

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 13th October 2008

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairperson), Cllr. A. Nelson. Cllr. A. Briggs. Cllr. R. Oakley.
Cllr. W. Prince. Cllr. P. Spencer.
Ian Colclough (Clerk) Members of the public present: Mr G Peck

1. Apologies: Cllr. P. Macpherson, Cllr. T. Corbett

2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Public Forum:

Speedwatch update

Mr. Peck gave an update on progress. Training of seven volunteers will take place this Friday 17th October. Saturdays session has had to be cancelled but will be rescheduled in the near future. At this time a further four volunteers will be trained. The training will concentrate primarily on health and safety issues. It is felt that locations for the use of the equipment will be limited to those with a reasonably long length of sight to enable the laser to work correctly. Also there will need to be a safe haven for the volunteers to position themselves while undertaking the work. There was then a discussion over suitable locations. It was pointed out that all four roads into the village centre suffered from excess vehicle speeds and that it would be expected that all the roads were surveyed. At this point Mr. Peck left the meeting and was thanked for his involvement by the Chairman.

The Chairman offered to organise the purchase of 4 large and 4 extra large fluorescent waistcoats for use by the volunteers. We have received a £100 donation from Community Action and Support to help towards the cost of the waistcoats and room hire for the training.

Action: Cllr. Skipper

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2008:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September were read. Several amendments and omissions were identified. These will be included and redistributed by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

Speedwatch

The Clerk was asked to check the council insurance to determine if the speedwatch equipment was covered while being stored in the Youth and Community Centre.

Action: Clerk

Village Well

The problem is a blockage 2 or 3 meters in. There is then a run up to the garage of about 23 meters. Cllr. Spencer undertook to sort the problem and will schedule it to be done as a matter of routine every twelve months. Cllr. Nelson said that he would ask the gully emptying team to use their jetter on the pipe.

Action: Cllrs. Nelson and Spencer

Lengthsmans Agreement.

The Clerk raised the issues of making financial claims against this agreement. The grass cutting undertaken by Mr. Barks should be claimed against the separate grass cutting agreement whereas the street cleaning could be claimed against the lengthsmans agreement. There followed a discussion as to who might do this type of work – could it be undertaken by volunteers as part of the Parish Plan? The Clerk pointed out that invoices for works done would be required. Cllr. Spencer requested the Clerk send him copies of the supplied example of the schedule of the types of work for which we could claim. Further discussion on this issue is required and will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

Change of Bank Signatory

The form has been mislaid. The Clerk will obtain a further copy and forward to Cllr. Oakley for signature.

Action: Clerk

6. Planning Applications:

One application had been received-

- i) Oakcliffe, Thorney Close, Marchington Cliff – 2 storey detached replacement dwelling

No objections were raised.

The Clerk read through the outcomes of several previous applications and also informed the councillors of East Staffs Councils decision not to send out the weekly list in future. Anyone wishing to see what is on the weekly list was invited to visit the ESBC web site.

7. Financial Report:

It was proposed by Cllr. Nelson and seconded by Cllr. Spencer that a new separate bank account be opened for easier administration of the monies received from grants. The Clerk was asked to open a new account.

Action: Clerk

The work on the gazebo roof was completed some time ago and finally an invoice has been received from the repairer. The Clerk was authorised to pay this.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Nelson reported that work on the street lighting was still incomplete and that the invoice should not yet be paid. He will chase up ABB lighting to get the works completed.

Action: Cllr. Nelson

The Clerk produced a summary of the balance sheet to aid decisions over the budget for next year. It was suggested that in future a more detailed summary of individual expenditure be produced on a quarterly basis and that these be sent out immediately showing the position to date.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Skipper produced an invoice received from Playsafe for their inspection of the playground equipment. The Clerk will arrange for a cheque to be signed to settle this.

Action: Clerk

There was then some discussion over the budget for next year and the need to consider the precept. It is important to ensure that enough monies are raised to allow the council to pursue any future projects without having to increase the precept unnecessarily. It is a careful balancing act and will be discussed further at the next meeting after the councillors have had chance to peruse the more detailed balance sheet.

8. Councillors Report and Parish Plan:

Cllr. Briggs gave an update on progress with the parish plan. The village meeting was well attended with 22 resident coming along all offering support. A committee was established and a chairman appointed. Cllr. Skipper has obtained a grant of £900 towards costs which has been paid into the councils account. It is a condition of this award that the Parish Council contributes 5% of all costs. The first formal meeting will be held in November. As two parish councillors are required to be on the committee it was logical that Cllrs. Briggs and Spencer take these positions, as they have been the most involved so far. Cllr. Prince thanked them for organising the meeting and said how well run it had been.

The chairman reported the findings of the inspection of the play equipment by Playsafe. Several issues were raised and it was suggested that the council inspect the equipment on a weekly basis. The chairman asked Cllr. Prince if he would take on this task and to do it on a month timescale. There is a checklist and defects categorised as medium risk or medium / low risk.

Action: Cllr. Prince

Cllr. Spencer reported on progress with the new village hall. It appears that the County Council architects department had drawn the location of the hall in the wrong place. This meant that the Environment Agency had raised concerns over possible future flooding problems. It is envisaged that the final plans will be considered by ESBC soon so a decision will hopefully be made by the end of the year.

Cllr. Briggs said she was now unable to attend the Playbuilder Demonstration on 24th October and asked if Cllr. Prince would be able to attend. She also highlight concerns over parking in the village as the landlord of the public house has asked parents visiting the school not to park on the pub car park. She asked if any councillors were aware of any land in the village centre where cars could be parked. No suggestions were forthcoming. The use of 'walking buses' in the village has been suggested.

Cllr. Briggs then asked about how the Tinks Croft monies were used and suggested that perhaps an amount of say £100 a year could be given to elderly residents in rented properties to help with their heating bills. After much discussion this was thought a bad idea as it would be fraught with problems and set a dangerous precedent.

Cllr. Nelson said that the highways community gang had been operating in the area for two and a half days and tackled some minor highway problems satisfactorily. They will return in 17 weeks to tackle items on a list submitted by him that includes two areas of flooding.

He then raised a question on behalf of Mr. Mason regarding whether The Green Farm was a listed building. The Clerk undertook to enquire of ESBC.

Action: Clerk

He then raised issues over the school buses parking near the road junction at peak times and causing severe traffic hold ups. It was suggested that this be brought up with the school governors at their planning meeting on 21st October. Cllr. Skipper said she would do this. The whole issue of village parking was then discussed.

Action: Cllr. Skipper

A general request was then made of the Clerk to ask that the minutes of meetings be circulated earlier. The Clerk undertook to send them out with the notice of meeting which is approximately two weeks prior.

Action: Clerk

9. Clerks Report:

Correspondence received:

Two letters had been handed to the Clerk at the meeting, one from Mrs. Barks asking that more space be made available on the village notice board in the bus shelter. Cllr. Prince will do this. She also said that the Elton Close sign was unreadable as it was hidden in the hedgerow. The clerk will inform ESBC.

Action: Clerk and Cllr. Prince.

The second letter was from Mrs. Langley expressing her concerns with speeding traffic in the village and the necessity for traffic calming. The Clerk will make a reply on behalf of the council.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk read through 5 other items of correspondence received by post and email

- i) Consultations on Waste Core Strategy and Minerals Core Strategy.
- ii) Staffs Playing Fields Assoc – AGM
- iii) ESBC – Road Closure for downhill at Hoar Cross
- iv) Weekly Planning Lists
- v) Multi-Use Games Areas

10. Council Employees / contractors working on the highway / lengthsman agreement

The Clerk read out a response he had received from Staffordshire Highways at Lichfield regarding Parish contractors working on the highway. As long as the parish insurers cover them there is no problem. As to restrictions on age, due to discriminations laws there is no restriction provided they are sound in mind and body.

As for payment, if they are deemed to be contractors and paid by invoice, then they need not go through the Councils PAYE system.

Lenghtmans agreement – covered elsewhere above.

There being no further items the meeting was closed at 9.40pm

Signed

Dated:

Initials: