

South Croxton Parish Council

Minutes of Full Council Meeting on Monday 8th February 2010 at 18:30

in the South Croxton Village Hall

Councillors present: Mike Baxter (Chair), JoAnn Charles, Paul Jackson

Councillors not present: Jo Sheraton, Phil Hawkins

In attendance: Kate Yarrow (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr Mike Preston and PC Phil Porter

7 members of the public

Meeting opened at 18:40

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Sheraton

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January had been previously circulated and were taken as read and accepted as accurate records of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters of interest

PC Phil Porter introduced himself to the Council and to the public present as the local contact for the police force. The Clerk will give PC Porter future meeting dates so that he can attend meetings when possible. The Clerk will also ensure PC Porter's contact details are added to the village website.

PC Porter reported that there had been seven crimes reported in the village in the last six months:

3 drug offences

1 burglary, in dwelling

2 burglaries, other dwelling

1 theft

Cllr Baxter asked whether the drug offences were committed by people outside the village. PC Porter did not have this information to hand.

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PC Porter asked the village to report all incidents to the police so they can offer as much support to the village as possible. He also asked for villagers to be aware if plastic bags, usually used to hold cannabis, are found littered. The police would be interested to know where these are found.

A member of the public asked if it would be possible for a Crime Prevention Officer to come and advise the village. PC Porter and the Clerk will liaise regarding this.

5. Matters arising from previous matters

a) Road sign / parking issues

There are no developments regarding this issue. Cllr Hawkins had been obtaining quotes for producing the road signs. Item to be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Baxter updated the public present on the scheduled dates for both the Annual Parish Council and Annual General Meeting. It was an agenda item to discuss the wording to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting. Due to time constraints this was not done. Item to be discussed at the next meeting.

c) Other matters

Item 4 b – BT phone kiosk

The Clerk confirmed that the paperwork has been completed for the Council to sponsor the phone kiosk.

Item 4 d (i) – Playground equipment and RoSPA inspection

Cllr Baxter reported that RoSPA have inspected the playground on 8th February 2010. Findings will be sent shortly. RoSPA have confirmed that no special surfacing will be required for the new swings that the Council wish to order. They did recommend that matting be placed underneath to stop the ground wearing away. The Council agreed that the order for the new swings can now go ahead and that matting will be fitted.

Item 4 d (ii) – Proposal for change of use – Road to Bridleway

Cllr Baxter updated the public on the proposal from Mr Black to for change of use of a County Highway to a Bridleway. The change is proposed due to problems with cars driving down the lane and fly tipping.

A member of public present stated he has had similar problem on his land and has installed a drop down bar to stop this occurring.

Cllr Baxter requested that Bridleways be an agenda item for the next meeting.

6. Financial matters

a) State of Bank Accounts

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The Clerk is awaiting access to the bank accounts. However, the Clerk could confirm that the balances are:

Current account: £2271.05

Reserve account: £5117.85

b) Expenditure

The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:

ESPO	Payment for driveway barrier	£381.88
Clement Keys	Fine for non response regarding audits	£46.00
Village Hall Committee	Maintenance & running costs (Oct09-Dec09)	£150.00

c) Other matters

i) Financial audit

The Clerk has been in touch with Clement Keys, the external financial auditors for the Council. The financial records are overdue for audit by three years. No action can be taken until all financial records have been returned by the former Clerk.

The Council were unaware of Clement Keys as auditors. The Clerk will call the LRALC to confirm that it is compulsory to use this company.

ii) Clerk contract

The Clerk's three month temporary contract has now expired. The Council agreed to another three month contract and requested that LRALC are contacted to seek advice on recruitment processes.

7. Parish plan

Due to time constraints this was not discussed. Item to be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Planning matters

An appeal has been placed against the decision to refuse planning permission for the proposal the siting of two mobile homes. Cllr Baxter confirmed to the public present that the Council will object to the appeal. A draft of the appeal letter that has been written on behalf of the South Croxton Parish Council was available for all present to read.

A member of the public queried whether the letter will be sent from the whole village as there were some villagers who object to the appeal but fear to write and comment for fear of backlash. Cllr Baxter confirmed that the letter will be sent from the South Croxton Parish Council who represents the village.

Cllr Charles suggested that the more people who write an objection the more impact it will have. Cllr Jackson also advised that the reasons for objecting to the appeal should be focused on impact of the proposed development rather than quote policy, which Charnwood Council will already be aware of.

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A member of the public suggested raising a petition as an objection against the appeal. Cllr Preston advised that it would carry more weight and would reinforce the objection if villagers sent individual letters rather than a petition.

A member of the public asked for notice of the appeal to be sent out to the entire village. The Clerk will organise this.

A member of public notified the Council that the land next to the proposed development site may also be up for sale in the future. The land is approximately 10 -12 acres. One potential proposal is that the land will be sold to Charnwood Council and used as a natural burial ground. It was suggested, with general public agreement, that the Parish Council consider buying the plot of land for use as parkland for the village.

9. Police report

This was given earlier in the meeting. See item 4.

8 Correspondence received

Leicestershire County Council – notifying that grants are available for installation of bus shelters.
Leicester County Council – giving notice of an upcoming consultation regarding the proposed closure of nursing homes and a hostel in Leicestershire.

Queniborough Parish Council – inviting the Council to consider purchasing a vehicle activated signs that can help with traffic speed control.

NHS dentist – a poster providing information on finding an NHS dentist. The poster has been put up on the village notice board.

Working with rural communities

Heritage conference on 24th April

9 Any other business

A member of public suggested that there needs to be a keeper of monuments in the village; someone who will maintain all village signs and monuments. Graham Sanderson had previously been asked if he would take on this responsibility. Cllr Jackson will follow this up.

It was agreed that the Clerk will ensure the village website holds updated information regarding the Parish Council’s activity. The Clerk will liaise with Philip Snelder regarding this.

Cllr Preston updated the Parish Council on various aspects of council business.

He informed the Clerk of a Community Forum that he advised the Clerk to join. Cllr Preston will send details.

Charnwood grants are available should the Parish Council wish to apply for funding for anything relating to the village. Applications can be made on the internet. Cllr Charles suggested whether the swings could be purchased using a grant.

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Cllr Preston also updated the Parish Council on the proposed wind turbines. The application has not been accepted yet and it was confirmed that Queniborough will fight the proposed development. Cllr Charles asked if any information could be passed onto the Parish Council regarding this. Cllr Preston will ask the Queniborough Action Group to send information.

Cllr Preston reported that Leicestershire County Council are considering switching off street lights from 11.00pm – 6.00am to save energy. There is a concern that this will increase vandalism and burglary but evidence actually suggested the apposite happens.

10 Items for inclusion as future Agenda items

i) Road signs / parking issues

To be discussed at the next meeting

ii) Annual Parish Meeting

To be discussed at the next meeting

iii) Bridleways

To be discussed at the next meeting

iv) Parish plan

To be discussed at the next meeting

11 Dates of next meetings

Monday 8th March 2010 at 6.30pm

Monday 19th April 2010 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 10th May 2010 (Annual General Meeting)

Meeting closed 20.25

Confirmed:	Chairman	Date:
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