

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 7 June 2006

Present: Councillor Mrs A Sainty (Chair)
Councillor SJ Ellis
Councillor T Fisher
Councillor CE Hutchings
Councillor PW O'Neill
Councillor J Ollis
Councillor Mrs M Parker
Councillor W Pickford
Councillor RAC Scothern
Councillor T Snowdon (*from 107/2006*)
Councillor R Stafford
Councillor K Walker
with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

098/2006 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Councillor K Moore.

099/2006 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2006 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

100/2006 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

101/2006 Public Forum

There was a request for information on items of correspondence relating to the Allendale Road/Central Drive development. It was agreed to suspend standing orders and consider agenda item 16. The Clerk summarised pertinent correspondence from the Parish and read out an extract from District Council that made it clear that the consultation process was not a condition of planning approval.

The Clerk then outlined the latest position with the proposed drainage agreement including the appointment of BRM to act as legal advisors, the search for the relevant deeds and the initial comments from the developer's solicitors. He read out further extracts from the District Council letter offering some assurances over any impact locally of the increased flow of water into the pond and downstream and stating that there had been no further correspondence or meeting with the developer since permission had been granted for reserved matters in January.

A general discussion followed on the consultation process with particular regard to the new road. There with some continuing concerns about the six residents supporting the scheme and the denominator of seven that had been referred to on an earlier occasion. A representative of the developer listed six named supporters out of a possible maximum of ten and the Chair eventually cut short further discussions on this detail and confirmed that the Council's main involvement was to do with the easement rights and not other aspects of the development although the Council had previously expressed the view that the unmade lower section of Central Drive was in need of improvement..

With standing orders resumed, there was an expression of concern about the fate of the two remaining trees adjacent to the Lodge Drive property on which all other trees had been felled. It was felt that the two trees in question should be safe as they were presumed to be on District Council land.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to District Council to ask that they make sure that the two trees are retained either in their capacity as landowner or by such other means as may be necessary.

102/2006 Police Matters

PC Anderson had tendered his apologies. In the absence of a substitute officer or any report, there was no further discussion.

103/2006 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters

Members on the District Council's Planning Committee do 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:

321	Field op Swathwick Farm, Swath Lane	New Vehicular Access & Tracks
442	5 Deerpark Crescent	Retention of Car Port
474	Woodthorpe M's Farm, Ashover Road	New Dwelling
517	2 Mulberry Close	Single Storey Rear Extension
537	23 Longedge Rise	Two Storey Side Extension
502	24 Longedge Lane	Erection of Conservatory to Rear
564	1A Welbeck Drive	Single Storey Side Extension
571	Moorlands, Matlock Road	Retention of Balancing Pond
573	The Old Woodhouse, Middle Rd, HW	Retention of Building to Rear

Concern was expressed about application 321. These concerns had been expressed previously for similar applications and it was agreed that District Council be reminded of the the Council's position.

The following planning decisions were reported:

232	W	The Old Woodhouse, Middle Rd, HW	Retention of Timber Store and ...
267	G	69 Longedge Lane	Bay Windows and Rear Conserv
268	G	30 Longedge Lane	Single Storey Rear Extension
272	G	140 Longedge Lane	Single Storey Extension Side/Rear
275	G	Fields 2545 abd 3961, Steep Lane	Erection of Stable Block
322	G	Oakbrook Mdows, Bottom Road, HW	Erection of Double Garage
328	R	35 New Road	Extension to Garage
334	W	Field op Swathwick Farm, Swath Lane	Access and Retention of Stable
355	W	38 Hazel Drive	Two Storey Side Extension

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The decisions were noted.

104/2006 Annual Accounts for 2005/2006

The Clerk submitted the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2006 and the Balance Sheet at that date. Members were also presented with an analysis of significant variations on the Statement of Accounts in comparison to the annual accounts for the previous year and a year-end bank reconciliation.

Resolved: that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2006 and the Balance Sheet at that date be approved together with the analysis of significant variations on the Statement of Accounts in comparison to the annual accounts for the previous year, and that these details be forwarded to the Council's Internal Auditor before being submitted to the Audit Commission; that the year-end bank reconciliation be noted.

105/2006 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in April 2006.

Resolved: that the accounts be approved.

106/2006 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank reconciliations as at the end of April 2006.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

107/2006 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

The following circulars had been received:

- Circular 12/2005
 - Conference on Proposed Police Reorganisation – Saturday 10 June 2006

DALC was keen that as many Members of Parish Councils as possible attend this conference.

108/2006 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Four Residents – Opposition to Central Drive Proposals
 - Parishioner – Questions over Consultation Process for Wheeldon Homes' Proposals
 - Parishioner – Questions over Consultation Process for Wheeldon Homes' Proposals
 - Parishioner – Wall Damage at Edinburgh Court and Problems of Litter and Graffiti
 - Parishioner – Increased Number of Heavy Vehicles in Village

A subsequent letter from the Parishioner concerned with Edinburgh Court confirmed that the repairs to the wall had been completed. It was felt that the increased number of heavy vehicles along Birkin Lane, with 56 journeys logged on one day, was only for a short term but it was recognised that this was one of the approved routes for heavy vehicles through the Parish.

- North East Derbyshire District Council
 - Street Collection – Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 4-11 November 2006
 - Statement of Community Involvement for Chesterfield Borough Council
 - Dates for Next Cycle of Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings
 - Replacement Local Plan for Chesterfield Borough Council

The correspondence was noted.

- Derbyshire County Council
 - OnBoard – Public Transport Newsletter
 - Resurfacing of Footways in Wingerworth
 - Child Seat Checking Events 2006
 - Final Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

The Clerk read out the letter concerned with the resurfacing of footways in Wingerworth and Members registered their disappointment at the apparent inability of the County Council to make any significant improvements in the foreseeable future.

- Other
 - Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group – Appreciation of Donation
 - Lottery and Funding News
 - STRI – Report on Bowling Green
 - ODPM – Local Authority Byelaws
 - Natascha Engel MP – Dates for Surgeries
 - Linkline – Newsletter May 2006
 - Charter 88 – Request for Support from Council
 - CPRE – Future Events

The Clerk reported that the STRI inspection had mentioned a continuing improvement in the quality of the bowling green and that in future there was a need for more attention to more detailed areas of work which should involve the District Council's bowling green supervisor.

109/2006 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Councillor T Fisher reported on the Listening Service held by himself and Councillor Mrs M Parker when one Parishioner had raised concerns over the impact of a new medical centre on the existing pharmacy service in Wingerworth.

Councillor PW O'Neill reported that he had received a schedule of meetings for the Bowling Club.

The Chair reported that she had not attended any further meeting of the Tennis Club and reminded Members that a new representative was needed for this club.

Councillor RAC Scothern reported that the Allotment Holders' Association had elected a new president and that there was still a waiting list for allotments. There was some concern over the state of the ditch at the front of the allotments but everything seemed else in good order. The annual visit by Members to the allotments had been confirmed as Sunday 23 July 2006 and it was agreed that the dedication of the seat for Mr Grant should take place at the start of this visit, at 10.30am. The Clerk would confirm with the Association's secretary and notify all involved.

Councillor T Snowdon reported that progress on improvements to footpaths had been slow which was in part due to the weather. Material for compacting on one of the paths was awaited and although the specification was available it was necessary to specify the dropping off points. It was also necessary to order a flexible length of land drain. It was reported that Mike Simms, as a member of the Footpaths Committee, had visited every one of the footpaths in the Parish and had compiled a report on the state of these footpaths highlighting the many missing and damaged signs that needed replacing or repairing. The list had been submitted to the County Council. A supply of the small yellow footpath signs was also needed. These had been difficult to acquire and the Clerk was asked to try and obtain a stock.

There was an urgent need for a petrol driven strimmer and it was suggested that the model selected should have the facility for attaching a blade as some of the work may be too heavy for cutting with the normal plastic wire.

There was a brief discussion of the developments at Mill Lane where three footpaths were currently out of bounds due to the major work being undertaken which would eventually result in much improved footpaths within a protected natural area including ponds. A family walk had been arranged for Sunday 18 June starting at 2pm at the Parish Hall. The walk, which was intended to be similar to the successful event the previous year, was due to be advertised in Wings, although there was some uncertainty if the distribution of Wings would take place in time and it was agreed that notices should be posted to invite families to join the walk.

110/2006 Chair's Business

There was no Chair's Business

111/2006 Clerk's Report

There was no written report, but the Clerk reported on a few matters that had arisen since the papers for the meeting were circulated. One welcome development was the clearing of the storage building at the Church, which now provided the Council with much needed storage space for grass cutting and landscaping equipment. However the mower acquired from the Church was proving to be insufficiently robust for the work and it was unanimously agreed that a new more commercial type of machine should be purchased that would be suitable for the heavy duties at the Churchyard with the possibility of part-exchanging the existing machine once repaired.

Continuing vandalism at the cricket ground was becoming an increasing concern. Recent incidents included holes being dug on the outfield, the daubing of mud on the Pavilion and the crashing of the roller into the door of the scoreboard. In future the roller would be chained on a tighter lead so that it could not reach the building.

Flooding on the footpaths across Deerpark, that were used by many including children and their parents going to and from the school, had been reported to District Council. There did not appear to be an easy solution and it may be that any improvement depended on work to the neighbouring football pitch.

The trial period of the contractual arrangement with Tates for litter picking at their store had been successfully concluded and it was hoped that the arrangements would now be extended.

The floral arrangements had been put in place around the Parish and included Mill Lane. There was a query about positioning a floral basket at the Longedge Lane entrance to Wingerworth. Councillor RAC Scothern agreed to investigate the possibility given that the tree foliage may make it difficult for a floral display to be visible.

112/2006 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 5 July 2006.

113/2006 Drainage Agreement with Wheeldon Homes

There was no further discussion on the agreement which had been considered when standing orders were suspended under minute 101/2006.

114/2006 Allocation of Pitches for 2006/2007

District Council had notified the Clerk that only one application had been received for the use of the Deerpark football pitch for the next football season. This application was from the Wingerworth Barley Mow Football Club. However District Council may request the council's approval for a second team at a later stage as it was likely that they would be unable to accommodate all applications for Sharley Park.

Resolved: that the Clerk informs District Council that the one application to date is approved and that approval may be given for a second application provided that the team concerned adheres to all of the Parish Council's conditions.

115/2006 Deerpark Football Pitch

Councillor Mrs A Sainty declared an interest in this matter and vacated the Chair for the duration of this agenda item. The chair was taken by Councillor RAC Scothern.

Members were appraised of problems with the Deerpark football pitch which were so bad that one of the teams playing on it last season had decided not to make a further application for the forthcoming season. There was a long standing drainage problem which had never seemed to be resolved by work on the pitch a number of years earlier. However there was now a further problem resulting from the use of sub-standard top soil by District Council the previous year. This top soil had contained bits of broken pottery and glass, amongst other things, and constituted a real danger to players and casual users of the pitch. District Council had tried to clear dangerous fragments of material, but it seemed that further pieces were still coming to the surface.

A discussion ensued on the extent to which the two problems – drainage and sub-standard top soil – should be linked – and whether independent advice should be sought from a body such as STRI on ways of remedying the situation. It was recognised that the Council may have to invest in an improved drainage system, but it was felt strongly that District Council should be responsible for and meet the costs of the damage resulting from the use of sub-standard top soil.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to District Council stressing the Council's view that the District Council is fully responsible for what is an important health and safety matter, that the Council expects the District Council to remedy the situation, and that the Council requests a site meeting with the District Council to which all interest parties would be invited including the football clubs, the Deer Park School and Members of the Council.

116/2006 Donations

Members considered requests for donations from the NEDDC Chair's Appeal 2006/2007 to support the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and from the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to pay a donation of £25 to the NEDDC Chair's Appeal 2006/2007 and a donation of £25 to the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living

117/2006 Any Other Business

Matters raised by Members included the need to manage and monitor the Council's capital reserve and proposed capital projects and a forthcoming meeting about a health centre, although the purpose of this meeting was not clear.

Resolved: that the Clerk convenes a meeting of the Finance Committee and includes the issues to do with the capital reserve and capital projects as an agenda item.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their attendance and Members for their contributions before declaring the meeting closed at 8.55pm.