

NORTH & WEST 3 – NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
(Bretton North, Bretton South, West and Ravensthorpe Wards)

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2009

Present:

Cllr P Nash (Chairman)
Bretton North: Cllr W Fitzgerald & Cllr D Morley
West: Cllr S Dalton
Ravensthorpe: Cllr G Nawaz & Cllr H Newton

Also present:

Paul Phillipson, Executive Director of Operations
Steven Pilsworth, Head of Corporate Services
Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager (Citywide)
Alison Ivatt, Neighbourhood Manger – North and West
Michelle Abbott, Lawyer
Elaine Lewis, Lawyer
Steve Boast, Chairman and Independent Member, Standards Committee
Gemma George, Senior Governance Officer

More than 32 members of the public attended the meeting including representatives from Peterborough City Councils Children's Services, CP Learning Trust, the Police, NHS Peterborough, the North West Neighbourhood Panel, Bretton Parish Council, North Bretton Residents Group, Langley and Pyhill Residents Association and the Allotment Association.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Dalton and Councillor Fletcher.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising including the naming of the Neighbourhood Council

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting of the Neighbourhood Council – North and West 3, held on 21 October 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Manager informed all those present that a public consultation had been undertaken since the last meeting in order to identify a suitable name for the Neighbourhood Council.
- 3.3 Following discussion, it was proposed that the name for the Neighbourhood Council – North and West 3 would be 'Peterborough West'. After further debate the proposal was AGREED.

4. You Said, We Did

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Manager provided feedback on a number of the issues which had been raised at the previous Neighbourhood Council meeting, these included:
- **Cottesmore Close** and the proposals for use of both the land and the old air force building. It was proposed that the air force building was to be put forward as a building of interest.

- **Edith Cavell Hospital** and the surrounding fencing and numerous parking issues which had been highlighted. A successful meeting had been held with local residents, council members and the lead from the hospital, a further update on this meeting would be provided to the Neighbourhood Council in the New Year.
- **Young Lives** and the request to involve younger people in the area. Projects were being progressed in order to engage the local youth and further details of these projects would be provided at a later date.
- **Heltwate, North Bretton** and the problems surrounding speeding on the dual carriageway. There were no plans for any works to be undertaken along the dual carriageway, however the situation would continue to be monitored.
- **Parish Councils** specifically relating to the queries which were raised surrounding voting rights and the possibility of overlapping responsibilities. A response to these queries was given by the Senior Governance Officer, representing Democratic Services, underlining the differences between Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Councils and the issues with voting rights. The terms of reference of the Neighbourhood Councils were highlighted and the Parish Council representatives present were assured that in no way would the role of Parish Council's be diminished.

- 4.2 The Neighbourhood Manager gave a brief overview of other issues which were being progressed. These included the resurfacing works on footpaths in Tirington, the lighting and paving slabs located on Atherstone Avenue, the request for larger bins at the Bretton and Copeland Centres, the maintenance of Bretton Park specifically relating to dead trees and the clearing of paths and the travel links from various locations in the city to the city centre.
- 4.3 The Neighbourhood Manager also gave a brief overview of the other issues that were awaiting resolution. These included the broken lift at the Cresset, the trees at Benland which were blocking the signals for local residents' televisions and telephones, maintenance of the footpaths in Bretton Park, the situation with the Silver Jubilee public house and the ball court in Bretton. Members of the public present were advised that updates on any of the items raised could be requested and many of the issues highlighted could be addressed by their Neighbourhood Panel meeting, dates and locations of which were to be published.
- 4.4 A local resident addressed the Neighbourhood Council and thanked everyone for their hard work so far and requested whether information on issues raised would be published on the Council's website. The Neighbourhood Manager responded and stated that this request had been mentioned and was being progressed.
- 4.5 The Neighbourhood Manager stated that nominations for community members to receive a standing invitation to the Neighbourhood Council meeting were being sought and a form was available for this purpose.

5. **Area Specific Issues**

The Grange Development

The Neighbourhood Council meeting was advised that a planning application had been submitted for an all weather sports pitch, with an improved local play area and car parking. A public consultation meeting had been held on 2nd December and several queries and concerns had been raised by local residents.

Concerns highlighted related to the proposed fencing, the proposed car parking and the light spillage from the lighting columns.

Further consultation was still in progress and the application was due to be heard at a meeting of the Planning Committee in the New Year.

6. **Council Budget 2010 - 2011**

The Council's Head of Corporate Services gave a presentation to the Neighbourhood Council meeting which gave an overview of the Council's budget process. Key points were highlighted including:

- The lack of funding available for local government in the current financial year
- The lack of clarity regarding future grant funding beyond the next financial year
- The breakdown of funding available and how much of that funding came from council tax. The Neighbourhood Council was advised that council tax could be attributed to a quarter of what was spent each year
- The savings that would need to be identified in the next financial year
- The proposed 2.5% council tax increase which was highlighted as being a low increase in comparison to other authorities in the country
- The projects in the area which required funding
- Capital funding had been allocated to each Neighbourhood Council to spend on local improvements over the coming year. The works undertaken would be determined by the Community Action Plan
- There was a potential £5 million of service funding available across the seven Neighbourhood Councils
- The Council was eager to seek the views of the public regarding service and budget priorities for the forthcoming financial year

Members of the public at the meeting were invited to comment on the presentation and the following issues and observations were highlighted:

- What would the scenario be if council tax was not raised at all, or if it was raised by 5%?
Response: If council tax was not raised, then an additional £1 ½ million would need to be identified from elsewhere and if council tax was raised by 5% then there would be an additional £1 ½ million available to spend
- What would the cost implications be for local residents with a 2.5% increase in council tax?
Response: All information relating to the cost of an increase in council tax was available in the consultation pack. For example, a band d property could expect to pay around £27 extra per year with a 2.5% increase. The public was informed that if they were unsure of their particular banding, this was visible on their council tax bill
- How extensive had the consultations been for the new water park in Bretton? Many local residents had not been aware of the plans for it and were opposed to the amount of money which had been spent on it.
Response: Members of the public and Parish Councils had been consulted on the updated proposals for the water park and the statutory planning process had been followed. The pool had been funded by grant money which had been specifically requested as it was felt that a children's play area was desperately needed in that locality. Over the summer months the park had attracted 200 – 300 children each day and the general consensus was that the park had been a great success.
- Was there likely to be something similar provided for the older children?
Response: That idea was currently being looked into
- There had been a recent news story about the cuts in funding for school meals, were there any other efficiencies like this proposed?
Response: The cost of providing school meals had increased substantially and the change in the staff pay regulations meant that the Council was effectively subsidising the provision of school meals. Talks on this point were due to take place at the Schools Forum
- Wouldn't an efficiency saving be to cut out consultants? Could other council staff not take on their roles?
Response: Consultants were specialists employed to do specific jobs or roles that did not need to be filled permanently. However in certain areas, Council staff were being trained

in order to take over responsibilities performed by consultants. It was also highlighted that consultants had made considerable savings at the Council

- The money that had been spent on landscaping the roundabouts, could that have not been better spent somewhere else?

Response: This issue was highlighted as a good example of the fact that part of the Neighbourhood Councils action plan was for local people to suggest where they wanted money spent in the future

7. Standards Briefing

The Chairman of the Councils' Standards Committee, Mr Steve Boast, gave a presentation to the Neighbourhood Council which highlighted the work of the Standards Committee and the Members' Code of Conduct.

Local Councillors were accountable to the public they served and the law stated that a code of conduct must be set down and followed.

Anyone could put in a complaint about a local Councillor via letter directly to the Council's Monitoring Officer or by calling the complaints centre for a form. There had only been 6 complaints in the last 6 years against local Councillors, including Parish Councillors and 4 of them had been found in breach of the code.

If a Councillor was found to be in breach of the code, suspension could be implemented as a last resort or training could be provided.

The Neighbourhood Council meeting was also informed that local Councillors could also complain about officers, as there was a code of conduct governing the relationship between the two.

8. Community Action Planning

The Neighbourhood Manager led a consultation exercise involving all members of the public who were present at the meeting to identify service priorities for inclusion within the Community Action Plan for the Neighbourhood. It was identified that there would be further public engagement including public surveys and a road show prior to the finalisation of the Community Action Plan in March 2010.

It was agreed that the priorities identified at the meeting be included within the development of the Community Action Plan.

9. Open Session

Members of the public, elected and co-opted members of the Neighbourhood Council were invited to raise any matters that affected their local areas and the following points were highlighted:

- Had any progress been made regarding the street lights at the Bretton Gate roundabout?
Response: A response had been received and would be forwarded to the member of the public who had posed the question
- Could it be made more transparent where S106 money was being spent? And was it possible to have more input?
Response: The Planning Application Implementation Strategy set out how S106 money was spent therefore open bidding was not an option. However, notification would be provided to the Neighbourhood Councils in the future of proposed spends. There were currently no developments in the pipeline as developers were not able to afford them
- When was the lift at the Cressett likely to be fixed?

Response: This query would be further looked into and the response reported back at a later date

- The Public Transport Service Review had highlighted a number of curtailed services in the area. Surely this was against the city's environment aspirations?
Response: Wide consultation on this had been undertaken and feedback was listened to. The proposals were only proposals at this stage and no services had been cut. Further discussions were due to be held. It was important to make the bus service efficient and effective, for example it was not efficient to have three people travelling on one bus at any one time. Any feedback on the proposals would be welcomed
- Numerous shrubs were to be removed in the area, why?
Response: Many of the shrubs were 25 to 35 years old and needed replacing
- There was a bus stop on Mayor's Walk that the bus could not stop at, could this be looked at?
- St Johns Hall car park was constantly flooded, could this be looked at?
- Was there a traffic volume model available for the Thorpe traffic lights?
Response: An update was available on this point and the member of the public who posed the question was requested to leave his email address so he could be contacted directly

CHAIRMAN
7.00pm – 9.10pm

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