

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 January 2008

Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr Stuart Ellis	Cllr Peter O'Neill (from 005/2008)
Cllr Chris Hutchings	Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj (from 005/2008)	Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Kevin Moore (from 005/2008)	Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr John Ollis	Cllr Tom Snowdon with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

The Chairperson opened proceedings and welcomed Sgt Jon Rawlinson to the meeting.

001/2008 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Jan Robinson.

002/2008 Declarations of Interest

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

003/2008 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 December and Wednesday 12 December 2007 be confirmed as true and correct records of the meetings.

004/2008 Matters Arising

Further to minute 242/2007 it was reported that no further concerns had been raised by District Council in response to earlier queries from the Council although a new concern was raised about the construction of a fence running right up to Allendale Road.

Further to minute 242/2007 it was reported that information was expected shortly from District Council as to whether the Council could proceed with co-opting a Member to fill the second of the vacancies currently on the Council. If approval was forthcoming, it was intended to follow the Council's procedure and co-opt two Members.

Further to minute 244/2007 it was understood that progress was being made in discussions between the Primary Care Trust and the two GP practices in the Wingerworth about the future use of the Community Centre.

Resolved: that the Clerk raises the concern over the newly constructed fence at the Allendale Road development with District Council.

005/2008 Police Matters

The Chairperson tabled the latest set of crime statistics for Wingerworth which consisted of five incidents, all of which were related to forms of theft, with an additional four reports of nuisance behaviour. It was mentioned that the Police's new Ringmaster communication system seemed helpful. Members were informed that the next meeting of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team would take place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 22 January 2008, starting at 6pm with a session open to residents of the four parishes comprising the Deincourt Forum. The Chairperson of the Council would chair this meeting of the SNT Forum and it was agreed that Cllr Tom Snowdon would also attend if available and that Cllr Bill Pickford would try and substitute if necessary.

Sgt Jon Rawlinson was then invited to make a presentation on the proposed Crime Reduction Project for the District. The project was based on the use of new technology to counter crime and anti-social behaviour with the main elements being a dedicated website with CCTV cameras and a radio system linked to a monitoring centre. All 24 town and parish councils in the district had been invited to participate in the project which in the first instance was expected to cost a total of £160,000 although about half of this amount was likely to be available through external and matched funding. After outlining the way that the

project would work and identifying the resulting benefits, Sgt Rawlinson responded to a range of questions from Members.

The cost of CCTV cameras of the necessary specification was in the order of £9,000 each and this quality of camera could provide images sufficiently good for use in court proceedings and offered images in low light conditions. Images stored would be transmitted on a wireless system that met current security standards and the storage of images would not be held for more than 31 days unless there was good reason. It was expected that access to real time monitoring would be restricted to Police staff and staff at the control centre. Sgt Rawlinson closed by stating that any financial contribution from the Council would be welcomed, especially if made by the end of the current financial year, and that any such contribution would directly benefit Wingerworth. The Chairperson thanked Sgt Rawlinson for the presentation and for addressing the issues raised by Members.

006/2008 Public Forum

Concern was expressed about further incidents of fly tipping in the Parish although it was acknowledged that District Council were generally responding promptly once notified about problems and arranging for clearance of the assorted rubbish. It was reported that a recently repaired section of a wall, fence and a stile on the edge of Hardwick Wood had been damaged again, presumably to allow vehicular access.

007/2008 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:

1244	Adjoining 18 Nethermoor Road	New Dwelling
1485	56 Deerlands Road	Two Storey Side Extension Plus
1488	Mycroft, 76 Central Drive	Pruning of One Lime Tree
1504	17 Greenway	Single Storey Rear Extension
1525	34 Longedge Lane	Felling of One Beech Tree

Application 1244 appeared to be an infill development. The rest of the applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

1189	G 7 Pond Lane	Alterations to Roof Plus ...
1195	G 12 Mill Lane	Single and Two Storey Extensions
1198	R Garden Centre, Birkin Lane	Erection of Five New Dwellings
1204	G 24 Woodview Close	Two Storey Side Extension
1251	G Elsway, 76A New Road	Extension to Front Plus ...
1298	W South View, Top Road, Hardwick Wd	Erection of Glazed Link

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The planning decisions were noted.

008/2008 Accounts

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

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

009/2008 Finance

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

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

010/2008 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- 33/2007 - General
 - Credit Arrangements for Borrowing
 - Comprehensive Land Registration
 - Pay Scales 2007
 - Council Meeting Agendas
 - Vacancies for Clerks

- 34/2007 - Training
 - Derbyshire County Training Partnership
 - Training Course of the Law
 - Training Course on Accounts and Audit Regulations
 - New Clerks' Induction Course
 - The Bursary Fund

The circulars were noted.

011/2008 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Report of Accident Caused by Falling Branch

The Clerk reported on an unfortunate accident when a branch from a tree in the Allendale Road area fell on a dog which incurred serious injuries and has since died. It was believed that the tree concerned was one of a series owned by the Council and maintained by District Council. The Council was awaiting further details on the accident and was seeking clarification on the situation.

- District
 - NEDDC – House to House Collection – Africans Orphans UK – February 2008
 - NEDDC – Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy
 - NEDDC – Development Framework – Core Strategy Consultation
 - Chesterfield BC – Floral Display
 - Linkline – Newsletter on Grants Cuts

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – Christmas Drink Drive Campaign
 - DCC – Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire 2007-2012
 - DRCC – News and Information
 - DCC – “This is Me” Campaign
 - Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service – Consultation Document

Clarification was sought about the nature of the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service consultation document. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - PRS – Performing Right Society Music Licence
 - GOEM – Draft East Midlands Plan panel Report

The correspondence was noted.

012/2008 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Jan Robinson had been at the Council's most recent Listening Service when the need for a pedestrian crossing on Langer Lane. This was a matter already being pursued by the Road Safety Committee.

013/2008 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reported a successful Switching-on of the Lights event at the Parish Hall even though the bad weather meant that the actual switching on took place inside the Parish Hall. She also reported on the annual Carol Service at the Parish Hall which had been a delightful evening although she was disappointed at the poor turn-out by Members of Council. The annual councils' meeting with the Police Authority and the Chief Constable was due to take place on Wednesday 9 January at the Police Headquarters at Butterley. The Chairperson was unavailable on this occasion and requested volunteers to represent the Council at this meeting. Anyone available should contact herself or the Clerk for details.

014/2008 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported on the retirement of the Council's internal auditor, Ms Julie Moss. A number of local councils were having to appoint replacement internal auditors in the wake of Ms Moss's retirement. The Clerk had been in contact with DALC and was proposing that Mr Brian Wood of DALC be appointed as the Council's internal auditor to replace Ms Moss on a similar rate of fees.

Resolved: that the Council appoints Mr Brian Wood as its internal auditor.

015/2008 The Budget for 2008/09

The Council received a paper detailing the budget for 2008/09, including the income streams, the various items of recurrent expenditure and the precept, as had been agreed at the Council's budget meeting the previous month. Cllr Stuart Ellis and the Clerk had produced a brief statement on the increase in the Parish precept and this was tabled and accepted following an agreed alteration.

016/2008 Grounds Maintenance Arrangements for 2008/2009

Members considered again the implications of a paper from District Council giving notice of the proposed withdrawal of the subsidy currently in force in connection with the provision of grounds maintenance services to town and parish councils. The impact on Wingerworth had previously been noted and had been accommodated in the Parish precept for the forthcoming year. There was some discussion on the prospects of switching the service provider but it was believed that other councils were likely to remain with District Council for the foreseeable future and given the shortage of time before the new arrangements commenced it was agreed that the Council would remain with the District Council for 2008/09.

Resolved: that the Clerk informs District Council that the Council will continue with District Council for the provision of grounds maintenance for 2008/09 on the specification and costs as detailed in the review letter.

017/2008 North East Derbyshire Safety Partnership Crime Reduction Project

Members reflected on the earlier presentation by Sgt Jon Rawlinson and recognised the advantages of the project while expressing some concern about the total costs and the demands placed on the Council for a capital replacement programme given that the life of the CCTV cameras was expected to be about five years.

Resolved: that the participation in the project and possible contributions and commitments be considered by the Finance Committee with a report back to the February meeting of the Council.

018/2008 Parish Plan – Public Meeting to Launch the Planning Process

It was agreed that the launch of the planning process should take place on Sunday 9 March 2008 from 2.30pm to 4pm at the Parish Hall.

Resolved: that the Clerk promotes the launch with a full page in Wings and that the event is advertised on the Council's notice boards.

019/2007 Memorial to Terry Fisher

The Chairperson was researching into an appropriate tree for planting as a memorial to Terry Fisher.

Resolved: that approval be given to the purchase of a tree and all associated expenditure.

020/2008 Expenditure

Members were provided with an update on plans to commit expenditure for the installation of a light on the Setts footpath. In spite of advances in technology with renewable sources of energy, it appeared that the best option would be for the installation for an electrical supply to a conventional lamp. However there remained a number of uncertainties about the ownership of land and the extent of the Council's remit.

Resolved: that the Clerk convenes a site meeting with officers of the County Council and the District Council to attempt to resolve the matter of ownership and contacts the District Auditor regarding the remit of the Council in committing expenditure to the public good if ownership of the land is in doubt.

021/2008 Donations

The Clerk presented details of donations over the past three years following a recent request for a review. Requests for donations from the Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group and the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre were considered.

Resolved: that a donation of £25 be made to the Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group and a donation of £25 be made to the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.

022/2008 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 6 February 2008.

Members of the Public were thanked for attending and asked to leave the meeting for the following item which was treated as an exempt item and discussed in a private session of the Council.

023/2008 EU Treaty

Cllr Stuart Ellis introduced the item and declared an interest insofar as he supported moves to hold a referendum about the new EU Treaty. He reminded Members that there was provision for parish councils to hold a referendum and that a number of councils had already done so in connection with the EU Treaty. While this was a political issue, it was not necessarily a party political issue, and the holding of a referendum would provide Parishioners with an opportunity to express views on a matter of great importance to the country. It was accepted that there would be a cost to the Council of holding a referendum but that this would be of the order of hundreds rather than thousands of pounds. It was a matter for Members to consider whether or not a referendum should be held. Concerns were expressed over the costs of a referendum, the level of turnout and the resulting impact. There was some speculation about whether Parishioners would expect the Council to take a lead in this matter.

Resolved: that the Clerk tries to ascertain the likely cost of holding a single question referendum on the EU Treaty and that the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.19pm.