

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 March 2007

Present: Cllr Mrs A Sainty (Chair)
Cllr SJ Ellis
Cllr T Fisher
Cllr CE Hutchings
Cllr K Moore (*from 050/2007*)
Cllr PW O'Neill
Cllr W Pickford
Cllr J Ollis
Cllr RAC Scothern
Cllr T Snowdon
Cllr R Stafford
Cllr K Walker
with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

046/2007 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Parker

047/2007 Resignation of Member

The Chair informed the meeting that Cllr S Lennon had stated that he wished to resign as a member of the Council. The resignation was accepted by the meeting.

048/2007 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

049/2007 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

050/2007 Public Forum

Concerns were raised about the possible levying of charges by a landowner to permit horse riding in Hardwick Wood; a further incidence of fly-tipping, this time on Footpath 12 off Malthouse Lane; the problems caused by parked cars on Oak Crescent; and damage to pavements by contractors' vehicles on Allendale Road.

Resolved: that the Clerk attempts to find out more information about the levying of charges for horse riding in Hardwick Wood; that the Clerk contacts District Council on receipt of a six figure map reference with a request that they clear the fly-tipped material; that the Clerk contacts the County Council about the dangerous state of the pavements on Allendale Road.

051/2007 Police Matters

The Chair welcomed the recently appointed Police Community Safety Officer, Janis Naylor, to the meeting. Although only in the second week of her appointment, PCSO Naylor had extensive experience in a range of public sector roles including working with the Derbyshire Constabulary for a number of years. PCSOs in Derbyshire had not been given traffic powers but she intended creating a presence in Wingerworth getting around on a bike and possibly opening the Police Office in the village, even if for only one morning a week. She informed the meeting that Inspector Mark Bates had placed for a request for a survey of traffic speeds on Longedge Lane but that there was unfortunately little likelihood of this taking place in the near future as speed monitoring was generally focused on accident black-spots. For the same reason, it was unlikely that the Councils' request for a monitoring of speeds on Swathwick Lane would be met. The Chair thanked PCSO Naylor for attending the meeting, especially as the meeting was on a day when she was not on duty, and echoed the general feeling of Members as to how good her appointment promised to be for the Parish.

052/2007 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:

64	20 Hazel Drive	Foorlights to Garage
109	Heronleas, 1 Hilltop Road	Erection of Two for One Dwell'g
111	141 Longedge Lane	Levelling of Rear Garden
168	Gorsey Place	Two Storey Extension plus ...
174	1 Longedge Grove	Two Storey Extension plus ...
178	600 Derby Road	Pitched Roof on Garage
179	Amenity Block, Millfield Park, Old T	Change to Two Dwellings
190	4 Lydgate Drive	Two Storey Extension plus ...
195	58 Adlington Avenue	Two Storey Extension

The applications were noted and although there was a query about application 179 it was felt that this was a reasonable proposal given that the amenity block was probably no longer needed now that the mobile homes had mains services.

The following planning decisions were reported:

1279	R	67 Longedge Lane	Newly Erected Dwelling
1393	G	188 Nethermoor Road	Single Storey Rear Extension
1396	G	Pioneer House, Mill Lane	Visitor Centre
1429	G	6 Lodge Drive	Single Storey Rear Extension
1441	G	86 Chartwell Avenue	Single Storey Rear Extension

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The main reasons for the refusal of application 1279 were outlined. The decisions were noted.

053/2007 Accounts

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

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

054/2007 Finance

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

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

055/2007 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

No circulars had been received from DALC in the past month.

056/2007 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Appreciation of Extension of Floral Display to Mill Lane
 - Wingerworth WI – Appreciation for New Notice Board
 - Wingerworth Allotment Holders' Association – Appreciation of Support for Purchase of Mower
 - Parishioner – Concern over Positioning of Proposed Bike Park in Chartwell Fields
 - Pupils at Deer Park Primary School – Request for Improvements to Path across Deerpark
 - New Road Nursery – Application for Capital Sustainability Grant Funding from County Council
 - Tupton Hall School – Governors' Consultation Meetings
 - Parishioner – Concern over Planning Application for 67 Longedge Lane

It was suggested that the original contractor, Johnsons, be asked to suggest ways of overcoming the problems with the path to the Deer Park Primary School. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – House to House Collections – Royal Hospital Foundation Trust – 13-25 August 2007
 - NEDDC – Postal Addresses for New Development – 50-64 Allendale Road and 54-74 Central Drive
 - NEDDC – Added House Name – Owltrees for 96 Chartwell Avenue
 - Linkline – Newsletter – February 2007
 - Arts Connections – Newsletter
 - Chesterfield Law Centre – Employment Discrimination Training Courses

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – Remedial Work to Damaged Verge on Longedge Lane
 - DCC – Revised Arrangement for Local Government Pension Scheme
 - DCC – “Scrap the Scams” Campaign
 - DRCC – Calor Derbyshire Village of the Year 2007
 - DCC/Derby City Council – More Possible Sites for New Waste Management Development
 - DCC – Proposed Stopping Up of Footpaths 32 (part) and 41 and Diversion of 37 (part)
 - DCC – Mobile Phone Campaigning
 - DCC – Public Events within the Highway 2007
 - Business Link – Transfer from Derbyshire Chamber & Business Link to East Midlands Business Limited
 - DRCC – Planning for Communities – Grassmoor – 4pm-7pm Tuesday 13 March
 - DCC – Composting Plant – Invitation to Site Visit and to Planning Committee – Monday 12 March
 - Darley Dale Maternity Unit and Midwives to Go – Request for Support

Although there was some general concern about the impact of the latest re-organisation of health provision, it was not clear what the Darley Dale group wanted by way of support and there were reservations about the Council campaigning on an issue in another part of the County. However it was agreed to express sympathy with the group. There was a query about the correspondence concerned with more possible sites for new waste management development although this did not appear to impinge on the Grassmoor proposals, The rest of the correspondence was noted.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the Darley Dale Group and lets them know that the Council sympathises with the position they face.

- Other
 - Audit Commission – Appointment of External Auditor and Revised Scale of Fees
 - Enjoy England – St George’s Day Celebrations 2007
 - Campaign to Protect Rural England – Request to Reconsider Re-joining CPRE

The correspondence was noted.

057/2007 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr RAC Scothern and Cllr T Fisher had attended the Council’s most recent Listening Service at the Parish Hall although no issues had been raised by parishioners. The Chair reported that the agreement with the Bowls Club had been signed just prior to the start of the meeting. The Clerk reported that he had been notified by the Community Association that the forthcoming Quiz Night had been cancelled due to lack of support. Cllr C Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee which had largely been concerned with a briefing for the new Rector although the Committee had also considered the implications of the lengthier growing season and in particular the extra cuts required with the realisation that this involved extra work and increased costs. There was a question about the response of the County Council to questions raised by the Safety Committee and the Clerk reported that to date only a standard letter of acknowledgement had been received. In answer to a question about progress with the Allotment Holders’ Association over the improvements to the entrance to the allotments, the Clerk reported that discussions were under way and as soon as details of materials and costs were available he would report to Members.

058/2007 Chair’s Business

The Chair reported on the recent induction service for the new Rector, Dr Jo White.

059/2007 Clerk’s Report

The Clerk presented his report which covered the Parish Hall, Footpaths, Litter, the Allotments, the Wingerworth Centre, Grit Bins, New Road Nursery, Tupton Hall School Consultation Meetings and Damage to Verges. The Clerk reported that a deduction had been made from a booking deposit with only a partial refund to cover for costs incurred by Council staff as a result of the bad state that the premises were left after the booking. He highlighted the bid being prepared for funding to improve access to and along footpaths in the Parish and summarised the extraordinary work undertaken by a member of the Council’s staff in refilling all of the close-to-empty grit bins in the Parish. Questions

were raised about the state of the papers containing the covenants relating to the Wingerworth Centre given that the papers concerned were believed to be not much more than 40 years old.

Resolved: that the Clerk sends a letter of appreciation to Mr Trace Watts for his valued efforts in making sure that the grit bins in the Parish were promptly re-stocked with grit immediately after the period of wintry conditions; that the Clerk seeks to establish the age of the documents containing the covenants which are held at the County Council.

060/2007 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 4 April 2007. Given that elections were taking place on Thursday 3 May 2008, it was agreed that the scheduled meeting for the previous evening, Wednesday 2 May, be switched to Wednesday 16 May when it could legitimately constitute the first meeting of the new Council

061/2007 Floral Displays 2007

Members unanimously agreed to the variation of up to an extra £400 on the previously approved sum of close to £5,000 for the summer floral display across the Parish to allow for a continuation of the previous year's extension of the display into Mill Lane. The Clerk was hopeful of having the extra costs covered by sponsorship, but if this was not possible, the variation would cover the additional costs.

062/2007 Grounds Maintenance 2007

Members unanimously agreed to continue the grounds maintenance contract with the District Council on the understanding that the increase in overall costs of the heavily subsidised service was not more than 7.5% over the costs of the past year.

063/2007 Resurfacing of Allendale Play Area/School Footpath/Play Footpath

Members considered a number of improvements at and around the Allendale Road play area. These included the installation of a new soft surface under the various items of play equipment to replace the ageing surface at a cost expected to be in the region of £4,500 and the construction of paths to link the play area to the nearby footpaths where the last estimate had been £3,500. There was a suggestion that the poor state of the ground between the play areas needed to be improved. It was agreed to arrange a site visit with District Council to discuss the possibility of linking this work in a single contract and to ensure that any work was accommodated in the Council's own capital expenditure proposals. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the original contractor to try and find ways of solving the problems caused by water lying on the footpath to the Deer Park Primary School, which made access difficult and which had been raised by two pupils from the school.

Resolved: that the Clerk arranges a site visit with District Council to review suggested improvements to the Allendale Road play area; that the Clerk contacts Johnsons for advice on the school footpath.

064/2007 Agreement with Tennis Club – Report from Finance Committee

The Chair briefed Members on the latest positioning the protracted attempts to put in place an agreement with the Tennis Club over their use of the Council's facilities. This briefing included reading out one of the communications received from the Club. There was some disappointment at the somewhat abrasive tone of the communication and after some discussion it was agreed that the Finance Committee should meet again to consider the latest and only recently received points from the Club which raised further objections to various matters in the latest draft agreement.

Resolved: that the Finance Committee be convened to consider the latest points raised by the Club.

065/2007 Grassmoor Composting Proposal

There were queries from a Member about the possible need to declare in interest but the Chair ruled that this would not be necessary given the narrow aspect of the proposal that was to be discussed.

The Chair summarised the discussions from the recent extraordinary meeting of the Council when the application for the composting plant had been considered in some depth and opened up the possibility

of some sort of financial support to assist in the campaign that seemed to be commanding popular support throughout the Parish. Although previous requests for the Council to pay for printing costs and room hire had been refused, there was the possibility of making a donation to the group. The Clerk reported that Arnold-Baker's authoritative compendium on Local Council Administration made reference to a number of councils in the south of England who had given support to a group opposed to the construction of a third runway at a major airport which was felt to damage the interests of residents in the respective council areas and that it was opined that this was a legitimate use of council funds. He also gave some details of the level of support from a neighbouring parish council to the current attempts to halt the development of a composting plant of the proposed type at Grassmoor. After further discussion it was agreed that it would be appropriate to make a donation and that this should be agenda'd for the next meeting of the Council.

There was a query from the draft minutes of the Council's recent extraordinary meeting that had been circulated to Members concerning a reference to some uncertainty about the stance of the District Council on the composting application. It was believed that the District Council's Planning Committee had been firmly against the application as it was presented and it was pointed out that a reference in the latest set of papers for the County Council's specialist committee made reference to certain objections from District Council. It was agreed that the District Council's Head of Planning be asked to clarify the position. The Chair read out extracts of the Council's letter to the County Council raising serious reservations about matters of process and procedure although there was concern that the points in the letter, which were well made and had been e-mailed to the County Council's Manager of Planning Control first thing on the morning of Thursday 1 March, did not appear to be mentioned in the County Council summary of responses.

Resolved: that the Clerk places a donation to the campaign against the composting plant on the agenda for the April meeting of the Council; that the Clerk contacts the District Council's Head of Planning with a request that he clarifies his Council's stance on the composting plant application; that the Clerk checks to ensure that the County Council do acknowledge receipt of the Council latest letter of concern (dated 28 February 2007) about the composting plant.

066/2007 Any Other Business

Vice Chair of the Council, Cllr RAC Scothern, offered best wishes on behalf of the Council to the Chair for her birthday the following day. In contrast to a cause for celebration, the Chair informed Members of the sad news of the death of Mr Walt Marsh who had undertaken a variety of landscaping jobs for the Council over many years. It was agreed that condolences be conveyed to members of his family and that the Council send flowers or, if appropriate, consider making a donation to a nominated good cause. The Chair also reported on Mr Alec Lenthall who had spent some time in hospital.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.