

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 February 2008

Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)
Cllr Stuart Ellis (*until 044/2008*)
Cllr Kevin Moore (*from 030/2008*)
Cllr John Ollis
Cllr Peter O'Neill (*from 030/2008*)
Cllr Bill Pickford (*until 044/2008*)
Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr Jan Robinson
Cllr Tom Snowdon
with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

024/2008

Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Chris Hutchings, Anne Knyhynyckyj and Margaret Parker.

025/2008 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest other than those listed under planning matters.

026/2008 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 January 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

027/2008 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

028/2008 Police Matters

The latest set of crime statistics for Wingerworth were tabled. Six incidents were recorded for the month of January including three cases of damages to vehicles, two cases of violence and one of burglary. Members were informed of progress by the Police in taking action following recent incidents in the Allendale Road area. The Chairperson reported on the most recent meeting of the Deincourt Safer Neighbourhood Team which had been held in Wingerworth. Unfortunately no members of the public attended the open forum session but members of the forum did make progress in the second half of the evening with some policy documents, reports from the Beat Team and a general discussion on policing across the four parishes. Policing priorities for Wingerworth would continue to focus on problems around the Allendale Road shops and the sale of alcohol to under-age people. Mention was made of the often excellent work of PCSO's in spite of some continuing uncertainty over their roles.

029/2008 Public Forum

The Chairman of the Bowling Club confirmed that officers of the Club would welcome a meeting with the Finance Committee to provide an update to their plans to replace the burnt down pavilion and to discuss a number of related matters.

030/2008 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:

1559	606 Derby Road	Two Storey Side Extension Plus
1567	39 Longedge Lane	Second Storey Extension
1389	19 Ivy Spring Close	Two Storey Side Extension
1571	14 Hazel Drive	Two Storey Rear Extension
10	47 Deerlands Road	Single Storey Rear Extension
1569	314 Langer Lane	Twin Wall Flue to Front Roof
57	81 New Road	Ground and First Floor Extensions
59	5 Speighthill Crescent	Rear Facing Dromer Window
65	10 Hockley Lane	Conservatory to Rear
70	Moorlands, Matlock Road	Extension and Removal of Condn

The applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

1070 G 7 Ridd Way	Two Storey Side Extension Plus
1337 G 12 Welbeck Drive	Replacement Detached Garage
1389 G 19 Ivy Spring Close	Two Storey Side Extension
1485 G 56 Deerlands Road	Two Storey Side Extension Plus
1488 G Mycroft, 76 Central Drive	Pruning of One Lime Tree

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The planning decisions were noted.

The following planning appeals were reported:

Field opp Parish Rooms	Stable Block, Manege, Access plus
Land at Rear of 19 New Road	Erection of Three Dwellings plus

It was agreed that Cllr Stuart Ellis and Cllr Tom Snowdon would represent the Council at the appeal hearing in North Wingfield which was due to start at 10am on Tuesday 12 February 2008.

031/2008 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in December 2007 and details of income and expenditure to the end of December 2007 against a phased budget.

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

032/2008 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and reconciliations as at the end of December 2007.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

033/2008 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- 02/2008 – Training
- 03/2008 – Representing the Future – the Report of the Councillors Commission
- 04/2008 – Locum Clerks and Internal Auditors

The circulars were noted and it was agreed that the Clerk circulate Members with the report in 03/2008.

The Chairperson then varied the order of business against the published agenda to ensure that certain items were considered while Cllrs Stuart Ellis and Bill Pickford were present prior to their having to leave the meeting due to District Council business.

034/2008 Co-option of Members

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received from the Elections Office that it was in order to proceed with the co-option of a Member to fill the most recent vacancy. This meant that the Council was authorised to co-opt two Members. Expressions of interest in being co-opted on to the Council had been advertised on the Council's notice boards and on the Council's website. Two completed expression of interest form had been received by the deadline date.

Resolved: that the Clerk invites the two individuals expressing interest to meet with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson prior to Members considering co-options at the March meeting of the Council.

035/2008 Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members

Cllr Stuart Ellis summarised the recently received consultation document on Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government. The document would have relatively little impact on parish councils but where it did the proposals were to be welcomed providing improved guidelines within a better framework for the conduct of members. The proposed devolving of complaints procedures from a national to a local level would speed up the process to the benefit of all parties.

Questions were raised on the extent to which councillors would sit in judgement on fellow councillors and the power of local standards committees to impose penalties. It was clarified that there would be a guaranteed level of independence on local committees with both the Chair and the Vice Chair being independent and that the local committees would exercise similar powers to those currently in existence.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the DCLG accepting all recommendations relating to parish councils.

036/2008 EU Treaty Referendum

Cllr Stuart Ellis referred to earlier discussions following which he had decided to withdraw his proposal for a local referendum as it had not met with the wholesale support of Members who were understandably concerned about the costs that would be incurred.

037/2008 Expenditure

Members considered a paper detailing options for contracting for the annual floral display for 2008 which included a continuation of the current contractual arrangements with Plantscape. The overall cost of the contract was to be held at the cost of the 2005 contract for the forthcoming year with the option of a three year contract at that cost which would extend the service through to the end of 2010. The supplier would additionally sponsor a further ten baskets in the Parish and would be willing to plant and maintain the Jubilee Garden free of charge. The Clerk alerted Members to possible improvements with new self-watering displays in the future but it was felt that the guarantee of a fixed price for the remaining life of the current Council should be welcomed given the scope of the display and the previous good service from the supplier.

A paper on two improvements to the alarm system at Parish Hall was considered. Both concerned the disabled toilet. One was for the supply and installation of a red strobe light connected into the existing automatic fire alarm system which would enable anyone with impaired hearing to be alerted to the fact that the fire alarm was triggered. This would make sure that the Council complies with the Disability Discrimination legislation and would meet a concern highlighted in our fire risk assessment. The second improvement involved the supply and installation of a disabled toilet alarm system complete with a 24 hour backup battery, a controller, an emergency pull cord, an overdoor light and a sounder. The estimated costs were, for the red strobe unit – installation costs of £325 plus the cost of providing a fused spur point plus a service support fee of £10 per annum – and for the disabled toilet alarm system – installation costs of £611 plus the cost of providing a fused spur point plus a service support fee of £65 per annum.

The Clerk outlined the need for a new water heater for the kitchen at the Parish Hall to replace the old heater that had failed and was beyond repair. Initially the lowest quotations for a replacement heater had been in the region of £750 to £820. More recently a quotation had been obtained for a heater that would cost no more than £500 installed. For the time being, extra kettles had been provided but it was felt that a new water heater was necessary and safer for those large group users of the Parish Hall when making hot drinks.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to enter into a three year agreement with Plantscape for the floral display for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 at a fixed cost of £4,197.50 to include the sponsorship subject to agreement being reached on an appropriate display for the Jubilee Garden; that the Clerk be authorised to place orders for the installation of the two improvements to the alarm system in the disabled toilet at a total estimated cost of £1,150 plus the costs of providing fixed spur fuse points with the associated annual service charges; that the Clerk be authorised to commit expenditure of up to £500 for the installation of a replacement instant water heater in the kitchen.

038/2008 Capital Expenditure Review

The Clerk presented a paper reviewing the current position of capital expenditure committed against capital reserves. The paper was welcomed and it was agreed that it would be helpful to the Finance Committee as it wrestled with the increasing demands for capital expenditure and the need to consider longer term issues including a capital replenishment programme.

039/2008 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Concern over Safety at Derby Road Pedestrian Lights
 - Mr P Rhodes – Details of Sponsors' Contributions to Christmas Event

- WI – Concern about Cleanliness of Cutlery

The Clerk reported on the safety concerns on Derby Road and the rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – Approval to Proceed with Co-option
 - NEDDC – Inspection of Fencing at Allendale Road Development
 - NEDDC – Holiday Playscheme Grant
 - NEDDC – House to House Collection by Yorkshire Cancer Care – Five Weeks in 2008
 - NEDDC – Comprehensive Performance Assessment

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – SACRE Annual Report
 - DCHE – Letter of Thanks for Donation
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Progress Report on Safer Neighbourhood Teams

The correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - Mr Brian Wood – Acceptance of Position of Internal Auditor
 - The Standards Board of England – Letter of Apology for Delayed Acknowledge of Adoption of Code
 - East Midlands in Bloom – Seminar to the East Midlands in Bloom Campaign – Bakewell, 21 February
 - Natural England – Statutory Obligations to Biodiversity – Seminar in Nottingham, 7 February
 - The Royal British Legion – Increased Collection in Wingerworth

The correspondence was noted.

040/2008 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Peter O'Neill had represented the Council at the recent Listening Service although no matters had been raised by members of the public.

Cllr Kevin Moore reported that the Bowling Club had received quotations for a new pavilion but that there were questions over ownership and about responsibilities over the future maintenance and provision of insurance for a new structure. Discussions were under way about a shared use of the cricket pavilion for the forthcoming season.

Cllr Kevin Moore reported on continuing concerns from the Tennis Club about the state of the surface at the tennis courts and the need for repairs to the nets.

041/2008 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reported the most recent seminar held by District Council for town and parish councils when presentations covered Fair Trade, emergency planning, the Community Safety Partnership and Equal Opportunities. She also reported on proposals for work on the Island Copse with some careful cutting back of selected vegetation and the possible installation of a couple of bench seats.

042/2008 Council's Risk Management Schedule 2008

The Clerk presented an updated version of the Council's Risk Management Schedule which assessed the risks to the many facets of the Council's operations and the measures taken to apply appropriate controls to protect the Council's position. It was pointed out that the risk manager for the second of the legal risks should be the Chairperson.

Resolved: that the Council approves the updated version of the Risk Management Schedule subject to the substitution of the Chairperson for the Clerk in the second of the legal risks.

043/2008 Health Referral Scheme

Cllr Stuart Ellis informed Members of a joint initiative from the District Council and the Derbyshire County PCT which aimed to provide self-help fitness programmes for individuals who could benefit from a controlled exercise programme. Individuals would need a referral from their GP, district nurse or health visitor to embark on a ten week programme at a local sports or health centre when the first five weeks would be free of charge with the possibility of reduced charges thereafter. Evidence was

available of ways in which this self-help programme has proved to be a life changing event for many individuals, and the initiative was welcomed and endorsed by Members.

Resolved: that the Council supports and promotes the approach adopted by the Health Referral Scheme and that the initiative is publicised by the Council in Wings; that investigations are made into the possibility of a public presentation in Wingerworth.

044/2008 Launch of the Parish Planning Process

There was a discussion on the forthcoming launch of the planning process for Wingerworth which was due to take place on Sunday 9 March 2008 from 2.30pm to 4pm at the Parish Hall. The event had been advertised on Council notice boards and on the Council's website as well as with a full page in Wings. A request had been made to DRCC for support from their planning consultant although a response had yet to be received. Cllr Jan Robinson tendered apologies for absence for the meeting and Cllr Peter O'Neill was unable to be present from the start of the session.

045/2007 Community Response Plan

The Clerk outlined the need for a Community Response Plan to support but not replace the main response plans of the emergency services and local authorities. The County Council was providing a template for the production of a Community Response Plan to assist town and parish councils and an Emergency Planning Officer was available to provide guidance.

Resolved: that this item be placed on the agenda of the Council's next meeting with a view to establishing a group of Members to develop the plan.

046/2008 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 5 March 2008.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.03pm.