

# WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 March 2011

### Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)

Cllr Vince Causey (*to 054/2011*)

Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Stuart Ellis (*to 055/2011*)

Cllr Margaret Parker

Cllr Dawn Hart

Cllr Bill Pickford

Cllr Chris Hutchings

Cllr Michael Prout

Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj (*to 056/2011*)

Cllr Diana Ruff

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

### 040/2011 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Carole Nelson.

### 041/2011 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest other than those from dual-hatted Members who were Members on the District Council's Planning Committee and who did not participate in the Planning section of the meeting other than to provide some information on procedural matters at District Council.

### 042/2011 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2011 be confirmed as true and correct record of the meeting.

### 043/2011 Matters Arising

There had been no notification of matters arising.

### 044/2011 Police Matters

PCSO Michael Coates' report covered the two previous months, both of which had been relatively quiet in terms of incidents. There were seven reported crimes in January, including two of burglary, two of theft and two of damage, and just one for February which was damage to a vehicle. After two reports of anti-social behaviour in January, there were five reports in February, three of which involved nuisance behaviour by young people.

### 045/2011 Public Forum

One matter was raised by a member of the public and this concerned the problems caused by the very tall trees between Woodview Close and the Smithy Pond. The trees were so tall as to cut out sunlight to the property on Woodview Close which in turn resulted in excessive moss and dampness. In addition there was the fear over safety of trees or branches falling and the height of the trees made it difficult and at times impossible to receive a television signal. It was believed that the trees in question were on land owned by District Council and it was agreed that the Clerk should request that the trees concerned be lopped or otherwise pruned by District Council so as to lessen the problems encountered by at least one resident on Woodview Close.

### 046/2011 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters

The following planning applications were reported:

110063	115 Nethermoor Road	Change of Dormer to Valex Rooflight
110072	90 Chartwell Avenue	Felling of 14 Trees
110078	Land betw Stable Yard and Lodge Dr	Felling of Sycamore Tree
110119	46 Longedge Lane	Loft Conversion and Juliet Balcony
110121	24 Central Drive	Side and Rear Exts and Bay to Front
110017	1 Ridd Way	Raised Decking with Balustrade
110109	21 Elm Drive	Single Garage and Access Driveway
110147	78a New Road	French Windows and Juliet Balcony
110148	78a New Road	Retention of Gated Pedestrian Entr'ce

The Clerk reported on correspondence from the County Council about the conditional granting of permission for the reworking of temporary stone tips at Bolehill Quarry. The compliance conditions were detailed in eleven pages, a copy of which was available from the Clerk or from the County Council website.

Concern was expressed about 110078 and the Clerk was asked to seek clarification about the purpose of felling the tree. Concern was also expressed about 110121 where it was felt that the side extension would result in a terrace like appearance to that section of Central Drive which would be to the detriment of the street scene. There was a discussion about the extent to which the Council should intervene in such cases and the reasonable expectations of residents to extend their residences before it was agreed that the Clerk should alert the Planning Authority about its reservations and be willing to support any objections from neighbours, should any such have been registered.

There were various objections raised about 110148 where it was believed that a hole cut in the hedge to allow for builders' access from Birkin Lane had become a gateway onto the road when there had been no approval for this development. The access onto Birkin Lane was at a point where there was neither pavement nor verge so that the gate was directly on to the lane and this coupled with the layout of the road so limited visibility as to make a gate at this point very dangerous to other road users. The Clerk was asked to inform the Planning Authority of Members' objections to the retention of the gate, which should not be there, and to request that the hedge be restored at that point. The Clerk was also asked to make sure that Highways were asked to comment on the road safety aspect of the proposed retention of the gate.

The following planning decisions were reported:

100737	CA	86 Davids Drive	Loft Conversion - Raising & Windows
90971	CA	Alinor, Middle Road , Hardwick Wood	Erection of Replacement Dwelling
80711	CA	Farm Workers House, Robincroft Farm	Additional French Windows to SE
110063	CA	115 Nethermoor Road	Change of Dormer to Vexex Rooflight

CA=Conditional Agreement

The decisions were noted.

#### **047/2011 Accounts**

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

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

#### **048/2011 Finance**

The Clerk submitted bank details and a reconciliation as at the end of January 2011.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

#### **049/2011 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils**

- Circular 08/2011 - Training
- Circular 11/2011 – General
  - Abolition of the Default Retirement Age
  - The Public Forest Debate
  - Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Scheme
  - Derbyshire Constabulary Consultation Evening – 12 October 2010 - Comments
- Circular 12/2011 - Training

The circulars were noted and there was a query about the abolition of the default retirement age as from 1 October 2011 employers would not be able to rely automatically on a default retirement age

#### **050/2011 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
  - Parishioners – Complaint about Damage to Verges by Parked Cars near Deerpark School

- CCAA – Movement of Fish Scheduled for 22 February
- District
  - NEDDC – Fire Incident at The Avenue
  - Rykneld Homes – Award of Grant of £1,620 for Work at Adlington
  - NEDDC - Withdrawal of Planning Application for Development at 4 Deerlands Road
- County
  - DCC – Reinstatement of Roads and Pavements in Wingerworth after Gas Works
  - Derbyshire Biodiversity News
  - Rural Action Derbyshire - Newsletter
- Other
  - The Royal Bank of Scotland – Move to Digital Banking

There was a discussion about the complaint over the damage caused to the verge opposite the Deer Park School by parked vehicles. There were differing views on ways of dealing with the matter, one of which was the imposition of double yellow lines by Highways, although it was recognised that this was not easily achieved. It was agreed that the matter should be taken to the forthcoming meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership when the relevant agencies with enforcement powers should be present.

There was another discussion on the problems resulting from the extensive work being undertaken to improve the gas supply system across the Parish. Complaints had been received about the failure to properly reinstate footpaths and verges following excavation work and the poor attitude of some of the contractor's workers when questioned about the work and the reinstatement. The Clerk had received a statement from the County Council giving assurances that an officer would visit the area to ensure proper reinstatement on completion of the work. However Members remained concerned about the situation in the interim and the Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of the contracting company to register the various concerns. The Clerk was also asked to seek clarification from District Council on the arrangements whereby the contractor was using District Council land near the Allendale Road shops with consequential damage to the land and the endangering of trees that were covered by Tree Preservation Orders.

The rest of the correspondence was noted.

### **051/2011 Reports from Committees and Representatives**

Cllr Diana Ruff reported that there were some issues from the Tennis Club that needed to be raised with the Finance Committee and that the Club was in the process of obtaining two further quotes for the resurfacing work. Cllr Stuart Ellis confirmed that he had asked for a sum of £1,000 from a County Council fund to provide the 10% contribution requested by Viridor in consideration of the offer of a £10,000 grant towards the cost of the resurfacing.

Cllr Chris Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee. District Council were advising on the location of a new dog bin in the vicinity of the Church and the problem of the poor state of the surface of some of the paths in the Churchyard would be sorted out by the Church thought the application of Jayes Fluid to the flagstones.

Cllr Diana Ruff reported that another two people had volunteered to become members of the Footpath Watch Scheme in the Parish, making for a total of 12 members in the scheme. There was a discussion on the poor state of the Martins Lane footpath and the responsibility for repairs. According to a member of the public, the lane was a non-classified highway and as such it had to be maintained at public expense by the County Council according to Section 56 of the Highways Act 1980. The Act included procedures for requiring the relevant authority to take such action as was necessary. However Cllr Stuart Ellis informed the meeting that he had already taken up the matter at the County Council and was awaiting a response which he would copy to the Clerk and which could be used by members of the Footpaths Committee in considering how to proceed.

Cllr Vince Causey gave a brief report on the removal of tench from the Island Pond to the Wall Pond. The Chairwoman raised a number of concerns about the operation given that the Council's approval related only to the transfer of tench. These concerns included the taking of other species, whose

removal had not been approved, questions over the legality and safety of transferring pike to other locations, and the resulting impact on the ecology of the Island Pond. The stewardship role of the association, which was much appreciated, related only to the Wall Pond and did not extend to the Island Pond which was managed by District Council. It was agreed that there should be no further movement of fish from the Island Pond and that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with the Chairperson and the secretary of the association to discuss the concerns.

#### **052/2011 Chairwoman's Business**

The Chairwoman reported she would be representing the Council along with the Vice Chairwoman at the District Council's annual Civic Service on 10 April. She raised concerns about the control of chickens on the land off Longedge Lane as they were roaming onto roads and in danger of causing an accident. Cllr Stuart Ellis offered to raise the concerns with District Council. After a discussion with the Vice Chairperson, it was proposed that the letter to the regular complainant about grit bins should be signed by the Chairperson and sent on behalf of all Members.

#### **053/2011 Elections**

The Clerk reported that the timetable for elections on 5 May had been received and raised the possibility of promoting the opportunity for people to stand for election to the Council. After some discussion it was agreed the efforts should be made to encourage people to stand as it was important for the democratic process as well as trying to ensure that the Council had a full complement of duly elected Members. To that end, the Clerk was asked to promote the opportunity on the Council's website, to place posters in the Council's notice boards and to place a notice in the Derbyshire Times.

#### **054/2011 Environmental Concerns**

The Council had been asked to look into concerns about the state of the land adjacent to Steep Lane. One side of the road contained an assortment of skips while the other side was littered with rusty debris and dilapidated buildings. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Environmental Services section of the County Council over the general state of the area and also raise the concerns with the Environment Agency.

#### **055/2011 Use of Parish Land for Church Services**

A request had been received from the Parish Church for the use of Council land for two Church services. One was for Pentecost on 12 June and the other was for a Pets Service on 17 July. It was agreed that permission be given for these two occasions subject to the Church taking full responsibility for all aspects of the two services including the organisation and management of the events.

#### **056/2011 Expenditure**

The Clerk outlined discussions that had been taking place with the Bowling Club about arrangements for the maintenance of the bowling green with the intention of the Club paying 50% of the costs. Quotes had been obtained and the Club with the Council had short listed two contractors for further discussions and revisions to the schedule of work and associated charges. The current maintenance contract was with District Council who would be afforded the opportunity to quote against the newly revised schedule. It seemed clear that the cost for 2011 would be reduced in total against the Council's budget provision and reduced further with the contribution from the Club. The Clerk was given permission to place the reduced price contract for 2011 with either the District Council or one of the two private sector contractors after final discussions with the Club.

It was agreed that the general ground maintenance contract for 2011 (with the possible exception of the maintenance of the bowling green) should remain with District Council.

The Clerk outlined an offer from the existing insurance provider to provide significant discounts in return for a longer term agreement. The move to a three year agreement would result in a total saving of about £1,060 over the three years whereas a five year agreement would produce a total saving of £3,550 over the five years. There was some discussion about the advisability of committing a future Council to expenditure but the overwhelming view was that the Council would have to have a comprehensive insurance policy and that it would be prudent to take on a contract that would result in

such significant savings on one of the main budget headings. With this in mind, it agreed to proceed with a five year agreement with Zurich Insurance.

Following a request from the Adlington Focus Group for a boundary fence for the Adlington Field, the Clerk had obtained prices for differing types of fencing. It was agreed to place an order for a fence made up of three strands of plain galvanised wire between treated timber posts at a cost of £1,064.

**055/2011 Change of Date for Annual Meeting of Electors**

It was agreed that the date of the Annual Meeting of Electors should be changed from Friday 29 April to Thursday 28 April so as to avoid the recently declared holiday for the royal wedding.

**056/2011 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next monthly meeting of the Council was 6 April 2011.

The Chairwoman thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.35pm.