

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 10th November 2008

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairperson), Cllr. A. Briggs. Cllr. R. Oakley. Cllr. W. Prince.
Cllr. P. Spencer. Cllr. P. Macpherson,
Ian Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public present: PC Guy Jones and PC Boulter
Steve West of West Hart Partnership
Paul White, Parent Governor from the local school.

1. Apologies: Cllr. A. Nelson. (subsequently arrived at 9.05pm)

2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular members of the local constabulary, Steve West from West Hart Partnership and Paul White a school governor.

3. Public Forum:

Update on the planning application at the local school:

Steve West, the architect, addressed the meeting to give a background of the proposals to extend the school accommodation and to outline at what stage the application has now reached. The initial application was withdrawn, as he was aware that several objections over the contemporary design had been raised. Mr. West then distributed several sketch perspectives for consideration. Several questions were raised and answered by Mr. West. One of the main areas of concern was about car parking. The council felt that any lost spaces should be gained elsewhere. Mr. White asked if the council were 100% in support of these revised proposals. All were in agreement that these revisions were acceptable and would be supported by the council when submitted.

The chairman thanked Mr West and Mr White for attending.

PC Guy Jones asked if there were any issues of concern in the parish at the moment. None were raised. As far as the speedwatch initiative is concerned there will be a second training session on 15th November. However, no surveys can commence until the realignment of the church wall is complete. PC Boulter said that the last speed survey in the village showed that many vehicles were travelling in excess of 40mph. Concerns were expressed that better visibility at the road junction would actually increase speeds and it was suggested that the council approach Staffordshire Highways with a view to having a further survey done once works are completed.

PC Jones reported on several break-ins in the parish where car keys are stolen and vehicles taken. He also said that house break-ins in rural areas were on the increase as cameras in urban centres drove criminals further a field.

The chairman thanked the two PC's for attending.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th October 2008:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October were read. It was pointed out that the Clerk had sent a cheque to Tippers when in fact the chairman had already paid. The Clerk

was asked to ensure the cheque is returned.

Action: Clerk.

Under item 8 of the minutes, Cllr. Spencer said he understood that Cllr. Nelson would be compiling a schedule of all past and future highway works to enable feedback to parishioners. After some discussion this was thought to be unnecessary as Cllr. Nelson has an excellent relationship with the highways staff and that the existing system works exceptionally well. The Clerk offered to compile any lists of works sent to him before passing onto Cllr. Nelson who would then forward to the engineers and community gang.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. Macpherson.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

Play Equipment.

Cllr. Prince has inspected the playground equipment. In his opinion the frame of the 'multiplay' equipment was not installed correctly. When there is flooding the woodwork lifts. To resolve this new stakes need to be inserted. It was recognised that the play equipment in general will soon require replacement and that this could be a project for next year.

Village Hall.

There is no progress at present as the committee are waiting on a 'flood report' that has been commissioned.

Energy costs - Support to local residents.

Cllr. Skipper produced leaflets giving advice and contact numbers. These will be placed in the Youth and Adult centre and on the notice board.

Action: Clerk

Speedwatch.

The Clerk reported that he felt the speedwatch equipment would not be covered against theft when left in the Youth and Adult centre. It was suggested that the equipment be stored at one of the volunteers' houses. Cllr. Skipper said she would speak to the chairman at Yoxall Parish Council to determine what their procedures are.

Action: Cllr Skipper

New Bank Account.

Cllr Nelson has been into HSBC to obtain the necessary paperwork to enable the council to open a new account for grant monies received. The Clerk will complete the forms and return to the bank. Forms were also signed to change one of the signatories from Cllr. Macpherson to Cllr. Oakley.

Action: Clerk

Bank Balances and Budgets.

Cllrs. Briggs and Spencer raised questions regarding the bank balances and asked that more details be made available to enable them to establish a budget and hence possible precept for the next financial year. Further discussion took place regarding budgets and likely expenditure to this year-end. Cllr. Skipper said that she was not in favour of any increase in the precept again next year and that this would be fully discussed at the

December meeting. The Clerk now has the necessary precept 'claim' form from ESBC for submission by mid January.

Action: All

Church Wall and grant monies.

Grant monies received or promised are: £10,000 from the Lottery Fund (Awards for All), £5,000 from East Staffordshire Borough Council's Community Development Capital Fund, £2,000 from the Members Initiative Scheme and a further £2,000 from WASP (which was promoted by Cllr. Tim Corbett) have met with success.

The contractor will be paid upon production of invoice at the end of the job.

Parish Plan.

Cllr Briggs stated that the Housing Association Survey was confidential. There is no available land for development in the parish. She asked if she could see the '10 year plan' and the Clerk said he would find this and pass it on.

Action: Clerk

6. Planning Applications:

None received.

7. Financial Report:

Cllr. Nelson reported that work on the street lighting was still incomplete and that the invoice should not yet be paid.

Cheques for payment.

Newborough PCC - £150

Well Dressing Committee - £60

Repair of notice boards - £43.97

Tippers for waistcoats - £19.57

Mower repairs - £31.93

Clerks salary and expenses including back pay - £248.88

No other accounts were outstanding and no payments had been received since the last meeting.

8. Councillors Report:

Cllr Skipper gave a brief update on the progress of works with the church wall relocation. The Clerk was asked to investigate if it was possible to reclaim VAT on the job immediately the account for the work has been paid. The Clerk will check with VAT Office.

Action: Clerk

A question was then asked regarding horse manure deposited on the highway. It was stated that this is a rural parish and that this can be expected and that there is nothing the council can do.

The location of the Christmas tree was then discussed. It was felt that, for this year at least, the lights should be put up in the Yew trees in the churchyard. The power point adjacent to the church wall will need to be reinstated after works are completed. Cllr. Macpherson said he would sort out the power supply to feed the lights at this new location.

Action: Cllr. Macpherson

Christmas Meal.

This will be at the local pub, The Red Lion, on 17th December at 7.30pm. Councillors were asked to contact the chairman to confirm their intention to attend.

Action: All

Cllr. Spencer said that the road name sign in Elton Close needs to be moved forward as the hedge obstructs it. The Clerk will ask ESBC to attend to this.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Nelson reported that the footway next to the Red Lion will be temporarily reinstated until finance is available to undertake a full job.

Cllr. Macpherson reported that the church now has a hearing-aid system and public address system.

9. Clerks Report:

Correspondence received:

The following letters and emails had been received since the last meeting. The Clerk, as requested, read some of these out.

- i) Mayors Civic ball
- ii) Section 137 limit for 2009/10
- iii) What's On Guide – entry form
- iv) Licensing Act – New laws
- v) Community Development Capital Fund
- vi) E-on invoice
- vii) Parish Precept Requirements
- viii) St Giles Hospice – request for grant
- ix) NALC Conference
- x) The MJ subscription
- xi) Community Housing Needs

Other correspondence and literature was placed in the circulation file.

10. Lengthsman agreement:

This item was not covered and will be carried over to the next agenda.

11. Christmas Tree:

Covered under item 8 above.

There being no further items the meeting was closed at 9.35pm

Signed Dated: