

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 November 2007

Present:

	Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr Tom Snowdon (Vice Chairperson)		Cllr Peter O'Neill (<i>until 228/2007</i>)
Cllr Stuart Ellis		Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Chris Hutchings		Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj		Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr Kevin Moore		Cllr Jan Robinson
Cllr John Ollis		with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

Just prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairperson presented inscribed tankards to two of the Footpath Volunteers, Mr Mike Sims and Mr Dave McDougal, as a token of appreciation and acknowledgement for their sustained efforts over a lengthy period in maintaining and improving footpaths and associated facilities across the Parish. Mr Ron Lewin, who had suggested and subsequently organised the presentation, was present for the brief ceremony.

204/2007 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

205/2007 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 3 October and Wednesday 17 October 2007 be confirmed as true and correct records of the meeting.

206/2007 Matters Arising

It was reported that there had been no further response from Highways about concerns raised in connection with the Deerlands roundabout.

207/2007 Police Matters

PCSO Janis Naylor tabled crime statistics for the Parish for the month of October. Of the ten incidents, five were thefts or burglaries, four were criminal damage and one was a breach of an ASBO. In addition to the detailed incidents, there had been an increased amount of reported nuisances with a particular concentration around Halloween. The Chairperson thanked PCSO Naylor for her attendance.

208/2007 Public Forum

There were no issues raised.

209/2007 Co-option of a Member

The Clerk reported that no expressions of interest had been received.

210/2007 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:

1054	14 Longedge Lane	Kitchen Extension to Front
1082	41 Chartwell Avenue	Single Storey Extension to Rear
1083	100 Chartwell Avenue	First Floor Extension over Garage
1198	Garden Centre, Birkin Lane	Erection of Five New Dwellings

It was confirmed that the land associated with application 1198 was largely if not entirely the land currently occupied by the Garden Centre and that the current application was for outline approval. The other applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

321 G	Field opp Swathwick Farm, Swath Lane	New Vehicular Access & Tracks
596 G	Kumango, Middle Road, Hardwick Wd	Two Storey Side Extension
744 G	The Avenue Coking Works	Temp Store of Soil and Spoil
752 G	The Avenue Coking Works	Flood Alleviation Scheme
777 W	Bole Hill Farm, Bole Hill Lane	Conversion of Barn to Dwelling
863 G	17 Woodview Close	Single Storey Side Extension +
920 G	Stubbing Court, Stubbing	Change of Use of Buildings
921 G	Stubbing Court, Stubbing	Change of Use of Buildings
943 R	28 Swathwick Lane	One and Two Storey Extensions
955 R	Hillhouses Lane	Pumping Station plus ...
972 G	48 Hazel Drive	Two Storey Side Extension plus
994 G	97 Windsor Drive	Reconstruction Work

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The Clerk confirmed that District Council provided reasons for the refusal of an application. The planning decisions were noted.

211/2007 Accounts

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

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

212/2007 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and reconciliations as at the end of September 2007.

Resolved: that the reports be received and noted.

213/2007 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- 26/2007 - General
 - Stakeholder Consultation in LSPs
 - Increase in Statutory Holiday Entitlement
 - HM Revenue & Customs Workshops
- 27/2007 – Meetings
- 28/2007 – Consultation of Changes to Post Office Network
- 30/2007 – General
 - Derbyshire Flood Defence Fair
 - Dealing with the Media

The circulars were noted.

214/2007 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Concerns over Footpath off Langer Lane, Play Surface at Chartwell Fields and Construction of Bike Ramps in Walton Wood
 - Parishioner – Worries about Work in Walton Woods
 - Various Organisations – Apologies for Absence from Forthcoming Remembrance Day Ceremony

There was a query about the footpath off Langer Lane where the work that had been undertaken on behalf of the landowner had ploughed up the footpath. It was understood that the landowner was entitled to do this provided that the footpath was restored within a set period of time. The situation would be monitored and reported to the Footpaths Officer at the County Council if necessary. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – Precept Requirements for 2008/2009
 - NEDDC – Stakeholder Consultation Event – Invitation to Council for Wednesday 14 November 2007
 - NEDDC – Acknowledgement from Chief Executive about New Partnership Arrangements
 - NEDDC – Result of Polling Review
 - NEDDC – Control over Allendale Road/Central Drive Development

- NEDDC – Enquiries into Activities at Stubbing Court
- NEDDC – Tree Preservation Order 254 – Tree at 29 Nottingham Drive
- NEDDC – Draft Access for All Supplementary Planning Document
- NEDDC – Withdrawal of Christmas Tree Provision
- NEDDC – Provision of Bar Facilities
- CBC – Open Space Provision Supplementary Planning Document
- NEDDC – Recreation and Open Space Provision Supplementary Planning Document
- CCCPCG – Police Consultative Group Meeting on 14 January 2008

The Stakeholder event on 14 November was highlighted and information was provided on actions being taken by the Planning Department over activities at Stubbing Court. It was confirmed that District Council had subsequently offered to carry out the various operations with the Parish's Christmas tree provided that the purchase of the tree was made by the Council and an order had been placed. The District Council's response to matters raised about the Allendale Road/Central Drive development was noted but a number of concerns remained. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – Ownership of Hedge opposite Barley Mow
 - Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service – Conclusion that Fire at Bowling Green was Deliberate
 - DCC – Community Response Plan
 - DCC – Proposed Traffic Safety Scheme and Reduction of Speed Limit on Section on A632
 - DCC – Clarification of Future of Bus Service 95
 - Stagecoach – Confirmation of Cessation of Bus Service 95 and Transfer to Another Operator
 - DCC – “Be Bright at Night” Safety Campaign
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Crime Number for Damage to Cricket Pavilion
 - Derbyshire Constabulary – Crime Number for Damage to Cricket Pavilion

The Clerk reported the conclusion drawn by the Fire & Rescue Service that the pavilion at the bowling green had been deliberately set on fire. The Chairperson explained the background to the change of operator for Bus Service 95. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - Land Registry – Ownership of Road Across the Wall Pond
 - defra – “Ways to Tackle Climate Change” – an online guide
 - The Standards Board for England – Town and Parish Standard – Newsletter
 - County Air Ambulance Appeal – Appreciation of Donation
 - Victim Support Derbyshire – Appreciation of Donation
 - Chesterfield Royal Hospital – Annual Review

The Clerk reported that the reply from the Land Registry had not clarified the main issues regarding ownership of the road and border across the head of the Wall Pond. The correspondence was noted.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the Planning Authority about the dangers posed by obstructions on Allendale Road caused by the residential development; that the Clerk requests the Planning Authority to check on the developer's adherence to approved plans in respect of the nearness to the road of the new houses fronting on to Allendale Road; that the Clerk raises concerns about the potentially dangerous impact of parked cars in front of the new houses on Allendale Road and seeks the imposition of parking restrictions at that point; that the matter of ownership of the section of Central Drive across the Wall Pond be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

215/2007 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Jan Robinson had taken the Council's most recent Listening Service but no matters had been raised by members of the public.

Cllr Chris Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee. The Committee recognised the extra work necessary to maintain the Churchyard with greater growth of grass and vegetation over a longer growing season and it had been agreed to request an extra strimmer.

Cllr Margaret Parker reported that the Community Association was continuing and that speakers had been booked for the next year but that new members were sought to try and secure the longer term future of the organisation.

Cllr Kevin Moore reported on a number of issues related to the Bowling Club including a request for support with an application for funding to help with the acquisition of a new pavilion and a request for a seat to be placed in memory of Mr Alec Lenthall with some of the costs being met by the family. There were also queries about the work of STRI and the Council's position about undertaking some of the extra maintenance work and treatments recommended in the STRI's most recent report.

Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj reported on a successful "Pizza on the Parish" event which had identified a core group of enthusiastic young people to work with the Council on new projects and developments.

The Clerk reported on a meeting with the County Council's Countryside Service involving the Footpaths Volunteers. The meeting had been very useful in clarifying a number of issues and had helped to establish new procedures for work on footpaths in the Parish which would probably be used as a model for parishes throughout the district.

Resolved: that more specific details concerning the request for a memorial seat for Alec Lenthall be incorporated in a paper as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Council; that the Clerk writes to the Fish and Chip shop and the Spar store to express the Council's appreciation for the pizza and soft drinks donated to the Pizza on the Parish event at the Parish Hall.

216/2007 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson's business was all covered in agenda items.

217/2007 Audit Commission Report on the Council's Accounts 2006/07

Members received the completed Audit Commission report on the Council's financial affairs for the financial ending 31 March 2007. The Audit Commission acted as the external auditor for the Council and its report was without qualification and raised no issues of concern.

Resolved: that the report be received and the Clerk be congratulated on the unblemished report.

218/2007 Use of BACS for Council Payments

Members considered a paper from the Clerk on a switch to BACS for Council payments with cheque payments being retained as appropriate. Queries were raised as to whether it would be more straightforward for the Council to bank on-line as payments could be much simpler and more immediate. However it was pointed out that on-line banking did not provide for the checks and balances necessary under the Council's financial procedures whereas the BACS system would facilitate the continued use of three signatories to approve payments.

Resolved: that the Clerk proceeds to move towards the use of BACS as an option for Council payments.

219/2007 Parish Plan – Preparatory Steps

Following the recent extraordinary meeting of the Council there was a brief discussion of ways forward with the development of a Parish Plan.

Resolved: that the Finance Committee consider ways forward with the planning process including the holding of a public meeting along the lines suggested at the meeting with the DRCC consultant.

220/2007 Allocation of Cricket Pitches for 2008

Cllrs Chris Hutchings and Kevin Moore did not contribute to this agenda item other than to provide some factual information.

The Clerk reported that details of applications for use of the cricket pitch in 2008 were still awaited from District Council. It was understood that one of the two teams using the ground in 2007 had moved to a ground in Chesterfield and that the remaining club – Wingerworth S CC – was hoping to run two sides on the ground in 2008, one of which would provide opportunities for junior players in a senior league.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to approve the use of the cricket ground by two sides from the Wingerworth S CC once applications were forwarded from District Council.

221/2007 Agreement with Tennis Club

The Clerk had received confirmation from the Club that they accepted the latest version of the proposed agreement for the current year. There were some concerns about the split of time and courts between the Club and general community use with the agreement compromising between two potentially conflicting uses of the courts. In consideration for the restricted use for the community, it had been agreed that community use of the courts, when available, would be free of any charges.

Resolved: that the Clerk makes arrangements for the agreement to be signed by both parties.

222/2007 Report on Tour of Allendale Facilities and Discussions with NEDDC

The Clerk reported on a number of issues arising out of a tour by Members of the Finance Committee of the recreation facilities off Allendale Road. These included the need for a replacement pavilion at the bowling green, which the Bowling Club was investigating, and the need for work on the tennis courts where the Clerk was arranging for an independent report from a LTA recommended specialist. Consideration had been given to an investment in the hard surface, open air recreation area adjoining the Wingerworth Centre. Discussions had taken place with District Council about the future use of the Centre given that there was no planning application for any new development and it had been intimated that there could be problems with the loss of a sports recreation area such as the hard court facility which, if needed, may well have to be retained or replaced. Discussions with the Police and the Fire & Rescue Service as well as crime prevention and anti-social behaviour officers were increasingly highlighting the need to provide more opportunities for recreation and sport for young people in the Parish and the possibility of retaining the hard court area with significant investment from the Council merited serious consideration.

Resolved: that the Clerk expresses an interest on behalf of the Council in retaining the hard court, open area recreation area adjoining the Wingerworth Centre for community use.

223/2007 New Road Surgery

Cllr Stuart Ellis reported on discussions about the retention of an enlarged service at the New Road Surgery when Dr PC Jackson had attended part of the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee. Unfortunately any expansion of services at the site was likely to result in objections from Highways given the location of the site on a busy intersection, but Dr Jackson was continuing to explore possibilities and the Council was continuing to support efforts to retain provision in the village.

224/2007 Meeting with Bole Hill Quarry Management

The Clerk reported on a meeting he had attended in the company of the Chairperson with the management and agent of the Bole Hill Quarry to deal with a range of concerns that had been raised about the latest planning application to rework the temporary stone tips. The concerns were classified into four areas – noise, hours of operation, traffic and dust. The concerns and the responses were detailed in a supporting paper. A number of concessions and undertakings had been offered although there remained areas of contention that would now be a matter for the planning authority.

225/2007 Remembrance Day Arrangements

The Chairperson reminded Members of the delayed start of the Remembrance Day ceremony due to the day falling on a Sunday and the need to avoid clashes with church services. The delayed start meant that the Rector could now lead the prayers at the Parish Hall. The Rector had requested details of Members attending the earlier Church service so as to be able to reserve seats.

Resolved: the any Members able to represent the Council at the Church's Remembrance Day service inform the Clerk who will notify the Rector.

226/2007 Listening Service

Members were requested to let the Clerk know of their availability to be present for those scheduled Listening Services in the early months of 2008 that had yet to have names against them.

227/2007 Expenditure

The Clerk detailed a number of areas of expenditure for which approval was sought. One of the items on the list, concerning a contribution to a Global TV system, was deferred as new District-wide proposals were in the process of being drawn up which would be far more comprehensive and would require a much greater investment.

Resolved: that Clerk be authorised to commit up to £8,500 with Nova Sports for the removal of the existing top layer of the safe surface at the Allendale Road play area and its replacement with a new minimum 15mm top layer of safe surface together with a new Wicksteed glow work see saw; that a new base be inserted for a replacement seat overlooking the cricket field at a cost of up to £220; that the Council participates in the District Council's fire risk assessment programme for sports premises where the expected cost would be in the order of £140 a building; that approval be given to the expenditure of an estimated £566 on a new computer system for the Council from Bitz 'n' PC's; that approval is given to the expenditure of £420 with Ian Trueman Specialist Tree Services Ltd for the removal of the hedge on two sides of the car park at the Parish Hall; that approval be given to the expenditure of up to £620 with Ian Trueman Specialist Tree Services Ltd for the removal of a number of shrubs and plants in and around the Island Copse with the shrubs and plants to be retained being a matter for discussion at a site meeting with the Chairperson and the contractor; that approval be given for expenditure of up to £180 on the purchase of a new strimmer; that approval be given for a contribution of £1,000 towards a funding application by the bowling Club to Viridor for up to £10,000 in total (including the Council's £1,000 contribution) in connection with the acquisition of a new pavilion to replace the recently burnt down building; that approval be given to the expenditure of up to £460 with Lobosport for an independent report on the state of the Council's tennis courts and recommendations on improvements up to and including a possible resurfacing of the three courts; that approval be given to the expenditure of an estimated £1,860 on repairs to the cricket pavilion after the recent incidents of vandalism which have damaged the metal doors and broken some of the double glazed windows, some of which may be recoverable from the Council's insurance policy.

228/2006 Memorial to Terry Fisher

The Chairperson reported on a discussion with Mrs Pam Fisher about a memorial to Terry Fisher. The family was content for the Council to decide on an appropriate memorial and after some discussion it was agreed that consideration be given to the planting of a tree near to the Parish Hall.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the Tree Warden, Wayne Bexton, for advice on an appropriate tree for planting close to the Parish Hall.

229/2007 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 5 December 2007 and reminded Members of the full Council Budget Meeting on Wednesday 12 December 2007.

Members of the Public were asked to leave the meeting for the following items which were treated as exempt items and discussed in a private session due to the confidential nature of the items.

230/2007 Procedural Suggestions

Councillor Stuart Ellis outlined two areas concerned with the Council's procedures that he felt warranted careful consideration. These were the conduct of meetings with specific reference to the time management aspects and the need for a complaints procedure.

On the conduct of meetings, he felt there was a need for keep to the guidelines for times. This required greater self-discipline from Members and a willingness to support the Chairperson in keeping more tightly to the business of the meeting. He felt it may well be helpful to structure the meeting differently, perhaps with prioritised items early and more routine items such as planning, finance and correspondence towards the end of the agenda. It may also be helpful if reports were not discussed unless necessary and that the reports from committees and representatives be e-mailed to the Clerk for collation in a paper that would be sent out with the agenda but would not normally require elaboration. There was some discussion on the various suggestions and consideration as to whether the problems of over-running meetings over the past few months was due to the increase in the amount of business to

be conducted with the likelihood of a lessening of pressure in the months ahead. The Chairperson pointed out that some changes had already been introduced as with the prioritising of the Police report and the eliminating of Any Other Business.

Turning to the need for a complaints procedure, Cllr Ellis felt that this had been highlighted recently and it was apparent that there was no suitable procedure either in the new Code of Conduct or in the code previously adopted by the Council. There was general agreement that a complaints procedure was needed for the Council.

Resolved: that the Standing Orders Committee be convened to consider changes to the conduct of Council meetings and report back to Council with recommendations; that the Standing Orders Committee be asked to undertake an annual review of procedures to ensure that they remain effective and up-to-date; that Cllr Ellis produces a draft complaints procedure for consideration by the Standing Orders Committee.

231/2007 Clerk's Conditions of Service

The meeting considered a request for an increase in weekly hours for the Clerk from the current allocation of 21 hours to the equivalent of three and a half days a week so as to make some allowance for the increase in workload associated with the post.

Resolved: that the Clerk's conditions of service be altered so that the 21 hour a week allocation be increased to the equivalent of three and a half days a week with effect from 1 November 2007.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm.