

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Needwood School, Newboroughat 7.30pm on Monday, 4th January 2010.

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairman), Cllr. P. Macpherson (arrived at 19.40),
Cllr. W. Prince. Cllr. R. Oakley. Cllr. P. Spencer. Cllr. A. Briggs.
Four members of the public.
Ian Colclough (Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllr. A. Nelson. (Vice Chairman).

2. Declarations of Interest:

None were made.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

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

4. Public Forum:

Mr Tony Spencer thanked the Clerk for adding the minutes of the November meeting to the village web site, this after he had reported that they had not yet been included. The Clerk said that the Council has no legal responsibility to post minutes on the site and that the Webmaster could not be held responsible for any omissions either. Hard copies of minutes were available directly from the Clerk, for a small administration fee, or they can be seen at the Clerks address provided an appointment is made.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2009:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2009 were then read. Some amendments were identified within the minutes:

Item 10 Parish Plan – Cllr. Briggs said that the figure used, showing the response to the questionnaire, was incorrect and it should read that a 'good response' had been made.

Item 9 paragraph 2 – should read curtilage not cartilage.

It was proposed by Cllr. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. Macpherson that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings, subject to the amendments above. All were in favour.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Village Well and highways

In the absence of Cllr. Nelson no report on this was available.

Christmas Tree.

The Clerk was asked to write to Diane Dolling to thank her for providing the Christmas tree.

Action: Clerk

Footpath leaflets.

Cllr. Oakley said that some of the hand written wording on the revised footpath map was not easy to decipher and that it would have to be returned to the footpaths officer, Mr Sutherland. The final proof was expected in two weeks with printing to take place in late January or early February.

7. County and District Councillors Report:

Cllr. Corbett was not present.

8. Planning Applications:

No new applications have been received.

The Clerk reported on a reply received from ESBC planning department regarding the query he was asked to raise about access to Eason farm. The area planning officer said that the development carried out has the relevant permissions and that both accesses could remain open.

9. Parish Plan Update:

Cllr. Briggs said that a further meeting was scheduled for February and that this would be publicised through the Parish Magazine.

Action: Cllr. Briggs

10. Parish Precept requirements 2010 / 11

The Clerk summarised the main items of expenditure to date and concluded by saying that the projected end of year spend was likely to be around £8100.

Some discussion took place around the councils need to raise monies towards its various projects, such as the playground. It was pointed out that the reserve account has over £13,000 and that, in the current economic climate, it would not be prudent to increase the precept bid. The Clerk said that the biggest increase in expenditure would be the extra cost of grass cutting now that a contractor was undertaking the work. Cllr. Oakley said that ideally the grass should be cut more often than the 11 cuts undertaken last season. Cllr. Briggs said she thought that the council ought to increase the precept request this time as there had been no increase for the last two years, and expenditure will only rise in future. Cllr. Skipper said that the school may photocopy this year's newsletter rather than it being printed by the clerk and this would cut costs. The Clerk said he would approach the school about doing this.

Action: Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr. Macpherson and seconded by Cllr. Skipper that the precept bid be as last year, and remain at £8500. A vote was taken with five in favour of the proposal and one against. (Cllr. Briggs)

11. Publishing of draft minutes:

The Clerk read out an email received from Diane Weir, regional advisor of SLCC regarding the query over the publishing of minutes, in which she said that the way the council currently record minutes and highlight amendments at the next meeting was acceptable. Cllr. Macpherson suggested that if a parishioner wanted to see a copy of the minutes then they ought to be sent the requested copy and a copy of the following meeting minutes to ensure continuity.

12. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

Finances:

Account Balances –

Current account - £1250.00

Reserve account - £13370.34

Grants account – £2828.81

Tinks Croft account – £6582.01

Accounts for payment –

Clerk Salary - £185.14 and expenses - £39.23

Janet Barks – street cleaning – Oct to Dec - £165.00

Payments received –

Interest

£250 grants transfer from current a/c to grants a/c.

Correspondence:

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

- i) SCC re Newborough Youth Centre

Apologies for not letting the council know its intention until the eleventh hour.

- ii) E-mail from Mr Waite re use of school.

A letter regarding the use of the school for village communities had been received. This indicated that the school would accommodate their requirements subject to school usage. Storage was going to be an issue but, once the building work is completed, the problem will be re-addressed.

- iii) SCC re Local Services Consultation.

A letter from SCC regarding local bus services was read requesting comments on the service to the village. Cllr. Briggs said that a question in the parish plan related to bus services and she would take a look at the answers given and feed them back to the Clerk so he can return the survey to SCC.

Action: Cllr. Briggs and Clerk

- iv) Letter from Mr Tony Spencer in reply to PC letter of 22/12/09

Some discussion took place around the letters sent to, and received from, Mr Tony Spencer regarding the removal of the footpath map from the now demolished Youth and Adult Centre. Mr. Spencer said that he had contacted two councillors to say that he would remove the map for safekeeping. Cllr. Briggs confirmed that he had spoken with her but she failed to pass the message on, for which she apologised. Mr Spencer asked the chairman for the details of the police contact she had made. She replied by saying the police did not log the call and only suggested that the council wrote to Mr Spencer to ask him to return the map by a set date. The chairman asked Mr Spencer if he had the map with him to which he replied in the negative. Cllr Macpherson offered to keep the map and would collect it from Mr Spencer after the meeting. Mr Spencer said he was only acting in the best interests of the parish and that there had been some confusion when it was known the building was about to be demolished.

Action: Cllr. Macpherson

- v) Letter from Georgina Shaw re original footpath map.

The Clerk read out the letter from Georgina Shaw who expressed her concern about the map and its value and to where it will be kept in future. This will be discussed at a future meeting but one suggestion was that it could be hung in the church. Cllr. Macpherson offered to investigate this option. The Clerk was also asked to write to Georgina Shaw to tell her of the proposal.

Action: Cllr. Macpherson and Clerk

- vi) Letter from SCC re grant allocation from Cllr. Corbett

A letter confirming that a grant of £1233.20 would be made towards the cost of providing a footbridge and safety fence at the playground redevelopment. This means the council will need to find the shortfall of £16.80. It was agreed that this could be met by parish funds. All were in favour.

- vii) Numerous emails

All other items were placed in the circulation file.

Correspondence sent:

- i) Mr Tony Spencer re illegal removal of map - dated 22/12/09
ii) Neighbours at Eason Farm.

Initials:

- iii) Needwood School / Head of Governors re use of hall.
- iv) Numerous e-mails.

13. Additional Waste Bins:

The Clerk reported that ESBC had quoted around £350 for each new dog-waste bin plus the cost of emptying. After some discussion it was felt that the parish council could not justify this but Cllr. Spencer offered to make further investigations and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Spencer.

14. Disposal of Parish Strimmer:

Cllr. Skipper said she had not yet seen to this and to include the item on the next agenda.

Action: Cllr. Skipper

15. Councillors Report:

Cllr. Skipper said she had been approached by a parishioner who was concerned about the lack of business that was being undertaken at the local public house and asked if the parish council could help in any way. After a long discussion, that also involved the members of the public present, it was felt that there was sympathy for the publicans problem but that it was very difficult to sustain a thriving public house in such a small rural parish without the commercial support of the brewery. Several suggestions were made but these were beyond the remit of the council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 8th February 2010 at 7.30pm in the school hall.

Signed Dated: