

EGGINTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2008 AT 7.30 PM IN ST WILFRID'S CHURCH, EGGINTON

Present: Cllr Mrs L Brown (Chair)
Cllr Brian Penny
Cllr Mrs P Riley
Cllr Mrs B Cowley
Cllr C Gerrard
Cllr P Whittingham

In Attendance:
Mr P Woolrich - Clerk
4 members of the public

08/47 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This was suspended until item 3, Access to the Catherine Jonathan Playing Field.

PART 1 NON -EXEMPT INFORMATION

08/48 ANY MEMBER TO DECLARE AN INTEREST.

Cllr Lisa Brown declared an interest in item 4 as the matter may come before the District Council and she did not wish to prejudice herself. She signed the declaration form.

08/49 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Steve Hennessy
Cllr John Lemmon - South Derbyshire District Council

08/50 ACCESS TO THE CATHERINE JONATHAN PLAYING FIELD

The Chair indicated that the Parish Council had received a complaint from Mr Ellis stating that Cllr Hennessy should have declared an interest at the Parish Council meeting which considered proposals for an alternative public access to the CJPF. The Chair considered that it was appropriate to re-visit this item through this special meeting of the Council and advised Members that they should erase from their considerations any arguments brought up at the previous meeting and to re-examine the subject completely afresh. She further advised that Cllr Hennessy had given his apologies for this meeting but this in no way indicated any admission of an interest in this matter. The Chair also requested that it be minuted that Cllr Hennessy was not present at the meeting and exercised no influence on the proceedings.

She declared an interest and Cllr Penny accepted the Chair.

Cllr Penny explained that Mr Ellis had suggested an alternative access from Church Road through the garden of Mabel's Lodge, through the wooded area at the rear and into the car park of the CJPF. He indicated that the Council must be conscious of :

- The potential loss of the wrought iron railings
- The potential loss of the old village prison building
- The potential loss of protected trees in the wooded area
- The open vista of the car park from the highway

- The potential loss of an historic village landmark - an estate cottage in its own parcel of land that is the backcloth to what is considered the village green.
- On the other hand consideration must be given to any gains or advantage from creating a discreet access from the current Hall driveway approach that has from time to time provoked discord and confrontation.
- SDDC is likely to be asked to sell or exchange part of the wooded area to provide a parking area for the Lodge should this proposal be acceptable by the community of Egginton.

He then went on to outline the concerns of the District Council's Heritage and Conservation Officer, who concluded that the proposed new access would have a detrimental effect on the location as the lodge would lose some of its commanding presence because the frontage would be interrupted by the exit road and the opening up of the view to the playing field, the railings would have less of an impact than they do now and the appearance of the lodge commanding the driveway to the Hall would be less purposeful.

The Chair then opened the meeting to the public for comment. The following public comments were made:

- The lodge is a focal point and a major aspect in the village and cannot see why the common entrance, which has been used for at least 40 years, needs to be changed.
- The Car Park visibility was not an issue until Mr Ellis planted his hedge
- Concern about exposing the sides of the existing buildings in this location to possible access and vandalism
- Potential loss of car parking spaces by the access
- Loss of protected trees
- Loss and effect on the village green
- Potential danger to children and other users
- Isolation of the Lodge between two driveways.

Member comments followed, essentially re-iterating the public comments made and generally felt that the alternative access would significantly and detrimentally alter the way the village looks in this location.

Resolved: That the Parish Council considers that the present access to the Catherine Jonathan Playing Field should be retained and that Mr Ellis and South Derbyshire District Council be so informed.

08/51 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th May 2008 at St Wilfrid's Church.

The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting which closed at 8:51 pm

Signed

Date