

## WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 February 2012

Present:

Cllr Diana Ruff (Chairwoman)

Cllr Pat Antcliff

Cllr Brian Flude

Cllr Colin Berry

Cllr Cecilia Harper

Cllr Vince Causey (*until final part of minute 29*)

Cllr Dawn Hart

Cllr Lindsey Edwards

Cllr Chris Hutchings

Cllr Stuart Ellis

Cllr Peter O'Neil

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

#### 17 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj.

#### 18 Variation of Order of Business

It was agreed that the order of business be varied to allow for the early presentation of agenda item 7.a.1,

#### 19 Declarations of Members' Interest

There was a declaration of personal interest from Cllr Chris Hutchings in respect of agenda 7.a.11 concerning the Wingerworth S CC and declarations of prejudicial interest were made by Cllr Dawn Hart and Cllr Lindsey Edwards when discussing the problems related to the state of houses on the Adlington estate under agenda item 11.

#### 20 Remediation of The Avenue and future developments

The Chairwoman introduced a team from The Avenue led by Mr Marcus Foweather, the project director, and Mr Mike Fenton of the Homes and Communities Agency. The presentation opened with a short DVD which started with an overview of the contaminated site and an outline of the brief given to a joint venture undertaking to remediate the site so as to be able to return the land to its original state as it was prior to the commencement of industrial processing. The DVD illustrated the enormous scale of the operation in terms of the amount of contaminated land and the seriousness of much of the contamination with massive quantities of heavy tar and sediments including hydro carbon and benzene contaminants.

Answers to questions after the presentation revealed that the target for completion had been extended to a time after mid 2014 and that the footpath currently closed would probably have to remain closed for most of that time. Also, that although most of the contaminated material was treated on site, asbestos was removed to licensed waste fill sites. Finally it was pointed out that there was no need for site monitoring after the completion of the project as the focus was on the removal of contaminants rather than the storage on site of contaminated material. The Chairperson thanked the team for the presentation and for the subsequent discussion.

#### 21 Public Forum

Concern was raised about the continuing delay in cutting back vegetation where the footpath exited abruptly onto Birkin Lane near Bole Hill although County Cllr Stuart Ellis was pressing Highways for action. Appreciation was expressed for the much improved situation around the Edinburgh Court shops where incidents of delivery vehicles causing obstructions were now rare, an improvement that seemed largely due to the intervention of PCSO Michael Coates.

PCSO Mike Coates reported on the previous month which had been free of crimes until the final day of the month when there had been one incident involving hedge jumping and related damage. There had been only two reported incidents of anti social behaviour and both of these involved hedge jumping. The only other matter to report was that Sgt Aiden Stones was replacing Sgt Blacklock on the SNT.

There were no Members of Council making representations or comments to an agenda item.

## 22 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

## 23 Chairperson's Announcements

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on several meetings she had attended, some of which would be covered under agenda item 11 – items for information. Other meetings included a series of sessions with children at Hunloke Park School on the garden project when schemes being drawn up by the children would be judged on 24 February after which planting for the selected scheme would commence in March. The Festival Group was continuing to meet and had now been able to confirm a wide range of events leading up to the main day in the park. The group had expressed appreciation for the donation made by the Council and appreciated also the participation of the two schools in the parish as well as the involvement of so many organisations and societies in Wingerworth.

## 24 Clerk's Report

### a) Matters of Information

1. Update on the remediation of The Avenue site and future developments
2. Change of banking arrangements - noted the change from RBS to Santander
3. Complaints about football behaviour on Council's Allendale Road pitch and proposed remedy by football club – noted that the club was taking action to address the matter
4. Submission to NEDDC Recreation Report
5. Next DCC Parish and Town Councils Liaison Forum – 26 April at Matlock
6. Concern about removal of dog bin – noted that the bin was removed as in a worn and dangerous state but that a new one had already been ordered
7. Consultation on revised policy for the management of motorised vehicles in the countryside
8. Consultation on the delivery of youth services in Derbyshire
9. Continuation of maintenance work and improvements at the Parish Hall – noted that a considerable amount of work had already been completed to the roof and ramparts as well as to the external walls of the building and noted also that this work was continuing
10. Notification from NEDDC of adoption of Sustainable Buildings Supplementary Planning Document
11. Report of errant cricket balls during season 2011
12. National Grid closure of Setts Way for 16 weeks from April 2012 – noted that trees would be cleared in advance of the work which was subject to a bat survey and that once work commenced every effort would be made to allow at least limited access but that sections of the path were likely to be closed during the project; assurances had been given that the path would be fully reinstated and that three oak trees would be planted, although it was felt that these were not the most appropriate trees in the circumstances and the Clerk would raise the matter with the contractor.
13. Concerns over access to wood off Longedge Lane
14. Complaint about damage caused by cars parking on Longedge Lane verges
15. Concern about damage to verge near Deer Park School - this (and previous) were further examples of parking problems that continued to blight the parish
16. DCC – A Healthy Future for Local Transport
17. DCC – Role of Honour on War Memorials
18. Derbyshire Police Authority – “Have your say”

### b) Items for Decision

1. Establishment of Planning Committee – it was confirmed that a new planning committee be formed with the Chairwoman, the Vice Chairwoman, Cllr Chris Hutchings and Cllr Brian Flude.

2. Production of a complaints procedure – it was agreed that the draft procedure drawn up by the Clerk should be considered by the Standards Committee
3. Production of a memorials policy – deferred to the later agenda item on reports
4. Review of co-option procedure – a revised draft of the current procedure was being prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the Council
5. Renewal of maintenance contract for bowling green for 2012-13 with extra element – it was agreed to renew the contract with David Robins for a further year from 1 April 2012 with an additional sum of £200 to cover the banks subject to the extra cost being shared with the bowling club
6. Agreement to renew overall Council insurance policy for 2012-13 with the lower quotation between existing insurers Zurich and Came & Company – the Council was partway through a five year agreement with Zurich on a fixed price contract but it was nonetheless agreed to defer any decision to continue on the contract pending details of the Came & Company quotation
7. Agreement with NEDDC for extension of maintenance contract for Adlington play area including annual independent inspection – it was agreed to proceed with the extension at a cost of £655 a year
8. Repairs to the Wall Pond boardwalk – it was agreed to proceed with the repairs at a cost of about £1,000 which included materials at £559.75

25 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

a) Circulars

1. 01/2012 - Summary of 2011 Circulars
2. 02/2013 - Excessive Rises in Council Tax; Fairplay for Children Survey; The Allotments Regeneration Initiative
3. 03/2012 – Local Council Review Subscriber Form
4. 04/2012 – Prayers at Council Meetings – Judicial Review Challenge; NALC Consultation Response
5. 05/2012 – DALC subscriptions; New Public Health System; Heating or Eating; DALC Chief Officer Post
6. 06/2012 – DCC Liaison Forum; Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan and Developer Protocol; DCC Consultation on Policy on Vehicular Use in the Countryside; DCC's New Youth Offer – Stakeholder Event
7. 07/2012 – Draft Community Right to Challenge Statutory Instruments and Guidance; PAYE Arrangements for Clerks

b) Other Matters

Report back from Members on DALC course

The circulars were noted. The feedback from the course was very positive both in terms of the content and the impression gained that the Council was maintaining good practice in its work.

26 Planning Matters

a) Applications

111129	Hillcrest Farm, Nethermoor Road	Erection of Storage Building
1200001	Lothlorian, Hillhouses Lane	Retention of Entrance Wall and Gates
1200027	Land opp Ivy Farm, Swathwick Lane	Felling of Sycamore Tree with TPO
1200033	54 Davids Drive	Single Storey Side and Rear Extensions +

b) Decisions

111025	CA	52 Allendale Road	Single Storey Side Extension
111070	CA	33 Nottingham Road	Construction of New Sun Lounge
111129	NO	Hillcrest Farm, Nethermoor Road	Erection of Storage Building
110918	R	Old Rectory, Swathwick Lane	Solar Array in Neighbouring Field
111100	CA	Oakwood, Top Road. Hardwick Road	Conv or Garage to Granny Flat

CA = Conditional Agreement NO = No Objection R = Refused W = Withdrawn

c) Appeals – there was no notification of any appeals.

The planning applications were noted as were the planning decisions.

## 27 Accounts and Finance

- a) Receipts and Payments
- b) Profiled Budgets
- c) Capital Reserves
- d) Bank Statements and Reconciliation

The receipts and payments for December 2011 had been circulated and were approved while the profiled budgets and capital reserves as at the end of that month were noted as were the bank statements and bank reconciliation at that time.

## 28 Items for Information

Cllr Vince Causey had attended an allotments meeting at which it had been decided not to alter the corner of some of the plots to ease vehicular access and when it was reported that the issues concerning the disposal of old vegetation had been resolved. It had been suggested that the annual tour of the allotments should be brought forward to late June/early July so that Members could see the plots at their best. The Clerk was in discussion with their committee on possible dates at that time.

Cllr Colin Berry reported on work undertaken by the Clay Cross Angling Association and outlined a proposal for providing angling opportunities for youngsters from the parish under the guidance of a qualified angling coach. The initial session would be free of charge after which a lesson fee of about £3 would be applicable. It appeared that the venture would be supported by an angling retailer in Clay Cross and by the Association. The initiative was warmly welcomed by Members who indicated a willingness to support with a modest donation although it was agreed that the Association be requested to run the scheme. Cllr Berry was thanked for the time and effort taken to research the matter.

Cllr Lindsey Edwards reported on the recent meeting of the Adlington Focus Group which included a presentation by Rykneld Homes on the Localism Act and the Welfare Bill with particular reference to the likely impacts on tenants. The lengthy campaign by the group for improvements to the pavements appeared to have been successful as Highways had started installing dropped kerbs on the estate. The main matter at the meeting had been the announcements questioning the safety of the houses as a result of what appeared to be a combination of a non-standard structure and alleged shoddy workmanship.

The Chairwoman reported on a meeting of the Premises Committee which recognised the need to spend more money at the Parish Hall on both immediate issues and on improvements to the toilets. It was agreed that Cllr Chris Hutchings should be consulted on any changes to the disabled facilities.

The Chairwoman also reported on a meeting of the Standards Committee when a policy on memorials had been proposed whereby requests for memorials in the parish would only be considered from family members or relevant organisations and where it was felt that the best way of marking memorials would be to have a selected tree with the dedication limited to a small plaque. To this end it was proposed that three sets of appropriate trees be planted, with a set each at Adlington, Allendale and Chartwell fields. The committee had also agreed on a booking form for irregular users of facilities at the Parish Hall which both the hirer and the duty caretaker would sign both before and after the event. This would enable a closer check to be kept on any problems or damage resulting from the hire as otherwise it was difficult to attribute responsibility.

Cllr Stuart Ellis gave a report on the challenges facing the County Council during a period when they had to work with significantly decreased funding. However they were still managing within the reduced budgets and were once again freezing Council Tax. Part night street lighting was going to be implemented in phases following the extensive consultation exercise. Moving on to District Council. Cllr Ellis said that the merging of senior posts with Bolsover DC was going ahead and that the two councils were looking at service delivery with the intention of reducing overall costs while at least maintaining service. District Council came within budget for 2010/11 and hoped to be in a similar position at the end of the current financial year. .

29 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next monthly meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7 March 2012.

The Chairwoman thanked everyone for their contributions and declared the meeting closed at 9.14pm.