

# NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Present:** Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairman), Cllr. A. Nelson. (Vice Chairman) Cllr. R. Oakley.  
Cllr. W. Prince. Cllr. P. Macpherson, Cllr. A. Briggs. (left at 8.30pm)  
Mr. Tony Spencer – member of the public  
Ian Colclough (Clerk)

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. P. Spencer.

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

None.

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

The chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and asked Mr T. Spencer to speak during the allotted 10 minutes. Mr Spencer declined and said he was only there as an observer. The Clerk pointed out that members of the public are entitled to attend council meetings but would be asked to leave if items of a sensitive nature are due to be discussed.

**4. Public Forum:**

Mr. T. Spencer declined to speak.

**5. Election of Officers:**

Chairman

The current chairman, Cllr. B. Skipper indicated a willingness to stand down and asked if any other councillors were prepared to stand as chairman. No volunteers were forthcoming so Cllr. Skipper said she would carry on for another term. This was proposed by Cllr. Prince and seconded by Cllr. Macpherson. All were in favour.

Vice Chairman

Cllr. Briggs expressed an interest in the position of vice chairman; however, protocol dictates that the present incumbent, Cllr. Nelson should be asked if he is willing to stand again. Initially, knowing that Cllr. Briggs was interested Cllr. Nelson said he would stand down. At this point Cllr. Briggs withdrew her expression of interest. Cllr. Oakley then proposed that Cllr. Nelson remained as vice chairman. Cllr. Macpherson seconded this proposal and Cllr. Nelson accepted. All were in favour.

The Clerk asked both elected parties to sign the 'acceptance of office' form.

**6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April were read and taken as a true record. This was proposed by Cllr. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. Macpherson. All were in favour.

**7. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Village Hall

Cllr. Skipper asked if there was any news on the planning application for the village hall. The Clerk said that Cllr. Spencer, who was absent, had telephoned earlier and said that the

planning permission had been approved and that a project group has been set up and that the group met last evening. Mr. Andrew Bental was chairing the group.

#### Village well

Cllr. Spencer also gave an update on the progress with clearing the blockage in the village well and said he was in touch with a contractor from Shropshire who would investigate 'moleing' the pipe.

#### Best-kept village

Cllr. Skipper said that the best-kept village posters should not be attached to telegraph poles and that there needed to be some children's posters on the village notice boards in the bus shelter. Cllr. Briggs indicated that she would see to this.

**Action: Cllr. Briggs**

#### Well dressing

Cllr. Macpherson said the well dressing boards would be removed this Wednesday.

#### Grass cutting

Item 9 – Cllr. Oakley said that Mr. Hickinbottom had returned the contract for the grass cutting and that the grass was cut before the well dressing weekend. However, the next cut will not now be before next week. Jim Barks had said that the strip of grass outside the playground and next to the road was the parishes. This is a narrow strip and will require strimming. Mr. Hickinbottom is aware of this and will undertake the work at no extra cost as he is not likely to cut the verges in the lane to Draycott because the residents are maintaining them.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Hickinbottom to add this small area to the grass-cutting schedule.

**Action: Clerk**

#### Newsletter

Cllr. Skipper said that there was an omission in the Newsletter in that she forgot to thank Bill Boulton for his help with odd jobs around the village. The Clerk was asked to write to him.

**Action: Clerk**

### **8. Planning Applications:**

- i) Thorntree Hall Farm – swimming pool enclosure - permitted.
- ii) Newborough Village Hall – Cllr. Spencer had relayed a message saying that the development had gained planning permission.

A discussion took place around the running costs of the new hall. It is understood that the cost of running Barton Under Needwood village hall is approximately £50,000 per annum and that they are incurring a loss of £1500 to £2000. It was thought that it would be essential to fully utilise the new village hall by encouraging its use through village groups. Newborough is a twentieth the size of Barton. The councillors expressed reservations about the viability of the new hall thinking the proposed building was too large and that the running costs would be too high. At this years open parish meeting parishioners had expressed their concerns over the same issues. When a question was asked at the open meeting, it was stated that users of the present youth and adult centre could use the school. It was thought that the present building would be demolished around May 2010 and that these users would need somewhere else to meet.

It was understood that the school Chairman of Governors was to have contacted these user groups to confirm that the school could be used, but that so far no contact had been made. Councillors' thought that the Parish Council ought to be proactive and write to the Chairman of Governors and that the Council had a responsibility to its parishioners after the comments made at the open meeting. The Clerk was asked to do this and to send a copy to the head mistress.

**Action: Clerk**

Councillors thought that it would be useful to meet with Andrew Bendal and the village hall committee, to express the Council's concerns over the development. It is understood that there is also a proposal to develop the cricket pavilion to include some 'social rooms' and this would mean two new buildings on the same site serving the same purpose.

Cllr. Oakley said he would speak to the Clerk at Hanbury Parish to determine costs for running their hall.

**Action: Cllr. Oakley**

#### **9. Approval of 2008/2009 Financial Accounts:**

The un-audited accounts for 2008/9 were presented. It was proposed by Cllr. Macpherson and seconded by Cllr. Nelson that the accounts be adopted. The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Teal of Tompkinson and Teal in Lichfield had indicated his willingness to audit the accounts free of charge again this year.

#### **10. Grass Cutting Contract:**

This was discussed at some length under matters arising above. Cllr. Nelson said that Jim Barks had spoken to Cllr. Spencer to see if the Council would consider selling him the redundant mower. The mower, when new, was worth around £600 and it was thought that a photograph should be taken of the equipment and an estimate of its second hand value obtained. The mower is now 4 or 5 years old.

#### **11. Clerks Report:**

The Clerk reported on the following:

Finances:

Accounts for payment –

Clerk Salary - £183.30 & expenses: - £99.48.

SPCA – subscription renewal - £147.00

Allianz Insurance - £548.48

Treemendous Estate Care - £180.00 (grass cutting)

Cllr. Annie Briggs (cable ties – BKV posters) - £10.78

SCC – BKV posters - laminating at school - £12.00

Payments received –

ESBC precept half year - £4500.00

SCC – lengthsman and grass cutting – Q3&4 2008/9 - £891.50

Account Balances –

Current account - £2391.50

Reserve account - £14161.62

Grants account – £222577.56

Tinks Croft account – £6581.25

Correspondence:

Letter have been received from:

- i) Campaign for the Protection of Rural England – donation request
- ii) Signed copy of grass cutting contract.
- iii) Equality Bill – Public Sector Duties (will be placed in circulation file)
- iv) SCC Strategic Plan - (will be placed in circulation file)
- v) ESBC Parish Councils Forum – Agenda for 8<sup>th</sup> July and minutes from 11<sup>th</sup> February (will be placed in circulation file)

Initials:

**12. Councillors Report:**

Playground

Cllr. Skipper reported on progress with the grant applications for the proposed playground improvements. She has spent two hours today talking through the parish bid for one of the grants with Michael O'Callaghan (Chartered Town Planner) and Corrine O'Hare of Waste Management

Mr. O'Callaghan said that the Council had a good chance of securing funding. The Council requires around £70,000 and any grant monies they provide will have to be matched with monies from elsewhere. The application will be considered with the next round that is in about eight weeks time.

Speedwatch

Cllr. Skipper said that parishioner Bethan Waite is considering undertaking the role of speedwatch coordinator.

Cllr. Macpherson reported on the progress being made with regards to a recognition situation.

There were no other councillor reports.

The Clerk said that he was unable to make the date of the 6<sup>th</sup> July meeting and requested it be changed to 13<sup>th</sup> July.

At this point Cllr, Skipper requested that Mr. Tony Spencer leave the room to enable discussions of a private nature to take place.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.

Items for the agenda please by noon on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Signed ..... Dated: .....