

DUNCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE W.I. HALL, SOUTHAM ROAD ON TUESDAY
7TH OCTOBER, 1975 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT	Cllr. J.E.F. Barford - Chairman
	" Mrs. J. Coling - Vice Chairman
	" H. Bark
	" P.H. Barnwell
	" D. Cale-Morgan
	" Mrs. W.L.S. Douty
	" P.T. Gray
	" S.J. Watts
	" H.J. Wiggins
	Mr. S.C. Turner - Clerk

In attendance - Borough Cllr. C. Gimson.

The Chairman welcomed Borough Cllr. Gimson to the meeting and introduced him to the Parish Councillors.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. T.R. Atkinson.

2) MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH AUGUST 1975

The minutes, previously circulated to all members, were approved and signed as a true record.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk gave details of costs of the tungsten and mercury vapour lighting in the Parish, and he also read extracts of a letter to the Financial Times setting out the case for all night lighting as a crime deterrent and an aid in preventing traffic accidents.

4) PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr. Mrs. J. Coling moved the adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30th September, and it was resolved that these be accepted.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Borough Council to hasten the signs in respect of prohibition of parking on the greens.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Clerk of Thurlaston Parish Council to seek assistance in the alleged blocking of the footpath from School Street to Thurlaston, by a gate being wired up in the Thurlaston Parish.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the Borough Council concerning the fixing of the signs of the same footpath, where it had been diverted.

The Clerk reported receipt of a planning application for the erection of a scout hut, and the provision of a car park at Rugby Road Playing Field. No objections were raised.

5) RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr. Mrs. J. Coling moved the adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on 30th September, and it was resolved that these be accepted.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Borough Council informing him that they had asked the County Council not to proceed with the Prohibition of Cycling Order for the footpath across the open space, as it will be covered by the Borough bye-laws for recreation grounds, in the parishes, in preparation.

J. E. F. Barford

Cllr. Bark noted that a bye-law concerning the control of dogs was also being prepared.

The Clerk circulated literature concerning litter bins, and it was resolved that one wooden slatted bin be ordered for the Green.

The Clerk was requested to ask Mr. Storer to clear the site of the seat at the corner of Cawston Lane, and arrange for it to be turfed. The re-positioned seat also needs to be firmly anchored in its new position.

Cllr. Bark announced that he had made arrangements for the painting of the letters on the John Scott Memorial. The Chairman thanked him for this.

Cllr. Barnwell raised the question of the danger to the almshouses from the second tree on The Square, which had not been lopped, pointing out that the prevailing wind could carry the boughs on to the houses. In view of the state of the other tree which had now been lopped, the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council concerning their policy in respect of the present tree, and to suggest that it be cut back to a previous lopping.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the Borough Surveyor concerning the trees on the mound by the new housing estate, Coventry Road, the replacement of which it was felt was the responsibility of the contractors.

The Clerk also reported receipt of a letter from the Borough Surveyor which indicated that he was arranging for the conifers on the Rugby Road open space to be replaced during the current planting season, and for that authority to be responsible for them in future.

6) CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The Clerk gave details of a course for Chairman, Councillors and Clerks, to be held at Ryton on Dunsmore during October. No members present wished to attend. He also enquired regarding the notification of Drama Groups in the Parishes to the W.R.C.C. It was reported that the Dunchurch Wives Group had a Drama Section, and that Mrs. Pam Harris, Rugby Road, would be the contact.

(b) The Clerk also gave details of the National Playing Fields Assn. A.G.M. to be held on 5th and 6th November, and also a circular on the conservation of wild creatures and wild plants.

(c) The Clerk reported that he had posted notices concerning the County Structure Plan.

(d) A letter from the Secretary and Solicitor concerning Remembrance Sunday Service at the Memorial Gates, Hillmorton Road was received. Most Councillors said they would be attending the village service, but the Chairman said he would be attending the service in Rugby as a member of the Borough Council.

(e) The Clerk read a letter from the Chief Executive and Electoral Registration Officer, asking that publicity be given to the importance of completing the canvas and inspecting the new registers.

(f) A letter was received from Mrs. B. Hiron concerning the upkeep and appearance of the local butcher's shop, and particularly the guttering over the shop which, in wet weather, caused inconvenience to passers by. Cllr. Gray asked that the matter be left for him to speak to Mrs. Howard.

(g) The Clerk read a letter from the E.M.E.B., concerning the revision of maintenance charges in respect of street lighting and the proposal to introduce connection charges and new supply agreements from 1st. April 1976. He asked to find out the amount of maintenance paid by the parish per year, and write a letter of protest at the continually increasing costs of street lighting.

John E. F. Bayford

(h) The Clerk read a letter from the Wye College, Ashford, and gave details of a questionnaire which they wanted completing. It was resolved that the Clerk reply that the Council do not wish to participate. They fail to see how any judgement can be made as to whether the key village idea is successful from the replies to the questions enumerated. It is considered that this is a local matter only. They do not see what good can come of it, and consider it just another example of public money being wasted on worthless investigations.

(i) The Clerk reported notice of the A.G.M. of the County Assocn. of Parish Councils to be held on Saturday 1st. November at 2.15.

7) REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Newcombe & Spiers Almshouses Charity

The Clerk reported that the trustees had now repaid the loan of £200. to the Parish Council.

(b) Bilton Pools Plot Charity

Cllrs. Mrs. Douty reported a waiting list for allotments. They had also decided on the annual contributions to schools and other organisations, and had asked for more information concerning one education grant.

(c) Rugby Road Sports Field

Cllr. Barnwell said that there had been a meeting mainly concerned with finance. There was £94. in hand.

8) TO APPROVE PAYMENTS DUE

It was resolved that the following payments be approved -

A.F. Woodhams & Son - Best Kept Village Plaque	£11.70
County Assocn of Parish Councils - Financial Statements	30
Clerks Salary and Expenses	£225.00
F.J. Cook - 3 cwt. Bulbs	£ 16.20

It was resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Woodhams thanking him for the excellent job he had done.

9) PETTY CASH PAYMENTS

Printing of Minutes

£1.86

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Cllr. Gray drew the attention of the Council to the danger which still exists at the junction of Cawston/Northampton Lane. It was resolved to refer this to the Planning Committee.

(b) Cllr. Gray referred to the caravan on land at the end of Cawston Lane, which was now being lived in permanently. It was resolved the Clerk report to the Chief Planning Officer.

(c) Cllr. Mrs. Douty drew attention to the wire that had been left on the lamp post after the notice concerning the parking restrictions were taken down. Cllr. Bark said he would see the offending wire was removed.

(d) Cllr. Watts raised the question of the use of Chestnut Hall for various social functions, although as far as he was aware planning permission had been refused. The Chairman said he had already spoken to officer of the Planning Dept. regarding this matter, and after considerable discussion the Clerk was requested to write to the Chief Planning Officer asking him to clarify the situation and to denote which functions, if any, are allowed.

John E. F. B. [Signature]

(e) Cllr. Gray said that Mr. Robinson, the Handyman, had suggested that the concrete posts in the recreation ground be removed. The Clerk said that he was of the opinion that the Council had a responsibility to fence this boundary, but from a practical point of view it would help in keeping this side of the field in a more tidy state. It was resolved the matter be referred to the Recreation & Amenities Committee.

(f) Cllr. Barnwell complained that once again cars seems to be parking all over the place, particularly on the greens. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the police.

(g) Cllr. Cale-Morgan asked if the library could stay open one hour later on the nights it is open. Cllr. Barford pointed out that there was government legislation that the hours of opening be restricted. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to see if the times could be revised.

(h) The Chairman said that the proposals to re-house long term young prisoners at the former Onley Borstal from November was very disturbing. He said that with the extensions there would be accommodation for 420. He complained that whilst Dunchurch was on the doorstep no communication had been received, and the Council merely learnt of this important change through the press. He appreciated that the Home Office had no obligation to notify local councils, but he felt that as a matter of courtesy such an important change of use should have been notified. He felt there were two important questions involved. What measures will be taken to protect public safety in the area, and why weren't we notified. Cllr. Bark said he understood that ~~that~~ councils at Barby and Braunstone had taken up the question of security and has been assured that everything would be done. After a long discussion it was felt that there had been a lack of public relations on the part of the authority, and the Clerk was asked to write to the Home Office with a copy to the local M.P., and the Governor.

(i) The Chairman said that he had a number of complaints regarding street lighting. He raised again the question of an additional lamp to be provided at The Heath. It was resolved that this be referred to the Street Lighting Committee. A number of the complaints were regarding the manner in which the E.M.E.B., were carrying out the work. Materials were being left on the footpaths, and put in residents hedges. Mr. Giles of Rugby Rd. had complained about surplus soil being thrown in his hedge. The Clerk was requested to write to the E.M.E.B., requesting them to clear up as quickly as possible and complete the contract.

11) TO REVIEW THE CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk was asked to withdraw, and upon his return the Chairman complimented him on the manner in which he carried out his duties and informed him that from 1st. April 1975 his salary would be £350. per annum and he would be allowed £100 per annum in respect of expenses. The Council would review these terms after one year, and the item should again be put on the agenda at the appropriate time.

John. E. F. Barford