

## WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 April 2011

#### Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)

Cllr Vince Causey

Cllr Peter O'Neill (to 074/2011)

Cllr Stuart Ellis

Cllr Margaret Parker

Cllr Dawn Hart

Cllr Bill Pickford

Cllr Chris Hutchings

Cllr Michael Prout

Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj

Cllr Diana Ruff

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

#### 057/2011 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Alan Cooper.

*The Chairwoman reminded Members that this was the final scheduled monthly meeting of the Council which was coming to the end of its four year term with elections for a new Council taking place in early May. She thanked everyone for their contributions to the work of the current Council. Cllr Stuart Ellis paid tribute to the leadership of Cllr Ann Sainty who had been Chairman of the Council for all of his eight years on the Council during which time she had played an immense part in looking after the interests of the Parish as well as the Council. Her strong and supportive style of managing meetings and her success in ensuring that the Council worked in a non-partisan and apolitical way had ensured that the Council operated effectively. Her dedication, commitment and experience would be very much missed. Other short tributes were added before the meeting moved on.*

#### 058/2011 Resignation of Member

Members were informed of the resignation of Cllr Carole Nelson who had explained her reasons in a letter. The resignation was noted **and the Clerk was asked to write a letter expressing appreciation for her contribution to the work of the Council.**

#### 059/2011 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest from Cllr Chris Hutchings on the expenditure item concerning work to the cricket score hut. There were no further declarations of interest other than those from dual-hatted Members who were Members on the District Council's Planning Committee and who did not participate in the Planning section of the meeting other than to provide some information on procedural matters at District Council.

#### 060/2011 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2011 be confirmed as true and correct record of the meeting.

#### 061/2011 Matters Arising

There had been no notification of matters arising.

#### 062/2011 Police Matters

PCSO Michael Coates started by adding this thanks to the retiring Chair adding that she had been a great help to him and that it had been a pleasure to work with her. He then detailed the crime list for the Parish over the past month which contained five assorted crimes. During the same period there were two reported incidents of anti-social behaviour – one concerned youths starting a fire in the Island Copse with the other involving four youths fighting in Oak Crescent. In answer to a query PCSO Coates agreed to look into the possibility of putting the letter to Hardwick Wood residents in Wings

#### 063/2011 Public Forum

It was reported that there had been complaints about the sudden cancellation of the recent Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting. This was a later agenda item. It was also reported that there was disappointment that the plaque and accompanying photographs of veteran servicemen that had been taken down from the foyer had not been placed on display elsewhere in the Parish Hall.

## **064/2011 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters**

The following planning applications were reported:

110201	219 Longedge Lane	Erection of Summer House
110210	3 Hilltop Road	Side Extension and Roof Changes
110220	Hill View, Malthouse Lane	Lawful Development Application
110181	Land Stoneycroft Ln and Harpur Hill	Reconstruction and Retention
100260	15 Hockley Lane	Two Storey Side Extension
100265	15 Church Close	First Floor Extension

The following planning decisions were reported:

110001	R	129 Longedge Lane	Rear Extension and Other Works
110025	CA	31 Florence Road	Loft Extension and New Roofs
110072	CA	90 Chartwell Avenue	Felling of 14 Trees
110147	CA	78a New Road	French Windows and Juliet Balcony
110078	R	Land betw Stable Yard and Lodge Drive	Felling of Sycamore Tree
110121	CA	24 Central Drive	Side and Rear Exts and Bay to Front
110147	CA	78a New Road	French Windows and Juliet Balcony
110148	R	78a New Road	Retention of Gated Pedestrian Entr'ce

CA=Conditional Agreement R = Refused

The applications and decisions were noted. Cllr Bill Pickford offered to look into the implications of application 110201.

## **065/2011 Accounts**

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in February 2011. He also presented details of income and expenditure against a phased budget at the end of February and the current position of the Council's reserves.

Resolved: that the accounts be approved and that the reserves report be received and noted.

## **066/2011 Finance**

The Clerk submitted bank details and a reconciliation as at the end of February 2011.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

## **067/2011 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils**

- Circular 13/2011 – General
  - Allotments Seminar
  - Code of Publicity Exemption for Parish Councils
  - Derbyshire Police Authority – News of Cuts in Funding and Various Changes
- Circular 14/2011 – Consultations
  - Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency
  - A Community Right to Buy – Assets of Community Value
  - A Community Right to Challenge
- Circular 15/2011 – Parish Council Clerks – HMRC Checks on Methods of Payment
- Circular 17 /2011 - General
  - The Public Forest Estate – Consultation Cancelled
  - Parish Election - Procedures
  - Derbyshire County Council's "Bringing People Together" Promotion
- Circular 18/2011 – General
  - Market Towns – Project Funding
  - Local Government Pay for 2011/12
  - Consultation of Proposed Local List of Requirements for Planning Applications by DCC
- Circular 20/2011 – General
  - Market Towns Awards
  - DCC Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum – 14 April 2011
  - HMRC Workshops

- Circular 21/2011 – General
  - Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011
  - Abolition of Audit Commission
  - VAT Discussions on Parish Council Reclaims
  - Legislative Reform Order – Electronic Payments

The circulars were noted. There was clarification that parish councils were exempted from the restrictions placed on other local authorities regarding the publication of publicity material such as newsletters and confirmation that, unlike a number of other councils, this Council observed fully the HMRC regulations pertaining to the payment of the clerk. There was a continuing concern about the delay in the establishment of an approved method for electronic payments by parish councils and the matter was due to be raised as a Parliamentary Question.

### **068/2011 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
  - Parishioner – Inadequate Provision of Protective Netting
- District
  - NEDDC – Comments on Parish Council’s Environment Concerns
  - NEDDC – Update on Issues about Use of Council Land at Longedge Lane
  - NEDDC – Estimates on Costs of Elections
- County
  - DCC – Public Footpath No 4 (Part) – Extinguishment Order 2011
  - DCC – Winter Service – Emergency Snow Clearing
  - DCC – Consultation of Proposed Local List of Requirements for Planning Applications
  - DCC – Views on Issues Concerning Martins Lane (relayed via County Cllr)
  - Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service – Campaign to Stop Fatal Fires
- Other
  - Environment Agency – Response on Parish Council’s Environment Concerns
  - National Grid – Management of Parish Council’s Complaint about Reinstatement
  - Maverick TV – Request for Subjects for Community Mediation

The Chairwoman referred to a lengthy letter received two days earlier from a parishioner whose house bordered the Allendale cricket field. The letter detailed problems with the protective netting, with what was referred to as anti-social behaviour around the netting and with issues to do with the playing of cricket on the field. **It was agreed that the letter be acknowledged** and that the **various points be taken up by the newly elected Council**. Members were apprised of the responses to the previously expressed environment concerns and the **Clerk was requested to contact the Environment Agency again with a request that they arrange an inspection of what was suspected as being the dumping of contaminated and hazardous material in the Parish**. There was considerable dissatisfaction about the quality of the reinstatement work following the extensive work to replace gas supply pipes at various points in the Parish. Particular concern was raised about the clean-up of the large working area near the Allendale shops and at Lydgate Drive. **The Clerk was asked to convey the concern to National Grid**. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

### **069/2011 Reports from Committees and Representatives**

Cllr Bill Pickford reported on a well attended annual meeting of the Allotment Holders’ Association when there was some discussion on work to strengthen the hedges and the need to sort out some problems with the drainage of surface water.

Cllr Stuart Ellis reported on a site meeting with the Clerk and Mr Mike Sims to look at issues on Martins Lane which was resulting in a simple proposal to deal with the worst section of the footpath.

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on some queries from the Tennis Club about fee structures.

The Adlington Focus Group continued to make steady progress and the initial work on the bid for Viridor funding had been taken over by the Clerk with the intention of the bid being submitted in the

name of the Parish Council. Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj confirmed that the Café WY was continuing successfully and reported that new activities were planned for the summer and that a new leaflet was being produced to promote the meetings.

#### **070/2011 Chairwoman's Business**

The Chairwoman reported on a liaison meeting at The Avenue site when a number of concerns had been raised with the contractors. One such was the reported fire at the site although there was an assurance that it had been a case of a section overheating rather than a fire and the arrival of seven fire engines had been an over-reaction. Another concern related to the smells, one of which was believed to be naphthalene. However any naphthalene odours were stated as being the result of moving earth rather than dangerous emissions from the treatment plant. It had also been reported that a final decision on communications was imminent which would probably be based on the website with a statement posted in the Council's notice board. The meeting had also confirmed that the longer term arrangement would provide of about 550 new homes on the remediated land with as many again on adjacent land. However this would all be the subject of a public consultation exercise.

#### **071/2011 Cancellation of Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting due to Cancellation of WCP**

The recent cancellation of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) meeting had caused some dismay especially to residents who had not received any notification of the cancellation. This was the second such incident following the understandable cancellation of the December meeting due to severe weather. However the two cancellations together with the unwillingness to reschedule the December meeting resulted in a lengthy period without a SNT meeting and threatened to damage the public trust and participation in these meetings. Concern was expressed once again about the SNT meetings having been absorbed within the Wingerworth Community Partnership (WCP) meeting, particularly as the Parish Council had decided to withdraw from the WCP. There was a view that the SNT should be taken out of the WCP to become a stand-alone meeting of all agencies, as had been the case originally, but while ever the SNT remained within the WCP the **Clerk was requested to contact the WCP and stress the importance of them communicating effectively with residents about dates of meeting and in particular any alterations or cancellations.**

#### **072/2011 Future of Bus Shelter on Birkin Lane**

The Clerk informed Members about discussions that had been taken place about the possibility of either demolishing or relocating the bus shelter at the start of Birkin Lane or, as an alternative, converting the existing stone shelter to a raised flower bed with an offer of planting and maintenance from the party interested in effecting some change. The reason behind the proposals was to improve visibility for a proposed new drive off Birkin Lane at that point. It was understood that this shelter was used by school children on the morning school bus run but in any event there was a strong feeling that the shelter should be retained in situ so as to allow for use by school children, for possible future use in the event that it was needed for a scheduled service and for retention as a feature in the village. There were also fears about road safety in the vicinity and the Council's objections to the retention of access to a property on the other side of Birkin Lane had recently been noted in District Council's refusal for the continued retention. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that the bus shelter should be retained in its present form at its present location and **the Clerk was asked to convey this decision to the developer, County's Passenger Transport Unit, Highways and District Council's Planning Department.**

#### **073/2011 Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme 2010/11 and 2011/12**

The Clerk reported that the 2010/11 funding amounting to £430 had been claimed in full, mainly due to the purchase of slabs for the Lavender Path, and that a similar amount had been sought for 2011/12 to fund further qualifying work on footpaths in the Parish.

#### **074/2011 Report on Discussions with Clay Cross Angling Association about Island Pond**

The Chairperson reported on discussions with officers of the Association who had been surprised by the comments from residents about the removal of fish from the Island Pond. It appeared that the Association had adhered to all regulations and tried to follow best practice. The Chairperson felt that any similar exercises in the future should be the subject of more discussion prior to granting approval.

### **075/2011 Update on Resurfacing of the Tennis Courts**

The Clerk reported on progress with the resurfacing of the tennis courts after a delay while the club sought further quotes for Viridor. The quotes had now been forwarded to Viridor and the ENTRUST registration completed. In addition the third party contribution of £1,000 had been secured and the contractor was on standby to complete the work once the club's committee had given final agreement.

### **076/2011 Staffing – Carry Forward of Leave for Two Members of Staff**

The Clerk reported that he had given approval for two members of staff to carry a limited amount of annual leave over to the new financial year. This carry over was not normally permitted, but the two members of staff had been unable to take all of their leave during the year due to the prolonged absence of a relief caretaker and the need to cover all bookings at the Parish Hall. The Clerk's action was unanimously approved.

### **077/2011 Expenditure**

The Clerk outlined some of the causes of the problems of dampness in the score hut at the cricket ground. One appeared to be an insufficient rake on the roof and the only way to overcome this problem appeared to be to build a roof with a steeper rake. The Clerk had one quote to replace the roof in this way which was £1,000 and was seeking comparative quotes. Approval was given for the expenditure of up to £1,000 for a new roof.

It was confirmed that the new maintenance contract for the bowling green was now in place and Members were reminded that the contract for the resurfacing of the tennis courts was about to be awarded in line with earlier agreements.

### **078/2011 Change of Date for Annual Meeting of Electors**

Members were reminded of the decision to change the date of the Annual Meeting of Electors so as to avoid the public holiday for the royal wedding. The new date was a day earlier than the originally scheduled date so the meeting would take place on 28 April and would be held in the Committee Room to avoid having to cancel bookings in the Main Hall and the Small Hall. The meeting would start at 8pm but Members were asked to be present at 7.45pm for a short preparatory session.

### **079/2011 Elections – Thursday 5 May 2011**

The lists of nominated candidates for the forthcoming elections had been published. There were ten candidates for the eleven seats in Wingerworth Ward and one candidate for the only seat in Adlington Ward but no candidates for either Hardwick Wood or Woodthorpe Ward, both of which were single seat wards. This meant that there were due to be eleven candidates elected unopposed which in turn meant no election or election costs but this would open up the possibility of co-opting three councillors once the new Council was formed. The Chairperson took the opportunity of recognising the contributions of retiring Members.

### **080/2011 Date of Next Meetings**

The next meeting was the Annual Meeting of Electors on Thursday 28 April when there would be an opportunity to pay tribute to the work of retiring Members.

The next monthly meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 18 May which would be the first meeting of the newly elected Council.

The Chairwoman thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.15pm.