

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 8th December 2008

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairperson), Cllr. A. Nelson. Cllr. R. Oakley. Cllr. W. Prince.
Cllr. P. Spencer. Cllr. P. Macpherson,
Ian Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public present: Mr. Tony Spencer.

1. Apologies: Cllr. A. Briggs.

2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The chairman welcomed the councillors and member of the public, Mr. Tony Spencer to the meeting.

3. Public Forum:

Mr. Spencer was asked to speak. He raised several concerns about the need for the costs of the church wall improvement to be revealed. Cllr. Skipper told him that the parish council would be contributing £17,500 towards the costs, £15,000 of this money being raised from grants with Newborough PCC contributing around £12,000. The wall was now built and just requires the laying of the coping stones.

Mr Spencer pointed out that with the increase in visibility and moving of the wall some might see this as an opportunity to park on the main road. Cllr. Nelson said that if this were the case then it would be the responsibility of the police or highway department not the parish council. Once the construction works are completed the highways department will come to reinstate the footway surface and at the same time put in a temporary footway adjacent to the Red Lion. The next stage will be to apply to have the pedestrian crossing installed.

Mr. Spencer reiterated his concerns about the parking, this time in relation to the proposed development at the school. He asked that the parish council request that the approval for planning is only granted as long as there are sufficient car parking spaces included in the scheme. Cllr. Skipper said she has already spoken to the planners at ESBC who feel there is already sufficient road space to accommodate parking. The proposals show that the existing entrance gateway will be widened and it is hoped that additional spaces will be available in this area. It was pointed out by Mr. Spencer that no parking will be allowed in the playground. It was requested that the parish council write to the planning authority to express their concerns over parking issues when the revised application is received. The Clerk undertook to do this and to send a copy to Mr. Spencer.

At this point Mr. Tony Spencer left the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th November 2008:

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2008 were read. Several minor amendments were requested: the notice boards have been refurbished not repaired and the footway next to the pub will be temporary.

It was proposed by Cllr. Macpherson and seconded by Cllr. Oakley that the minutes be signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

Street Lighting

The street lighting installation is now complete.

Village Hall

The flood report for the new village hall could take 6 weeks.

Speedwatch

Mr. Peck is to investigate the position over insurance of the stored speedwatch equipment.

New Bank Account

The new 'grants' account has been set up at HSBC. It was suggested that the clerk look at on-line banking to ease the transfer of monies between the accounts.

Action: Clerk

Parish Plan

The parish plan will be discussed again at the next special meeting arranged for January 2009. There is interest amongst parishioners who are keen to see progress.

Church Wall

The church wall should be completed next week – only the coping stones need to be laid.

Christmas Tree Lights

Cllr. Macpherson has not yet attended to the electrical works for the Christmas tree but undertook to see to this very soon. The lights will be placed in one of the Yew trees in the church grounds for this year.

Christmas Meal

Cllr. Skipper stated that there was no interest from councillors in a Christmas meal.

Road Sign

The signs in Elton Close have still not been straightened. The clerk will speak to ESBC for a third time.

Action: Clerk

Lengthsmans agreement.

The clerk updated the meeting with the position regarding claiming from highways the cost of grass cutting and street cleaning. This year the rules have changed. The parish are allocated a set sum for these two activities. The grass cutting can be claimed as a separate single item but the street cleaning now falls under the new lengthsmans agreement. This means that the claim has to be accountable and needs to set out exactly the works undertaken and location of the work. Claims can be made in advance for quarters 1 and 2 but in arrears for Q3 and Q4 with details covering Q1 and 2. A submission has been made but no reply yet received from highways at Lichfield.

6. Planning Applications:

Two planning applications were considered, Swarbourn House and Hollybush Hall - no objections were raised.

7. Financial Report:

Accounts for payment – Woolley and Wainwright (church wall) - £5439.90
Woolley and Wainwright (church wall) - £3055.75
Clerks salary and expenses - £197.78
St Giles Hospice - £50.00
E-on (previously ABB) - £3982.25

Monies received - £4000 from Newborough PCC (church wall) – remainder of £8921 will be forthcoming in January 2009.

The clerk issued a summary of the financial position as of today. The figures presented did not recognise that Newborough PCC were contributing to the church wall building costs, as he was unaware that they were involved. It was pointed out that this does not affect the figures as presented as the monies would be paid in and immediately out again.

The chairman, who asked that a cheque be raised to cover this, produced a further invoice of £19000 from Woolley and Wainwright. The clerk said he would take a detailed look at the balances before raising a cheque to cover all or some of this amount.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Nelson spoke to thank the chairman, on behalf of the council and parishioners, for all the work she had done to bring the church wall project to a conclusion.

Correspondence

The following had been received: parish precept requirements – the Clerk was asked to complete and return the form requesting the same precept as this year (£8,500). A letter asking for a grant was received from St Giles Hospice. The clerk was asked to send a cheque for £50.

All other post items were placed in the circulation file.

Cllr. Skipper asked if anyone was available to attend a Playbuilder Roadshow on 15th January 2009. No offers to attend were forthcoming so the Clerk was asked if he would go. He said that if he had no appointments in his works diary he would attend.

Action: Clerk

8. Councillors Report:

Councillors' report

Cllr. Spencer said that there was no further progress to report on the village hall.

Cllr. Nelson said he has spoken to Roy Carr at Highways about the street light on the corner of the main road and Yoxall Road. Mr. Carr is happy with the position of the column and the footway will be surfaced when the wall is finished.

Cllr. Skipper said there was some confusion over the house numbering on Yoxall Road in the vicinity of Squirrels Corner with houses fronting the former actually being numbered as if in the latter. The Clerk will raise this with ESBC.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Corbett has requested a photo shoot once the new church wall works are completed.
Cllr. Skipper will contact the papers about this.

Action: Cllr. Skipper

The chairman thanked everyone for attending, wishing all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

There being no further items the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed Dated: