

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 December 2009

Present: Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)
Cllr Alan Cooper (from 219/2009) Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Stuart Ellis Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Chris Hutchings Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Carole Nelson with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

212/2009 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj, Cllr Diana Ruff and Cllr Michael Prout.

213/2009 Resignation of a Member

The Chairwoman read out a letter from Tom Snowdon announcing his resignation from the Council. He was resigning with regret but a new job based abroad meant it was impossible for him to continue. He had enjoyed his time with the Council and conveyed his best wishes to Members for the future. In acknowledging the resignation, the Chairwoman, stated that he would be sorely missed given his commitment both to the Council and to Wingerworth.

214/2009 Declarations of Interest

The only declarations of interest were those of dual-hatted Members listed under planning matters.

215/2009 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

216/2009 Matters Arising

There had been no notification of matters arising.

217/2009 Police Matters

PCSO Mike Coates presented statistics for the previous month detailing nine reported crimes, all of which were with associated with thefts of or from and damage to motor vehicles. Six reported instances of anti-social behaviour were concentrated in two areas, with two at the Churchyard car park and four around the Allendale Road shops.

The Clerk reported on clarification received from Derbyshire Constabulary about the policing of events and parades which was to the effect that the responsibility for arrangements and stewarding rested with the organisers. The Police would assist where possible although there could be cost implications and in any event the organisers needed to consult with Highways where there was any significant interruption to traffic flows.

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Wingerworth Safer Neighbourhood Team was due to take place on 16 December at the Parish Hall starting at 6.30pm.

218/2009 Co-option of Members

Members had been circulated with a formal expression of interest in becoming a co-opted Councillor from Alan Cooper who was in attendance. Following a series of questions addressed to Mr Cooper and a summary of the remit and responsibilities of the Council a vote was taken and as a result Mr Cooper was invited to become a co-opted Member. Mr Cooper accepted and signed the declaration form at which point he was declared a Member, congratulated and invited to take part in the remainder of the meeting.

219/2009 Public Forum

A concern was raised over the obstruction caused by the hedge on Swathwick Lane close to the Robincroft intersection which made visibility difficult and was in danger of causing an accident as vehicles moved across the narrow road to avoid the vegetation. The Clerk undertook to forward the concern on to Highways.

220/2009 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:

| | | |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 90959 | 51 Central Drive | First Floor Extension over Garage |
| 90945 | 34 Central Drive | Alteration to Garage Windows |

The applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 90631 | CA 24 Longedge Lane | Two Storey Extension and Snug |
| | CA=Conditional Agreement | |

The planning decision was noted.

221/2009 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in October 2009 as well as details of income and expenditure against a phased budget at the end of the month of October. He also presented the current position of the Council's reserves.

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

222/2009 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and a reconciliation as at the end of October 2009.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

223/2009 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Circular 59/2009 – General
 - Policing of Events and Parades
 - Launch of Derbyshire Sport Plan for Sport and Active Recreation 2010-15
- Circular 60/2009 – General
 - Communities in Control – Responses to Consultation Document
 - Local Councils and Cheque Signatories
 - Plunkett Foundation – Community Ownership Approaches to Rural Challenges
 - Age Discrimination

The circulars were noted. The issue with cheque signatures was noted and it was confirmed that current practice conformed to audit requirements although the promised revised guidance would cover electronic payments in the future when organisations were likely to refuse cheque payments

224/2009 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past two months:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Problems with Sat Nav Systems Routing Vehicles along Central Drive
 - Parishioner – Concern over State of Central Drive
 - Parishioner – Concern over Road Safety on the Nethermoor Road Bridge
 - Parishioner – Series of Suggestions about Play Areas, Road and Pavement Surfaces, Noise Pollution, Weight Restrictions, Speed Restrictions, Speed Calming Bumps and Green Developments
 - Wingerworth Martial Arts Academy – Information and Invitation to Members to Attend
- District
 - NEDDC – Temple Normanton Play Scheme
 - Chesterfield Law Centre – Notice of Annual General Meeting – 23 November 2009
 - NEDDC – Invitation to Bid for an Audio Trail for the Parish
- County
 - DCC – Concerns with Over Mature Ash Tree on Ashover Road, Old Tupton
 - Derbyshire Community Foundation – Annual Funding Surgeries
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Criminal Damage Incident Number – Electrical Box
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Criminal Damage Incident Number – Bus Shelter
 - Rural Action Derbyshire – Hallmark Training Workshop

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that members of the Footpaths Committee suggest a route for an audio trail, if possible in consultation with Mr David Edwards.

225/2009 Reports from Committees and Representatives

There was a brief report about the Café Project based on some notes issued on behalf of the project group. Although some disappointment was expressed about the delay in opening the café it was recognised that it was essential to have sufficient volunteers who were cleared and suitably experienced. It was agreed that a youth worker should be recruited to work with the group if there was any difficulty in having sufficient volunteers, even if the youth worker was only involved for the early meetings to support the volunteers. There was also some discussion as to whether the group should be part of the Parish Council or a community group, possibly with financial support from the Council. It was agreed that this needed clarification and the general feeling was that it may be better as a self-standing group with support from the Council.

226/2009 Chairwoman's Report

Cllr Ann Sainty reported on a well attended Remembrance Day event at the Parish Hall and the Remembrance Service at the Parish Church which had been well supported by Members and when the new seat had been dedicated with the plaque supplied by the Council. She also reported on the visit made in the company of the Vice Chairwoman to a Live and Local production at Ashover Village Hall and her attendance, with the Clerk, at the District Council's Liaison Meeting for parish councils.

227/2009 NEDDC's Response to Concerns about District Council Land at Allendale Road

There had been no response to the letter to District Council dated 5 November and raising further concerns about the use of land alongside Longedge Lane near to the Allendale Road junction. The Council had queried whether there was a formal agreement covering the use of the land and if not, why the land still being used by a third party. This was a long running concern of the Parish Council and the continued absence of action by the District Council prompted some discussion about making a formal complaint to District Council but it was eventually agreed that the Clerk writes to the Chief Executive of the District Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the NEDDC's Chief Executive outlining the concerns and frustrations of Members over the continued and assumed unauthorised use of the land.

228/2009 East Midlands Development Agency Response to Concerns about The Avenue Project

The letter from emda had been circulated and a copy sent to John Gower. A letter from Derbyshire County Council on issues about the availability of documents to do with the application had been received and, again, a copy had been sent to John Gower. It was noted that emda were going to undertake a monitoring of the smaller PM2.5 particles. It was agreed that any further concerns sent by John Gower to the Clerk be placed on a Council agenda.

229/2009 Request for Use of Parish Land for Vehicular Access for New Medical Centre

The request to use some of the Parish Council land to facilitate vehicular access for the proposed medical centre off Allendale Road had yet to be defined in sufficiently precise terms so that a decision by Members would have to be deferred until the January meeting of the Council. Once the details had been finalised in discussion with Highways it was likely that the amount of land required would be a narrow strip and there could be compensation within the scheme through the provision of a footpath along Allendale Road from the bus shelter towards the shops. Members appreciated the need for the land and the advantage of the new footpath to parishioners and awaited a more detailed proposal.

230/2009 Adlington Focus Group – Developments

The Chairwoman briefly outlined continuing discussions with the Focus Group and the general support for a new play facility on Council land adjacent to the football pitch. The Clerk was in the process of obtaining schemes and quotations with a view to further discussions with residents. It was important that any new facility was installed prior to the end of the financial year in order to secure promised funding from the County Councillor representing the area.

231/2009 Applications for Cricket Pitches for 2010

The forms from District Council concerning applications for the cricket ground for 2010 had been received with only two applications from one club.

Resolved: that the applications for two teams from Wingerworth S CC be approved.

230/2009 Expenditure

The Clerk reported that the Activities Programme at Tupton Hall School during the summer holidays had run successfully and that the subsidy for young people from Wingerworth who attended the programme had been fully covered by County Council funding. However it was likely that local parish councils would all have to help fund the programme in 2010. Members were keen to support the programme and would make a decision once more details had been received from the organisers. Members approved expenditure to cover the cost of food at the annual Christmas Lunch for staff.

Exempt Items - Members of the Public are asked to leave the meeting for the following items to be discussed in private session.

231/2009 Proposed Staffing Restructure

Members had received a paper about a proposed staffing restructure at the Council which would allow for a greater allocation of hours devoted to work around the parish. An intrinsic part of the proposal was the acquisition of a vehicle to allow for the effective employment of the extra staffing hours. There was some recognition of the benefits resulting from the restructure but issues were raised about impact on the budget and various employment matters. It was agreed to review the proposals at the annual Budget meeting.

232/2009 Community Ecological Investment

There was a brief discussion on the possible ways of securing a section of woodland for common use by parishioners and it was agreed to seek advice from the Tree Warden and other councils before any detailed consideration of a project that could involve considerable resources of the Council.

233/2009 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Council was the annual Budget meeting on 9 December followed by the Switching on of the Lights on 11 December with the next monthly meeting on 6 January 2010. The Chairwoman thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.36pm.