

# NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008

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

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr. W. Prince. Cllr. P. Spencer. Cllr. P. Macpherson,
- 2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:**

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 3. Public Forum:**

Speedwatch:

Mr. Peck updated the meeting with details about the Speedwatch initiative. He has 12 or 13 volunteers. Training will be undertaken by a WPC from Burton upon Trent police. He has not heard from her yet and will chase PC Jones if nothing is forthcoming soon. If any of the volunteers cannot make the first training session further courses will be arranged. With this number of volunteers it should be possible to cover every day of the week including weekends. Mr Peck said it would be more beneficial if we were able to keep the equipment over a 2-week period not one week as was originally suggested. The equipment will be shared with Yoxall and the training will be undertaken locally. There was then some discussion as to where the equipment would be stored. It was suggested that the Youth and Adult centre office could be used, as this was lockable. This would involve having a least 6 keys cut.

Non-Emergency Number:

The contact number will change as from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008 to 0300 123 44 55. Posters and handout will be made available in due course.

At this point Mr Peck left the meeting and was thanked for his participation by the chairman.

- 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were read and recorded as being a true record. This was proposed by Cllr. R. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. A. Briggs. All were in favour.

- 5. Matters Arising from the minutes:**

Village Well.

As yet no one has attended to the problems with the well – it remains blocked.

Speedwatch:

The speedwatch situation is now progressing and Cllr. Skipper was thanked for her involvement in moving the initiative forward. The Clerk was asked to clarify the position as to insurance for the equipment when stored in the Youth and Adult centre.

**Action: Clerk**

Street Maintenance:

The Clerk reported that no invoice had been received from Mrs. Barks for the grass cutting and street cleaning. Cllr. Nelson reminded the meeting that the fees for this work should be claimed back against the lengthsman agreement. Clerk to investigate.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Oakley said that he thought that anyone working on the highway ought to be wearing a high visibility jacket. Cllr. Skipper will try to organise these.

**Action: Cllr. Skipper**

The Council has a duty of care to its employees. Our insurance covers us for this. It was pointed out that Mr and Mrs Barks are pensioners and that it is worth checking that the insurance still covers them. The Clerk will do this as well as investigate as to whether payment to them should be made through the PAYE system.

**Action: Clerk**

## **6. Planning Applications:**

Cllr. Skipper requested that the full list of planning applications be placed in the circulation file. The Clerk will do this in future.

**Action: Clerk**

No new applications had been received for discussion at this meeting. Responses have been made to those that had arisen since the last meeting.

## **7. Parish Plan (Strategy and Policy):**

Cllr. Briggs said that a standard letter had been written inviting residents to attend a meeting at the Youth and Community Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> September and 200 copies had been made. Batches were handed out amongst some of those present for distribution round the parish and Mrs. Barks will be approached for her help. An application for a grant of £900 to cover the costs has been submitted. A list of volunteers to help with specific parts of the plan was read out. Cllr. Briggs asked if anyone had access to a screen for the presentation. Once in place the Parish Plan is a 'Strategy and Policy' covering the next 5 years.

## **8 and 9. Grant Applications and Church Wall progress.**

The Clerk informed the meeting that we had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Lottery Fund of £10,000 towards the cost of the project. The councillors thanked both the Clerk and the Chairman for their efforts in obtaining this award. Cllr. Skipper said that there was a possibility of a further £3000 to come from two other sources, £2000 from the Local Members Initiative Scheme and £1000 from WASP.

The Lottery fund have requested that no announcement of the award is made until after 20<sup>th</sup> September whereupon the Clerk was asked to prepare a press release.

**Action: Clerk**

The original estimate for the works was approx £21,000 but we understand the archaeologists fee is likely to be closer to £1000 not £3000 as budgeted. There then took place a lengthy discussion as to whether the council ought to go ahead with the project. A quick calculation revealed that there are sufficient funds to meet the cost and to leave enough monies in the budget to cover the Councils usual running costs.

A question was asked about the interest received on the Tinks Croft account. The Clerk was requested to investigate investing this money into a higher earning account. It was suggested that this money could be used towards the project but no final decision was made.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Skipper said that the builder, Peter Wainwright, could start the work on 20<sup>th</sup> October and that the job would last around 4 weeks. We have the permission of the Diocese to progress and the necessary planning approvals.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nelson and seconded by Cllr. Oakley that the council go ahead and instruct the contractor to start. All were in favour.

**Action: Cllr. Skipper**

The chairman said she would inform the Staffordshire Highways of the start date as temporary traffic lights will be required and also the school so they are aware of possible disruptions to the crossing patrol.

A point was made that the playground equipment was now very old and in need of some attention and that the sitting of some items was incorrect. It was decided that this could be put forward as a priority project in the future, once the church wall had been completed. Cllr. Briggs said she would attend a Playbuilder demonstration / seminar at Uttoxeter on 24<sup>th</sup> October to see if funding might be available.

**Action: Cllr. Briggs**

#### **10. Correspondence received:**

The Clerk read through 12 items of correspondence received.

- A. SPCA – AGM – resolutions for debate
- B. Community council of staffs – questionnaire
- C. Extinguishments of footpath 20
- D. Trent and dove housing
- E. The national forest
- F. St Giles hospice
- G. Local transport consultation
- H. SPCA – training
- I. Allianz – re gazebo
- J. Community council of staffs – AGM notice
- K. Needwood primary – election of governor
- L. SPCA – transport exhibition
- M. Parish councils forum – items at next meeting
- N. Staffs police – new commander at Uttoxeter
- O. Bt – red phone boxes
- P. NHS – primary care trust AGM
- Q. Playbuilder Roadshow
- R. Grant award – lottery grants

#### **11. Financial Report, Accounts for Payment:**

Accounts.

The Clerk produced an up to date copy of the accounts and asked that the councillors consider these before the next meeting when one item on the agenda will be to preview the budget for next year.

The Clerk was asked to contact our bank to ask that Cllr. Oakley become a signatory instead of Cllr. Macpherson.

**Action: Clerk**

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

It was noted that Cllr Spencer's name had been mentioned in connection with several items tonight. The Clerk was asked to contact him to establish a). Remind him of the problems with the village well. b) Whether he was in possession of Mr and Mrs Barks latest Invoice and c) if he had a copy of the Guide for Councillors that he could pass to Cllr. Briggs. Cllr. Briggs will forward the webmasters contact email address to the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr. Briggs**

Cllr. Nelson reported in the highways community gangs that will be operating in the parish on a rota basis. Their remit is to tackle low priority work such as minor drainage problems, overgrown hedges and faded signage. They will operate for one week every seventeen and will require a list of works by 29<sup>th</sup> September. Any items to Cllr Nelson before that date please.

**Action: All**

Cllr Oakley has received a three-page report from Mike Sutherland about the footpaths in the parish. Mr Sutherland has had a site meeting with Staffordshire County Councils footpath officer in which many issues were raised. He was told that there was no funding available for new stiles. It would be useful if the Councillors could inform Mr Sutherland of the names of the local landowners so that the information can be sent to Staffordshire County Council.

**Action: All**

Cllr Skipper closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Signed .....

Dated: .....