

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 March 2009

Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr Stuart Ellis	Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Chris Hutchings	Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj	Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Kevin Moore (<i>from 047/2009</i>)	Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr John Ollis (<i>from 047/2009</i>)	Cllr Diana Ruff with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

043/2009 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr Carole Nelson, Cllr Jan Robinson and Cllr Tom Snowdon.

044/2009 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest apart from dual-hatted Members under planning matters.

045/2009 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2009 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

046/2009 Matters Arising

There were two notifications of matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2009 but it was agreed that these would be dealt with later in the meeting.

047/2009 Police Matters

PCSO Mike Coates provided statistics for the last month which included 17 incidents of nuisance behaviour of which five were snow related and four concerned motorcycles. He also listed 15 crimes committed in the Parish including various burglaries and thefts. The Chairperson asked PCSO Coates to convey the appreciation of the Council for the rapid response of the Police in dealing with the parking problems in the vicinity of the Hunloke Park Primary School.

048/2009 Public Forum

A number of issues pertaining to footpaths were raised including the continuing nuisance and damage resulting from the unauthorised use of motorbikes on or around footpaths in the Parish. There was concern about the continuing delays to work on two stiles on Footpath 9 worries were expressed about the rumours that Speighthill Woods were due to be enclosed by fencing.

The shabby state of a large section of Wingerworth was raised with references to the dreadful state of roads, the amount of damage to verges and inconsiderate parking that endangered road safety. In a similar context, concerns were raised about the amount of parking on Allendale Road outside the new houses and the poor state of a property on Deerlands Road.

Further concerns were raised about the believed intention to fence off Speighthill Woods and the Council was requested to support residents in their efforts to retain access to the woods which had been open to access for many decades.

Concerns were raised by a parishioner in connection with the proposed extension to a property on Welbeck Drive.

There was a request for clarification on progress with improvements to the protective netting at the Council's cricket ground. The Clerk summarised the work already undertaken in consultations with various interested parties and outlined the proposed improvements that were currently awaiting planning approval. He stressed that the alterations to the protective netting was only one aspect of a broader set of measures designed to provide better protection for the houses bordering the ground and that it would be necessary to monitor carefully the extent to which risk had been reduced during the course of the season. There was a request to seek clarification as to why planning permission had been required when the provision of protective netting was a planning condition of the development.

The problems and associated dangers of irresponsible parking at the Hunloke Park Primary School remained a concern. While it was felt that the situation had improved following Police action, it appeared that things were now regressing, especially at the morning drop-off time when on one recent occasion a TM bus had to drive along the pavement to get through.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact the County Council to query progress with the work to the two stiles; that the concerns over future access to Speighthill Woods be placed on the agenda for the April meeting of the Council; that the Clerk, in due course, seeks an explanation from District Council as to the reasons for requiring the Parish Council to seek planning permission for the protective netting.

049/2009 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:

90103	Pumping Station, Hillhouses Lane	Removal of 2 Sections Hedgerow
90044	Deer Park Cricket Ground	Extension of Protective Netting
90072	48 Davids Drive	Discharge of Condition 4
90047	The Avenue Coking Works	Retention of Palisade Fence & Gate
90117	5 Chartwell Avenue	Single Storey Side Ext and Loft Conversion plus
90064	1A Welbeck Avenue	Pram Shelter, Ed Room, WC, Access
90124	Yew Tree Bungalow, Bottom Rd, HW	Conservatory and Garage/Wkshop
90070	** Wirestone Lane, Ashover	Wind Farm

** Application in Ashover Parish that may be of interest to Members

The applications were noted. It was believed that the Wind Farm application was contentious and Members would be kept informed of developments even though the application was outside the Parish.

The following planning decisions were reported:

1012	CA	81A Longedge Lane	Two Dormer Windows & Balcony
1044	R	Belfit Hill Farm, Birkin Lane	Erection of Detached Dwelling
1082	R	22 Hazel Drive	Variation to Allow Clear Glazing
1109	CA	12 Hazel Drive	Replacement Roof
1125	CA	42 Longedge Lane	Single Storey Extension to Front
1138	CA	Green Acre, 19 Mill Crescent	Front and Rear Extensions
1150	CA	Oakdale, Top Road, Hardwick Wood	Change from Garage to Granny An
1204	CA	22 Oak Crescent	Two Storey Side Exten'n and Porch

CA=Conditionally Approved R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The planning decisions were noted.

The following planning appeal was reported and noted:

854	Alinor, Middle Road , Hardwick Wood	Erection of Replacement Dwelling
	Informal Hearing at 10am on 10 March at Council House, Saltergate	

050/2009 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in January 2009 as well as details of income and expenditure against a phased budget at the end of January. He also presented the current position of the Council's reserves. Payments made during the month were:

Date	Reference	Payee	Amount (£s)	Detail
07-Jan-09	4455	Jackson Building Centres	9.14	Door Closer for P Hall
07-Jan-09	4456	J Barnes	1,958.28	Electrical Work at P Hall
07-Jan-09	4457	Salem Methodist Church	300.00	Refund of Deposit
07-Jan-09	4458	BT Payment Services Ltd	63.59	Parish Hall Phone Line
21-Jan-09	4459-65	Staff	4,284.62	Salary and Expenses
21-Jan-09	4466	HM Revenue & Customs	1,676.79	Tax and NI Payments
21-Jan-09	4467	Derbyshire CC	999.92	LGPS Payments
21-Jan-09	DD	AOL	22.82	Internet Services
21-Jan-09	DD	NEDDC	176.00	Business Rates
			9,491.16	Total for Month

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

051/2009 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and reconciliations as at the end of January 2009.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

052/2009 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Circular – General
 - Training and Vacancies

The circular was noted.

053/2009 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioners – Letters of Concern about Lack of Gritting and Grit
 - Parishioners – Petition about Absence of Gritting
 - Parishioner – Report of Missing Grit Bin on Bole Hill
 - Allotment Holders' Association – Confirmation of Date for Annual Visit – 26 July
 - Hunloke Park Primary School – Acknowledgement of and Appreciation of Council Action
 - Parishioner – Concerns over Garden Fires
 - Parishioner – Request for Grit Bin and Pruning of Vegetation by Spar Shop
 - Parishioners – Concerns over the Fencing of Speighthill Woods
- District
 - NEDDC – Notices for Planning Application for Extension of Protective Netting
 - NEDDC – House to House Collections – County Air Ambulance – over the year
 - NEDDC – House to House Collections – Tree of Hope Children's Charity – 4-15 May
 - NE Police – Intention to take Action re Parking Problems at Hunloke Park Primary School
 - NE Police – Crime Incident – Stolen Grit Bin
 - NEDDC – Invitation to a Consultation Evening at The Avenue Works Site
 - NEDDC – Acknowledgement of Request to Site Notice Board on District Council Land
- County
 - DCC – Offer of Grant towards Adlington Play Area
 - DCC – Implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement – 19 February 2009
 - DRCC – Calor Village of the Year 2009
- Other
 - HMRC – Year End Requirements for Tax and NI
 - Request from Solihull about Park Gates

The correspondence was noted. The date for the annual visit my Members to the Allotments was highlighted and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Spar Shop with a request that the vegetation be cut back. Appreciation was expressed for the financial support offered by the County Council towards the cost of the proposed play area at Adlington. *(There was a discussion on the provision of grit that is reported under minute 057/2009)*

054/2009 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Chris Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee. An area of rough ground had been cleared at the Churchyard but would not require maintenance by the Council. The seat constructed out of the wood of an old ship was being repaired and it was intended to have a new commemorative plaque for the restored seat.

Cllr Kevin Moore queried whether the problems with the life belt had been resolved and mentioned that the Angling Association was seeking permission to drill holes on the pegs to allow standing water to drain.

Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj summarised discussions about the possible use of space at the Church Centre to establish a café-based place for young people to meet, perhaps on a fortnightly basis, and was pleased to report there were promising possibilities. However it was necessary to clarify a number of issues to do with control, insurance, acquisition of equipment and rental charges.

055/2009 Chairperson's Business

Cllr Ann Sainty reported on the recent executive meeting of the Community Partnership and preparation for the full meeting on 25 March. She also reported on discussions with Streetscene.

056/2009 Long Term Absence of Members

Members were aware that two Councillors had been absent for some number of meetings of the full Council. In both cases absence was unavoidable, in one case due to working in Wales all week and in the other case due to the time taken to recover from an injury. Both Councillors had continued to be involved in Council business outside the monthly meetings and were keen to remain as Members with the possibility of being able to resume fully in the months ahead. However for this to happen it was necessary to have a resolution that the two Councillors continue as Members or else they would lapse as Members of the Council.

Resolved: that the two Members, Cllr Jan Robinson and Cllr Tom Snowdon, should continue as Members of the Council in the hope that they would be able to start attending the monthly meetings.

057/2009 Problems with Availability of Grit for Roads

The Council had received numerous calls concerning the lack of gritting on roads and the shortage of grit in the bins. The road gritting was the responsibility of the County Council who appeared to have treated roads in the Parish in keeping with their published schedule. The Parish Council was responsible for keeping the grit bins stocked. The bins had been full just prior to the exceptionally wintry conditions the previous month but as stocks became depleted it had proved difficult to restock due to the national shortage of grit. The normal supplier was the County Council who, for a period, were keeping all supplies for the road gritting vehicles. The Parish Council did obtain some grit from another source and had since fully restocked the bins when the County Council released supplies. However the situation appeared to have been aggravated with grit being removed from bins for private use and in one case a full bin had been stolen. Special mention was made of the work of the Council staff who had worked in difficult circumstances to try and restock every bin in the Parish.

058/2009 Report on Progress with Construction of the Pavilion

The Clerk reported that construction was proceeding well in spite of some poor weather and some extra demands by the Building Inspector relating to the base of the building. At present the project was about a week behind schedule but the contractor was confident of making that time up and completing the building close to the start of the bowling season. The first review meeting had taken place earlier in the week and the first staged payment was being processed. The general consensus was that the contractors were doing a first class job and managing to minimise inconvenience to others.

059/2009 Expenditure

The Clerk requested approval to extend the grounds maintenance contract with District Council into the financial year 2009/10 and thereby benefit from the final year in which the costs were being subsidised. He also gave notice that the expenditure on grit was likely to exceed the budgeted figure for the current financial year following the exceptionally wintry conditions of recent weeks.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to commit expenditure estimated at £20,843 for the grounds maintenance contract with District Council for 2009/10.

060/2009 Donations

A request had been received from the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre for a donation towards meeting the costs of running a facility that helped young people from across the county including a number for the Chesterfield area. Consideration of the request was deferred pending the receipt of further information concerning numbers involved from the Parish and the selection criteria employed.

061/2009 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting of the Council was 1 April 2009.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 8.46pm.