

MINUTES OF THE KEELE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 16th November 2016 at 7.00pm at Keele Village Hall, Keele

Attendees: Parish Cllrs Ms V Newman (Chair), Mr J Borg, Cllr T Kearon, Dr C Harrison, Mrs S Hughes, Mr T Snape.

In Attendance: Mrs C Withington Clerk

Professor McMillan and Mr Butters were present for item 16/127 only.

16/126 Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present and no issues raised.

16/127 Presentation by the Vice-Chancellor of Keele University Professor Trevor McMillan

Professor McMillan provided a presentation on the university's key achievements over the last few years, one of which includes the University coming 1st in the Student survey for 2014, 2015 and 2016. It was also noted that the IC5 building was expected to be full in the new year. Overall it was identified that the University contributes £177m to the economy of North Staffordshire. It is also the Centre of Excellence for suitable energy solutions. Mr Borg raised concerns about the impact of the EU referendum on the diverse student population and Professor McMillan shared his concerns but also with regards to the Government changes relating to international students. It is likely that EU students will see a hike in fees when the UK leaves the EU, and will be treated as an international student. Additionally, legal advice is being sought to assist the EU staff who work for the University. Mr Borg also asked what the situation was with regards to the energy supply on Plantation Park. Mr Butters is to speak to Mr Borg regarding this, as it will require the sign up of all residents to leave the current supplier and to join the grid. Cllr Kearon asked if there would be a comparable single point of contact for the community and groups, as there will be the students. Professor McMillan to consider this. Cllr Kearon suggested that the University should work to correct the 2 main preconceptions of the University. These are that there are many jobs created by having students in the Borough and that international students contribute to our local economy through the money they spend here. Professor McMillan and Mr Butters were thanked for the presentation and left the meeting.

16/128 Apologies – Mr G Bibby, Dr Studd Cllr W Naylor and Mr J Downing

16/129 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none declared.

16/130 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th October 2016

1. To approve

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by Ms Newman.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

The following items were discussed:

The University Accommodation plan will be discussed with invited guests on 24th November at 2pm at the William Eames building.

Pump Bank/Highway Lane – to be discussed on the next agenda

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16/131 Planning applications – to provide comments on the following:

- Pepper Street (Outline Planning Permission for up to 100 residential) – 13/00970/OUT current position regarding development

It was noted that the demolition of the workshop had still not taken place, despite it being considered urgent.

- Pepper Street Planning Enforcement action update – Letter to Chief Executive in relation the fencing

It was noted that an internal meeting was to be held at the Borough Council on 5th December. It was agreed to await the outcome of this meeting and if necessary to pursue a further meeting between the Chief Executive and the Parish Council after this. Overall it was agreed that the Parish Council continue to pursue this safety concern, especially since this was the primary reason for the special circumstances to develop in green belt. It was also noted that there was a big flare up of the fire over the last week or so.

- [16/00892/TWA](#)- Playground Ilkley Place Silverdale Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 6QP – Various works to the trees under TPO

There were no comments regarding this.

- Keele Neighbourhood Plan update

It was noted that good progress is being made with the development of the plan, following several public meetings held which have been attended by residents on and off the campus including Finney Green.

16/132 To consider a Draft budget for 2017/18 and precept setting – See Appendix A

The Draft budget was considered along with the potential loss of funding from the Borough Council, and the impact on the precept. Cllr Kearon stated that he will be putting the case that Keele is unique in that it has high demands on local services which is why the Section 136 funding should be ringfenced as it was at the last review. It was agreed to await setting the final budget until the information on the future funding and council tax base had been received from the Borough Council. It was also agreed that any increase will need to be publicised and explained through a leaflet.

16/133 Reports

1. Chairman’s report (to be circulated)

This was circulated prior to the meeting and noted as attached. The Clerk was asked to find out if there is must be a consultation with the Parish Council if the Secretary of State is consulted on the re-designation of the green belt. It was agreed that any parking which is obstructing the double white lines on Keele Road should be reported to 101. The Clerk was also asked to report this to Highways and the local police, to check if this is an offence to force people onto the other side of the road where the lines are.

Clerk
ALL
Clerk

2. County & Borough Councillors Cllr D Huckfield, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Kearon
Cllr Naylor’s report was noted. The Clerk was asked to report the poor state of the pavement from Chapel Close to The Village. The Clerk was also asked to write to David Greatbach regarding the lack of work to resolve the dangerous roundabout, especially if the conditions are icy being at the bottom of a hill with a vertical drop. Mr Borg to contact Cllr Redditch to ask that she does the same and the County Councillor Simon Tagg.

Clerk
Clerk
JB

Cllr Kearon has been working on lots of casework, but is also pursuing action for the fly tipping correspondence found at the Hollywood site.

3. Borough Standards Committee – Dr R Studd

Nothing to update.

4. Betley Keele and Madeley Locality Action Partnership – Cllr W Naylor

Nothing to update.

5. Rural Runabout update – Ms Newman

Nothing to update.

6. Village Hall Management Committee update - Mrs S Hughes

It was agreed that the Village Hall submit the community chest form for the next meeting.

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16/134 Amenities

1. To consider schemes for the Lengthsman (£963)
To consider a quote for leaf clearance and edging off to pavement in the Village and Station Road - This was approved, although the leaves had been swept recently by the Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for the siding of the pavement from Pepper Street on the right-hand side going up to Red Heath House.

**Clerk
Clerk**

16/135 Grants

1. To consider applications for Community Chest (current balance is £1145.55) Keele Village Hall – to be considered at the next meeting.

16/136 Other matters for consideration:

1. To consider the **potential removal of BT phone box outside 37 Quarry Bank** – deadline 16th December

RESOLVED to support the removal of the phone box due to ASB issues.

2. To consider a draft response by the sub group regarding the Electoral Review of Newcastle-Under-Lyme: Warding Arrangements, and to note the letter from the Chief Executive of NBC

Discussion took place regarding the need to retain Keele as a single ward, especially in light of the numbers of electors registered for the EU referendum. Cllr Kearon is leading on this and it was agreed that it would be better resolve this now based on projected numbers, rather than pursue a formal request for a boundary review in 2018. Cllr Kearon and Mr Borg to compile a response for the next meeting.

**JB TK
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3. To consider a response to the Open Space & Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation available at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk (Deadline 15th December)

Discussion took place regarding the information received about the verges along the A525 being classed as amenity space. Additionally there was some concern that the Golf Course was not in the official green corridor. Mr Bibby to be asked to pull together a set of written comments regarding this for consideration at the next meeting.

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4. Litter on Lymes Road/Three Mile Lane – Cllr W Naylor

Information is awaited from Newcastle Borough Council.

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5. Further action in relation to residents parking in the Village and a parking scheme Mr Murphy had provided an update to say he was working with Highways to overcome the policy issues and the costs were likely to be around £4k for a parking scheme. These can be reduced if the Parish Council undertakes elements of the consultation. Sign up is required from the 5 properties who would use the scheme. Further information to be brought back to the next meeting.

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16/137 Correspondence

1. To review papers and correspondence received through the clerk and consider if any item requires further action on next agenda

2. Letter from Chief Executive regarding Parish Council Forum and minute taking rota – The Clerk suggested she would help retain the meeting and do her share of minute taking along with the others. Clerk to respond on this basis.

Clerk

16/138 Financial Statement

1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers – Appendix B

These were approved for payment as attached.

2. To consider a formal response in relation to the S136 concurrent funding cuts from NBC

It was agreed to make a case to the Chief Executive regarding the special circumstances that Keele finds itself in, being a small parish (and council tax base) with a large electorate due to the University.

Clerk

16/139 **Any Other Business for future agendas**
Nothing further was added.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm
Approved Payment Schedule – November 2016

BACS & Cheque No.	Expenditure	Details	TOTAL
bacs 46	C Withington	Office furniture (1/8 share)	53.00
bacs 47	C Withington	Nov Salary	231.55
bacs 48	C Withington	Nov Expenses inc mileage	15.00
bacs 49	HMRC	Tax and NI Nov	57.80
bacs 50	Mr Czwartynski	Litter - Nov 16	132.00
		Monthly Total	489.35

Appendix A- Keele Parish Council Chair's Report November 2016

Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation events at The Village Hall and Management centre drew some visitors, with around 20 families plus volunteers so far. The events were busy, visitors stayed to look at the important work Bernard Besly has done on mapping future possibilities and contributed comments. They were positive about the questionnaire which now runs to three A4 sides and is close to completion. I will circulate a copy in due course. The final meeting is on the 15th November from 15:00 to 20:00 in the Students' Union.

The training for the questionnaire and its distribution is likely to occur after Christmas for obvious reasons. There will be an extended meeting with John Knight our consultant on November 23rd at 2, Church Bank to discuss ongoing strategy and I have asked the University for a meeting to discuss the dovetailing of our plans.

A consultant is being contacted by Val Newman to carry forward the KNPG website and a Facebook account has been set up.

Development

A conversation at a consultation event with the owners of the plot of land adjacent to the Village Hall and the small plot where Station Road meets the A525 revealed that they are hoping to build on both plots. They are discussing with the Borough an application to have the Station Road plot removed from the Green Belt. They and I were both surprised that the Parish Council did not know about this. I will contact the Planning Department.

Pepper Street Health and Safety

John Sellgren is currently on leave and we have yet to receive a reply from him regarding enforcement action to secure the dangerous site. Having taken council, I have decided to wait until John's return and then seek a meeting with him and the Parish Council. Entering into the complaints procedure at this time would result in a defensive response which might not be helpful.

University Development meeting

Councillors will be aware that an update meeting with the University is scheduled for 24th November at 14:00 in the William Emes building. Current attendees include: Graham Bibby, Wenslie Naylor, John Downing and Val Newman. All councillors are welcome to attend.

Parking

A reply has been received from Mike Murphy of Staffordshire CC with regard to the Residents' Parking scheme in the Village. Mike has had a meeting with highways re the new policy, is aware of the previous skewed results (which Angela pointed him back to) and is then putting some ideas down on paper as to how to move it forward. Cllr Huckfield rang and left a message saying the Mike was leading the process.