

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 April 2008

Present:

	Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr Stuart Ellis		Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj		Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr Kevin Moore		Cllr Diana Ruff
Cllr Carole Nelson		Cllr Tom Snowdon
Cllr Peter O'Neill (<i>until 080/2008</i>)		with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

068/2008 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllrs Chris Hutchings, John Ollis, Margaret Parker and Jan Robinson.

069/2008 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Diana Ruff declared an interest in the planning appeal listed as 1198 under agenda item 8. Cllr Kevin Moore declared an interest in the same planning appeal. These apart, there were no declarations of interest other than those of dual-hatted Members listed under planning matters.

070/2008 The Wingerworth Centre

The Chairperson welcomed Mr William Jones of the Derbyshire County PCT to the meeting. Mr Jones was the Director of Commissioning for the Trust and had accepted an invitation to provide an update on proposals to re-develop the former Youth Centre into a medical facility for local GP practices. Mr Jones thanked the Council for the invitation and commented that the Council had been very active in lobbying the PCT over the need for improved facilities in the village.

He summarised the background to the recent proposals to develop surgery facilities for the two GP practices operating in Wingerworth on the site at Allendale Road. Professional advice was now being sought as to whether the site could provide the necessary facilities and initial views were being sought from the planning authority.

There was an acknowledgement that the loss of a recreational facility would need addressing and the favoured option would probably be to hand back some land to the District Council for use by that Council or by the Parish Council. Mr Jones stressed that any package of proposals would need formal approval by the PCT Board and from the planning authority. It would also be subject to the District Auditor's value-for-money assessment and would require a consultation process with those patients registered with the two practices.

Members raised a number of questions with Mr Jones. He suggested that the time frame from start to finish, including the building phase, could be as long as three years if based on similar experience at Dronfield. He summarised the complex arrangements covering GP investment in new facilities and PCT payments which were more a series of reimbursement payments rather than a lump sum capital payment. He confirmed that the proposals provided for both GP practices operating in Wingerworth and that there were no concerns as yet over planning issues.

The Chairperson stressed the Council's continuing support for the development of a new facility although the Council was unable to make detailed comments on any particular proposals until the plans had been received from the planning authority for formal comment. She thanked Mr Jones for attending the meeting.

071/2008 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

072/2008 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

073/2008 Police Matters

The Chairperson welcomed PCSO Michael Coates to the meeting. He had replaced Janis Naylor, who had moved on to Chesterfield, as the PCSO for Wingerworth and Tupton.

Crime statistics for March were presented. These detailed four incidents in the Parish.

Cllr Kevin Moore presented a brief report on the last meeting of the Deincourt Safer Neighbourhood Team which had been held at on 6 March 2008. After reminding Members of the format of the meeting, he confirmed that issues around the Allendale shops and Hardwick Wood remained the priorities for Wingerworth. Concerns had been raised about the cost of using the 0845 alternative for 999 calls and the need for increasing the awareness of the Forum and its meetings. The next meeting of the Deincourt Forum was due to take place at North Wingfield on 15 April 2008 and it was agreed that the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson would represent the Council at that meeting with Cllr Kevin Moore on standby if needed.

The Chairperson reported that Julian Ord, a resident of Wingerworth, had been convicted at the Derby Crown Court of offences that included the burning down of the pavilion at the bowling green. He had been sentenced to a Community Sentence and it was understood that there was an award of compensation of some £9,000 which was due to be paid over a two year period. The order for the compensation was due to be paid to the Clerk who would transfer all the monies received as appropriate. To be consistent with previous practice it was suggested that the Council pursue the matter further and consider some form of civil action.

Resolved: that the Council agree to the compensation payments being made payable to the Clerk on the understanding that all such payments are transferred in full as appropriate; that the Clerk seeks advice on the possibility of taking civil action against the individual convicted of causing damage to the pavilion at the bowling green with particular reference to the costs and likely outcomes.

074/2008 Public Forum

A Parishioner alerted Members about the state of a bench in the Churchyard that had been purchased in memory of those who gave their lives for their country in the Second World War. This bench was now in such a poor state as to be beyond repair and the question was raised as to whether the Council could fund a replacement given that the original been provided by the then Parish Council.

Concern was raised about the removal of hedgerows in general and with current planning applications.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to commit funds to the purchase of a replacement memorial bench in the Churchyard with a new inscription adding in the many who have given their lives in the service of their country since the Second World War.

075/2008 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters

Members on the District Council's Planning Committee did not participate in this section of the meeting other than to provide some information on procedural matters at District Council.

The following planning applications were reported:

184	28 Mill Lane	Extensions to Side and Rear
253	Hillhouses Lane	Removal of 3 Sections Hedgerow
269	Fields at Martins Lane	Removal of Hedgerow
277	30 Nethermoor Road	Two Storey Rear Extension plus
274	10 Church Close	Work on Silver Lime Tree
289	45 Longedge Lane	Erection of Conservatory to Rear
293	18 Mill Lane	First Floor Extensions
301	21 Halifield Close	Two Storey Extension

The applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

1571	G	14 Hazel Drive	Two Storey Rear Extension
10	G	47 Deerlands Road	Single Storey Rear Extension
57	G	81 New Road	Ground and First Floor Extensions
59	G	5 Speighthill Crescent	Rear Facing Dormer Window
65	G	10 Hockley Lane	Conservatory to Rear
70	W	Moorlands, Matlock Road	Extension and Removal of Cond'n
160	G	Birdholme Farm, Derby Road	Demolition of Stone Outbuilding

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The planning decisions were noted.

The following appeals were reported:

185 A	17 Central Drive	Rear Conservatory
320 D	The Old Woodhouse, Middle Rd, HW	Conservatory to SW Elevation
1198 P	Garden Centre. Birkin Lane	Erection of Five New Dwellings

A = Appeal Allowed D = Appeal Dismissed P = Pending

The planning appeals were noted.

076/2008 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in February 2008 and details of income and expenditure to the end of February 2008 against a phased budget.

Resolved: that the accounts be approved and that the phased budget reports be received and noted.

077/2008 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and reconciliations as at the end of February 2008.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

078/2008 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- 13/2008 – Quality Accreditation Extension
- 14/2008 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- 15/2008 – Training

The circulars were noted.

079/2008 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Realstone Ltd – Statement on Restricted Access to Permissive Paths on Realstone Land
 - Police – Request for Support in Lobbying for Sternal Disciplinary Action by Spar/Tate
 - Parishioner – Advice to the Council
 - Parishioner – Questions over Disposal of Surface Water into the Wall Pond

The Clerk informed Members that sterner action had now been taken with the dismissal of the member of staff involved in the sale of alcoholic drinks to under-age shoppers. The questions about the disposal of surface water were raised with Members. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – Reply to Litter Concerns – Order to Clear Birkin Lane – Other Roads within Standard

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – Notice of Temporary closure of Part of Footpath 8 for Repairs to Footbridge
 - DCC – Request for Parish Events within the Highway in 2008/09
 - DCC – Funding for Public Rights of Way Work in Wingerworth Parish
 - DCC – Statement on Bus Service 95
 - DCC – Reply to Concerns about Mineral Extraction on Land Adjoining Langer Lane

The Clerk confirmed that the claim for funding under the County Council's PRWW Scheme had been submitted based on the detailed records of Mr Mike Sims who had co-ordinated the work of the footpath volunteers. The Chairperson reported that Bus Service 95 would continue with some minor alterations. She regretted the extent to which rumours had been circulated about the possible ending of the service. The Clerk amplified comments from the County Council about mineral extraction on land adjoining Langer Lane. There was no planning application and the Council would be consulted in the event that such an application was submitted. The status of the land was green belt but this in itself did not preclude an operation to extract minerals although any planning approval would have environmental safeguards and restoration conditions. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - Audit Commission – Confirmation of Appointment of External Auditor – Jackie Bellard
 - Standards Board for England – Bulletin February 2008
 - Standards Board for England – Newsletter March 2008
 - Criminal Justice System – Result of Prosecution over Arson of Bowling Club Pavilion

The correspondence was noted.

Resolved: that the correspondence concerning drainage from the Wall Pond be considered by the Finance Committee; that a vote of appreciation be recorded for the work of Mr Mike Sims in connection with the County Council's PRWW Scheme.

080/2008 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Kevin Moore had held the most recent of the Council's Listening Services although no members of the public had attended. It was agreed that signs should be placed in the Parish Hall while the service was being held directing interested individuals to the Committee Room which should be booked for the service. It was recognised that the future of the Listening Service was due to be considered at the May meeting of the Council but prior to that Cllrs Tom Snowdon and Kevin Moore volunteered to take the session on Saturday 3 May.

Cllr Kevin Moore reported on developments with the Bowling Club. The bid to the Big Lottery Fund had been rejected but the stated reasons for the rejection were not applicable to the application and the Club was still pursuing the matter. There was a need for work on the green, which had been requested from District Council, and a need for the restoration of electricity to the green. It appeared that the latter would cost in the region of £3,500, although more detailed quotations were being sought, and there was a question as to who would bear the cost. Members of the Club's Committee were hopeful of receiving more support from the Council both in term of providing temporary facilities and with the replacement building should some form of loan facility be necessary. Some concern was expressed by Members at the apparent reluctance of the Club to take the advice proffered which included a sizeable temporary building for a relatively nominal cost.

Cllr Tom Snowdon reported on the abrupt cancellation of the most recently scheduled meeting of the Avenue Liaison Committee. He was given to understand that the cancellation had been requested by District Council but the cancellation with virtually no notice had caused serious inconvenience, costing him a lengthy journey and an afternoon's work.

Cllr Bill Pickford reported on a number of issues that needed attention at the allotments. These included work on trees to remove some dead wood, the need to clear the long ditch and the possibility of hard coring part of the access to the allotments. A question had been raised as to the ownership of the car park at the allotments.

Resolved: that the Clerk prepares notices for the Listening Service; that the Lettings Secretary books the Committee Room for all Listening Services; that the Clerk seeks detailed quotations for the restoration of electricity to the bowling green and that the matter be considered by the Finance Committee; that Cllr Kevin Moore enquires why a seemingly attractive offer of a building had been refused by the Bowling Club Committee; that the Clerk write to District Council expressing concern at the late cancellation of the Avenue Liaison Committee and the considerable inconvenience caused to Cllr Tom Snowdon; that Cllr Bill Pickford try to arrange a meeting with members of the Allotment Holders' Committee one Sunday morning at the allotments to discuss the issues raised.

081/2008 Chairperson's Business

There was no business to report by the Chairperson.

082/2008 Report on the Launch of the Wingerworth Plan

The Chairperson gave a brief report on the meeting to launch the Wingerworth Plan. The total of 33 parishioners attending the event was welcomed but there was some disappointment that the total was not larger and there was also some disappointment that a number of potential contributors had been unable to attend. Four people were willing to join a committee to take the planning process forward and a fifth person had now volunteered to join this group. It was suggested that the Council offer some initial help although it was stressed that the plan was for the Parish rather than for the Council.

Resolved: that Cllrs Tom Snowdon, Diana Ruff and Anne Knyhynyckyj provide support to the group.

083/2008 Report on the Inaugural Meeting of the Wingerworth Community Partnership

The Chairperson reported on a disappointing turnout for the first meeting of the Partnership with no representation from the Police or the PCT and very poor representation from representatives of organisation within the Parish. This seemed to be due to a lack of preparation and liaison.

084/2008 Update on the Possible Closure of Public Toilet

It was confirmed that the public toilets had now been closed. Cllr Stuart Ellis and the Clerk informed Members of discussions that had taken place and it appeared that there was a possibility of the Parish Council taking over responsibility for the facilities on the lay-by off Derby Road. This may include some form of lease being available from the owners, Derbyshire County Council, with the same body providing an annual maintenance fee which was currently £4,600. However the responsibilities for the Council would include the staffing costs of opening and closing the facility on a daily basis as well as the daily cleaning of the facility with all associated costs of equipment and materials. The Council would also be responsible for a certain level of maintenance and repairs including call-outs, graffiti removal and anti-social behaviour issues.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the County Council to object to the closing of the public toilets on the A61 lay-by and to express the view that the provision of such a much used facility alongside a major road should be the responsibility of the County Council and not the Parish Council.

085/2007 Parish Council Responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The Clerk presented a paper on Section 17 of the 1998 legislation alerting Members to the duty of Parish Councils to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on crime and disorder in its area. In so doing, it was expected that the Council would do all it reasonably could to prevent crime and disorder in its area. The paper included various illustrations of issues and topics for which there were often particular crime and disorder implications.

Resolved: that Members accept the paper and that crime and disorder implications become a regular reference point in all of the Council's deliberations.

086/2008 Draft Equality Statement

A draft statement had been drawn up by the Clerk and there was some discussion of the need for such a statement and the implications.

Resolved: that the Equality Statement be adopted by the Council.

087/2008 Donations

A request for a donation had been received from Mencap but any decision was deferred pending the provision of information already requested by the Clerk concerning the extent of the organisation's work in Wingerworth.

088/2008 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as 7 May 2008 and reminded Members of the Annual Meeting of Electors on 25 April 2008.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.