

MINUTES OF THE KEELE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 7.00pm at Keele Village Hall, Keele

Attendees: Parish Cllrs: Ms V Newman (Chair), Cllr W Naylon, Dr C Harrison, Dr R Studd Mrs S Hughes, Mr D Hindmarch, Mr G Bibby, Mrs A Abercrombie and Cllr T Kearon, Mrs Withington (Clerk)

Guests: 1 member of public were present

Ref	Action
14/073	Public Open Forum No items discussed.
14/074	First Bus, Peter Weston – Issues with the service in the Village This item was deferred as Mr Weston had not attended.
14/075	Apologies received through Clerk Apologies received from Mr Downing and Mrs A Studd.
14/076	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests None
14/077	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2014 1. To approve: Subject to the amendment to minute 14/070.4 as follows: <i>Keele University – Ideas for use of wood from Keele Wood.</i> The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record. The Clerk reported that it would cost in the region of £30 per month to include a further signatory for electronic banking, in addition to a set-up fee for 2 e-signatories at £30 per person. Due to the changing policy on Local Government banking, it was suggested that the Clerk look into banking with Lloyds (who the Borough Council now bank with). Noted that the issue regarding Quarry Bank Road blocked drains has now been resolved by United Utilities. The Clerk is gathering all reported and outstanding highways issues, before writing to Cllr Philip Atkins at the County. Clerk request to ask for a drain clearing day while the students are off from 16 th December. Clerk to chase up overgrown sign on Keele Bank, previously reported. Clerk also to report issue at bottom of Station Road / Keele by pass regarding overgrown hedge which is causing visibility issues, believed to be in the ownership of Highways. This issue is urgent due to a recent near miss. Clerk to request that the Madeley Parish Council relook at the narrow pavement by Elmside (A531). Mrs Hughes reported that there had been some unusual disturbances at Pepper Street, involving dogs and a gun. Mrs Hughes to seek advice from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Dr Studd and Cllr Naylon attended the Amey Highway event. 2. <i>Matters arising not on the agenda</i> There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.
14/078	Reports 1. Chairman’s report Ms Newman Ms Newman reported back from the last Keele University update meeting. Clerk to draft terms of reference for the litter collection and send to Mr Butters. Agreed to put on hold student volunteers.

Ref		Action
	<p>Noted that the Hawthorns car park was in use now, following promotion of permits and new parking restrictions. PCSO to monitor Three Mile Lane.</p>	
	<p>Ms Newman reported that Keele Drive improvements continue to be a problem. Two buses had a narrow miss and there are issues with bollards by the crossing not being visible to drivers heading in the direction of the village, where the red banding is facing them. Jamys Peacock to report back to Keele University. Noted that there is confusion over the boundary treatment at the village entrance to Keele Drive. The current intended work does not match the detail approved by planning. Ms Newman to attend the meeting along with Cllr Kearon, Mr Whieldon and Mr Butters to discuss the issue.</p>	
	<p>Mr Hindmarch to monitor the temporary “fresher week” sign at Keele University, and inform Ms Newman if it is not removed by end of this week.</p>	<p>DH VN</p>
	<p>Ms Newman reported that she was hoping to attend a meeting with Mr Whieldon, Cllr Huckfield and Cllr Loades regarding the main entrance roundabout and visibility issues.</p>	
	<p>A preliminary report has been circulated regarding the S136 concurrent funding review. Noted that the clock was the only parish clock (before watches at one point) and therefore it has always been maintained by the Parish, not the Church.</p>	
	<p>It was also reported that the University has plans to remodel the interior of Walter Moberly Building, to return it back to Teaching/Learning Building with open spaces for flexible learning.</p>	
	<p>2. First Bus, Peter Weston – Issues with the service in the Village The earlier item was put back to this point in the agenda, as Mr Weston had missed the start. Mr Weston attended to answer questions about the bus service in the village and apologised for his delay. It was agreed that in order to avoid a repeat of an earlier situation, that Mr Weston would send all changes to routes and timetables to the Clerk and to Cllr Kearon.</p>	<p>Peter Weston</p>
	<p>The issue of noisy brakes was briefly discussed, as were the improvements to Keele Drive, which are causing a problem to the buses due to the high speed bumps (and leaking oil following damage). In an effort to resolve passing issues, the First Bus drivers all have internal communication and there is Real Time Information for passengers, through a downloadable app – Mr Weston to send this app information to the Clerk for the Parish Council. Speed monitoring is ongoing, and cleaning was now carried out at Newcastle. Buses are now laying over at the Students Union rather than the Yew Tree.</p>	<p>Peter Weston/ Clerk</p>
	<p>The new service will see a bus every 10 mins, with a bus travelling to Madeley every 30 minutes.</p>	
	<p>It was noted that double deck buses should not be using Station Road, unless diverted. Single buses travel to Madeley. Cllr Naylor asked that all drivers consider children riding small ponies etc who also use Station Road. Any incidents are to be forwarded to Mr Weston.</p>	<p>Peter Weston All</p>
	<p>Mr Weston to look at providing an earlier bus at 8.30am for school children to travel to and from Madeley High School at 3.30pm following an enquiry from Councillor Naylor.</p>	<p>Peter Weston</p>

Mrs Hughes requested that a timetable is provided in the bus shelter at the bottom of Station Road. Any changes to any timetable or service etc to be sent to the Clerk by Mr Weston. **Peter Weston**

3. County & Borough Councillors Cllr D Huckfield, Cllr Naylor and Cllr T Kearon

Cllr Kearon reported that the Virgin fibre optic cables were only for the campus, as the infrastructure was already there. It is expected that BT Openreach cabinets will be installed during 2015, but will only bridge fibre optic to copper.

Cllr Kearon reported that a last minute confidential planning item regarding the appeals at the University was discussed at the Planning Committee yesterday. Cllr Kearon stated that he expected a letter to come to the Clerk asap. Cllr Kearon and Cllr Naylor would be raising the issue of bad practice and vague detail with Mr Benson.

Noted that with regards to Keele Homes, it was understood that they no longer intended to negotiate release of the obligations, but are asking the District Valuer to revisit it based on resubmitted information. Either way the decision would need to be made by the Planning Committee. Delegated Authority is given to Mr Benson to extend the deadline, although this has not yet been formally reported. Further discussions are being held regarding the bond and remedial landscaping post the fire being put out. Mrs Moulton is to update Cllr Kearon as soon as possible.

Clerk requested to set up a meeting with the Chief Executive and Mr Benson to discuss the outstanding letters regarding Pepper Street and the Freedom of Information request for the Hawthorns – with Cllr Kearon, Cllr Naylor and Ms Newman. **Clerk**

Cllr Naylor reported that information regarding the contaminated land strategy had been circulated if there were any further points these should be submitted to Cllr Naylor. To be discussed on the next agenda. **ALL Next agenda**

4. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association Cllr Naylor

Nothing additional to report – Clerk to request that the contents list is expanded. **Clerk**

5. Borough Standards Committee Cllr Naylor

Update to be provided at the next meeting.

6. Borough Sports Council Mr Downing

In Mr Downing's absence, it was reported that the administration of the Sports Council and grants would be carried out differently after Christmas through an independent body which would enable more funding.

7. Betley Keele and Madeley Locality Action Partnership Mrs Abercrombie

Mrs Abercrombie provided an update on the last meeting held in September. The next one being on 17th November.

It was agreed that Mrs Abercrombie will speak to LAP about student representation and liaise with Cllr Kearon. **AA TK**

The action plan was discussed, and there is going to be a dog show over half **AA**

Ref		Action
	term and a flower show in the spring - information to be publicised on the web and noticeboards.	GB
14/079	<p>Amenities</p> <p>1. Rural Runabout update - Mrs Studd A report had been circulated previously by Mrs Studd, with the main points being that Keele need to use the service more. New adverts are being put up to encourage use.</p> <p>2. Village Hall Management Committee Mrs Hughes Mrs Hughes reported that she had attended a meeting on 17th September. Issues discussed were the Parish Council files which need to be reviewed. Glassware is on sale to raise funds, a Halloween event is to be organised, race night event will be held in November (21st) and children are included.</p> <p>Mrs Hughes asked if anyone knew the ownership of the new chairs in the store room. The cleaning contract costs have been increased. The small meeting room is nearly complete. Lettings report – July (20), August (7), Sept (8). New tables are planned and a new hot water system has been installed in the toilets.</p> <p>The hall will be decorated this year for Christmas. A bid for community chest funding will be submitted for a new noticeboard.</p> <p>Mrs Hughes was asked to look at the issue of the sensor light which was staying on outside.</p> <p>3. Heritage Lottery Bid – Stone Walls Mrs Abercrombie</p> <p>Noted that Mrs Corfield had not been in touch following recent emails, following her move out of the area. Ms Newman to contact Mrs Corfield.</p> <p>Work is ongoing, but a project manager will be needed potentially through the University. Cllr Naylor, Dr Studd and Mr Downing are to plot the walls, height and location across the Parish. Dr Studd will collate the history. It is important that the bid is as complete and robust as possible as there cannot be a further bid later down the line.</p> <p>4. To consider War memorial repair quotes for repointing the base and grant funding Discussion took place and it was RESOLVED in principle (subject to successful funding applications) to select Alliance Technical Services on the basis of their quote provided which also included a small repair. Clerk to pursue the NBC funding (20%) and War memorial Trust funding (50%).</p> <p>5. Lengthsman scheme – consideration of work (budget £989) Clerk to request Mr Quick to clean the bus shelters, once the ownership has been determined and eligibility for the scheme. It was resolved that quotes for siding should be obtained for Station Road siding on the pavements only, Pepper Street and also Quarry Bank to Red Heath house. If there is sufficient funding which also allows for the cleaning of the shelters, then the clerk is to instruct up to the value, on the same basis of previous quotes.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>SH</p> <p>VN</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14/080	<p>Grants</p> <p>1. To consider applications for Community Chest funding (current balance is £1040) - Funding for the restoration of the lamp post – Keele Conservation Group</p>	

Noted that the previously approved application from KCG for £400 was to be resubmitted to the Borough Council for further consideration, following clarification that the light is non-operational. **Clerk**

2. To consider applications for the Grants Programme (balance is £300).
This was noted.

3. Request from Madeley and District Community Association for donation towards Community Drivers Scheme

The Parish Council considered a request for funding for the community drivers scheme operating in the village by M&DCA. As there are only four people who use the service from Keele, they were unable to justify value for money at this moment in time to provide a sum of £200. **RESOLVED** that the scheme is promoted on the website, local shops and noticeboards in order to increase demand for the service, as soon as the information is sent.

14/081 **Planning applications – to provide comments on the following:**

1. APPEAL [Proposed student accommodation with carparking \(Keele Campus\) and proposed residential development of 92 dwellings with school drop off point, shop and linked areas of greenspace \(The Hawthorns\).](#) The Hawthorns And Keele Campus Keele Newcastle Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00014/REFUSE - to apply for Rule 6 status and set up a Committee to respond to the related appeals (item 1 and 2)

2. APPEAL [Demolition of existing buildings \(The Hawthorns\)](#) The Hawthorns and Keele Campus Keele Newcastle Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00015/REFUSE

Items 1 and 2 were taken together. Noted that the applicant did not get the decision for call in by the Secretary of State reversed, and the Inspector concurred with the reasons given by the Parish Council to up hold this. Noted that the PINS response is still outstanding. Proof of evidence is required up to 1500 words (or a brief summary for the inquiry is required if it goes over this limit). Agreed to remain fully utilise the word limit with appendices and historic references etc. Dr Harrison to review the document in its draft form and look to strengthen the arguments. Mr Hindmarch to circulate his draft to all. It was agreed that Dr Studd would look at the historic content. It was agreed to focus on the Hawthorns appeal. **CH
DH
DS**

A decision will need to be taken with regards to the witnesses.

Cllr Kearon to confirm that Rule 6 parties are not liable for any costs or damages in the event of the appeal is upheld. **TK**

Meeting to be arranged for Tuesday to discuss this further. Mr Bibby gave his apologies.

3. Pepper Street (outline Planning Permission for up to 100 residential) – 13/00970/OUT current position

Noted that the current position had already been discussed earlier on the agenda.

4. [Erect and display 4 banner signs on projecting arms on existing lamposts](#) University Of Keele Three Mile Lane Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00760/ADV

No comments were raised for this and the other application reference

14/00757/ADV.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

[Application for approval of boundary treatments as required by condition 03 of planning permission reference 14/00133/FUL for proposed road works to Keele Drive](#) University Of Keele Three Mile Lane Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00133/2CN03

Noted

14/082

Other matters for consideration:

1. General Highway issues

Noted that there was an issue, now resolved, along the bridle path from Keele to Madeley regarding electric fencing.

Clerk requested to send a thank you letter to Mr Locker for his efforts to cut the hedge and clearing up the debris along Highway Lane.

Clerk

Clerk to request better signage on the approach and at the crossing on Keele Road plus lighting from Highways.

Clerk

2. Newcastle Borough Council – request for development sites consultation (deadline 31st October)

It was **RESOLVED** that the position as previously submitted (i.e. no sites) in 2012 be adopted again. However it was suggested that Phase 3 of the University should be put forward as a development ready site, as opposed to bringing forward other sites that are not development ready or are in green belt.

Clerk

3. Newcastle Borough Council – Planning Peer Review response (deadline was 2nd October)

Although comments were submitted to meet the deadline, Mr Hindmarch requested that we consider further comments. It was **RESOLVED** that the following comments also be submitted:

Clerk

Disappointment at the short notice given to Parish Councils bearing in mind their monthly meeting cycles.

The Parish Council however do feel that this review dodges the issue of demonstrating the competence of planning officers and environmental health officers. There is evidence of a bias towards applicants. In particular there have been cases of expert professional advice (through objections) rejected by planning officers which have later been accepted when submitted by the applicants. The Parish Council is concerned that the Peers carrying out the review quickly dismissed the opportunity to look at factual evidence that was available to support the above statement – their reasoning being that they only had an hour.

The Parish Council also feels that as there is specific reference to the appeals that are ongoing in the report, this could undermine the council's defence on undecided appeals and should be removed from the report.

4. Lymes Road Gating Order further action – Cllr Mrs Naylor

Cllr Naylor to follow this up with Natalie Snell.

WN

5. Pepper Street – Illegal occupied Caravan to note the response (if received) from Planning Enforcement

Noted that due to resources as yet no further action had been taken following

Ref		Action
	the response given by Planning. A further response is still awaited, but no further action required at this stage.	
	<p>6. Letters to landowners regarding their responsibilities for cutting hedges and footpaths – Cllr Naylor No further action at this stage.</p>	Next agenda
	<p>7. To agree and approve for payment the Chairs Allowance for 14/15 The payment for the Chairs Allowance was approved at £191.</p>	
14/083	<p>Clerk's Reports 1. Correspondence None received.</p> <p>2. Financial Statement <i>To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers, and budget position statement</i> The payments schedule as per Appendix A was signed and approved for payment by cheque and BACS. The budget position was noted.</p>	Clerk
14/084	<p>Any Other Business for future agendas None.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.40pm. Apologies were noted by Mrs Studd, Dr Studd and Ms Newman for the next meeting.</p> <p>Dates and venues of future meetings (2nd Weds of every month): 12th November – Keele University – Library (Training Rooms) 10th December – Keele Village Hall 14th January – Keele Village Hall 11th February – Keele Village Hall 11th March – Keele University – Library (Training Rooms) 8th April – Keele Village Hall (incs Annual Parish Meeting) **13th May – Keele Village Hall (incs Annual Statutory Council Meeting) ** Note Parish Council Elections so may be subject to change</p>	