

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 14th July 2008

1. **Present:** Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairperson), Cllr. W. Prince, Cllr. R. Oakley. Cllr. P. Spencer.
Ian Colclough (Clerk)

2. **Apologies:** Cllr. A. Nelson, (Vice Chairperson). Cllr. A. Briggs. Cllr. P. Macpherson,

3. **Chairperson's Opening Remarks:**

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. **Public Forum:**

No members of the public were present.

5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th June 2008:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2008 were read and recorded as being a true record. This was proposed by Cllr. R. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. W. Prince. All were in favour.

6. **Matters Arising from the minutes:**

The planning application submitted by the school has been withdrawn but it is understood that it will be re-submitted with an amended design.

Street Lighting: There then took place a lively discussion concerning the new street lamps and their intensity. Martin Beavis from ABB says that there is only one bulb type available for the lamps and that they will fade with time. The concern is that some lamps are so bright that they are intrusive and light the inside of houses nearby. Cllr. Skipper will ask ABB to replace the offending lamps with Victorian style. She also reported that two new Victorian lamp standards had been erected. It was suggested that a plan of the locations of the street lights in the village centre be drawn up and labelled indicating the current position with regards to defects, light intensity and the need for repainting. Cllr. Oakley offered to do this and to send to the Clerk so that he could inform ABB. The Clerk was asked not to pay ABB's account until the position over these issues had been resolved.

Actions: Cllr Skipper and Cllr Oakley

Speed Guns: No more had been heard. Cllr Skipper said she would contact P C Smith at Uttoxeter Police Station to organise the training.

Action: Cllr Skipper

Blockage of the Well: Nothing had been done to remedy this problem. Cllrs. Oakley and Spencer offered to investigate and sort out the problem. It was thought that tree roots had entered the pipe and were causing an obstruction to the water flow and, if this were the case, it may take specialist root-cutting equipment before the insertion of a plastic inner pipe.

Actions: Cllrs Oakley and Spencer

Moles of the Green: These had been attended to and two moles caught. An invoice for the work had not yet been received.

Visibility at Mitre Crossroads: The hedges had now been cut back to improve visibility.

Gazebo claim: The Clerk reported difficulty in providing the address information to the insurers, as they could not find claim details on their computer systems. Further addresses were provided and the Clerk will try again using these.

Action: Clerk

Parishioners attending meetings: The Clerk reported that he had included an additional sentence to the guidance notes as requested by councillors. The chairperson signed the completed guidance note.

7. Planning Applications:

An application for an improvement at Dolesfoot Farm, Dolesfoot Lane had been received. The Parish Council had no objections to this proposal.

The Clerk then went through the weekly lists of applications received from East Staffs Borough, most of which were in adjoining wards. These were noted. Several applications had been approved and these were listed and noted.

8. Financial Report, Accounts for Payment:

Three accounts were presented for payment:
Clerks salary and expenses for June
Janet Barks for street cleaning
Jim Barks for hedge cutting and grass mowing
Total expenditure authorised

The Clerk has been asked if he wants to join the Society of Local council Clerks (SLCC). The annual fee for his salary level being £80pa and it was agreed that the Council will pay one half and that Curborough, Elmhurst, Farewell and Chorley Parish pay the other.

The rate of pay for the street cleaning and grass cutting was then discussed. It was noted that the rate was increased in Spring last year and so will be reviewed again in February 2009.

9. Correspondence Received:

The Clerk then ran through the correspondence received.

1. Cllr Spencer was given information on funding for play areas through a Staffordshire County Council scheme called Play Builder Project.

Other correspondence included

2. Memorial headstone inspections
3. Thank you letter – John Taylor High School
4. Acknowledgement from ESBC Planning Dept re school application
5. Staffs Voluntary Car Scheme
6. Play Builder Project
7. Well Dressing Committee
8. National Forest – consultation

Initials:

9. SPCA vacancies

10. **Any Other Business:**

Grant applications: The Clerk reported on the application submitted to the Lottery Fund. The original application was returned, as several sections did not contain sufficient information. The Clerk, along with Cllr Nelson, filled in the missing data and the form were resubmitted. Two other application packs had been past to the Clerk by Cllr Skipper, one for the Esmee Fairbairn Trust and one for the Big Lottery Fund. The Clerk had looked over both application packs and reported on some suitable works to be included in the Esmee FairBairn application. The council were happy for him to submit this. The application for the Big Lottery Fund was more complex and it was decided that all councillors ought to have the opportunity to see the documentation so it was included in the most recent circulation file and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

11. **Councillor's / Clerks Report:**

Parish Magazine: The Clerk was asked to arrange for a short message to be included in the parish magazine inviting parishioners to attending and including a copy of the 'rules' as approved at the last meeting.

Best kept village committee: Cllr Prince said he would attend the next meeting and report back.

Action: Cllr Prince

Parish Plan: Cllr Briggs is to organise a village meeting, probably at the Red Lion in early September, to help decide the content of a questionnaire that will help form the basis of the parish plan. A grant of £900 is available for this.

Action: Cllr Briggs

Letter received from Mr Jeffries: The Clerk read out the contents of and hand delivered letter received from parishioner Mr Jeffries expressing his concerns with regards to the flooding last year in Yoxall Road. A discussion then took place as to the best way to proceed. It was stated that a similar letter last year was discussed at length and that the Environment Agency were contacted. However, no formal reply was received from them. They did have cause to visit the site on other business and the officer gave the impression that there was nothing they were able to do. With this in mind the council decided the best course of action was to pass Mr Jeffries letter onto the Agency and suggest that he also write directly to them. Cllr Oakley reported that the Agency were not concerned about several stepping-stones that had been placed in the river course.

Action: Clerk

Highway Matter: Duffield Lane – the road gullies remain blocked.

As there was no other business the meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm.

The next meeting will be on 15th September 2008 at 7.30pm in the Youth and Adult Centre.

Signed

Dated: