

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Youth and Adult Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th September 2009

Present: Cllr. B. Skipper (Chairman), Cllr. A. Nelson. (Vice Chairman) Cllr. P. Spencer.
Cllr. W. Prince. Cllr. P. Macpherson. Cllr. R. Oakley.
Ian Colclough (Clerk)

1. Apologies: Cllr. A. Briggs.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Skipper declared an interest in one of the planning applications to be discussed later.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped they all had a good holiday

4. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2009:

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th July 2009 were read. Some minor amendments were identified within the minutes:

Item 6 line 1 – should read was, not were.

Item 6 – village well – should read Mick Harris

Item 10 – should read sign not signs

Item 10 – should read asked not ask

Item 12 - Should read Mr Stace not Stacy and Bethan not Bethen.

It was proposed by Cllr. Macpherson and seconded by Cllr. Prince that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings. All were in favour.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Village Hall.

Cllr Spencer reported that the committee had been in contact with the landowners who had expressed a wish for the scale of the building to be downsized. The building needs to meet everyone's needs. Once agreement is reached over the design then the committee will call an open meeting. Cllr. Nelson asked about village organisations using the school premises once the existing facility is demolished. Cllr. Spencer said that a meeting had been called for 14th September when a time schedule for the building work will be set out. Once this is known then the use of the school by village organisations can be addressed and this should be done by the end of September. Everyone will be kept informed of progress.

Village Well

Cllr. Nelson said that Mark Harris has looked around the garden and suggested the simplest remedy would be to excavate around the perimeter and lay a new water pipe. This would take about 3 days and cost around £1000. A second option would be to take out the large conifer that is growing in the middle of the lawn and above the existing pipe. Some discussion took place around the responsibility for the pipe and the ownership of the well. Cllr. Spencer will speak to the land owners to determine their willingness to share in the costs and the Clerk was asked to contact ESBC to see if the ownership of the well itself could be determined.

Highways update.

Cllr. Nelson said that Roy Carr of Staffordshire Highways had rung to say they had found the finance to surface the footway by the church wall and construct a new footway at the side of the public house. The work should commence within the next 8 weeks. The Clerk said that the community gangs were due in the parish, week commencing 3rd November and 16th March 2010. Items for attention should be forwarded to the Clerk.

Action: All

Reported possible planning infringement.

Following the involvement of ESBC planning department, Mr Sale has been asked to move the field shelter every two years.

Playing field gate.

Cllr. Prince reported that the problems had now been resolved.

Footpaths.

No further progress to report.

Grant Applications.

Cllr Skipper said that the application process was still under way and there was little to report at this stage.

Sale of Parish Mowing Equipment.

The mower has now been given to Jim Barks. It was felt that the strimmer should also be offered to him. Cllr. Oakley asked about the second mower, which was no longer working. It was felt that this should be scrapped. This was proposed by Cllr. Oakley and seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All were in favour.

Motor Bikes

Cllr. Spencer said that the police were aware of the names of the offenders and that any nuisance had now ceased.

Playground Inspection

The Clerk, following a request from Cllr. Skipper, has cancelled this.

Speedwatch

Cllr. Nelson asked about progress on this initiative. The speed gun is now with the parish having been with Yoxall Parish and then in for calibration. The village volunteers are keen to progress and should be in action starting next week for 3 weeks.

7. Planning Applications:

1. Permitted – Hadley Farm, Draycott in the Clay – 2-storey side extension.
2. Removal of 2 trees – Swarbourne House
3. Permitted – Dolesfoot Farm, Dolesfoot lane – erection of agricultural building
4. Refused – certificate of lawfulness – Cross Roads Cottage, Abbots Bromley Road
5. Outline Planning Permission application for a new building at Poplars Farm, Yoxall Road.

At this point the chairman, Cllr. Skipper, left the room while an application, in which she had an interest, was discussed.

There was concern over the property being made available as a holiday let and the increased noise levels that this may bring. It was decided that a direct question regarding the purpose to which the new building would be used should be put to Cllr. Skipper.

At this point Cllr. Skipper was invited to rejoin the meeting. Cllr. Nelson asked Cllr. Skipper if the outline planning permission was for a future rental property. Cllr. Skipper said that was

not the intention. It was decided that no response to the application should be made at this time and that this would be reviewed if and when a full application is made.

8. Handling of Planning Application / Infringements:

The Clerk has previously circulated a draft document outlining the Parishes approach to applications / reported infringements. One addition to item 2.2.2 was requested. The document would be added to the list of FOI Act documents available from the Clerk and listed on the village web site.

Action: Clerk

9. Parish Plan Update:

The working group was due to meet last week but it was cancelled due to the number of members on holiday. The meeting is now scheduled for next week. The questionnaire is nearly ready with only one or two contributions missing. A copy of the draft was passed to the chairman who asked the Clerk to keep it.

10. Comments, compliments and complaints procedure – draft for review.

As part of the information required to satisfy the Freedom of Information Act, the Clerk said he had obtained, from another parish, a copy of their procedure. This was distributed amongst the Councillors for them to bring comments back to this meeting. To enable all Councillors to study its content it was suggested this item be carried forward to the next meeting in October.

Action: Clerk and All

11. Inventory of PC Assets:

For insurance purposes it was felt that it would be useful for the Clerk to hold a complete inventory of assets held by the Parish Council. This would be included in an assets register. A list of assets was compiled from the knowledge of those present and the Clerk was requested to note them and bring the list to the next meeting. Concern was expressed over the ownership of the recently replaced lighting columns, as the Parish Council had paid for these. The Clerk was asked to determine who now owns these assets and whether they are covered on the Council's insurance.

Action: Clerk

12. Clerks Report:

The Clerk reported on the following:

Finances:

Account Balances –
Current account - £1500.00
Reserve account - £11,721.74
Grants account – £2,581.68
Tinks Croft account – £6,578.21

Accounts for payment –
Clerk Salary - £366.60 and expenses - £55.64
Treemendous Estate Care - £360.00
SLCC subscription - £41.00 (half share).

Payments received – interest on accounts

Correspondence:

The following correspondence had been received by post or email and was read:

- i) Abbots Bromley Parish Council regarding the speeds of agricultural traffic on the rural roads.
- ii) ESBC regarding clean neighbourhoods and dog control orders. The Clerk was requested to complete a form detailing the areas in the Parish where such an order should be placed. He was also asked to determine if such orders cover highway land. **Action: Clerk**
- iii) SPCA notice of AGM – 7th November
- iv) Mencap – a request for a donation, which was declined.
- v) CC of S – AGM – 24th September
- vi) SS NHS Trust – AGM – 30th September
- vii) ESBC regarding The Gambling Act – this was placed in the circulation file.
- viii) John David regarding a government initiative to get young people into work. Placed in circulation file.

All other items were placed in the circulation file.

Correspondence sent:

- i) ROSPA playground inspection – cancelled as requested by Cllr. Skipper.
- ii) Letter of thanks to Mr Teal of Tompkinson and Teal, Lichfield for undertaking free of charge the internal audit.
- iii) Accounts and covering letter for the external auditor.

12. Councillors Report:

Cllr. Spencer said that a fast moving farm tractor had damaged the bridge wall in Elton Close. A note of the number of the vehicle was made and proceedings are in hand to remedy the situation.

Cllr. Skipper said that there was a large tree in the playing field that required inspection. The Clerk knew of a local arborist and offered to contact him and report back to the chairman in due course.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm.

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 5th October at 7.30pm.

Signed Dated: