

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Needwood School, Newborough at 7.30pm on Monday, 8th February 2010.

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairman), Cllr. A. Nelson. (Vice Chairman),
Cllr. W. Prince. Cllr. R. Oakley. Cllr. P. Spencer.
Two members of the public.
Ian Colclough (Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllr. P. Macpherson

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Skipper declared an interest in a planning application for Poplars Farm that was due to be discussed later.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The chairman welcomed all councillors to the meeting and also the two members of the public present.

4. Public Forum:

The chairman asked if either of the two members of the public present wanted to speak. Both declined.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th January 2010:

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2010 were then read.

It was proposed by Cllr. Prince and seconded by Cllr. Oakley that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings. All were in favour.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Christmas Tree.

Cllr. Nelson asked if the tree had been taken down. Cllr. Spencer said that it had been taken down and was in the churchyard after being cut up.

Footpath leaflets.

Cllr. Oakley handed round copies of the final draft of the leaflet. Cllr. Oakley and the footpaths officer, Mike Sutherland, have signed it off. Some amendments were made – it does not now have the names of landowners but does have an acknowledgement to its designer and includes the SCC logo as they requested. Because of the additional work involved there will be an added cost of £10 and it should be ready in 3 weeks time.

Easons Farm

Cllr. Nelson asked to be reminded why the parish council had cause to question the planning application at this property. Cllr. Prince said that some time ago a decision had indicated that only one access on to the road was allowed but that had now been reversed and two are permitted.

Dog-waste bins

Cllr. Spencer has identified two places that bins would be most used, one opposite Duffield House and the other near the village sign in Yoxall Road / Dark lane area. It was thought that normal litterbins should be requested from ESBC and that the Parish Council adds a dog waste sticker on or near the bin. It was suggested that a leaflet campaign was an option asking parishioners to use the bins and the council could introduce byelaws and prosecute offenders. The Clerk was asked to organise the placing of the bins with ESBC and to liaise with Cllr. Spencer over the exact locations.

Action: Clerk and Cllr. Spencer.

7. County and District Councillors Report:

Cllr. Corbett was not present.

Initials:

8. Planning Applications:

Three applications have been received.

1. Poplars Farm, Yoxall Road – retention of use as a holiday let for a temporary period of five years. (It was felt that one for the Piano Barn should have accompanied this application - the Clerk had not received it.) The council had no objections to the Poplars Farm application but asked the Clerk to write to the neighbours to inform them of the application.

Action: Clerk.

2. Elton Close playground – an application by the Parish Council to trim and tidy numerous trees in the playground area prior to the construction work. No objections were raised. Cllr. Skipper said the parish should know the outcome of the application by 25th February.
3. Needwood Airport – a letter regarding this previous application had been received from the Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk read this out and some discussion took place over its content. It was felt that there is a desire to increase functionality at the airfield to accommodate the expected additional traffic created when the Football Association project at Rangemoor is completed. The reference number is APP/B3410/A/06/2031746/NWF

9. Resignation of Cllr. Briggs:

The Clerk, stating that she had resigned, read a letter from Cllr. Briggs. Cllr. Skipper said she was sorry to hear this and asked the Clerk to write to Cllr. Briggs to thank her for the work she had done and in particular for the Parish plan.

Cllr. Spencer said he understood that she was prepared to continue work on the plan and that a meeting had been arranged for the 11th February. An email has gone out to the active members to refine the information contained in the plan and to ensure it is correct. The target date for release is 10 days from the 11th. Cllr. Nelson said that it needs completing now. Cllr. Spencer said it was in draft format and that he would send this to the Clerk who could then bring it to the next parish meeting on 1st March. The full council can then sign it off before it is made available, prior to the open meeting. Cllr. Nelson asked about the questionnaire – it was still with Cllr. Briggs.

The Clerk said he would inform ESBC about the resignation. They will then advertise the vacancy. If more than 10 parishioners make a request then an election will be held otherwise the parish council are able to co-opt a volunteer.

Action: Cllr. Spencer and Clerk

10. Grant Applications update:

Cllr. Skipper said a grant of £1233.20 had been received from Cllr. Corbett and that this would pay towards the bridge and fence in the playground. Also she had been successful in securing additional grants of around £49,000 and £20,000 from other sources. A landscape architect and facilitator will need to be appointed to manage the tendering and letting process. These fees had been built-in to the grant bids. Cllrs. Nelson and Prince congratulated Cllr. Skipper for obtaining such large sums and for the exceptional amount of work she had done to achieve this. All those present agreed with this sentiment.

Cllr. Skipper said the bridge and fence needs to be built before the end of March. She also needs to obtain 3 quotes for the tree cutting work for which the parish council will need to find the funds.

The chairman said that she understands that a further £10,000 needs to be raised to enable additional facilities to be built in the school now that the village organisations are to make use of it. This had come as a surprise as no mention of this had been made during any meetings held over the demolition of the Youth and Adult Centre. It was pointed out that it was thought a village hall would have been built and so the school would not have been used.

The money was required to provide a storeroom, kitchen and toilet for the disabled. It was not practical to expect some of the small user groups to contribute so the burden would likely fall to the parish council and the PTA. ESBC may make a grant of £2000 but a further £8000 is required. Cllr. Spencer said that Gill Spencer has offered to help with fund raising through the Youth Club. Cllr. Nelson asked when the work would be done. Cllr. Skipper replied that it would be included with the classroom work but that a proposed canopy would be dropped to pay. However, the funds will still have to be raised but there was no maximum time constraint. Cllr. Spencer then reiterated his request for a schedule of works and the Clerk undertook to try again to obtain this.

Action: Clerk

11. Newsletter Items:

The Clerk asked for details of the items to be included in the Newsletter and went through those covered last year. A request was made of the various village groups to supply a paragraph of their activities to him to enable production by the end March.

Action: All.

12. Best Kept Village Application:

The Clerk said he had received the entry forms. There was a discussion about the placing of posters around the village and how many of each size should be ordered. It was suggested that the encapsulated versions often become tatty due to water ingress and that they ought to be pinned to an A4 board before being fastened to posts. Cllr. Skipper said he would ask Bill Boulton about making these. Four would be required.

The Clerk was asked to complete the entry forms and to post them off and add a paragraph in the Newsletter detailing the judges' reasons for the lack of success last year.

Action: Cllr. Skipper and Clerk.

13. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

Finances:

Account Balances –

Current account - £1479.00

Reserve account - £14729.87

Grants account – £2828.97

Tinks Croft account – £6582.23

Accounts for payment –

Clerk Salary - £185.14 and expenses - £35.24

Bee Line Pest Control – moles - £55.00

Invoices have also been received from SCC for the hire of the hall and from the Audit Commission for their work. The Clerk was asked to query both these as it was felt that the hall had been paid for already and that the audit fee was excessive and unfair because it was based on parish income that includes a large amount of grant monies.

Action: Clerk.

Payments received –

A small amount of Interest

£1233.20 grant from Tim Corbett

£891.50 – claimed from SCC for street cleaning and grass cutting

Correspondence:

The following correspondence had been received by post or email and was read:

- i) SCC gritting schedule.
- ii) ESBC – dog control orders – consultation.

Initials:

- iii) Parish on line – OS mapping for the Parish. The Clerk said he thought it a good idea to subscribe to this service. There is an initial set up charge of £20 then an annual subscription of £10. After a brief discussion it was decided to try the service for 12 months.
Action: Clerk
- iv) SCC highways – neighbourhood highway teams & grit bins.
- v) SCC mobile library service – van to visit every 3 weeks NOT 2. The Clerk was asked to make this known by putting a notice on the board, in the Newsletter and on the web.
Action: Clerk.
- vi) BKV – is on tonights agenda. The Clerk was asked to complete the entry forms.
Action: Clerk.
- vii) Wildplay sessions – request to use playground. The Clerk to notify them that the playground is to be refurbished.
Action: clerk.
- viii) Queens hospital scanner appeal.
- ix) ESBC – re PC application at Playground.
- x) PC Forum – 10th February.
- xi) NSPCC – promotion of service.
- xii) Numerous emails.

All other items were placed in the circulation file.

Correspondence sent:

- i) Janet Barks enclosing payment for street cleaning.
- ii) Tim Corbett re grant for footbridge.
- iii) Diane Dolling – thanks for Christmas tree.
- iv) Georgina Shaw re village map.
- v) ESBC – tree locations and works schedule for playground.
- vi) Ashmead Price asking them to act on PC behalf for playground contract.
- vii) Numerous e-mails.

14. Disposal of Parish Strimmer:

Cllr. Skipper said she would ask her husband to check if the strimmer was serviceable before a decision on its final disposal can be made.

Action: Cllr. Skipper

15. Grass Cutting Schedule 2010:

Cllr. Oakley said that last year 11 cuts had been undertaken. The cost is £180 per cut and that this had cost £1980. The Clerk said that around £560 of this had been reclaimed from County Highways. A discussion took place as to how many and when cuts should be made. It was felt that the number would depend upon the type of weather and the frequency would be to suit the council. It was felt that the contractor was flexible enough to handle any extra work that was requested of him. Cllr. Oakley will liaise with him to ensure cuts start in time for the well dressing and the early growing season.

Action: Cllr. Oakley.

16. Councillors Report:

Cllr. Prince said that he had made and placed a bus timetable holder in the shelter.

Cllr. Spencer said that the police had been in the local pub and undertaken a community survey asking about any local problems.

Cllr Nelson asked about the neighbourhood gangs and when they are to attend the parish. He will speak to Roy Carr at Highways and the Clerk will email the depot at Lichfield.

Action: Cllr. Nelson and Clerk.

At this point the chairman asked the two members of the public present to leave the meeting to enable a matter of sensitivity to be discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.30pm in the school hall.

Signed Dated:

Initials: