

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Red Lion Restaurant, Newborough at 7.30pm on Monday, 11th October 2010.

Present:

Cllrs. P. Macpherson (Chairman), A. Nelson (Vice Chairman). R. Oakley. Mrs. B. Skipper. W. Prince. 1 Vacancy. Ian Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public present: Mr. Ron Skipper and Mr. Crispin Turner.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr. A. Litchfield.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None were made.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

Since the last meeting, the council has pursued alternatives to the Pur Brook bridge closure diversion scheme. Extensive negotiations between Staffordshire Highways and the council have explored alternatives, but many are unsuitable, or too long, which means that drivers will use local knowledge to take unauthorised shortcuts on unsuitable or unclassified roads. The council is still anxious about traffic being routed past the school (also across the school crossing point) and if no further alternative can be found, has the assurance of Staffordshire Highways that they will work with the council on the diversion signage, to ensure the dangers – particularly around the school – are highlighted. The chairman has also met with the Head teacher and asked her to include a warning in their Friday newsletter, particularly for parents crossing the square with children. Single-track roads will be protected with additional signage as being 'unsuitable' and the council will have an opportunity to review the signage plans later this week and to ask for revisions as it monitors behaviour once works begin.

The council has received two planning applications in the month, which required consideration in advance of this meeting. Both were discussed with the Vice Chairman and, as they were un-contentious, were returned with no comments.

A further letter has been received from a Parishioner regarding development of the land behind The Villa in Chapel Lane. This raised concerns about the removal of the hedge and whether or not the Conservation Area had been compromised. Discussions are ongoing with ESBC and a reply will be sent.

In respect of the village website, the chairman had a fruitful meeting with Nigel Albiston and has made a few amendments to the Minutes and Agenda sections for the PC pages. The chairman has also placed an advertisement in the Parish Magazine for a Webmaster and asked the Clerk to place a similar advertisement on our notice board.

The chairman has also placed a request for nominations for a BKV 'champion' for Newborough in the magazine. The council awaits responses. Both of these will be in the November issue.

The chairman attended a presentation in Burton on the government initiative 'Big Society'. In essence, this is to devolve responsibility down into the community from central and local government and is seen as positive in some respects. It could mean more authority and possibly greater workload for existing organisations (such as Parish Councils), but there are no firm guidelines on what exactly will be pushed downwards, nor how it will be regulated – more on this as it becomes clearer.

The chairman has also held a meeting with the Head teacher at Needwood School regarding use of the facilities and has been approached by a number of organisations with

comments and regards these as 'teething problems'. The council will work with the Head teacher and report back to the relevant organisations.

The chairman has been looking into the subject of Standing Orders with the Clerk. The council has some guidelines from NALC and invited the Vice Chairman to join with the chairman in drafting an up to date set of Standing Orders to be considered at either the November or December meeting.

4. Public Forum:

Mr. Ron Skipper was invited to speak. He said that he was considering submitting a planning application to erect a micro generation wind turbine on his land. He produced several documents including a site plan and scale elevation drawing. He has already spoken to several neighbours about his proposal. ESBC have said to apply and they will consider the application.

Cllr. Nelson said that it was not in the councils remit to back Mr. Skippers application and that once he makes his application to ESBC the relevant paperwork will eventually find its way through the normal channels to the parish council for them to consider.

The chairman thanked Mr. Skipper for coming along and keeping the council informed of his plans.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2010:

Cllr. Nelson requested that the Vice Chairman should be identified as such in the minutes. The Clerk said he had noted this on the template for the future.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Nelson and seconded by Cllr. Oakley as being a true record of the meeting. All were in favour.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Dog-Waste Bins.

Cllr. Macpherson said he had received several complaints from parishioners that early morning dog walkers were allowing their animals to foul the pavement outside the school gates and that this was completely unacceptable behaviour.

A new bin has been placed by ESBC in Duffield Lane, near the footpath, but it was suggested that this be relocated to a suitable position in Yoxall Road, near the school. A second bin was placed by ESBC in Dark Lane but a resident complained and it was removed to Yoxall Road near Dark Lane where it was subsequently damaged by a passing vehicle.

The Clerk was asked to speak to ESBC again to get one bin located outside the school and the other opposite the green triangle in Yoxall Road / Dark Lane and to inform the editor of the parish magazine that such behaviour by parishioners could result in the parish council taking legal action under its by-laws.

Action: Clerk.

Grass cutting

Cllr. Oakley said he was in receipt of a copy of the contract and asked the Clerk to let him know what rate per square metre we are currently paying. Ten cuts have been made so far this year and it was felt that a final cut might be required perhaps in early November. It was felt that the contract for next year should be let formally and the Clerk was asked to investigate the correct procedure. This could then be incorporated into the council's standing orders. Cllr. Nelson said he thought that four additional areas should be included and that strimming should be done around the four village signs. Cllr, Oakley said he would draw up a new schedule of work and look to producing a tender document by November. Cllr. Nelson said that the nettles alongside the river in the play park needed spraying and that this too should be included but that the council needs to determine if it can do this. Cllr. Oakley said he would check

Action: Cllr. Oakley and Clerk.

Playground

The damaged seat on the zip wire has been replaced and, so far no invoice received from Lappset. They have also replaced the net on the netball goal. The chairman said that PC Jones was on holiday but that a crime number had been obtained. The zip wire has now stretched and the Clerk was asked to call Lappset to request they attend to this. The play park is being well used. The Clerk said that Community Spaces had promised an additional grant of £3,480 and that this could be used for maintenance and more functions.

Action: Clerk.

Councillor Vacancy

Mr. Turner, when asked, said he was still interested in being a councillor. The chairman asked the Clerk if anyone else had expressed an interest. No one had. Mr. Turner is now working in the locality and would be available to attend meetings. It was proposed by Cllr. Nelson and seconded by Cllr. Prince that Mr. Turner be co-opted onto the parish council. All were in favour. The chairman welcomed Mr. Turner and asked the Clerk to inform ESBC and to bring the necessary papers for Mr. Turner to sign at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk.

BKV Champion

Cllr. Skipper indicated her willingness to take on this role. The Clerk said he had been in contact with the BKV committee to request a report of last year's findings. This was not yet available but will be sent to the council as soon as it is. The chairman said that he would see to the removal of this year's posters and signs.

Action: Cllr. Macpherson

Webmaster

The chairman said that one parishioner, who maintains the schools web site, could be approached, but that it was imperative that whoever does the job is not a parish councillor. The chairman will speak to the person concerned.

Action: Cllr. Macpherson

Go Pak chairs sale

The chairman said that the PCC would not now be constructing an upstairs sitting area so this means extra seats may be required in a downstairs area at the rear of the church. It is possible that around 64 chairs may be required. Cllr. Oakley will liaise with the chairman over the sale.

Action: Cllr. Oakley

7. To Consider the DRAFT Open Meeting Minutes:

The council has sought the advice of David Duckett at ESBC. The minutes of the open meeting should be made available in draft format and placed on the web site and notice board and a copy included in next years Newsletter. The Clerk was asked to do this. Councillors went over the draft minutes to determine accuracy. No comments were made and the chairman and Cllr. Nelson thanked the Clerk for producing an accurate account of the proceedings. It was suggested that a watermark saying DRAFT and 'subject to approval' be incorporated in the minutes so there was no confusion. Copies should be included in the Newsletter and delivered to parishioners 4 weeks before the open meeting with a request that items for discussion at the open meeting be submitted in writing to the Clerk at least 2 weeks before the date set. The chairman asked if it was in order for the draft minutes to be posted. All were in favour.

Action: Clerk.

8. County and District Councillors Report:

No report had been forthcoming from Cllr. Corbett.

9. Planning Applications:

Planning Applications received from ESBC for comment:
NEW.

1. Erection of 8no. 110m high wind turbines at Bagot's Park, Dunstall Lane, Abbots Bromley.

A lengthy discussion took place over this proposal culminating in a vote being taken as to whether an objection should be made. One councillor was in favour of the application and 3 against with one abstention. The Clerk was asked by the chairman to determine the contact names of his counterparts at Abbots Bromley and Marchington Woodlands with a view to contacting them and possibly making a joint objection.

Action: Clerk

2. Erection of a 2-storey rear extension at Digbeer Cottage, Duffield Lane – no objections were raised.
3. Conversion and alteration to existing kennel block to form a single dwelling at Birchwood Kennels, Bow Meadow lane - no objections were raised.

PERMITTED / GRANTED – listed building consent.

1. Erection of conservatory – The Old Stables, Hollybush Park

10. Parish Council - Standing Orders:

The chairman will consult with Cllr. Nelson and draft a version of the standing orders ready for discussion at the next Meeting. These will incorporate orders relating to the tendering process.

Action: Cllrs. Macpherson and Nelson.

11. Community Led Plan:

The next meeting has had to be rescheduled. Cllr. Oakley is looking to accelerate the time scale and it is hoped that a draft presentation and action plan can be presented to the council at the November meeting. Cllr. Oakley thought it would be beneficial if he and Cllr. Macpherson and Nelson were to meet with three of the CLP group prior to that date. Cllr. Oakley will fix a mutually convenient date and relay this to the other parties.

Action: Cllr. Oakley.

12. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

Finances:

Account Balances –

Current account - £1500.00
Reserve account - £15,918.41
Grants account – £2,428.65
Tinks Croft account – £6,583.10

Accounts for payment –

1. 1 Clerk Salary - £189.52 Expenses – £85.35 (2 Months)
2. SLCC Clerks – half subscription - £47.50
3. SCC – hall hire - £90.00
4. Helen Thackham – photos - £10.00
5. Janet Barks – street cleaning – July to Sept inc. - £165.00
6. SCC – BKV laminating - £8.00
7. The chairman asked the Clerk to issue a cheque for £15 to Mr. Barks for the work and expense he had gone to when the play park was opened.

Monies paid into Bank .

1. Interest of £2.41

Initials:

Monies to be paid into the bank.

1. £3,480.00 - grant
2. Half year precept - £4000.00

Correspondence Received:

- i) SCC re Village pedestrian crossing.

The Clerk read out the reply from Mr Rayson. Cllr. Nelson then said he had been in touch with Roy Carr at SCC Highways and that the parish council may be in a position to contribute financially towards the crossing project. Mr. Carr thought this might help influence SCC's decision in the parish council's favour. Mr Rayson said, in his letter, that the council ought to channel its request through County Cllr. Tim Corbett. The chairman undertook to speak to Cllr. Corbett.

Action: Cllr. Macpherson.

- ii) South Staffs NHS – Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – questionnaire.
- iii) Midlands Rural Housing – Affordable rural housing need in Newborough.
- iv) Mr. Treacher re land between The Villa and Chapel Cottage.

The chairman read out a further letter received from Mr. Treacher and said that he had made very valid points. The chairman will contact ESBC again to determine what will happen about reinstating the boundary fence that has been removed and will reply to Mr Treacher. The original planning decision letter was handed to the chairman for reference.

- v) SCC – Local Transport Plan for Staffordshire – Consultation.
- vi) ESBC – Planning Applications Committee – agenda for 18th October.
- vii) Community Spaces – Offer of £3,480 sustainability grant for Play Park.

All other items were placed in the circulation file.

Correspondence sent:

- i) Letter of thanks to Mr. Albiston.
- ii) Second letter to Mr. Treacher.
- iii) Letter to neighbour of Mr. Sheard re planning application.
- iv) Numerous e-mails.

13. Meeting Dates for 2011:

Proposed Meeting dates for 2011

10 Jan, 7 Feb, 7 Mar, 11 Apr - Open meeting, Tuesday 3 May – AGM, Thursday 6th May – Parish Council elections, 6 Jun, 4 Jul, 5 Sep, 3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec.

The Clerk was asked to relay these dates to the editor of the Parish Magazine and to the Head Teacher at Needwood School.

Action: Clerk.

14. Councillors Report:

Cllr. Nelson said that highways had been working to resolve the flooding problems in Yoxall Road by installing new gullies and surface water pipes with an outfall into the river.

Cllr. Macpherson said there were further flooding problems next to the village well, especially after a heavy storm resulting in passing traffic spraying water over pedestrians. Cllr. Nelson said he thought that tree roots blocked the pipe and that Highways were aware of the problem.

Initials:

Cllr. Skipper said she now has all the BKV plaques that were removed from the now demolished community hut. It was suggested that the landlord of the Red Lion be approached to see if he would erect them in the porch.

The council has had two offers of Christmas trees from parishioners. After a brief discussion it was felt that the one made by Mr. Beeston be accepted. Cllrs. Macpherson and Oakley said they would visit Mr. Beeston and assess the removal plan.

There is a problem with water running down the centre of the road on the steep part of Moat Lane. The Clerk was asked to relay this to the Neighbourhood Highways Gang for attention.

Action: Clerk.

Cllr. Oakley said that, with the road closure at Pur Brook Bridge about to take place, it would be worth the speedwatch team taking action in the village to deter those rushing along the diversion route. The team was last in action about 10 days ago. He will speak to Bethan Waite to see if they are able to devote sometime in the next few days.

Action: Cllr. Oakley

The chairman concluded by asking the Clerk for a copy of the election process as supplied by ESBC.

Action: Clerk.

New for 2010 a carol concert will be held in the square on 17th December at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 1st November 2010 at 7.30pm.

Signed Dated: