

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 March 2013

Present:

Cllr Diana Ruff (Chairwoman)

Cllr Pat Antcliff
Cllr Colin Berry
Cllr Kevin Broughton
Cllr Vince Causey
Cllr Stuart Ellis

Cllr Brian Flude
Cllr Cecilia Harper
Cllr Chris Hutchings
Cllr Peter O'Neill
with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

30 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Lindsey Edwards, Cllr Dawn Hart and Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj.

31 Variation of Order of Business

It was agreed that Agenda Item 6.b.2 be brought forward to accommodate Inspector Glenn Hoggard at as early a point in the meeting as possible.

32 Declarations of Members' Interest

There was one declaration of interest from Cllr Vince Causey in respect of agenda item 6.b.3. This was in addition to those already registered on the Interest Forms held at District Council.

33 Public Forum

A parishioner raised the extent to which a hedge was overgrown alongside a narrow section of Longedge Lane leading up to the Church on a stretch that was a bus route and which was in danger of hampering safe passage. Cllr Stuart Ellis offered to raise this with Simon Tranter of DCC. There was a concern that action may be difficult under regulations prohibiting hedge cutting after the end of March due to the nesting of birds although the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust may be able investigate whether there was likely to be any disruption to bird life in this stretch of hedge.

PCSO Michael Coates presented the Police statistics for the Parish for the previous month when there was an absence of any reported crime and only one reported incidence of anti-social behaviour which was some egg throwing at Mill Crescent.

34 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 6 February 2013 were confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

35 Chairperson's Announcements

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on a meeting of the Footpaths Committee where it was felt that the footpaths were generally in good shape although Martins Lane needed some attention and it was intended to improve access over a cattle grid once the landowner could be contacted for agreement. The recent meeting of the Adlington Focus Group had been poorly attended although it was clear that there were continuing problems with the Trusteel method of construction used on many of the houses. The two walkabouts had shown Adlington to be in good shape other than some severe rutting on some verges seemingly caused by contractor vehicles and Allendale appeared to be in similar good shape although there were some continuing issues with the garages off Oak Crescent. A meeting of the DALC executive had revealed some useful tips on fund raising. The public consultation session on The Avenue had been poorly advertised with a contracted leaflet drop that didn't appear to have taken place and the meeting was poorly attended. Progress on the site appeared good with the plant due to be gone by the end of 2013 and the recreation facilities completed by 2014. There was an issue with parking which was some way removed from the new homes on the draft proposals.

36 Clerk's Report

a) Matters of Information

1. DCC – Agreement to inspect Birkin Lane beyond section designated for improvements
2. DCC – Swap and Save Scheme
3. Residents – Applications to join the Council's Winter Neighbourhood Scheme
4. The Avenue – Project Update February 2013

5. NEDDC – Comments in reply to Council’s concerns about application 12/01124/FL
6. Resident – Observations about Queen’s Trees and provision for young people
7. Police – Support for Remembrance Day Parades 2013
8. Bright Ideas – Derbyshire Lives through the World Wars – the Chairwoman suggested a commemorative display for the 100th anniversary of the Great War
9. Chesterfield BC – Progress with the Borough Council’s Local Plan – Core Strategy
10. Various – Views on Council’s suggestion to have a play and display park at the Wall Pond – generally of a negative nature but the matter to be considered further by Finance Committee and reported back to full Council
11. Report on Members’ allowances – some concern at the implications of posting a notice which was not relevant to the Council but given that it was required the Clerk was asked to add to the statement to make clear that there were no Members’ attendance allowances and that the only payment made to Members was a nominal sum to the Chairwoman to help defray the costs of office – it was also suggested that this be posted on the Council’s website

The correspondence was noted.

b) Items for Decision

1. Preferred way forward with replacement for Community Partnership – it was agreed that the best way to replace the now extinct Community Partnership was with an ad hoc arrangement whereby District Council representatives could attend Parish Council meetings on specific agenda items whether by invitation from the Parish Council or at the request of District Council and that the Clerk would liaise with the District Council on the matter while keeping the Chair informed.
2. Preferred way forward with Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings – appreciation was expressed for Inspector Glenn Hoggard’s attendance and views on ways forward both in terms of general policing policy and with the Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings for Wingerworth – as regards the SNT meetings he emphasised the importance of holding them on a regular basis and it was agreed by Members that they should be run on a quarterly basis in conjunction with Council meetings, perhaps for a half hour period prior to the start of the Council meeting – agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Inspector Hoggard and other interested parties to formalise a proposal and agreed also that the Council would both promote and service meetings in this format.
3. Complete re-fencing of tennis courts at cost of £16,389.12 – various options had been considered but the preferred way forward was to re-fence the whole of the tennis courts at one go at the quoted cost – the Tennis Club had secured £8,300 in funding towards this cost and this sum had been transferred to the Council – in addition the Club had offered to provide half of the funds raised over the next three years which should comfortably result in an extra £1,500 towards the cost leaving the Council to meet the remaining balance of just over £6,500 – it was agreed that the Clerk should be authorised to proceed with the complete re-fencing of the court.
4. Possible inclusion of tennis court surfaces and fencing in insurance at cost of £340 – given that the combined investment in the new courts and new fencing was over £40,000 it was agreed that this they be added to the Council’s insurance policy.
5. Renewal of reduced grounds maintenance contract with NEDDC – it was agreed that the contract be reduced
6. Contracting of grounds maintenance to Paul Smart – it was agreed that those areas taken out of the maintenance contract with NEDDC be switched to the private contractor with an overall saving of some £4,000.
7. Contracting out of payroll services to NEDDC at base cost of £47.13 per month – it was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with a view to NEDDC taking on the responsibilities for the new financial year starting on 1 April 2013.

37 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

a) Circulars

1. 04/2013 – Training
2. 05/2013 – Training, Internal Audit and the Annual Return
3. 06/2013 – Setting the precept and dispensations; Quality Parish Scheme Review; Government lifts red tape for community events; Derbyshire well dressings

The circulars were noted.

b) Other Matters - There were no other matters

38 Planning Matters

a) Applications

1201136	A	67 Longedge Lane	Replace one dwelling with three houses
1300099		221 Nethermoor Road	Living accom in roof and rear extension
1300062		Field opp Mulberry Farm, Martin Lane	Retention of horse training pen
1300003		8 Davids Drive	Two Storey Side Extension
1000616	A	40 Nethermoor Road	New dwelling, garage and access
1300100		Belfit Hill Farm, Birkin Lane	Erection of bungalow and garage
1300174	A	78 Longedge Lane (land adjacent)	Erection of new house & access + ...

The Clerk was asked to repeat the previously expressed concerns with 1000616 and 1300174 insofar as they had not been fully addressed by the amended applications. The Clerk was also asked to seek clarification on the description of a bungalow for 1300100 when the plans appeared to have three floors and to raise a concern that this application appeared to be outside the agreed settlement limits of the village.

b) Decisions

1200982	CA	27 Central Drive	Side extension and side/rear orangery
1200547	CA	Land near Steep Lane	Construction of new block and retentions
1201049	CA	50 Nethermoor Road	Change of aged relatives accom to dwelling
1201010	CA	Land twixtStoneycroft L & HH	Retention of green netted tunnel for hort'e
1201094	CA	5 Lakelands	Removal of trees covered by TPO
1201096	W	5 Lakelands	Pruning of trees covered by TPO
1200311	CA	16 Heathfield Close	Retention of Conservatory to Rear
1201124	R	Old Rectory, Swathwick Lane	Construction of agricultural building
1201090	CA	240 Longedge Lane	Construction of double garage (listed b)

= Conditionally Approved W = Withdrawn R = Refused

The decisions were noted.

c) Appeal 13/00002 REF Land to rear of 61 to 119 Nethermoor Road and 15 to 21 Deerlands Road Appeal against refusal of planning permission in respect of residential development of 51 houses with associated access, public open space and associated infrastructure

Details of the date and venue of the appeal would be publicised by District Council.

39 Accounts and Finance

a) Receipts and Payments – the payments for January 2013 were detailed.

Date	Reference	Payee	Amount (£s)	Detail
02-Jan-13	5578	Town & Country UK C Co	26.04	Window Cleaning
02-Jan-13	5579	D&P Garden Services	975.00	Repairs to Boardwalk
02-Jan-13	5580	DCC	2,000.00	Tupton Hall Activities Prog
02-Jan-13	5581	Rentokil Initial	1,597.60	Annual Watersafe Contract
02-Jan-13	5582	TL Killi's	36.19	Cleaning Materials
14-Jan-13	5583	Cllr D Ruff	150.00	Chairperson's Allowance
14-Jan-13	5584	WH Smith	5.29	Receipt Book for Bookings
14-Jan-13	5585-90	Staff	4,429.19	Salary and Expenses
14-Jan-13	5591	HM Revenue & Custom	1,436.54	NI and Tax
14-Jan-13	5592	Derbyshire CC	653.65	LGPS Payments
14-Jan-13	5593	Gillian Land	183.30	Refund of Deposit
14-Jan-13	5594	Maplin	137.47	Tablet for use by Chair
28-Jan-13	5595	Eurooffice	503.51	Full Set Laser Toners
28-Jan-13	5596	Adobe	15.62	Export pdf Software
28-Jan-13	5597	British Gas	2,350.87	Supply of Gas to Parish H
28-Jan-13	5598	Town & Country UK C Co	26.04	Window Cleaning
28-Jan-13	5599	NEDDC	1,066.21	Christmas Event
28-Jan-13	5600	Paul Smart	333.60	Distribution of Grit

28-Jan-13	5601	Graffiti Away	108.00	Removal of Graffiti
30-Jan-13	DD	AOL Services	23.35	Internet Services
30-Jan-13	CHG	Royal Bank of Scotland	23.85	Bank Charges
30-Jan-13	DD	David Robins	0.00	Bowling Green Maintenance
30-Jan-13	DD	British Gas Business	179.68	Supply of Electricity
30-Jan-13	DD	British Gas Business	28.94	Supply of Electricity
30-Jan-13	DD	BT Services	77.08	Phone Connections
			16,367.02	Total for the Month

b) Profiled Budgets

c) Capital Reserves

d) Bank Statements and Reconciliation

The receipts and payments for January 2013 had been circulated and were approved. The rest of the profiled budgets were noted as were the reserves and the bank reconciliation.

40 Items for Information

Cllr Vince Causey reported that a small increase in plot rents had been agreed at the Allotments' AGM and that it was intended to advertise more widely that the shop at the allotments had a range of non-food items for sale. The only issue from the Tennis Club's AGM was an electrical connection from the pavilion to the courts for a ball machine and it was agreed that any connection should be underground or across the path inside a clearly marked protector that would safeguard the wire and avoid what would otherwise be a tripping hazard for passers by.

Cllr Colin Berry reported that there were no problems at the Wall Pond in contrast to the continuing problems at the Lido although these were a matter for District Council. The Clay Cross Angling Association's netting operation at the Wall Pond and the Island Pond had been successful but had cost the Association £250 and there was now a need for further expenditure to treat the weed at the Lido.

Cllr Chris Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee when items discussed had included participation in the Council's Winter Neighbourhood Scheme and possible changes in arrangements by the Council for the maintenance of the Churchyard.

Cllr Stuart Ellis reported that District Council was increasing Council Tax by 1.9% in 2013/14 and reported on action planned by the County Council with some central Government support to address the road situation across the county which had worsened considerably with all of the wet weather combined with freezing conditions. He also reported on a visit to a state-of-the-art care home in Swadlincote which was setting very high standards for future developments.

41 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next monthly meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 3 April 2013 while it was noted that the Annual Meeting of Electors would take place on Friday 19 April 2013 which was a change from the originally published date.

42 The following resolution was moved: "That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw."

43 Progress in addressing the projected shortfall in revenues from lettings income at the Parish Hall

There was a brief summary of the changes to the grounds maintenance contracts with a number being moved to a private contractor and producing a saving of some £4,000. Progress on other possible ways of addressing the problem or projected reductions in revenue would be brought to the Council.

44 A report had been requested from the New Road Nursery by the end of February but had only been received just prior to the start of the meeting. Given the difficulty of dealing with the report at such short notice it was agreed that a meeting of the Finance Committee be convened as a matter of urgency to consider the report and consider the way forward following the end of the reduced rate period in force until Easter.

The Chairwoman thanked everyone for their contributions and declared the meeting closed at 8.29 pm.