

REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th November, 2008

Present: Mr D M Walker (in the Chair) Mr J Santoro
Mrs J Taylor Mrs A Lovett
Mr R Beeby

In attendance: Mrs J M Walker (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Also present were twelve members of the Public including County Councillor Mrs L Sykes

Before opening the meeting the Chairman made a statement about Open Discussion Time in that he would allow fifteen minutes to cover the items on the agenda. After that there would be no opportunity for further comments from the floor.

1. **Apologies** were received from Mr P Atkin, Mrs L Craven, Mr & Mrs N Humphries, Dr & Mrs P Schober and Mr & Mrs B Kenney
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th September 2008 and of Planning Meeting held on Monday 20th October 2008** were accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Taylor and seconded by Cllr Mr R Beeby.
3. **Chairman's Review**
This concentrated largely on Highways issues.
 - (a) **Crossroads**
During the week commencing 6th October a young man walking to the Loughborough bus stop had to jump out of the way of an articulated lorry cutting the pavement. This happened a second time in the same week. A meeting was held with the Nottinghamshire County Council Customer Services Manager on site to look at this issue and others in the village. NCC are looking at ways to improve the crossroads.
 - (b) **Wysall Lane, pothole filling**
This work was carried out with new expensive materials but it has been agreed with NCC that the work is not satisfactory and they will not be using this method again. Meanwhile NCC are to monitor the situation.
 - (c) **Wymeswold Road**
 - (a) Pavement Widening – it has been agreed with NCC that this be treated as urgent and the work is now ordered.
 - (b) Interactive Sign - this should be in place by Christmas.
 - (d) **The Traffic Signal post** on the Church footpath by the crossroad that prevents free access to all is to be repositioned in the current financial year.
 - (e) **Footpaths A60 North and South of Crossroads**
It is disappointing that no work has been done this year as these footpaths urgently need attention. Additional maintenance money is to be available by NCC provided we apply through our County Councillor. Mrs Sykes undertook to find out from Bob Hart, NCC, what this money was and the Clerk to email Mrs Sykes with the details of precisely what we require to be done.
 - (f) **Trees along the A60 South**
NCC will provide assistance in identifying trees and boughs at risk to footpath and main road users. The Parish Council to identify ownership and discuss with landowners.

- (g) **Electricity Power Failures**
From Tuesday 28th October and up to and including Wednesday 12th November the village experienced numerous power outages lasting from twelve hour cuts through to a few minutes. The information that could be gathered from E.on Central Networks was scant and contradictory and not assisted by a stand-by generator that was unreliable and unfit for purpose. The Parish Council to write a strong letter of complaint to the supplier with a request for financial compensation.
- (h) **Vacancies for Councillors**
Finally the Chairman stressed the need to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council and asked that people talk about this and encourage anyone showing an interest to come forward. The year ahead would be challenging and rewarding.

4. **Open Discussion Time**

- (a) Mr P Jackson referred to his letter dated 8th November 2008 to the Chairman concerning the Appeal by Mr B Burton for the development of six residential dwellings on land adjacent to The Old Engine Yard. He asked whether the Parish Council would be sticking to their original decision not to support the application particularly as it seemed to conflict with the Borough Council's policy. The Chairman reassured Mr Jackson that his letter would be considered under Item 5(c) of the agenda.
- (b) Mr W Clark wished to convey to the meeting that Mrs J Schober was distressed by the knowledge that she was named in the incidents regarding Elms Close when she was out of the country at the time. The Chairman responded that nothing at all had been reported to the Council and that the matter was now closed.
- (c) Concern was expressed about the positioning of Open Discussion Time on the Agenda but it was agreed to trial it where it is for the time being.

5. **Planning Issues**

- (a) 08/01736/LBC Chek Whyte Industries, Stanford Hall, Melton Road, Stanford-on-Soar, Leics. LE12 5QW. Conversion of Stanford Hall into a single dwelling with associated garaging and stables; extension to existing theatre; demolition of lido; extension to Cedar Mews, boiler house and workers cottage; conversion of the Peach House and farm buildings to an organic shop and restaurant; creation of new spa and apartment building; new nursing/care home; 4no. retirement blocks and cricket pavilion. **Awaiting decision by RBC.** The Chairman reported that English Heritage were behind with their reply.
- (b) 08/01824/FUL Mr C Kay, 3 Wolds Close, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RA. Construct rear conservatory. **Awaiting decision by RBC.**
- (c) 08/00913/OUT Mr B Burton, Land adjoining The Old Engine Yard, Wymeswold Road, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RP. Residential Development (six dwellings). **Permission refused. Notice of Appeal received.**

The Chairman referred to the letter received from Mr P Jackson stating that it required full consideration and in response to the queries raised in the letter he explained as follows. As far as Planning Policy is concerned the Parish Council is in the hands of Rushcliffe Borough Council and cannot be seen to quote their planning guidelines back to them. What RBC rely on Parish Councils for are comments that reflect the local situation on the ground that sometimes Planning Officers and Borough Council will miss. After discussion it was felt that there would be a development at some time but that this particular application was not appropriate. All the previous correspondence, neighbours' letters and the Parish Council response would go forward into the Appeal process, the date of which was as yet unknown. Agreed that the Parish Council intended to stand by its original decision as this planning application was not a special case and the Council would only reconsider if there were any new information.

- (d) East Leake Quarry, Development Plans Application 8/07/02187/CMA. Issue referred to Planning and Licensing Committee for discussion on 05.09.08. Rempstone Parish Council already submitted response. Decision taken by Secretary of State not to call in the application. **Determination to be taken by Nottinghamshire County Council now awaited.**

6. Village Hall

The Chairman told the meeting about the Assessor's latest visit and explained that we were in with a chance but that our application now had to go before two committees and that we would hear by 25th November. He explained that work was being done with the Trustees' queries and that it was hoped to set up a meeting with Mr Bob Evans from Woodhouse Eaves for his advice in the near future. Work was ongoing.

7. Elms Close – Pavement Crossover

The Chairman referred to letters received from the residents of Elms Close since the last meeting and explained that these had all received a reply and that the Councillors were aware of this correspondence. As it is not the policy of the Parish Council to enter into inter-neighbour disputes it was not intended to read out these letters but that a summary would be made of the salient points taken both from the letters and from discussion and he summarised as follows.

- (a) No immediate practical solutions need to be implemented at present.
- (b) The sleeping policeman still acts as a speed deterrent.
- (c) Elms Close residents are to monitor the activities of commercial vehicles using the Close.
- (d) A duty of care exists jointly between drivers using Elms Close and pedestrians using the footpath at the bottom.
- (e) There is to be monitoring of vehicles parking on the slip road at the foot of Elms Close where visibility may be impaired. Vehicular parking currently enjoyed is shared between Village Hall users, local residents, patrons of the White Lion and Nightingale's Guest House.
- (f) Four out of six properties were in agreement with the above.

The Parish Council has no mandate to involve itself in Elms Close, a private unadopted road, other than by consultation with the residents. The Council does have a mandate to refer issues on the public side of the pavement crossover to the appropriate Highways agency.

8. New Model Publication Scheme

Under the Freedom of Information Act there is a New Model Publication Scheme that Parish Councils are compulsorily required to adopt by 31st December 2008. When ultimately prepared a Guide will contain relevant information for a Council to publish, perhaps by Website, and to be kept in the Clerk's records under the following headings:

- (i) Who we are and what we do.
- (ii) What we spend and how we spent it.
- (iii) What our priorities are and how we are doing.
- (iv) How we make decisions.
- (v) Our policies and procedures.
- (vi) Lists and Registers.
- (vii) The services we offer.

A Motion was tabled that this Parish Council accepts the New Model Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act. This was proposed by Councillor Mrs J Taylor, seconded by Councillor R Beeby and unanimously agreed.

9. The Sherwood Foresters – Memorial in Belgium

The Chairman said that a letter had been received from The Sherwood Foresters and sent to all Parish Councils in both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire requesting a minimum donation of £30 towards a special Memorial (to be manufactured in a local Derbyshire stone) to mark ninety years since the ending of hostilities. The Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils are supporting this and we are allowed to contribute under Section 137(3)(b) of the Local Government Act. In Rempstone we had a soldier named Joseph Wadkin who was killed in action and a surviving member of his family still lives here. After discussion it was agreed to send a sum of £50 as our contribution.

10. Finance

- (a) Bank Reconciliation for the quarter 1st July to 30th September 2008 was presented.
- (b) Payment of Cheques
 - (i) Cheque No. 336 for £1,172.25 was made payable to Fraser Brown, Solicitors, for Licence for Village Hall and Highways
 - (ii) Cheque No. 337 for £542.85 was made payable to Fraser Brown, Solicitors, for Charitable Trust advice.
 - (iii) Cheque No. 338 for £59.00 was made payable to the SLCC for annual subscription for 2008/9.
- (c) Payment received from Big Lottery Fund for expenses to date as at 10(b)(i) and (ii).

11. Correspondence – none

12. A.O.B.

- (a) There was a message from the Police that fabric and fittings were being taken from Leisure Centres and public facilities. The public were warned to be careful with their possessions in the changing rooms as wallets were being taken.
- (b) It was commented that since the changes in clock times alarms were going off at the wrong times.
- (c) Mention was made of the power cuts and the poor quality of the generator.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 12th January 2009 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the proceedings and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____