

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 May 2007

Present:

Cllr Mrs A Sainty (Chairperson)

Cllr T Snowdon (Vice Chairperson)

Cllr SJ Ellis

Cllr T Fisher

Cllr CE Hutchings

Cllr Ron Lewin

Cllr Mrs Anne Knyhynyckyj

Cllr K Moore (*from 094/2007*)

Cllr PW O'Neill

Cllr J Ollis

Cllr W Pickford

Cllr Mrs M Parker (*from 094/2007*)

Cllr Michael Prout

Cllr Mrs Jan Robinson

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

089/2007 Election of Chairperson

Cllr Mrs A Sainty was elected as Chairperson.

090/2007 Appointment of Vice Chairperson

Cllr T Snowdon was appointed as Vice Chairperson.

091/2007 Declaration for Acceptance of Office

The Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson and the ten elected Members signed the Council's Declaration for Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk.

092/2007 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

093/2007 Co-option of Members

Mr K Moore was co-opted as the Member for Hardwick Wood and Mrs M Parker was co-opted as the Member for Woodthorpe. Both newly co-opted Members signed the Council's Declaration for Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to Mr K Karim to thank him for his expression of interest in being co-opted on to the Council.

094/2007 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meetings held on on Wednesday 4 April and Thursday 12 April 2007 be confirmed as true and correct record of the meetings.

095/2007 Matters Arising

Further to minute 069/2007 the Vice Chairperson reported on a visit to the County Council's Records Office in the company of Cllr CE Hutchings and the Clerk to examine the deeds and records relating to the land currently occupied by the Wingerworth Youth Centre. Reference had been discovered to a covenant that appeared to restrict the future use of this land for youth centre provision although it was stressed that the Council would not necessarily be opposed to some alternative use if it had the power to vary or override such a covenant.

Further to minute 070.2007 Members were informed of forthcoming road closures to facilitate the rebuilding of the retaining wall above the dam at Stubbing Pond.

Further to minute 085/2007 concern was expressed over a number of issues relating to the new development including the possible encroachment on to Council land, the damage to the pavement on the Oak Crescent side of Allendale Road and on Central Drive and the length to which protective

netting was proposed. The Clerk had contacted the developer with regard to possible transgression on to Council land and was in discussion regarding the protective netting.

Further to minute 088/2007 the Clerk reported that there had been no response to the request to the Derbyshire PCT for details on the consultation process.

Resolved: that the Clerk seeks a legal opinion on the strength, extent and current applicability of the apparent restriction on the future use of the land containing the Wingerworth Centre and, if appropriate, contacts the District Council to establish its position with regard to any enforceable covenant; that the Clerk contacts the developer regarding the damage to pavements; that the Clerk expresses grave concern on behalf of the Council at the failure of the Derbyshire PCT to respond to a request for information submitted a month earlier and, in the event of any further failure to respond to a reasonable request, takes the matter further; that the Clerk produces an open letter to Wings eliciting support from the community in resisting the proposed closure of the branch surgery in Wingerworth; that the Clerk forwards the open letter to the Advertiser; that the Chair writes a letter of grave concern to the Derbyshire Times.

096/2007 Public Forum

Concerns were raised about the extent to which the needs of Wingerworth were being reflected in and addressed by the District Council's planning process. It was stated that there was not sufficient of an infrastructure to the village and that important requirements such as affordable housing were not being met. The Chairperson recognised the need for a local plan and stated that this, together with health provision, the addressing of anti-social behaviour matters and the seeking of quality status were all major areas for the new Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the District Council to obtain a detailed timetable for the District planning process.

(Standing Orders were removed to allow discussion on agenda item 20 – Concerns over Anti Social Behaviour – which is reported under Minute 108/2007.)

097/2007 Police Matters

PCSO Janis Naylor reported on crime statistics for April which involved three incidents and an episode of anti-social behaviour. She reported on a successful police surgery day when eight members of the public had called in on the station and alerted Members to a similar surgery that was intended to be held towards the end of June. There was no news on the Council's requested survey of traffic speeds but she hoped to be able to provide more information at the next meeting of the Council.

098/2007 Appointment of Committees and Representatives

- Standing Orders Committee (3) – Cllrs CE Hutchings, Mrs M Parker and J Robinson
- Finance Committee (3) – Cllrs SJ Ellis, Mrs A Knyhynyckyj and R Lewin
- Planning Sub Committee (All Members)
- Parish Hall Committee (4) – Cllrs T Fisher, Mrs A Knyhynyckyj, Mrs M Parker and Mrs J Robinson
- Playing Fields Committee (All Members)
- Footpaths Committee (5 including 2 non-Councillors) – Cllrs R Lewin, Mrs J Robinson and one vacancy with Mr M Sims and one vacancy
- Road Safety Committee (5) – Cllrs T Fisher, CE Hutchings, Mrs A Knyhynyckyj, J Ollis and Mrs J Robinson
- Wingerworth Churchyard Committee (5) – Cllrs K Moore, Mrs M Parker, W Pickford, M Prout, and one vacancy
- Wingerworth Community Association (1) – Cllr Mrs M Parker
- Wingerworth Tennis Club (1) – Cllr K Moore
- Wingerworth Bowling Club (1) – Cllr K Moore
- Wingerworth Allotment Holders' Association (1) – Cllr W Pickford
- Wingerworth Angling Club (1) – Cllr K Moore

- Wingerworth Youth Forum (6) – Cllrs CE Hutchings, Mrs A Knyhynyckyj, K Moore, M Prout and Mrs J Robinson,

099/2007 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:

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 265 | 8 Central Drive | New Dwelling |
| 300 | 30 Nottingham Drive | Conservatory to Rear |
| 310 | 3 Robincroft Road | Conservatory to Rear |
| 320 | The Old Woodhouse, Middle Rd, HW | Conservatory to SW Elevation |
| 360 | 59 Davids Drive | Extension to Rear |
| 370 | 84 Longedge Lane | Erection of Bungalow plus ... |
| 399 | Brooklands, Birkin Lane | One Storey Side Extension |
| 456 | 16 Mill Crescent | Single Storey Rear Extension |
| 460 | 165 Longedge Lane | Extension to Conservatory |
| 461 | 12 Nethermoor Road | Single to Double Garage |

Concerns with application 370 had been raised with the Planning Authority in terms of the adverse impact on traffic and road safety as well as the detrimental effect on the general appearance of the vicinity. There was a short discussion on the scale of some applications which could be so large as to alter the nature of a particular residential area. The other applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 111 G | 141 Longedge Lane | Levelling of Rear Garden |
| 174 G | 1 Longedge Grove | Two Storey Extension plus ... |
| 178 G | 600 Derby Road | Pitched Roof on Garage |
| 190 G | 4 Lydgate Drive | Two Storey Extension plus ... |
| 232 G | 4 Eden Street | Single Storey Side and Rear Ext |

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The decisions were noted

The following planning appeals were reported:

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 873 | Field opp Parish Rooms | Timber Stable Block & Manege |
| 874 | Rear of 21 & 23 New Road | Erection of 3 New Dwellings |

The appeals were noted.

100/2007 Annual Accounts for 2006/2007

The Clerk presented the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31 March 2007 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2007. He also presented an analysis of significant variations on the statement of accounts, in keeping with the standard requirements of the Audit Commission, and the bank reconciliation for the year ending 31 March 2007. Once considered by Members, these documents together with all supporting financial records would be forwarded to the Council's internal auditor for a detailed audit prior to submission to the Audit Commission.

Resolved: that the annual accounts be approved and that the bank reconciliation be received and noted.

101/2007 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in March 2007 and details of income and expenditure to the end of March 2007 against a phased budget. Queries were raised on the Library rent which represented two payments in the year and the underspend on business rates which was due to the granting of Small Business Rate Relief. There were also queries on the underspend on repairs and renewals for the Parish Hall, which was the result of a prudent budget and the low level of expenditure eventually required during the year, and the apparent lack of expenditure of the pension provision, which had been assimilated into salary expenditure in the respective sections of the budget.

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

102/2007 Finance

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

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

103/2007 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Circular 10/2007 – Model Contract of Employment – Revisions
- Circular 11/2007 – Training Programme – summer/Autumn 2007
- Circular 12/2007 – General Circular
 - Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations
 - Section 137 Expenditure – Limit for 2007/2008
 - RoSPA Inspections – Misleading Credentials
 - Good Councillor Guide
 - Clerk Vacancy at Outseats
 - Clerk Vacancy at Hayfields

The circulars were noted

104/2007 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - New Road Nursery – Request for Support in Gaining County Council Funding
 - Various Parishioners – Concern about Damaged Wall and Litter at Edinburgh Court Shops
 - Mr & Mrs Hutson – Donation to Cover Cost of a Hanging Basket at Mill Lane
 - Wingerworth Ladies Club – Appreciation of Assistance from Council Staff
 - Parishioner – Concern over HGVs using Longedge Lane
 - Parishioners – Concern over Precise Location of Proposed Bike Park on Chartwell Fields
 - Mr John Rowney – Community Needs and Desirable Developments in Wingerworth

Clarification was sought on the reasons for the damage at the Edinburgh Court shops. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – Notice of Adoption of Statement of Community Development
 - NEDDC – Adoption of Statement of Community Development
 - NEDDC – Gender Equality Scheme
 - NEDDC – Independent Playground Inspections
 - NEDDC – Health Act (2006) – Smokefree Guidance
 - NEDDC – Arts Connections Newsletter

The correspondence was noted.

Resolved: that the Clerk

- County
 - Derbyshire Police – Reply from Chief Constable about Concerns over Policing in Wingerworth
 - DCC – Reasons for Refusal of Composting Facilities and Highway Depot at Grassmoor
 - DCC – Maintenance Issues on Birkin Lane and at Stubbing Pond
 - DCC – Notification of Temporary Closure of Parts of Footpaths 32 and 37
 - DCC – New artsderbyshire Website
 - DCC – Traffic Matters – Responses to Issues raised by Parish Council's Road Safety Committee
 - DCC – Trading Standards Advisory Services
 - DRCC – Village Halls Newsletter

It was reported that the County Council had made a detailed response to the points raised by the Council's Road Safety Committee and it was agreed that these would be considered by the Road Safety Committee. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - Wheeldon Homes – Specification for Cricket Nets for New Development
 - DCLG – Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct 2007
 - Trent Barton – Keeping Red Arrow on Time

- Derbyshire County PCT – Consultation on Changes to GP Services in Wingerworth

The correspondence was noted.

105/2007 Reports from Committees and Representatives

There were no reports but it was agreed that the Council's Listening Service should continue and Members willing to volunteer were asked to contact the Clerk who would organise the rota and promote the service.

106/2007 Chair's Business

The Chair reported on a visit undertaken in company with the Clerk to former Cllr RAC Scothern who had moved into an adjacent parish. During the visit she had presented Mr RAC Scothern with a framed scroll to commemorate his 20 years of service as a Councillor in Wingerworth. She asked Members to be available from 6.40pm at the next scheduled meeting of the Council for photographs which would be used on the Council's main notice board.

107/2007 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 6 June 2007 with Members requested to arrive at 6.40pm for photographs.

108/2007 Concerns over Anti-Social Behaviour

The Clerk reported on various concerns that had been raised about anti-social behaviour in the Parish and in particular in the area around Allendale Road. Some of the incidents near the Wingerworth Centre and the shops was felt to be intimidating to passers-by and was having a damaging impact on businesses in the shopping complex. A meeting had been convened to discuss ways of addressing the problems involving the businesses, the Police, ASB officers, representatives of the local safety partnership and the Parish Council. Various measures were being considered but it had been the general view that action was needed to better secure the Centre, that there should be more activities made available for young people and that more enforcement was necessary especially with identified ring leaders. Members recognised that anti-social behaviour was not confined to the Allendale Road area and other instances were detailed including the use of trail bikes in Hardwick Wood and other areas. PCSO Janis Naylor gave details of action taken by the Police over recent weeks which included a group of officers visiting the Allendale Road area but stressed that police resources were limited. The Clerk had registered concern with the Chief Constable about the rumoured removal of the police officer currently detailed to work in Wingerworth and Tupton and had received an assurance from the Divisional Commander that a replacement officer would be drafted in as soon as was possible. The Chair stated that anti-social behaviour and ways of addressing it in partnership with other agencies would be an important part of the work of the new Council.

109/2007 County Council Grant for New Road Nursery

The Clerk provided a summary of the offer of grant funding totalling just over £4,600 to the New Road Nursery for outside storage, the purchase of play equipment and for signage. However the County Council needed evidence of a newly signed lease with a minimum length of five years and an agreement not to increase rent above inflation over the term of this lease. The Clerk had written to the New Road Nursery explaining that the Council's own procedures meant that it took time to have the terms of a lease agreed and approved.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the County Council seeking an extension to the 31 May deadline; that the Clerk seeks more details from the New Road Nursery about the way in which the funding would be used and its impact on the Parish Hall; that the Finance Committee meets to consider the matter.

110/2007 Expenditure

Members considered a lengthy list of proposed expenditure, some of which were deferred pending the receipt of quotations or the results of tenders. However Members did approve a grounds maintenance

contract for 2007/2008 with District Council based on an estimated cost of £5,296 and a Health & Safety Inspection and Risk Assessment of the Parish Hall by CB Safety at an estimated cost of £480. Members also agreed to the placing of a service contract covering the Council's website, its computer system and internet connections. This contract would be with Bitz 'n' PC'z Limited at an annual cost of £300 for the website (to include a banner advertisement for the contractor) and an hourly rate of £25 for work undertaken on the computer and internet connections.

A revised price had been obtained for the resurfacing and marking of the Parish Hall car park to take account of the work being delayed until August when it would have least impact on users of the Parish Hall. It was agreed that this work, that was within the specified budgeted figure, should be placed with Johnsons who had quoted £4,405 for the main car park, £1,575 for the entrance and disabled bays and up to £500 for markings. Two schemes had been received from District Council for connecting pathways at the Allendale Road play area. It was agreed to proceed with the scheme for two shorter paths at a total estimated cost of under £3,900. Members also agreed to renew membership of the Council for the Protection of Rural England at a cost of £27 and to meet the costs of membership of Society of Local Council Clerks for a trial one year period at a cost of £150.

Resolved: that the Clerk proceeds to commit the approved expenditures.

111/2007 Donations

Members considered a request for support from the organisers of the All Saints' Church's Flower Festival and Craft Display in the knowledge that all profits would go towards the Church's Roof Fund.

Resolved: that the Clerk arranges for the donation of £100 to be made to the All Saints' Church's Flower Festival and Craft Display.

112/2007 Any Other Business

Concern was expressed that hogweed had been identified in the broader area but it was understood that the District Council was dealing with the problem which was in neighbouring parishes. Members were reminded of the planned well dressing in August and it was confirmed that this would be an item on the Council's agenda at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.34pm.