

NORTH & WEST 2 – NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
(Werrington North, Werrington South, Paston & Walton Wards)
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14 December 2009

Present:

Cllr P Nash (Chairman)
Werrington North: Cllr JA Fox, Cllr JR Fox & Cllr S Lane
Werrington South: Cllr D Fower & Cllr P Thacker
Paston: Cllr D Day & Cllr S Day
Walton: Cllr N Sandford

Also present:

Lisa Emmanuel, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
John Harrison, Executive Director, Strategic Resources
David Whiles, Independent Member, Standards Committee
Israr Ahmed, Lawyer (Contracts & Procurement)
David O'Connor-Long, Legal Executive
Marie Southgate, Lawyer (Education Children Services and Adult Social Care)
Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer

Over 25 members of the public attended including representatives from Werrington Neighbourhood Council.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Burton.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Cllr JA Fox and Cllr JR Fox declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 on the basis that they were members of Friends of Cuckoo's Hollow.
- 2.2 Cllr Lane declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 on the basis that he was on the Board of Cross Keys Homes and on a Planning committee that had previously considered the Norwood School Playing Field Issue.
- 2.3 Cllr P Thacker declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 on the basis that she was a member of a Planning Committee that had previously discussed the issues concerning Norwood School Playing Field.

3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Council – North and West 2 held on 15 October 2009 were approved.
- 3.2 Following discussion, it was AGREED that the name for the Neighbourhood Council – North and West 2 be 'Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee'.
- 3.3 It was noted that the request to name the Neighbourhood Council a 'Community Committee' might need approved from Full Council. Cllr Sandford indicated his intention to move this proposal at the next ordinary meeting of Council if necessary.

4. You Said, We Did

- 4.1. The Neighbourhood Manager provided feedback on actions taken on issues of concern that were raised at the last meeting:
 - Cross Keys Homes – home owners can apply for funding to insulate their homes by contacting the Energy Conservation Team on 01733 747474 to find out if they qualify for the grants available
 - An update on issues regarding Cuckoo's Hollow would be provided at the next meeting as the responsible officer was currently on leave
 - No update was yet available on the Gunthorpe Recreation Area
- 4.2. Members of the public and elected members asked questions in relation to:
 - the relocation of allotment land to Gunthorpe Recreation Site near Paston Community Centre
 - outstanding completion and preparation of allotment sites in Werrington
 - the importance of preserving public open space
 - improvement works to bus stops
- 4.3. Members of the public and council members further debated the need for better maintenance and provision of allotment sites in suitable locations in the area.
- 4.4. The Neighbourhood Manager responded that these issues could be considered during the consultation process taking place as part of Agenda Item No. 8, where these items could be included in the Community Action Plan in as much detail as possible. It was explained that the City Council transport team was investigating the need for more bus stops and a meeting was being arranged for Councillors and officers to address this issue.

5. Area Specific Issues

Norwood School Playing Field

- 5.1. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that a consultation opportunity for parents and residents to discuss the proposed fence would take place at 7.00pm on 25 January 2010 at Norwood School.

6. Council Budget 2010-2011

- 6.1. Elected members and the public received a presentation from the Executive Director, Strategic Resources on the 2010-2011 budget. The presentation outlined the budget for 2010-2011 and over the next 5 years. It was explained that the draft budget 2010-2011 was available on the Council web site.
- 6.2. The Executive Director, Strategic Resources reported that:
 - funding received from Government was as expected however £4 Million had been held back
 - about 50% of funding went to schools
 - the majority of the next year's capital spend needed borrowing and asset disposal
 - £25,000 had been made available in the 2010-2011 budget for each Neighbourhood Council upon completion of its Community Action Plan.

- 6.3. The Executive Director, Strategic Resources provided responses to questions including the following:
- The apparent reductions in the Children's Services budget were as a result of large investment in the City south to be completed over the first three years, which will drop off in the final two years
 - There was a budget allocation for fencing around the Werrington Allotments in the draft 2010-2011 budget
 - The Council would determine at a special meeting on 21 December 2009 whether to purchase the POSH Ground for £8.65million
 - The Community Leadership Fund money is allocated per ward and can be used for projects which would not result in ongoing financial costs to the City Council. The £25,000 made available was for each Neighbourhood Council to spend as per the priorities outlined in its Community Action Plan once developed.

7. Standards Briefing

- 7.1. Elected members and the public received a presentation on the code of conduct that councillors work within from an Independent Member of the Standards Committee. The code of conduct, the complaints process and the importance of recognising that councillors are entitled to a private life and are not always 'on duty' were briefly explained.
- 7.2. The Independent Member advised that when dealing with vindictive complaints from members of the public, they would be identified and the most appropriate course of action to take would be decided accordingly.

8. Community Action Planning

- 8.1. The Neighbourhood Manager invited members of the public to participate in the interactive session which sought to develop the Community Action Plan (CAP). It was explained that the CAP should reflect community needs and will work with partners including the Police, Fire Authority and Voluntary sector to achieve these.

9. Open Session

- 9.1. The Chairman invited members of the public and elected members to raise any matters affecting their communities. The main issues raised during this part of the meeting were as follows:
- Street lighting in Mountsteven Avenue, Walton and Rhubarb Bridge
 - Improvement in advertising Neighbourhood Council meetings

10. Next Meeting

- 10.1. The next meeting of the Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee was scheduled to be held on Monday, 1 March 2010 at 7.30pm at Ken Stimpson School.

CHAIRMAN
7.30pm – 9.30pm

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