

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 9th March 2009

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairperson), Cllr. A. Nelson. Cllr. R. Oakley. Cllr. W. Prince.
Cllr. P. Macpherson, (arrived 8.15pm) Cllr. A. Briggs. Cllr. P. Spencer
Ian Colclough (Clerk)
No members of the public were present:

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest:

None were made.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

Cllr. Skipper welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2009:

Cllr. Prince reported one error on page 1 concerning the church wall. It was Cllr. Skipper not Cllr. Prince who had spoken to Mr Beck.

The minutes were then signed as being a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. Spencer. All were in favour.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Village Hall

Cllr. Spencer said that the plans had been resubmitted with an amended line 18m away from the original application. All reports are now with the planning authority and a decision is awaited.

Parish Plan

No further updates at this time

Highways

Cllr. Nelson has inspected the drainage problems on Duffield Lane. It seems that the road gulleys are unable to take the flow of water in a heavy downpour. He is not of the opinion that there is a blockage. Cllr. Prince said there were also problems opposite Easons Farm.

The highways department are currently undergoing a reorganisation and some of the staff that we have dealt with in the past may no longer be in place. This is inevitably leading to uncertainty and a reduction in service.

7. Planning Applications:

One application has been received: "Windrush", Chapel Lane, Newborough – for the felling of one Elm and crown thinning of 4 Ashes. No objections were raised. The clerk was asked to write to the two adjoining neighbours to inform them of the application.

Action: Clerk

Initials:

8. Newsletter:

The annual Newsletter needs to be issued prior to the Open Meeting that is on 20th April. The copy deadline is 15th March. The Clerk is still waiting on reports from the school, Cllr. Briggs and Mr. Beck.

The Clerk produced a new version of the village map for consideration by the councillors. One or two minor amendments were suggested and these will be incorporated before being sent to the judges.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk said that he would like to send this years Newsletter out by post. It is a simple matter to produce labels based upon the electoral role. The Councillors wholly supported this. The Clerk was asked to include a copy of the notice of meeting and to post this on the notice board and in the parish magazine.

Action: Clerk

9. Grass Cutting Vacancy:

The Clerk said that 3 applications had been received. Cllrs. Nelson and Oakley said they were prepared to speak to the applicants and arrange an interview. The applications were passed to Cllr. Oakley. The Clerk and Cllr. Oakley will meet next week to measure up the grass areas that require cutting to enable the successful applicant to provide an accurate estimate of the costs. It was felt that the successful applicant should, if possible, have his own machinery.

Action: Clerk, Cllrs. Oakley and Nelson

10. Clerks Report:

The Clerk reported on the following:

Finances:

Accounts for payment –
Clerk's salary and expenses - £221.03
Glen Morris – mole catcher - £30.00
Community Council of Staffordshire Subscriptions - £20.00
Donation - £60.00

Monies received - None
Account Balances – Current account - £1500.00
Reserve account - £10985.65
Grants account – £2577.42
Tinks Croft account – £6581.02

We have still not received an invoice from the archaeologist.

Correspondence:

Letters have been received from:

- i) ESBC – a reply to our email commenting upon the planning application at Needwood School
- ii) SCC – update on the Staffs and Stoke joint core strategy
- iii) Poster for CASES
- iv) Three applications for the grass cutter vacancy

The remaining correspondence was placed in the circulation file.

Freedom of Information Act – update

The Clerk reported that work is progressing on gathering the information. This is likely to be a long-winded process but advice to parishioners is now available on the parish notice board and village web site. Copies of past minutes and agendas for forthcoming meetings are on both the notice board and web site.

Action: Clerk

11. Councillors Report:

Cllr. Skipper has spoken to Jim Barks who has asked if he could receive a cheque in recognition of his long service. After a brief discussion all agreed a sum of £60.

Work on the playground project is progressing well with several meetings already held and numerous people and organisation involved. Several estimates for the bridgework have been obtained with the lowest to date being £1350.00

Cllr. Prince raised his concerns over safety and the sighting of the structure. The river does flood and the new bridge could easily be washed away. He felt it was not a good idea to position the toddlers play area on the other side of the river course. Other councillors pointed out that there would be a safety fence constructed from pallets and posts. It was felt that accidents could happen anywhere and that, provided reasonable precautions have been taken there is no reason not to go ahead with the design. Cllr. Nelson said that there had always been access to the other side of the river and the construction of a bridge could only make access safer. Cllr. Skipper said that the ‘experts’ that had been on site do not see a problem and that ROSPA will see the plans in advance of any works.

A working party to clear the river course and prune trees is scheduled for Sunday 14th March.

Cllr. Skipper asked if the invoices for the works could be paid by the parish council to enable VAT to be reclaimed. The Clerk pointed out that this would make the balancing of the accounts complex. The Clerk was asked to speak to SPCA about the options.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk said there is currently £2577.42 in the grant fund but that £900 of this was for the parish plan expenses.

Cllr. Skipper said that Malcolm Davies could reproduce the local walks leaflets at a cost of £15 per 100 and £20 per 100 for the larger version plus a £50/60 set up charge. One minor amendment is required and Cllr. Oakley will see to this. It was felt that the cost was reasonable and that Cllr. Skipper should press ahead to try to obtain grant monies to fund the publication.

Action: Cllr. Skipper and Oakley

Cllr. Spencer said that it was his intention to clear the water supply to the village well in the next week or so.

Action: Cllr. Spencer

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

The date of the next meeting, which is also the open meeting, is Monday 20th April at 7.30pm.

Items for the agenda please by noon on Friday 10th April.

Signed

Dated:

Initials: