

Wingerworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors Held on 9 May 2018

Present:

Councillor Diana Ruff (Chair)	Councillor Dawn Hart (Vice Chair)
Councillor Michael Hardman	Councillor Chris Hutchings
Councillor Colin Berry	Councillor Andy Pashley
Councillor Nick Knyhynyckyj	Councillor Geoff Ruff
Councillor Anne Knyhynyckyj	Councillor Kevin Broughton
Councillor Margaret Millar	Councillor Pat Antcliff
	Charlotte Taylor (Clerk)

District Councillor David Hancock and 11 members of the public

1. The Chair welcomed Councillors and Members of the Public to the Annual Meeting of Electors

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cecilia Harper.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of Annual Meeting of Electors held on 5 April 2017 were approved and noted.

4. Summary of Accounts

The Clerk commented on recurrent income received which was £178,952 against a budget of £165,848. The £13,000 plus surplus was largely due to an increase in lettings after setting a prudent budget in anticipation of the loss of income from the nursery.

The recurrent expenditure stood at £178,460 against a twelve month budget of £176,105 so the total expenditure would be within budget to the tune of about £2,300. This means an overall surplus for the year of nearly £500 against what was predicted to be a £10,000 deficit.

Capital expenditure as the end of the year was £7,387 which included over £3,000 for new tables at the hall, the remaining £4,000 on minor items, including a memorial bench at the church. The Council has received over £2,000 towards consultancy fees. Working within a very tight budget during the year, the capital funds have remained the same.

5. Chairperson's Report

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair reported on several changes of personnel during the previous year. The long standing Clerk, Mike Taylor retired after serving the Council for just over 14 years. Neil Allen, the Premises Manager also retired following 21 years working for the Council. Charlotte Taylor joined the Council as the permanent Clerk in January, followed by a new Handyman, Richard Fuller who joined the team in November.

Andy Pashley joined the Council in March as a co-opted member.

The Council has had another busy year, dealing with day to day issues, and supporting the Neighbourhood Plan to its final stage. The referendum due to take place on 14 June 2018. The Chair thanked all members of the Steering Group; Peter Rhodes, David Melton, Bill O'Connor,

Brian Ashall, Anthony Willmot, John Winter and Vernon Ellis who have all worked on the project. The Chair also thanked consultant, Andrew Tollerton from Your Locale for his support over the past two years.

The Council held a Public Planning Consultation in October to help address residents' concerns over the large influx of new housing development proposals in Wingerworth. MP Lee Rowley, along with County Councillor Barry Lewis, District Councillor Pat Antcliff and several members of the Parish Council attended the event and spoke with the 200 plus who attended.

Derbyshire Crime Commissioner Hardyl Dhindsa attended the November meeting to address the Council and members of the public on his aspirations for his term of office.

In December the Council made the decision to undertake a project to build a new Parish Hall. The Council remain aware of the degree of opposition to this, but also know there is considerable support for the project. The Council has employed architects, Mitchell and Proctor to draw up draft plans to move onto the next phase of the project; seeking out costings and addressing funding and planning issues.

In the previous 2017 report, the Chair mentioned that policies and the Business Plan would be reviewed. It was confirmed that policies have been reviewed and updated where necessary, as well as the introduction of new policies to keep in line with current legislation. The Business Plan for 2019/2023 is still under review and it is hoped this will be completed by the end of the year.

At the beginning of September the Council held its annual Flower and Produce Show, once again this proved to be a great success with entries almost doubled. The Chair thanked Councillor Colin Berry and all volunteers involved in putting the event together and giving up so much of their time to make the day memorable. Thanks were also given to Anne and Peter Rhodes for sponsoring the Young Gardeners trophy.

In November the annual Craft Fair took place, again this was a great success with an increase in the number of stall holders. Thanks were given to everyone involved in making the event a success.

The annual Allotment Inspection took place in June, with Councillors Dawn Hart and Colin Berry in attendance. The plots remain well maintained and cared for.

The Remembrance Service took place at the Parish Hall on 11 November and was very well attended, the Chair thanked Councillor Cecilia Harper for her support in organising the event and to all Councillors who attended on the day to serve refreshments.

Councillors Nick Knyhynckj and Geoff Ruff had been looking at options to renovate the memorial bench at the church lych gate, however this was beyond saving so the Council agreed to purchase a new bench which was installed ready for the Remembrance Day Service.

The Council continues to support local events, such as the Family Fun Day, the Scouts Bonfire Event, and the Christmas Tree and Carol Concert. Thanks were given to Peter Rhodes for once again organising the sponsorship of the tree, and to all the sponsors who give so generously.

The Council continues to work with the Friends of Wingerworth Park group to seek funding and support fundraising activities to update the play areas in the village.

This year the Council is supporting the 3rd Scout Group with funding towards their trip to Belgium, where they will be visiting war museums and the trenches.

The Rolling Arts programme has run its course, the last exhibition being held in June.

Café Y closed its doors, mainly due to a lack of support. Thanks were offered to Councillor Anne Knyhynckyj and the small team of volunteers for running the project over the past seven years.

The 42 footpaths in Wingerworth continue to be kept in good order. This is achieved by Mike Simms, David Selkirk and a team of volunteers. On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked them for all the hard working during the year. David Selkirk has also been busy selling a local walking map which has been very well received.

Thanks were given to Clay Cross Angling Association for their continued management of the Wall Pond.

Unfortunately this year both the Wingerworth Cricket Club and the Barley Mow football teams folded. Chesterfield Cricket Club 3rd team, which includes a number of locals, are using the pitch so cricket is continuing on the park. The football club are hoping to reform next season.

Both the Bowls and Tennis Clubs continue to maintain high standards of their respective facilities, however both require significant maintenance over the coming year.

The Council has also been very busy this year keeping grit bins full, following heavy snow falls. The Winter Neighbourhood continues to grow, with more volunteers joining this year.

Finally the Chair thanked fellow Council members for their ongoing support and commitment, also to the Clerk and all Council staff who look after not only the Parish Rooms, but the recreation areas and facilities.

6. Reports of the County and District Councillors.

District Councillor David Hancock reported on a busy year, with numerous planning applications on this side of Chesterfield, campaigning to object to these on the grounds of inadequate infrastructure to support the developments has taken up much of the year.

Councillor Hancock thanked the Parish Council who he reported were a pleasure to work with, he also commented on how informative the Council's Facebook page was.

Finally Councillor Hancock provided a brief update on the flooding issues reported at the Hanging Banks site, both County and District Councils are monitoring the situation for any additional occurrences.

7. Discussions and Questions

There were no questions or comments.

8. Closure

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.05pm.