

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 December 2008

Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)
Cllr Stuart Ellis
Cllr Kevin Moore (from 227/2008)
Cllr Carole Nelson
Cllr Peter O'Neill (from 226/2008)
Cllr John Ollis
Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr Diana Ruff
with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

223/2008 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr Chris Hutchings, Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj, Cllr Jan Robinson and Cllr Tom Snowdon and apologies for late arrival from Cllr Kevin Moore.

224/2008 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest apart from dual-hatted Members under planning matters.

225/2008 Confirmation of Minutes

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

226/2008 Matters Arising

There was no notification of matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 5 November 2008 although there was clarification in that the granting of outline planning permission did leave plenty of scope for the subsequent raising of concerns about a following detailed planning application.

227/2008 Police Matters

Crime statistics for previous month were presented by PCSO Mike Coates who detailed six crimes that included four burglaries on the same night in the same vicinity. In addition, there were five reported incidents of nuisance behaviour.

The Chairperson welcomed PC Callum Marrows to the meeting. PC Marrows was a member of the Deincourt Safer Neighbourhood Team which had met recently in Grassmoor when a small group of young people had attended the public session and made a good contribution.. At the meeting, it had been agreed to continue to focus the same issues in Wingerworth.

228/2008 Public Forum

Concern was raised about the damage to verges at various places in the Parish which often appeared to be due to residents parking on the verge or heavy vehicles mounting the verge. It was agreed that this seemed to be an increasing problem and although it had been reported to the Police and to Highways it was not clear what effective action could be taken. It was reported that Highways may seek redress over restoration costs if anyone was able to provide details of incidents where damage occurred including the registration of the offending vehicle.

229/2008 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:

861	Carr House Farm, Birkin Lane	Conversion of Barn to Accom'n
944	238 Longedge Lane	New Wood Burning Stove (Listed)
958	Lothlorien House, Hillhouses Lane	Erection of Replacement Dwelling
1060	238 Longedge Lane	Alterations to Roofspace (Listed)
1082	22 Hazel Drive	Variation to Allow Clear Glazing
1109	12 Hazel Drive	Replacement Roof
1125	42 Longedge Lane	Single Storey Extension to Front
1138	Green Acre, 19 Mill Crescent	Front and Rear Extensions
1012	81A Longedge Lane	Two Dormer Windows & Balcony

The applications were noted. There was a brief discussion on some of the applications.

The following planning decisions were reported:

720 R 106 Longedge Lane	Roof Conversion, Extension plus
915 G 12 Belfit Drive	Single Storey Rear and Side Extn

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The planning decisions were noted as were the reasons for the application that was refused.

The following planning appeal was reported:

854 Alinor, Middle Road , Hardwick Wood	Erection of Replacement Dwelling
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The planning appeal was noted.

Resolved: that the Clerk re-submits any concerns raised previously in connection with the appeal.

230/2008 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in October 2008. He detailed an error in the paper containing details of income and expenditure against a phased budget and provided a corrected total of £139,175 for the total of the phased budget as at the end of October. A similar change was needed to the net surplus in the phased budget as at the end of October which should be £41,405. However the error did not affect any of the individual budget lines which were correct. He also presented the current position of the Council's reserves. Payments made were:

NEDDC	17,832.98	Grounds Maintenance
Town & Country UK	24.80	Window Cleaning
NEDDC	210.18	Trade Waste Collection
Eurooffice	78.78	Stationery
Cllr Ann Sainty	125.00	Chairperson's Allowance
Cllr D Ruff	16.41	WCP Refreshments
Birdholme SS	7.64	Footpath Materials
Arden Winch & Co Ltd	207.68	Cleaning Materials
Mr & Mrs A Warrior	300.00	Refund of Deposit
BT Payment Services Ltd	58.65	Parish Hall Phone Line
Eurooffice	36.41	Lettings Stationery
AOL	23.82	Internet Services
NEDDC	176.00	Business Rates
PC World	119.98	Printer for Lettings
Severn Trent Water Ltd	129.47	Supply to Parish Hall
Salem Methodist Church	300.00	Refund of Deposit
Town & Country UK	24.80	Window Cleaning
J Barnes	2,350.00	Repairs at Bowling Green
NEDDC	523.71	Dog Bin Collection
Severn Trent Water Ltd	187.64	Supply to Parish Hall
Birdholme SS	26.01	Petrol for Churchyard
Wings	100.00	Council Page
WG Pollard Ltd	20.00	New Lock at Parish Hall
Staffing	4,231.37	Salary and Expenses
HM Revenue & Customs	1,552.34	Tax and NI Payments
Derbyshire CC	960.98	LGPS Payments
	29,624.65	Total for Month

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

231/2008 Finance

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

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

232/2008 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Circular 55/2008 – General
 - Lowering of Voting Age to 16
 - New Voting Day – 4 June 2009

The circular was noted.

233/2008 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Damage to Verge at Deerpark Crescent
 - Parishioner – Concerns over Setts Footpath
- District
 - NEDDC – House to House Collections – Make a Wish Foundation – 12 months
 - NEDDC – Street Collections – Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2009
 - NEDDC – Street Collections – RAF Wings Appeal – 19 September 2009
 - NEDDC – District and Parishes Liaison Group – 28 January 2009
 - NEDDC – Granting of a Lease to Council for Land off Allendale Road
 - Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group – Meeting on 12 January 2009
- County
 - DCC – It’s Your Child’s Future – Campaign
 - DCC – “On Board” – Autumn/Winter 2008
- Other
 - Zurich – Proposed Changes to Group Structure

The correspondence was noted. The concerns over the Setts Footpath were from a parishioner who welcomed the major restoration work taking place but was worried about the prospect of continuing dumping of material in the area and the use of the path by motorised vehicles. The Clerk’s understanding was that the County Council intended to install some form of barrier that would make access to the path difficult for all vehicles other than push bikes and scooters used by disabled people. It was reported that the Police had taken a decision to close the community consultative groups.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts District Council with a request that signs be placed at the play area close to the Setts Footpath requiring dogs to be kept on leads.

234/2008 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on a good meeting of the Footpaths Committee when the Volunteers had given an update on progress and plans including the production of a leaflet promoting walks in the Parish. The Chairperson took the opportunity of thanking Mr Mike Sims and Mr Dave McDougal for extending their volunteer work to include a short path in the Deer Park play area that would connect an island containing the new toddlers’ slide to the rest of the play equipment.

The Chairperson confirmed that the Youth Forum was continuing its search for a drop-in centre, even if only available on a monthly basis, and she understood that a petition was circulating seeking support for youth facilities. She also expressed regret at the way Cllr Jan Robinson was struggling to overcome an injury and was joined by all Members in conveying best wishes for a speedy recovery. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for some flowers to be sent to Cllr Robinson.

235/2008 Chairperson’s Business

The Chairperson had attended the Remembrance Service at the Parish Church when she was disappointed to see only one other Councillor. However she was pleased to see a good representation of Councillors at the Council’s Remembrance Day Service which was very successful with good support from the community. She had also attended a Nativity Play for the Wingerworth Pre School Group when their new base at Hunloke Park School had been officially opened.

Cllr Sainty had met with an officer of the District Council to discuss transport issues in Wingerworth and had a meeting planned with Cllr Michael Prout and some of the Adlington residents about facilities in that area. Finally, she reminded Councillors about the switching-on of the Christmas Tree lights on Friday 12 December when it was important to have a good turn-out of Members.

236/2008 Comments from COTEP on Planning Approval for Avenue Works

Members had been provided with a detailed set of comments from Mr John Gower of COTEP on issues arising out of the recently granted planning approval for various activities including remediation at the former Avenue Works. There was a discussion on the COTEP comments and concerns about the impact of PM2.5s were raised as were the worries about the ability to monitor airborne pollution and in particular particles that could be hazardous to health.

Resolved: that the Clerk expresses appreciation to Mr Gower for his continuing vigilance over public health and safety matters related to work at the Avenue Works and requests that he continues to make representations on these matters at the technical meetings held in connection with the planned work.

237/2008 Freedom of Information Act – Adoption of Scheme

The Clerk provided a brief summary of the demands placed on parish councils by the latest edict from the Information Commissioner's Office under the Freedom of Information Act. These were contained in a pre-circulated paper to Members who agreed to adopt the scheme although there were some reservations about various aspects including the amount of work that could be involved and the corresponding cost.

Members also approved the detailed schedule of information that would be available to the public although there were concerns about the whether the listed charges were sufficient to cover the real costs to the Council. It was eventually agreed to adopt the listed charges with the proviso that they be reviewed after six months with a view to increasing the charges if this seemed warranted. In approving the schedule and costs, Members recognised that there would be a considerable increase in the amount of servicing required with the Council's website.

Resolved: that the Council agrees to comply fully with the Information Commissioner's Office's requirements in respect of the Freedom of Information Act and agrees to adopt the model publication scheme in readiness for the 1 January 2009 implementation date; that the Council reviews the charges after six months with a view to increasing the charges should this seem warranted; that the Clerk contacts the Council's website contractor to discuss the accommodation of the extra information and the costs of regularly updating of such a wide range of information.

238/2008 Court Award

The Clerk conveyed the disappointing news that the weekly compensation payments in respect of the arson attack that destroyed the Bowling Club pavilion had been reduced from £75 a week to £5 a week. This had only been discovered through a repeated series of enquiries as to why the payments had suddenly stopped as there had been no warning, consultation or even notification of the altered arrangements and still no acknowledgement of the Clerk's letter to the Court expressing concern both at the outcome as well as the process.

Exempt Item - Members of the Public were asked to leave the meeting for the following item to be discussed in private session.

239/2008 New Pavilion at Bowling Green

Members were aware of the latest suggestions from the Finance Committee in trying to find a way to work with the Bowling Club to construct a new building to replace the burnt out pavilion. A meeting of the members of the Club had approved the suggested way forward whereby the Club would donate the sum of some £22,000 to the Council for the Council to build (and subsequently own) the pavilion. Since then the funding gap had widened with the effective loss of the compensation payments from the Court but it was understood that the Club would be willing to try and raise more funds towards the project. A number of issues were raised including future rentals, community use and the Virador contribution.

Resolved: that the Clerk moves ahead to try and secure a transfer in the Virador funding of £10,000 from the Club to the Council; that a small group of Members be established to work closely on the scheme; that the Council commits a sum of up to £17,000 to the construction costs; that the Clerk arranges a meeting with the contractor with a view to placing a contract; that the Council makes arrangement for a suitable person to act as Clerk of Works for the building programme.

240/2008 Dates of Next Meetings

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting of the Council was the annual Budget Meeting on 10 December 2008 and that the next monthly meeting was on 7 January 2009.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before wishing everyone well for Christmas and the New Year. She declared the meeting closed at 8.37.