

## WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 July 2011

**Present:**

Cllr Diana Ruff (Chairwoman)

Cllr Pat Antcliff

Cllr Dawn Hart

Cllr Vince Causey

Cllr Chris Hutchings

Cllr Lindsey Edwards

Cllr Peter O'Neil

Cllr Stuart Ellis

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

Cllr Brian Flude

#### **125/2011 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Cecilia Harper and Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj

#### **126/2011 Tribute to Former Councillor Roger Scothern**

The Chairperson informed Members about the recent death of Roger Scothern who had been an active Member of the Council for over 20 years. She paid tribute to his sterling work and his involvement in the community and suggested that a memorial plaque to Roger be produced and that a donation be made to the Bowling Club.

#### **127/2011 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest other than those from dual-hatted Members who were on NEDDC's Planning Committee and from Cllr Chris Hutchings with his involvement in the cricket club in respect of agenda item 17..

#### **128/2011 Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2011 be confirmed as true and correct record of the meeting.

#### **129/2011 Matters Arising**

There had been no notification of matters arising.

#### **130/2011 Police Matters**

PCSO Michael Coates had tended his apologies at being unable to attend the meeting but he had phoned through the previous month's figures which included two reported crimes. One was a theft of garden planters from a house while the other was a series of thefts at the allotments at Watson Lane. During the same period there had been two reported instances of anti-social behaviour. One was a small fire to the rear of the Allendale shops which had been put out by the Fire Service and the other was an episode of egg throwing at a house at Adlington.

#### **131/2011 Public Forum**

There was a request for clarification on the items of correspondence concerning the surface of and the vegetation alongside Central Drive and a statement that the gated entrance on to Birkin Lane would be restored to hedgerow if the planning appeal was lost.

#### **132/2011 Part Night Street Lighting**

The Chairperson welcomed Peter Booth, the Head of Commercial Services at Derbyshire County Council, to the meeting and asked him to talk about the part night proposals. He explained that the switch to part night lighting could save about £400,000 and would help limit future carbon credit charges. The likely times for switching off lighting would be midnight through to 5.30am but this would only apply to certain street lights with exclusions for high crime and ASB areas, busy junctions and traffic calming areas. Early experience from other areas had not suggested any increase in accidents, incidents, crimes and ASB activity although the situation would be monitored in Derbyshire should the proposals be implemented. Members raised various points including concerns over further reductions in future years, the possible use of LED lights and the reduction of lighting on former main roads that had now been by-passed. Members understood the need to effect savings and lessen the use of electricity and appreciated the approach to possible implementation and subsequent monitoring.

#### **133/2011 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters**

The following planning applications were reported:

110428	Field op Mulberry Fm, Martins La	Lawful existing use of con to Dwelling
110455	10 Ivy Spring Close	Construction of Conservatory to Rear
110472	24 Swathwick Lane	Amendment to Approved Garage
110466	25 Longedge Lane	Extensions and Alterations
110490	Woodcote House, Martins Lane	Extensions to Sides and Rear
110487	5 Central Drive	Extension to Extension
110384	34 Central Drive (Amended)	Erection of 1.7m high Brick Wall plus ...

The following planning decisions were reported:

110367	CA	130 Longedge Lane	Erection of Conservatory to Front
110472	CA	24 Swathwick Lane	Amendment to Approved Garage
110487	R	5 Central Drive	Extension to Extension

CA = Conditional Agreement R = Refused

The applications and decisions were noted. There was concern about 110428 both of the particular application and of the process whereby a development without planning permission could subsequently be declared lawful. In the event that it was approved, Members were keen to have it confirmed that Council Tax would have been paid for the time that the property had been occupied.

The Clerk reported on the early notification of a proposed housing development in Wingerworth although the formal notification from District Council's Planning Department had yet to be received. This was a subsequent agenda item. He also reported on an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the refusal of the application to retain a gated pedestrian entrance from a property onto Birkin Lane.

### **134/2011 Accounts**

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in May 2011. He also presented details of income and expenditure against a phased budget at the end of that month and the current position of the Council's reserves.

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

### **135/2011 Finance**

The Clerk submitted bank details for the previous month and the month end reconciliation.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

### **136/2011 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils**

- Circular 25/2011 – General
  - Landfill Communities Fund Grants
  - End of Aggregates Levy Fund
- Circular 26/2011 – Digital Switchover and Switchover Help Scheme
- Circular 31/2011 – General
  - Cutting Red Tape
  - Consultation on Regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007
- Circular 32/2011 – General
  - Part Night Street Lighting
  - Relaxation of Planning Rules for Change of Use from Commercial to Residential

The circulars were noted.

### **137/2011 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
  - Parishioner – Request for Re-surfacing of Central Drive
  - Parishioner – Concern about Overgrown Vegetation on Central Drive
  - Parishioner – Request for Street Name Sign to Clarify Start of New Road
  - Parishioner – Concern about Tipping of Material alongside Swathwick Lane
  - Parishioner – Concerns over Proposed Changes to School Transport

- Parishioner – Request for Bus Shelter opposite Hunloke Arms
- Parishioner – Continuing Concern over Council Failure to Deal with Problems at Cricket Ground
- Parishioner – Largely Favourable Response to Consultation on Planting of Hedge at Cricket Ground
- Parishioners at Rykneld Rise – Request for a Grit Bin
- Wingerworth Bowling – Concern over State of Wall Pond Car Park
- Wingerworth Bowling Club – Copy of Public Liability Insurance
- District
  - NEDDC – Change of Address – 3 Hall Bungalow to 3 Stable Yard, Wingerworth Hall Estate
  - NEDDC – New Address – The Barn, Hillhouse Court, New Road
  - Rykneld Homes – Confirmation of Award for Adlington Activity Zone
- County
  - DCC – Accident Report after Incident in Wingerworth Library
  - DCC – Excellence in the Community Awards 2011 (Closing Date 19 August 2011)
  - DET – Confirmation of Viridor Credits Award for Adlington Activity Zone
- Other
  - Audit Commission – Queries over Size of Reserves Held by the Council

Attempts to have Central Drive resurfaced had floundered because of the complexities and confusions over ownership of and responsibility for differing sections of the road. There were similar issues with the overgrown vegetation, although the Clerk agreed to try and have the bushes cut back. District Council had been requested to place a street name sign at the start of New Road. Unless there was evidence or strong suspicions of illegal activity with tipping, it was difficult to engage the relevant authorities although the parking of skips on the verge was something on which the authorities may be able to take action, especially if the units were not illuminated at night.

There was some concern about any withdrawing of school transport but it was emphasised that the County Council was still taking stock of the situation and was in any case subject to compliance with national standards as regards safe transport to and from school for pupils. Cllr Stuart Ellis reminded the meeting that the County Council was willing to provide a grit bin or two free of charge provided that the Parish Council then took responsibility for restocking the grit and it was agreed that this would be taken into consideration when reviewing the allocation of grit bins in September. The Clerk confirmed that the resurfacing of the Wall Pond car park was being deferred until the resurfacing of the tennis courts had been completed because of possible wear and tear from the contractor's plant.

Appreciation was expressed at the two grant awards and the Clerk clarified that the Audit Commission queries had been raised in error and that there had since been an apology for raising the matter and for requiring (and receiving) a detailed report that had not been needed.

### **138/2011 Reports from Committees and Representatives**

Cllr Dawn Hart reported on a meeting about the allotments when there had been discussions about the recent break-ins and the resulting damage. There was some uncertainty about the extent to which the Council was able to help with clearing one of the ditches at the site and there were concerns about grass cuttings from a nearby residence being dumped at the layby. The possibility of the acquisition of more land from an adjacent field was raised as this would allow for more allotments.

Cllr Chris Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee when appreciation had been expressed for the high standard of maintenance undertaken by the Council. A new location for the dog bin had been suggested and the new path to the Church from the car park had now been completed.

Cllr Lindsey Edwards had attended a meeting of the Clay Cross Angling Association when the discussion mainly concerned activities other than at the Wall Pond although there was a query about a report that had been submitted by the Association's secretary.

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on the work of the Footpaths Committee. They were still waiting for confirmation from the County Council on arrangements for work on the Martins Lane footpath and an issue had been raised about the possible replacement of a pallet gate with a wicket gate. The amount of litter and overgrown vegetation at the Setts Path was a cause for concern but it appeared that the

County Council did not have a budget to cover any maintenance on the path. The Wingerworth Audio Trail was now available for downloading following the recent launch of the trail.

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on a tour by members of the Parish Hall Committee which had identified a number of small issues which were being addressed but the main concern was the condition of the external fabric of the building with the need for attention to the cladding, the guttering and the downpipes.

Cllr Brian Flude agreed to be a substitute representative for the Bowling Club.

Cllr Lindsey Edwards reported on the most recent meeting of The Avenue Works Community Representatives' Group when there was information about improved odour controls and management procedures and also about tar deposits that were more than anticipated and which would require the movement of material off the site. There was some disappointment that the production of regular information sheets for distribution had fallen foul of new Government restrictions although the website contained regularly updated information on progress. Consultations were due to take place on the future of the site following remediation and would include discussions on the one thousand houses planned for the site. There was an open day scheduled for 28 July.

### **139/2011 Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson reported that she and the Clerk had attended the County Council's Town and Parish Councils' Liaison Forum at Matlock and that both had attended the recent Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting. There had also been a meeting with Rippon Homes when the company had outlined the intention to develop a part of one of their land holdings in the Parish.

### **140/2011 Further Application for Hire of Football Pitch for 2011-2012 Season**

The Clerk reported that a late application had been received for the use of the Allendale Road pitch for 2011-2012 from the Wingerworth JSA. The Clerk had consulted on the advisability of having a second team on this pitch following the earlier agreement for the Wingerworth Barley Mow FC to play there for the next season and it was felt that the pitch could not adequately accommodate two teams, However there was a possibility of offering Wingerworth JSA the Council's Adlington pitch. While this wasn't sufficient for a senior team, given the absence of changing facilities, it could accommodate a junior team thereby freeing up one of the WJSA's own three pitches which did have changing facilities. In the event that the offer to use the Adlington pitch was taken up, it would be conditional upon the club doing everything possible to steward parking on matchdays so as to avoid the obstruction caused by irresponsible parking which resulted in complaints from local residents and could make it difficult for emergency access to the pitch.

Resolved: that the Clerk informs NEDDC that the Council did not want to have two teams playing on the Allendale Road pitch but was very willing for the Adlington pitch to be used by one of the WJSA junior teams if that would free up one of their own pitches for the more senior side.

### **141/2011 Response to Resident's Concerns about Cricket Ground**

There was brief summary of the background to the problems encountered by residents who had bought new houses adjacent to the Council's cricket ground. Various steps had been taken by the Council to try and minimise the risk associated with cricket balls being hit beyond the edge of the field and these had been appreciated by some of the residents. However one resident had continued to complain about what he regarded as inadequate protective measures and anti-social behaviour associated with young people kicking a football around on the edge of the cricket field.

A lengthy list of complaints had been sent to the former Chairperson towards the end of the previous Council's term and she had informed the resident that the matter would be taken up by the new Council. The new Council referred the matter to a committee who spent some time considering the issues raised which resulted in a letter from the new Chairperson to the resident offering to look at the possibility of planting an hedge and agreeing, in the short term, to place some "No ball games" notices in the area of concern. The letter also made clear that issues of anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police.

The resident had responded by welcoming the suggestion of a hedge and detailing a specification which differed from the one that the Council was considering and explaining why he had objected to

the erecting of the promised signs. He also complained again about what he perceived as the continued failure of the Council to address his concerns and in the light of this it was agreed that the Clerk should organise a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee to which the residents from the new houses would be invited to provide a forum for discussing residents' feelings about the extent of problems and possible solutions.

#### **142/2011 Co-option of Members**

The Clerk reported that two expressions of interest had been received in connection with the advertised opportunities for co-option onto the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should convene a meeting of the Members who were designated to be involved with the next stage of the co-option procedures.

#### **143/2011 Opportunity for Town and Parish Councils under the Sustainable Communities Act**

There was a brief discussion about an invitation from another council to lobby for more powers to town and parish councils to intervene in major new developments affecting an area but it was decided not to support the measures outlined in the correspondence.

#### **144.2011 New Developments in Wingerworth**

Members had been circulated with a leaflet from Rippon Homes with information about a proposed new development of 51 houses on land off Deerlands Road close to Nethermoor Road. It was pointed out that this would be against the Council's own policy which was to oppose new developments on green land although it was recognised that this would carry little or no weight with the planning authority. There was a concern that such a development would be the thin end of a wedge as the area concerned was a relatively small section of the site owned by the developer which was believed to amount in total to 42 acres. There were also a range of concerns relating to the development as outlined in a brochure due to be circulated by Rippon Homes.

Resolved: that the Council opposes the application because of concerns about traffic safety issues, as with increased traffic flows in the area as well as the access to the site which was close to the busy junction of Deerlands Road and Nethermoor Road, concerns about the capacity of the drainage system to cope with waste dispersal and the increased risk of flooding in the locality.

#### **145/2011 Expenditure**

The Clerk reported that one of the two mowing machines used for the Churchyard was in need of replacement and permission was sought to purchase an equivalent model at a cost of about £600. Permission was also sought for the purchase of a shelter to be installed at the bowling green to provide protection for scorers and spectators from cricket balls that very occasionally flew over the protective netting. After a lot of research and discussions with club members, it seemed that a metal framed polycarbonate shelter would best suit the needs and would be lower in maintenance costs than a timber construction. Urbanfab of Oxford produced a 4 metre shelter with a green frame which could be delivered and installed for £4,400 with the club providing seating inside the shelter.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the purchase of a new mower for the Churchyard and a shelter for the bowling green.

The following item was classed as an exempt item and as such was considered after members of the public had left the meeting.

#### **146/2011 Acquisition of Land**

There was a discussion on a proposal to purchase land from District Council which would enable the Council to develop the areas into a more attractive and better maintained open-air facility for the community. Members were also interested in any community land released from future developments in the Parish.

#### **147/2011 Date of Next Meetings**

The next monthly meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 7 September

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.20pm.