

LITTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2007 AT THE O.A.P. HALL, BARLEY CLOSE.

PRESENT: Simon Downing [Chairman], John Easter, Brian Adams, Norman Grundy, Bill Hutchison, Alan Machell, Tom Parr, Tim Phillipson, Brenda Shore and Cllr. Alan Summerfield.

Cllr. Carol Hart [DCC], Doreen Roach, seven members of the public and David Dodgson [Clerk].

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1107.01 A resident thanked the Council for arranging the removal of a dead tree. Concern was again expressed about the state of the footpath between the Queen's Head and New Inn Lane. Cllr. Hart responded that – whilst it featured in D.C.C.'s future work programme – its priority was not high.

Two residents were concerned about a large, metal shed being constructed on land abutting their properties; they had contacted E.B.C.'s Enforcement Officer but had not received a response. Cllr. Summerfield undertook to progress the Enforcement Officer about the issue.

The Chairman told a representative of the Allotment Association that Severn Trent now intended to retain their land for the foreseeable future. Another option would be considered later in the Agenda.

AGENDA PART I: NON-EXEMPT INFORMATION:

1107.02 Apologies for Absence: Cllr. E Knight [EBC]

1107.03 Declarations of Members' Interests: There were none.

1107.04 Non-exempt Minutes of Meeting on 24th October 2007: It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign-off the Minutes as a true record.

1107.05 Reports of Sub-Committees: Brian Adams said he would report on the recent Finance Sub-Committee at Agenda item 7.

1107.06 Crime / Neighbourhood Watch / Anti-social Behaviour: The Chairman reported that P.C. Crooks had issued a ticket for parking on the crossing 'zig-zags' near the school and that he had also admonished youths for letting-off fireworks. Simon Downing also reported that the Constabulary were currently looking at a 'Three Valleys Housing' property on Church Lane as a possible village office and that the N.W. newsletter would shortly be available for distribution.

Given regular 'vehicle activity' by youths at the top of Barley Close, Tom Parr suggested that P.C. Crooks be asked to visit the area in late evening.

1107.07 Reports from outside body Representatives: Cllr. Hart reported that there might be upcoming funding problems for the 'Gold Card' scheme and Cllr. Summerfield said that E.B.C.'s Mayor had 'switched-on' Xmas lights for several parishes.

At the Chairman's prompting, Cllr. Hart undertook to investigate the possible award of additional D.C.C. highway funding. Responding to Brenda Shore, Cllr. Summerfield undertook to progress the provision of a litter-bin near the Co-op bus stop.

1107.08 Finance:

1107.08.1

On a proposal by John Easter – seconded by Alan Machell – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the following accounts be cleared for payment:

1926	M W Haspel – Ch'yard Maint'nce: June-Nov. '07	£ 1,110.00
1927	S J Brown – Contractor Services: October '07	£ 188.00
1928	Open Spaces Society – Annual subscription	£ 30.00
1929	Park Hall Designs – Websites maint'nce: Nov. '07	£ 20.00

1930	C Hourd – Park-keeping/exp’s: Nov. ‘07	£ 184.001931	D
	Dodgson – Clerk’s salary/exp’s: Nov. ‘07	£ 432.75	
1932	Ashley Throw – Wall repairs [near Park Close]	£ 641.00	

1107.08.2 Brian Adams reported that the Finance Sub-Committee met on 22nd November to prepare Precept and Concurrent Function proposals for 2008-09. He spoke to pre-distributed budgets for both areas – highlighting significant variances and new expenditure categories. After taking questions, Brian Adams proposed – with Tom Parr seconding – that Council approve the proposals. Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that, in respect of 2008-09, a PRECEPT of £16,630 be set and that net CONCURRENT FUNCTION income of £19,280 be sought. Mr Adams also suggested that 2008-09 should be the year in which Council should consider the cost/legal/payroll implications of engaging a full-time park-keeper/village handyman. Simon Downing suggested that it might also well be the time to dispose of the Ransomes mower and acquire a turf tractor/leaf sweeper/bowser.

1107.08.3 Brian Adams reported that pay-rates for Clerks had finally been agreed for 2007-08. The Clerk’s salary had been based on a lower, 2006 DALC estimate [SCP 20] which had produced a salary shortfall of £105.69 for the period 1st April to 31st December 2007. On a proposal by Brian Adams – seconded by Norman Grundy – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be awarded £105.69 as owed salary.

1107.08.4 The Clerk reported that the Audit Commission had – without qualification – accepted Council’s Annual Return for 2006-07. Details will be posted on the Council notice board.

1107.09 Park / Pavilion: John Easter had discussed with different residents both the donation of a tree and the potential loss of two trees. All parties were now content and he would liaise with Tim Phillipson as to species. On a proposal by Bill Hutchison – seconded by Norman Grundy – it was **RESOLVED** that Camp & Co. be asked to repair the park footpath near the monument for a sum in the region of £360. Simon Downing undertook to look at a loose bolt on a play equipment frame and John Easter reported that he had provided the Tennis Club with a car park bollard key.

1107.09 Park / Pavilion: continued ...

Two proposals were considered as to the amount of a possible Xmas bonus for the park-keeper. Ultimately, on a proposal by Brian Adams – seconded by Tom Parr – it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Hourd be awarded a bonus of £75. John Easter generally agreed with the earlier tree survey but would welcome the retention of 3 trees near the tennis courts. It was agreed to leave these trees for the time being. Simon Downing said he would seek further tree donations in the next newsletter and he – together with Brian Adams – would liaise with the W.I. about a replacement for the Croft Corner blue cedar.

Bill Hutchison reported a resident’s concern about increased dog waste on the park and Simon Downing undertook to raise the issue in the next newsletter. Mr Hutchison also informed Council of a disturbing incident on the park when a resident’s unleashed [but friendly] dog had frightened a young child in the play area. It was agreed that fencing of the bottom area of the play area was now urgent and the Chairman undertook to obtain 3 quotations as a matter of priority.

John Easter felt that L.E. Diamonds F.C. were grossly over-using the park throughout the year and reported that several, polite requests to vary locations had ultimately resulted in verbal abuse. It was agreed that Mr Easter should liaise with the Clerk ahead of corresponding with the Club.

Finally, Simon Downing reported that all 8 lighting columns should be installed in the car park by the month end.

1107.10 Footpaths: Tim Phillipson reported a problem with Footpath 3 [Drum Hill – Glebe Farm] which was being used as a bridleway whilst designated as a footpath. A rider ‘pressure group’ had organised a recent meeting to argue that continued rider usage over the years had validated their rights and the Footpaths Officer of D.C.C. felt the issue was beyond his remit. Council noted Tim Phillipson’s report.

1107.11 Highways: Simon Downing reported that the overhanging hedge between Alfreton Road and Towd Lane had now been trimmed.

As to the ‘puddling’ on the Co-op forecourt, the Clerk reported that the Midlands Co-operative Society had denied ownership of the forecourt – suggesting that it formed part of the public highway. Council agreed to the Clerk’s suggestion that he write to D.C.C. seeking a definitive response.

1107.12 Street Lighting: Norman Grundy had no problems to report but – at Simon Downing’s prompting – undertook to check whether lights on Vicarage Lane were permanently on.

1107.13 Emergency Planning: Alan Machell reported that around 95% of named contacts in the Community Response Plan had now been approached and that ‘inclusion consent’ signatures now needed to be obtained. A summary of the Plan could ultimately appear on the website but – because of data protection law – should not identify contacts.

The Chairman indicated that the offer of sandbags to residents would be publicised in the N.W. newsletter and Alan Machell agreed to be cited as the contact.

1107.14 Better Kept Villages: Bill Hutchison reported that the ‘litter-pick’ at the start of the month had been well attended with 20 bags of litter gathered. He expressed appreciation that Croft Corner had received a final mow & strim.

1107.14 Better Kept Villages: continued ...

Mr Hutchison confirmed that all bulbs had now been planted – including some by the Millennium Wheel – and was pleased to report that the planter outside the pharmacy had now been well re-planted and was under ‘new care’.

Bill Hutchison reported that he, Brenda Shore and Tim Phillipson had met to consider various maintenance options which would be placed before Council for consideration in the near future. Finally, he asked colleagues to mull over the idea of seeking ‘business sponsorship’ for the maintenance of Croft Corner.

1107.15 Churchyard: There was nothing to report.

1107.16 Youth Facilities: Norman Grundy confirmed that the ‘climbing wall’ and youth bus would visit the car park on 30th November and he thanked Bill Hutchison for covering his own absence [other Councillor help would be appreciated].

Mr Grundy informed Council that – because of Health & Safety impositions – the ‘skate & ride’ park would not be visiting on Carnival Day but would be replaced by the ‘climbing wall’. It was agreed that this issue should be raised with Rachel Sidebottom on 30th November and also that the Clerk should write to her with appreciation of her continued support.

Responding to Mr Grundy, Cllr. Summerfield confirmed that E.B.C. had now acquired a ‘skate & ride’ park [together with ‘loan bikes’] and that staff were currently undertaking operational training.

1107.17 Planning Matters:

1107.17.1 Council noted a recent refusal.

1107.17.2 Council considered the following applications and raised no objections:

- 1007/0049: Extension + garage: Frenlydichia, Morley Lane
- 1007/0057: Side extension: 100 Duffield Road
- 1007/0072: New car park: Outrams Wharf
- 1107/0066: New garage/door canopy: 142 Alfreton Road

1107.18 Licensing Matters: There was nothing to report.

1107.19 Correspondence Check-list and Clerk’s Report Clerk spoke to the pre-distributed check-list and invited Councillors to tick any items of interest - which he would then forward. He also tabled 4 documents for ‘self-circulation’.

Responding to Tim Phillipson, the Clerk briefly outlined why a resident had chosen to withdraw his request for a parish poll regarding an E.U. referendum.

Responding to Brian Adams, the Clerk undertook to prepare a draft advertisement for publication in the D.E.T. regarding the recent adoption of the revised ‘Code of Conduct’

1107.20 Village Hall/Car Park Project: Ahead of the visit to the House of Commons for the WREN grant awards the next day, Simon Downing confirmed that L.E.P.C. was to receive a substantial grant which would be reported in the upcoming N.W. & L.E.C.A. newsletters.

The Chairman also reported that the next joint project meeting was scheduled for 7th January 2008.

1107.21 Allotment Update: As briefly reported in the public session, Severn Trent has suspended negotiations for the foreseeable future as they believe the site might have development potential. Agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Le Blond to thank her for her personal assistance over this matter. Simon Downing had heard that the old village allotment site – owned by the Church – might become available to rent. He would seek to establish a contact for correspondence.

1107.22 Web Sites: There was nothing to report.

1107.23 Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer: On a proposal by Brian Adams – seconded by Tom Parr – it was **RESOLVED** that Doreen Roach be appointed Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 1st January 2008. The Chairman and Doreen Roach signed and exchanged Contracts.

1107.24 Proposed Meeting Dates - 2008: The proposed dates were approved by Councillors.

1107.25 Items for next Agenda:

Draft advertisement re recently adopted Code of Conduct.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.26 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 12th December 2007 at 7.30 pm.

Signed:.....

Chairman

Date: