

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 December 2006

Present: Councillor Mrs A Sainty (Chair)
Councillor SJ Ellis Councillor Mrs M Parker
Councillor T Fisher Councillor W Pickford
Councillor K Moore Councillor T Snowdon
Councillor PW O'Neill Councillor R Stafford
Councillor J Ollis Councillor K Walker
with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

192/2006 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence Councillors CE Hutchings and RAC Scothern

193/2006 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2006 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting subject to the replacement of profiling with phasing in minute 178/2006.

194/2006 Matters Arising

Further to minute 190/2006 Cllr Mrs M Parker enquired about developments with weight restrictions. Cllr W Pickford reported that there was no further news but he remained hopeful of progress.

195/2006 Public Forum

Concern was raised by a parishioner over a report of Council business that had appeared in the current edition of Wings. This short report had caused some distress. The Chair explained how comments made could have been misconstrued and the Clerk confirmed that the report was not consistent with the short statement that he had made at the meeting in that he had never mentioned the home address of the correspondent and he had never mentioned a variety of breeds of dogs. The parishioner was advised to contact again the editor of Wings and it was resolved that the Council take the matter up with Wings.

A parishioner raised his grave concerns at the dangers posed by fast moving traffic on Swathwick Lane and Harper Hill. A series of serious accidents had been witnessed over recent years culminating in one a fortnight ago when a car had overturned into the parishioner's hedge. The dangers were not simply to the drivers of the vehicles but also to the many other users including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. While the parishioner had contacted the highways authority about his concerns, he felt that it would be helpful if the Council could also make representations.

A parishioner expressed concern over the future of a section of Footpath 17 where the County Council had suggested a diversion to avoid some steps. It appeared that virtually all interested parties were opposed to such a diversion including ramblers, people living in the locality and the farmer whose land accommodated the footpath. It was felt that a new handrail, improved signage and the cutting back of vegetation would improve the current route and that such action should be taken by the County Council who had yet to make a firm decision of the future of this section of the right of way.

Concern was expressed over the criminal damage to posts at Bole Hill which had been erected to stop motorised vehicles gaining access for off-road activities that were causing a disturbance to local residents.

The Vice-Chair of the Wingerworth Pre-School Group requested support from the Council following the closure of the Wingerworth Centre after the recent fire and the apparent decision of the County Council to dispose of the premises in which the pre-school activities had been operating so successively for many years. The group was currently meeting in the Scout Hut, but the facilities were not adequate for more than a short term stay. Over 50 children and their families were affected by this disruption. The Chair reported on continuing discussions she was having with Natasha Engel MP

about the situation. The Council voiced its concern at the loss of facilities and the absence of suitable alternative accommodation and agreed to lend support to efforts to resolve the matter.

In answer to a request for information on a later item concerning the Central Drive development, the Clerk reported that the developer had quickly remedied problems with mud left on the road and the route used by low-loaders accessing the site. The developer had agreed to replace the two young trees wrongly removed and was now ready to discuss the latest road plan and the erection of protective nets adjoining the cricket field.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the editor of Wings to ask for a correction to be included in the next edition clarifying the position regarding the correspondence to the Council in the article on dogs in the current edition of the magazine; that the Clerk writes to the County Council on the concerns with fast moving traffic on Swathwick Lane and Harper Hill, and that copies are forwarded to the Police Liaison Committee and that the matter is placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council's Road Safety Committee; that the Clerk writes to the County Council requesting that improvements be made to the existing section of Footpath 17; that the Clerk writes to the County Council about the urgent need for alternative premises for the Wingerworth Pre-School Group with a copy to Natascha Engel MP.

196/2006 Police Matters

The Chair introduced and welcomed Inspector Mark Bates who had replaced Trevor Durham as the Section Inspector. There were 18 reported crimes in the Parish in November and charges were pending in two cases. Inspector Bates confirmed that the provision of monthly summaries of crime statistics would be resumed and that the phone messaging system was getting back to normal following major changes in the system. There was brief discussion of the extent to which certain forms of crime may follow a seasonal pattern and Inspector Bates closed by confirming that Wingerworth remained one of the lowest crime rate parishes in the areas. The Chair thanked Inspector Bates for attending the meeting.

197/2006 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:

1203	Woodthorpe Grange, Ashover Road	One and a Half Storey Extension
1259	4 Hazel Drive	Additional Rooflight, Doors etc
1266	8 Nottingham Drive	Two Storey Side Ext and Convy
1279	67 Longedge Lane	Newly Erected Dwelling +
1301	Heronleas, 1 Hilltop Road	Erection of Two for One Dwell'g
1306	Nether House Farm, Stubbing	Vehicle Sales and Repairs
1333	Harper Hill House, Harper Hill	Underground Cellar and Store
1342	2 Deerpark Crescent	Side Extension
1347	2 Longedge Rise	First Floor Extension
1353	25 Hallfield Close	First Floor Side Extension
1145	Stubbing View, Steep Lane	Erection of Agricultural Building

There was some discussion on application 1301 and some of the associated plans were circulated. However this did not give rise to any concerns given that the planning authority would be monitoring the situation. The other applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

1027	G 145 Longedge Lane	Alterations to Detached Garage
1049	G 67 Longedge Lane	Pruning of Three Trees
1054	G 4 Florence Road	Erection of Fence
1074	W Pioneer House, Mill Lane	Visitor Centre
1095	G 25 Elm Drive	Cantilevered Balcony
1104	G 24 Davids Drive	Various Extensions

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The decisions were noted.

198/2006 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in October 2006.

Resolved: that the accounts be approved.

199/2006 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank reconciliations as at the end of October 2006.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

200/2006 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

The following circular had been received:

- Circular 38/2006
 - Training for Clerks
 - Bursaries for Clerks
- Circular 39/2006
 - The Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities

The circulars were noted

201/2006 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - 14 Letters Seeking Support for Wingerworth Pre-School
 - Wingerworth Scouts – Thank You Card for Donation
 - All Saints Church – Details of Remembrance Day Service
 - Wingerworth Bowls Club – Notice of Endorsement of Agreement
 - Parishioner - Appreciation of Good Behaviour of Young People at Halloween
 - Parishioner – “Not in Wingerworth” Campaign
 - Parishioners – Four Letters on Chartwell Fields Proposals

The Clerk reported that the letters received seeking for the Wingerworth Pre-School Group had now risen to 42 of which 40 were of a standard format, the majority of which were from addresses within the Parish. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC - Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order at Lodge Drive
 - CBC – Supplementary Planning Documents
 - NED Development Framework – Community Involvement
 - NEDDC – Committee Papers Available Electronically

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - Derbyshire Environmental Trust – 10th Anniversary Competition
 - DCC – Confirmation of Satisfactory Completion of Wok on Swathwick Lane
 - DCC – Tackling Concerns in the Community
 - DCC – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Campaign
 - DCC – Winter Maintenance Schedule
 - DCC – Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Publication of Inspector’s Report
 - DCC – Bridleways in Wingerworth
 - DCC – Proposed Remediation and Landscaping Project at the Avenue Site
 - DCC – Wingerworth Youth Centre

The Clerk read out extracts of the letter from the County Council concerning the Youth Centre. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Crime Incident Number for Allendale Road
 - Countryside Alliance – Saving Local Post Offices
 - East Midlands Planning Aid Service – Request for Comments on Draft Regional Plan
 - Chesterfield Law Centre – Notice of Annual General Meeting

The correspondence was noted.

202/2006 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr T Fisher and Cllr W Pickford had attended the Council's most recent Listening Service at the Parish Hall at which only one matter had been raised which concerned traffic on Swathwick Lane. There were no reports from committees or representatives.

203/2006 Chair's Business

The Chair thanked everyone for a well-organised Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Parish Hall and made particular mention of the work of the Police in halting traffic for the silence and the participation of the two junior schools. In company with Cllr T Fisher, she had attended the annual meeting at Police Headquarters for parish councils when one of the issues discussed was the deferment of the planned merger of five forces in the East Midlands. She had opened the All Saints Church's Christmas Market and had attended (together with Cllr and Mrs T Fisher) the very successful Civic Reception for the Chair of the District Council, Cllr John Holmes. The Chair reported on good progress towards a well dressing for 2007 which was likely to include the Salem Chapel with two dressings planned for the first week in August. The Chair concluded her report by reminding Members of the Switching On of the Christmas Lights on Friday 8 December at the Parish Hall.

204/2006 Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented his report which covered Vandalism, Parish Hall, The Bowling Club, Wall Pond, New Housing Development at Allendale, Footpaths, Bridleways, Christmas Event, The Wingerworth Centre, Matters Raised by Parishioners, Derbyshire County Council, Mobile Energy Advice Unit, Trees in the Parish and Memorials.

The Clerk drew the attention of Members to a number of points including the request for a New Road Nursery sign on the Parish Hall, which was referred to the Parish Hall Committee for consideration, and the request that the Clerk be the authorised signatory for documents and returns relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme, which was agreed. The Clerk informed Members of the interesting and informative report on trees in the Parish which had been undertaken as a project by a university student with support from the Parish Tree Warden, Wayne Bexton, and suggested that consideration be given to the periodic offers of donations for some form of memorial for a late parishioner. This latter matter was referred to the Parish Hall Committee.

205/2006 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 3 January 2007 and reminded Members of the annual Budget Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13 December 2006.

In response to a question, the Chair confirmed that the budget meeting was held in the Committee Room and not advertised as a meeting open to members of the public although all recommendations were reported in detail to the next available full meeting of the Council. The Clerk was asked to check on any issues to do with the status of the budget meeting.

206/2006 Report from the Youth Forum

The Chair reported on recent developments with the proposed bike park. Residents living in the vicinity of the proposed development had been invited to an open meeting at the Parish Hall to see a model of a possible layout and to hear more of the project from members of the project group which included some of the young men who had originally suggested developing such a facility. A variety of views had been expressed by local residents with the majority of them in the form of cautions and concerns. Although it had not been advertised as a public meeting, the Chair had spoken to a group of local residents towards the end of the session when further concerns had been raised about the proposals. A number of local residents felt that the facility would serve the community well if only a more suitable site could be found.

It was agreed that work should continue on the project with the young men constructing a more detailed scale model and a scale drawing which would be followed by a site meeting in the New Year

when an area to house the park would be taped out on Chartwell Fields. Thereafter it was intended to hold a public meeting with a more formal presentation based on more detailed proposals to which the local residents would be invited.

207/2006 Concerns over Proposed Development at Grassmoor

The Chair referred to a request from the “Not in Wingerworth” campaign which was opposing the proposed development of an in-vessel composting plant and transport depot in Grassmoor. Some of the Members shared some of the concerns but there was a feeling that the Council needed a more detailed briefing on the proposals and to that end the Clerk was requested to contact the County Council. Members felt unable to meet the printing costs of leaflets for the campaign group given the uncertainty of the legitimacy of such expenditure and the establishing of a precedent and similarly felt unable to offer the free use of rooms.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the County Council with a view to arranging a briefing meeting for Members on the proposed development in Grassmoor; that the Clerk writes to the “Not in Wingerworth” campaign about the decisions of the Council on the requests for support with printing costs and the free use of the Parish Hall.

208/2006 Donations

The Clerk summarised a request for a donation from the Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice. Although it had not been possible to provide evidence of support given to young people from the Parish, it was the case that this hospice covered the broader area including Wingerworth and that they intended to offer as much support as possible for all terminally ill young people.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to send a donation of £25 to the Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice.

209/2006 Any Other Business

A question was raised about the use of a property in Florence Road for some form of care home. Cllr W Pickford reported on investigations that he had carried out and the Clerk confirmed that the usage appeared to be within the planning authority’s C2 category which would not require planning approval. Clarification of the situation was awaited from the planning authority.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone well for Christmas and the New Year before declaring the meeting closed at 9.16pm.