

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 July 2007

Present:

	Cllr Mrs A Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr T Snowdon (Vice Chairperson)		Cllr J Ollis
Cllr CE Hutchings		Cllr W Pickford
Cllr R Lewin		Cllr Mrs M Parker
Cllr Mrs A Knyhynyckyj		Cllr M Prout
Cllr K Moore		Cllr Mrs J Robinson
Cllr PW O'Neill		with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

132/2007 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs SJ Ellis and T Fisher.

133/2007 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on on Wednesday 6 June 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

134/2007 Matters Arising

Further to minute 116/2007 it was reported that the damaged wall at the Edinburgh Court shops had yet to be repaired. Cllr Mrs J Robinson volunteered to raise the matter with the shop owners.

Further to minute 122/2007 the Clerk reported that there were no specific planning conditions relating to time of working and in the absence of such conditions a 7.30am start on a Saturday would generally be regarded as being acceptable.

Further to minute 131/2007 it was confirmed that a process for co-options would not inhibit the opportunities for individuals to stand for election to the Council.

135/2007 Public Forum

Concerns were raised about an application for the recycling of temporary stone tips at Bole Hill Quarry including the volume of heavy vehicles on unsuitable roads, the danger of spillage of material and the noise pollution. Given the short notice of the application following the postal delays, it was agreed that a request be forwarded to the County Council seeking a deferral of consideration of the application. It was also agreed that the County Council be notified of the desire of Members of the Council to attend the site visit and to be represented when the application was being considered. The deferral would enable the Council to hold a Listening Service when parishioners could express views on the application. It was also agreed that a range of conditions be prepared in the event that the application was approved in the hope that the adopting of at least some of these conditions would lessen what was felt to be a potentially damaging impact on local residents, the immediate locality and the wider area. Such conditions could include restrictions on the operation of specified heavy machinery to acceptable day time hours, the avoidance of weekend working and the provision of a wheel washing facility on site. A question was raised about the maintenance of the democratic process as it was believed that some bodies, including the Police and certain sections of the Highways Authority, had not always been consulted on planning application relating to the quarry. The Chairperson assured parishioners attending the meeting that the Council would consider carefully the concerns expressed and make representations to the County Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the County Council seeking a deferral, raising the concerns outlined at the meeting and giving notice that the Council would want to be involved in any site visit and be represented when the application was being heard; that the Clerk enquires about the extent of the consultation process; that the Clerk organises a special Listening Service; that consideration be given to the specifying of conditions.

136/2007 Police Matters

PCSO Janis Naylor reported on a successful bike proficiency course at Hunloke Park School and on plans for activities for young people during the summer. These included an introductory boxing course on the evening of 23 August and the Game Zone event on 30 August, both of which were due to be held at the Scout Hut. Details were tabled of 11 reported crime incidents in the Parish during the preceding month and there were continuing problems with trial bikes in various parts of the Parish as well as continuing concerns about anti-social behaviour at and around the Wingerworth Centre. The long awaited speed survey for Longedge Lane had yet to be approved although it was hoped that it would take place during the Autumn. The Clerk read out parts of a letter of thanks from PC Mick Anderson for all the help and support received during his three years in the Parish.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the Chief Constable to commend the work of PC Mick Anderson during his time at Wingerworth.

137/2007 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:

647	132 Longedge Lane	Replacement Garage
651	4A Mill Lane	Two Storey Side Extension Plus
662	Derby Road	The Avenue Coking Works
672	Hunloke Park Primary School	New Classrooms and Admin Fac
713	Birdholme Farm, Derby Road	Listed Building Consent
714	Birdholme Farm, Derby Road	Eight Dwellings Plus
726	Bole Hill Quarry, Bole Hill	Recycling of Temp Stone Tips
1322	Allendale Road/Central Drive Junction	Residential Development

Questions were raised about application 713 and concerns about application 726 expressed during the Public Forum were emphasised. Concerns were expressed about possible harmful effects of the on-site remediation process that was integral to application 662. The Clerk raised an issue to do with a planning condition on application 1322 where the planning authority was waiting for the Parish Council to support a design specification for protective netting at the edge of the cricket field adjoining the new development. The developer had already submitted a design with illustrations of the type and scope of netting that had reportedly been agreed at a meeting between the developer and the Chairman of the Wingerworth S Cricket Club. However the Club had recently written to the Council to question the effectiveness and adequacy of the specification. This placed the Council in a difficult position at a time when the new houses were being completed and sold.

Resolved: that the Clerk organises a meeting for Members on concerns about the on-site remediation process in application 662 involving Mr John Gower, EMDA or its contractors and SCEPP; that the Clerk convenes a meeting with the developer and the Club to try and resolve the matter with a view to all parties being able to agree a suitable specification for the protective netting that would enable the Council to write a letter of approval to the planning authority.

The following planning decisions were reported:

265	G	8 Central Drive	New Dwelling
456	G	16 Mill Crescent	Single Storey Rear Extension
460	G	165 Longedge Lane	Extension to Conservatory
461	G	12 Nethermoor Road	Single to Double Garage

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The Chairperson reported on the further details that had been obtained on previous applications. She felt that there were no significant objections to applications 578 (a residential development at Stubbing Court), 624 (an extension at 78 at Longedge Lane) and 6321 (access to a field on Swathwick Lane). However there were continuing concerns about application 587 at 19 New Road and it was understood that relevant documentary information had been forwarded to the planning authority by local residents.

138/2007 Accounts

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

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

139/2007 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank reconciliations as at the end of May 2007.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

140/2007 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

No circulars had been received during the past month.

141/2007 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - PC Mick Anderson – Letter of Thanks for Council's Support over Past Three Years
 - Parishioners – Offer of a Tree
 - Tree Warden – Report on Speighthill Woods in Response to Request from Council
 - Mr John Gower – Report on the Remediation Process Proposed at the Avenue Works

The correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – No Smoking in Sports Pavilions
 - NEDDC – Representatives to Council Committees
 - NEDDC – Undertaking of Notification to Council about Developments within the Green Belt
 - NEDDC – Draft Recreation and Open Space Planning Document
 - Chesterfield Borough Council – Advertisement Design Guide
 - Chesterfield Borough Council – Sustainable Design

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – Approval of Submission for Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme 2006/2007
 - DCC – Birkin Lane/Nethermoor Road Weight Restriction – Objections and Decision
 - DCC – Extinguishment Order for Footpath 41 and Footpath 32 (part)
 - DCC – Acknowledgement of Concerns about Quality of Repairs to Roads in the Parish
 - DCC – Appreciation for Support for Capital Sustainability Grant for New Road Nursery
 - DCC – Smoke Free Bus Shelters
 - DCC – Patching Works on Davids Drive Estate
 - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Avenue Washlands and Nature Reserve Open Day – 9 August 2007
 - DCPCT – No Appeal Process on Decisions about New Road Surgery
 - DCPCT – Date for Closure of Consultation
 - DRCC – News and Information – June 2007

The Clerk confirmed that the footpaths maintenance grant from last year had been received and alerted Members to the County Council's decision not to place a weight restriction on Birkin Land and Nethermoor Road. Concern was expressed about the lack of any appeal process within the DCPCT in the event of a decision to support to close the New Road branch surgery. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Crime Number for Burglary at the Parish Hall
 - Community Environmental Action Projects Ltd – Local Projects
 - Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice – Open Meeting on Monday 9 July 2007 in Chesterfield
 - CPRE – Confirmation of Membership
 - BRM – Initial Views on Covenants

The correspondence was noted.

Resolved: that the Clerk makes an appeal against any decision of the DCPCT to support the closure of the New Road branch surgery by going outside the Trust.

142/2007 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllrs T Snowdon and Mrs J Robinson had been in attendance for the Council's Listening Service on Saturday 30 June but no matters had been raised by parishioners. Cllr K Moore reported that the most recent meeting of the Bowls Club had been cancelled and Cllr Mrs M Parker informed the meeting that the Community Association had a full programme arranged for the forthcoming year in spite of having fewer members.

Cllrs R Lewin and Mrs J Robinson reported on the recent meeting of the Footpaths Committee when there had been a presentation by the volunteers about work completed, currently under way and planned. Both Members emphasised the outstanding contribution of the volunteers to these important amenities in Wingerworth. Particular issues raised included the possibility of volunteers being recruited from outside the Parish, the bid for funding to the County Council for further improvements and a certain amount of flood damage. The use of various types of vehicles off road continued to cause concern but the Chairperson stressed that this was a largely matter for the landowner when on privately owned property although the Police had powers to intervene in certain circumstances.

Cllr CE Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee. The work of the Council's member of staff, Mr T Watts, in maintaining and caring for the Churchyard was highly appreciated by everyone at the meeting especially as the work had become more difficult with the lengthening growing season and the more profuse growth that was often apparent during the summer months when disposal of the cuttings was on occasions becoming more difficult. Attempts were being made to limit the number of mementos and various adornments which made maintenance much more difficult and potentially dangerous. Consideration was being given to the use of volunteer help at the height of the growing season. Improvements to the pathways were noted as was the continuing problems with moles but the general maintenance was continuing to proceed well and was appreciated by the many people visiting the Church and the Churchyard.

Cllr W Pickford was visiting the allotments on a regular basis and looked forward to attending his first committee meeting of the Association. Members were reminded of the Council's annual visit to the allotments which was taking place from 10.30am on Sunday 22 July.

143/2007 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed the meeting that the recent meeting organised by the District Council on matters of mutual interest had been cancelled due to flooding across the area. She also informed the meeting of a request from the Cricket Club to have a small memento in the Pavilion to recognise the much valued work of the recently deceased Mr Alec Lenthall who had freely given so much of his time over many years to looking after the Council's facilities. It was agreed that this would be appropriate but that there was also a need for some form of plaque to recognise Mr Lenthall's considerable contribution across the area including the Wall Pond and the bowling green and the Clerk was asked to look into the matter.

144/2007 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 5 September 2007.

145/2007 Recommendations from Finance Committee and Parish Hall Committee

The notes of the Finance Committee's meeting on 30 May 2007 were received and the main recommendation concerning a way of offering a form of tenure to the New Road Nursery was agreed. The notes of the Parish Hall Committee's meeting of 11 June 2007 were received and a lengthy discussion ensued on some of the recommendations concerning problems associated with weekend night bookings.

Resolved: that the Clerk arranges for the booking deposit to be increased to £300 for weekend night events to provide a larger bond to cover any extra costs falling on the Council as a result of the booking; that a decision on the provision of stewarding by the Council be deferred; that the Clerk takes advice on the Council's legal position over transgressions of the no smoking law; that the Clerk compiles statistics on matters relating to weekend bookings.

146/2007 Pitch Allocation – Winter 2007/2008

The Clerk reported on applications to District Council for use of the Council's football pitches for the forthcoming season. There was one application for the Allendale Road pitch which was from the Wingerworth Barley Mow FC for one team in the Chesterfield and District Sunday League and one application for the Adlington pitch from the Wingerworth United under-14s for one team in the Rowsley and District Youth League. Both applications were from clubs already using the Council's pitches and both applications were unanimously approved for recommendation to the District Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk informs District Council of the decision to support both applications.

147/2007 Speighthill Wood

The Chairperson reminded Members of previously expressed concerns about the sale of a large area of land around Langer Lane. Since then a number of parishioners had suggested that the Council purchase the land as a public amenity and the Clerk had investigated the possibility of such action. One of the three lots was of particular interest, being the 32 acres comprising Speighthill Wood. The Parish's Tree Warden had submitted a report based on consultations with relevant experts covering the possible value of the property, the nature of the woodland, issues to do with TPOs and rights of way, possible obligations and responsibilities associated with the ownership of such woodland and the potential for attracting grant aid. The Clerk informed Members of the Council's potential for acquiring a loan to fund such a purpose, which according to DALC, should not be a problem provided that the rationale for purchase was approved.

Members deliberated on the possibility of purchasing the woodland and the various uses of the land that would be to the benefit of the local community. The agents had informed the Clerk that they intended to ask for bids from all interested parties with a deadline that was likely to be imminent. Because of this there was insufficient time to call a public meeting but, based on views expressed to Members and the Clerk, it was felt that many Parishioners would support such an acquisition even though this would almost certainly result in an increase in the precept that was above the rate of inflation. It was agreed that the Council should express an interest in purchasing the woodland and submit an offer of £50,000 that was conditional on the Council being able to arrange a suitable loan.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the agent to make an offer of £50,000 to purchase the woodland that was conditional on the Council being able to arrange a suitable loan facility which was in part dependent on being able to comply with all pertinent requirements applicable to the Council.

148/2007 Update on Wingerworth Centre

The Clerk reported on a conversation with a County Council officer about the latest position with the Wingerworth Centre. It appeared that the County Council had approved in principle that the Centre be sold to a local GP for development into some form of medical centre and that a community use condition would be imposed. There were a number of issues to resolve including the possible loss of open space and the impact on rights of way and there were also possible issues to do with potentially restrictive covenants. The County Council had been asked to provide details of the purchase price but these had not yet been revealed although it appeared the price had been established in part by relying on a well-being factor. It was noted that the Council may be able to acquire a Section 123 payment for improvements to the locality especially if the any development resulted in the loss of open land.

149/2007 Development of a Local Plan

Due the lateness of the hour, it was agreed to defer any detailed discussion on the development of a local plan to the September meeting of the Council. It was also agreed to defer a possible development session organised by DRCC to a later date. However the offer of a workshop by the District Council's Forward Planning Team needed to be taken up before the summer recess if the Council was to use this workshop to have any influence on the core strategy of the new Local Development Framework (LDF) which was in essence the next Local Plan for the broader District.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the District Council's Forward Planning Team to arrange for a workshop for the Council from 6.30pm to 8pm on Thursday 12 July 2007; that Members prepare for the meeting by considering the four areas specified for the formulation of the core strategy of the LDF.

150/2007 Model Code of Conduct for Members Any Other Business

The lack of time prevented any discussion of this item.

Resolved: that the Clerk places this item on the agenda for the September meeting of the Council so that the code could still be adopted by the 1 October 2007 deadline.

151/2007 Expenditure

The Clerk reported on progress with a number of projects and purchases. Although approval on expenditure for the general maintenance and replacement of lights in the foyer and corridor of the Parish Hall and the provision of lighting for the Setts footpath both had to be deferred due to the delay in receipt of quotations, the other items listed for approval had been progressed and were presented for approval.

Resolved: that the delegated powers be given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to give approval to the repairs to the road across the Lodge Pond and the reinstatement of the wall at the Lodge Pond following receipt of tenders based on the best value quotation and subject to the overall costs being contained within the specified budget of £30,000; that the Clerk be authorised to commit expenditure for the installation of a new item of play equipment and the renewal of all of the safe play areas at Allendale Road at a cost not exceeding £16,000 based on the best value quotation obtained by District Council; that the Clerk be authorised to place an order with Dobson (Roofing Services) Limited for the replacement of rooflights and general repairs to the roof of the Parish Hall at an estimated cost of £6,000 to include the installation of a sun pipe; that Clerk makes arrangements for the thinning out of the copse near the Island Pond and the construction of a new base for a seat overlooking the cricket ground; that the Clerk arranges for the Council to be included in the County Council's emergency repair service for bus shelters.

152/2007 Donations

Members considered requests for donations to the Chair of District Council's Annual Appeal, the 3rd Wingerworth Scout Group for the annual fireworks display in the village, Vitalise and the County Air Ambulance

Resolved: that the Clerk arranges for the payment of £50 to the Chair of District Council's Annual Appeal, the payment of £250 to the 3rd Wingerworth Scout Group to support the annual fireworks display in the village and the sum of £30 to Vitalise in recognition of their work benefiting the Parish; that the Clerk seeks some form of assurance from the County Air Ambulance of the benefit provided to the Parish so that the request can be considered at the September meeting of the Council.

153/2007 Any Other Business

There was a query about the opening hours of the library at the Parish Hall and the Clerk undertook to make sure that the library staff were aware that they could post a notice in the Council's public board near the front entrance to the Hall. The Clerk reminded Members of the urgent need to submit the General Notice of Registrable Interests, most of which had received. There was a request to for a basketball area for young people in the village and it was agreed that this be considered at a later date.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10.05pm.