but on consideration the Parish Council felt that more financial information should be included to enable an informed decision to be made.

It was resolved:

To request further financial information from Koncas in support of the Business Plan and for the item to be put on the next Council agenda for further discussion.

337/2012 Cema Project

Cllr S.Harding gave an update of where the Cema Project and referred to a letter that she had sent to the District Council. It has now been confirmed that the land does belong to the District Council who are in support of the Project and welcome any funding that can be obtained to develop the area. Cllr.Harding has consulted with a number of users of the area and encouraged them to be part of the group to take this initiative forward and so the Project is now moving in a different direction and does not form part

of Friends of Norton Canes. Cllr.J.Davies has offered support to this Project but further Parish Council involvement needs to be established which will need to be discussed at a future meeting.

338/2012 Clerk's Pension

It was agreed to carry forward this item to the next Council meeting.

339/2012 Community Link

It was agreed to set up a small sub group to work on the development of the Community Link. Discussion ensued on the content of the Link and agreed that a new format should be looked into. Need to consider printing and distribution costs. Janet Lee was thanked for her attendance and offering to help and support the Link. Information could also appear on the Website.

It was resolved:

The Clerk to set up a small working group to consist of Janet Lee, Julie Bullock, Cllrs Z.Stretton, S.Harding and A.Bernard.

340/2012 Chairman's Report and Correspondence

The Chairman reported on the following letters that had been received:

- Letter from Post Office giving details of the changes to the Post Office counter arrangements at Norton East Post Office. **Noted.**
- Letter from Highways Agency re restricted road order relating to A5 trunk road Churchbridge to Brownhills. **Noted**

341/2012 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for September having previously been circulated were Approved for payment. One additional cheque which is required to be paid which arrived after the circulation of the Council papers is for the summer hanging baskets to Jack Moody Limited in the sum of £780.

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

342/2012 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 17th October 2012 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Items for next Agenda

- 1. Clerk's Pension carried forward**
- 2. Cema Project for further discussion**
- 3. Koncas pending further information**

SIGNED: DATED