

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 November 2010

Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)

Cllr Vince Causey

Cllr Margaret Parker

Cllr Stuart Ellis

Cllr Bill Pickford

Cllr Dawn Hart

Cllr Michael Prout

Cllr Chris Hutchings

Cllr Diana Ruff

Cllr Peter O'Neill

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

180/2010 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr Alan Cooper, Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj and Cllr Carole Nelson

181/2010 Declarations of Interest

There were declarations of interest from Cllr Vince Causey on the items concerned with The Avenue and the CPL site 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.

182/2010 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2010 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

183/2010 Matters Arising

There had been no notification of matters arising.

184/2010 Police Matters

PCSO Mike Coates had forwarded a report for the Parish for the previous month which detailed six crimes including three of damage and one each of domestic assault, burglary and possession. During the same period there had been two reported instances of anti-social behaviour, one for go-karting in the Chartwell area and one for interfering with property on Longedge Lane.

Locally, a campaign to cut drink-driving had been held in Clay Cross as part of Operation Relentless, and across the north of the county motorists were being urged to join the Vehicle Watch 25 Plus Scheme which involved car owners aged over 25 placing special stickers in the front and rear windows of their vehicles so that Police may stop the vehicle at any time if they see it being driven by someone who appears to be under the age of 25. The Scheme has been developed against national statistics which suggest that 90 per cent of vehicle theft is committed by people under 25 whilst over 70 per cent of victims are over 25.

The Chairperson commented on what had appeared to be much fewer anti-social behaviour incidents over the recent Halloween than in previous years although the figures would not be available until the next meeting of the Council.

185/2010 Public Forum

A member of the public expressed concerns about smoke coming out of The Avenue and about holes that appeared to be opening up on the remediation site.

A concern was raised about a forthcoming motor cycle event in Widdowson Spring Wood and Walton Wood when it was believed that there may be interference with and damage to a public footpath. The County Council had been swift to offer comments on the event, insofar as it was understood. It was pointed out that the landowner would have to carry out any surface repairs works caused to a public footpath by motor cross bikes and that the landowner had no authority to stop the passage of pedestrians along the routes of the public footpaths. It was also stated that the landowner who is allowing the event has an occupier's liability to ensure that members of the public can use the footpath safely and that it would be expected that the event would be fully marshalled by the landowner to ensure public safety. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the landowner about the event.

186/2010 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters

The following planning applications were reported:

100737	A	86 Davids Drive	Loft Conversion - Raising & Windows
100822		24 Longedge Lane	Two Storey Extension to Rear + Cons
100891		9 Central Drive	Felling of Two Trees and Prune Others
100891		642 Derby Road	Erection of Four Bedroom Bungalow
100984	E	18 Nethermoor Road	Erection of Dwelling on Land Adjacent
100997		31 Central Drive	Single Storey Front Extension
100934		4 Deerlands Road	Erection of Three Detached Dwellings

A = Amended E = Extension

The following planning decisions were reported:

100555	CA	96 Davids Drive	Alterations to Bungalow
100559	CA	2 Hockley Lane	Single Storey Extension and Standing
100578	CA	115 Nethermoor Road	Extensions and Remodelling Bungalow
100632	CA	12 Swathwick Lane	Change of Side Wall
100673	CA	23 Nottingham Drive	Retention of Single Storey Extension
100695	CA	65 Chartwell Avenue	Two Storey Rear Extension
100700	CA	10 Hayfield Close	Attached Double Garage + Caravan Area
100821	CA	72 New Road	Erection of Detached Double Garage

CA=Conditional Agreement

Concerns were expressed over the access arrangements to the three new dwellings in application 100934 when there was a bus stop opposite and a busy junction close by. The rest of the planning applications and decisions were noted.

Resolved: that the Clerk raises the concerns over application 100934 with the Planning Authority and stresses the necessity of safe access arrangements at what was believed to be a difficult location.

187/2010 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in September 2010. He also presented details of income and expenditure against a phased budget at the end of September and the current position of the Council's reserves.

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

188/2010 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and a reconciliation as at the end of September 2010. The two old cheques issued to Derbyshire County Council which had not been presented were for payments to the Pension Fund and it appeared that the letters had either gone astray or that the smaller cheque had not extracted from the envelope together with the larger pensions return form.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

189/2010 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Circular 45/2010 – DALC AGM
- Circular 46/2010 – General
 - DALC Presidency 2010/11 – Sue Fowler of Aldecar & Langley Mill Parish Council
 - Village Games
 - HM Revenue & Customs Workshop
- Circular 47/2010 – General
 - Blogging and Social Networking
 - Future of the Standards Framework for Members of Local Authorities in England
- Circular 48/2010
 - 2011 Census
 - Derbyshire Observatory
 - Peak Park Planning Enforcement Seminar
- Circular 49/2010
 - CLG Announcement on Financial Payments
 - Faster Broadband

There was general support for residents signing up to the BT on line petition when 1,000 signatures could result in a faster broadband service for the local exchange. The circulars were noted.

190/2010 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Request for Support for Petition about NEDDC SHLAA Proposals
 - 3rd Wingerworth Scout Group – Thanks for Donation for the Community Bonfire and Firework Display – 6 November
 - Parishioner – Complaint about Street Light on Allendale Road/Central Drive Bend
 - Parishioner – Concerns about Grit Bins
 - Mr Peter Rhodes – Update on Sponsorship Exercise for Parish Christmas Tree
 - COTEP – Comments on Concerns about Remediation at The Avenue
 - Parishioner – Concern about Deerlands Road Development
- District
 - NEDDC – Letter of Thanks for Donation to Chair’s Appeal
 - Dronfield Town Council – Request for Information on Pay Scales
 - NEDDC – Preparation of Estimates for Election Costs for 5 May 2011
 - NEDDC – Increase in Level of Small Business Rate Relief
 - Chesterfield Law Centre – Notice of AGM
 - ndva – Consultation on County Council Proposals for Adult Care
- County
 - DCC – General Cut-Back and Tidy-Up for Setts Way
 - DCC Town/Parish Winter Service 2010
 - DCC – Bole Hill Lane – Cattle Crossing and Emerging Traffic Warning Signs
 - DCC – Mill Lane, Clay Cross – Proposed Pedestrian Improvements
 - DCC – Action to Identify and Track Children Missing from Education
 - DCC – Young Achievers Awards 2010
- Other
 - Environment Agency – CPL Site
 - emda – CPL Site

The Chairperson reported on correspondence concerning worries about the possibility of a major new housing development on the land between Deerlands Road and Hockley Lane. The site had been identified in the District Council’s SHLAA exercise of having a potential of close to 400 new homes, although there were a number of constraining issues. The Parish Council had already made clear to District Council that it was adamantly opposed to the use of greenbelt and greenfield land (including wooded areas) for building land and similar developments anywhere in the Parish of Wingerworth. This included the site in question whether it was within the SHLAA document or the subject of a planning application in advance of the completion of the SHLAA. It was reported that signatures were being sought for a petition to register the strength of opposition to a major housing development on the Deerlands Road/Hockley Lane site and it was agreed that the petition could be placed in the Parish Hall if the Library was willing to keep it safe and make it available during its opening hours.

Questions were raised about the Setts Way work and it was confirmed that the County Council had undertaken to complete this as a matter of urgency, but that it was a one-off exercise and that there would probably continue to be problems in the future as there was no established maintenance budget to cover the work. The details of the County Council’s proposals for new warning signs on Bole Hill Lane were welcomed.

191/2010 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllr Vince Causey said that the Angling Association had reported that one of the litter bins at the Wall Pond had been damaged although on inspection the damage was not obvious. The Clerk would follow the matter up. Discussions were continuing over the transfer of the tench from the Island Pond.

Cllr Chris Hutchings reported on the recent meeting of the Churchyard Committee when there was unanimous appreciation for the work of Mr Watts in maintaining the grounds to such a high standard, even with the longer growing seasons of recent years. It had been felt that, although a dog bin was needed in the area, it would be better located outside the Churchyard and it was agreed that the Church look into ways of cleaning some of the paths that were in danger of becoming slippery in winter.

Cllr Bill Pickford raised concerns about a blocked drain near the entrance to the allotments, which Cllr Stuart Ellis offered to raise with the County Council, and commented on how cold some members of the Welcome Club found the Small Hall during a recent meeting. The Clerk undertook to raise the problems with Council staff. Cllr Michael Prout said that attendances at the Café WY were good.

The Chairwoman reported on the continuing work of the Adlington Focus Group where consideration was being given to the form and funding of the third phase of the development of the play area on the Adlington fields. Work was continuing on the constitution which was being developed on the basis that the group would continue to liaise with and receive support from the Parish Council. Other items of interest included another visit by the climbing wall team, a forthcoming graffiti project on the small wall on the field and a series of complaints about smells that were believed to come from the remediation process at The Avenue. It was agreed to establish a Council Representative for the Adlington Focus Group and it was also agreed that for the balance of the year the representative should be the Ward Member, Cllr Michael Prout.

Cllr Diana Ruff reported on a very good meeting about the proposed Audio Trail which would hopefully be launched in Spring. Members were invited to join a walk around the proposed trail on 29 November, starting at midday from the Barley Mow. There was a brief discussion on the latest County Council initiative on quiet lanes and although there were some uncertainties about the implications, it was agreed to express an interest in putting forward Malthouse Lane, Pearce Lane and Watson Lane as quiet lanes with the opportunity for more clarification before any commitment to the scheme.

192/2010 Chairwoman's Business

The Chairwoman reported on the most recent of the County Council's liaison meetings for parish councils which had included presentations on anti-social behaviour and diversionary activities and on the Youth Service. She also reported on a meeting of the Finance Committee with the Chairman of the Wingerworth S Cricket Club about the potential for extending the cricket pavilion so as to better cater for football and tennis as well as cricket.

193/2010 Co-option Procedure and Induction Process

Cllr Chris Hutchings confirmed that the Standing Orders Committee was meeting the following week to finalise the procedure and process before the December meeting of the Council.

194/2010 Concerns over Possible Release of Hazardous Gases from The Avenue

The Clerk reported on concerns raised by parishioners from the Adlington estate about the air quality on some nights since the commencement of the remediation at The Avenue. A resident from a neighbouring parish with professional competence, had suggested that the smell that was prevalent some nights was naphthalene which was potentially hazardous to health. The Council had contacted John Gower of COTEP for information on naphthalene who had confirmed that it would be a danger to health but was unable to provide the results of monitoring air quality at this early stage in the remediation process.

In the meantime, one of the Adlington residents had contacted The Avenue had received a reply from the emda Project Director who was the person responsible for the remediation of the site. In a lengthy and fulsome reply to the concerns he stated that the parishioner was correct in saying that naphthalene was a bi-product of the coking works operations and that this chemical was present within the lagoons. He stressed that it was very early in the process and there was a problem with the level of detection that the laboratory was reporting which was being investigated with the laboratory at the present time. However the recorded levels of naphthalene were not of concern and residents could be assured that safety of the public, together with the workforce, was of paramount importance to everything they did and that they would continue to keep their operations under review in the context of ongoing environmental monitoring.

A further series of comments from COTEP raised four points. Firstly the point was made that the output gases would be a mixture of a number of chemicals. Unless extracted by the filtration system, heavy metals cannot be broken down and these plus Benzene, Ethyl Benzene, Toluene and Xylene were the chemicals that needed close monitoring. Secondly, the August monthly monitoring report had just been made available but this was prior to the start of the desorption plant processing. The September and October reports, which had yet to be seen, were likely to be more relevant although the information was now provided in a more restricted way.

Thirdly, the monitoring reports assumed that if the predominant direction of the wind was not in the direction of a source complaint, that the problem was not associated with Avenue. This was not necessarily the case however, as air could move in different directions at different levels. By way of illustration, residents in houses on Derby Road had experienced some very strong gaseous smells over the previous few weeks even when the desorption plant chimney emissions were moving towards Grassmoor.

Finally, it had been stressed that the monitors only recorded what levels of particulates they trap. Smaller particulates that were heated tended to rise up high and were taken by the wind stream. As they cooled they could drop and may not be detected by low level monitors close to source. So even if monitors showed low levels, this did not prove the overall consistency to be low. Unless there was a PM2.5 monitor close to the top of the desorption chimney it would be impossible to prove whether levels of emissions were safe or not. A monitor was supposed to be located post of the baghouse filter prior to the wet carbon filter and it would be helpful to have details of the emission levels that this monitor was recording.

Members commented on the information provided and one suggestion to the effect that wind directions indicated that the reported air quality problems could not be associated with the site was not generally accepted since there had been no comparable problems in recent times prior to the commencement of the remediation process. The point was made that there could be possibly greater problems without the remediation, but concerns remained about The Avenue and after some discussion it was agreed to invite the Project Director of The Avenue to an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council when some of the concerns could be raised and further assurances sought.

195/2010 Update on Prospects for Remediation at CPL Site

Correspondence received from emda confirmed that the agency had tried to have the CPL site remediated but it seemed that the landowners were not willing to take such action. The Environment Agency had written that they agreed that the remediation of the CPL site in parallel with The Avenue would have been preferable but actions were being taken to address possible problems. It was stated that District Council had no enforcement powers but it was generally accepted that there would be advantages in taking action to clean the site while the expensive processing plant was in place on the adjacent site since this would eliminate cross contamination worries and would make the land of a suitable standard for future development.

196/2010 Provision of Grit in the Parish for the Winter

The Clerk stressed that the gritting of roads was undertaken by Derbyshire County Council but the provision of grit in the roadside bins was increasingly undertaken by the Parish Council and for the forthcoming winter the Parish Council was re-stocking all of the bins in the Parish. It was stressed that the Council had been advised that there was no statutory duty to provide grit, but it attempted to do so as a service to parishioners. However grit bins were not a priority when grit was in short supply as all available public stocks were reserved for road gritters.

There was then a brief summary of some of the problems encountered with grit bins last winter. These included the increasingly difficulty and eventual impossibility of obtaining grit, the wasteful use of grit when it was applied too thickly, anti-social behaviour when grit was taken for private use, the moving of grit bins (in one instance out of the Parish) and the false expectations of some parishioners in expecting the immediate refilling of emptied bins when access to bins was impossible even if grit had been available.

Efforts had been made to secure supplies of grit for the coming winter but the costs of meeting regulations in creating a Parish based stock was prohibitively expensive and attempts to pre-purchase a

supply of grit to be held in the County Council stockpile had not been possible. A total of six new bins had been purchased to replace damaged bins and to extend the coverage of bins in the Parish and new adhesive stickers were being produced to place on the bins stressing that the grit was for public roads and pavements only, and then to be used sparingly, and not for use on private land.

The Clerk proposed that a supply of grit be made available to parishioners to collect in small amounts on the understanding that it was to be safely stored and only used on public land. This would ease the pressure on grit bins when supplies were sometimes taken away for use of roads where there was no grit bin. It would also be a relatively efficient way of distributing grit for public land and could be undertaken at a time when grit supplies were available. There was careful consideration of the proposal before it was agreed to trial the proposal for the one winter.

The Clerk also proposed that a special page be taken out in Wings summarising the Council's policy on grit, advertising the distribution of grit to parishioners, stressing the need for grit to be spread thinly to be effective and the damage resulting from the theft of grit and vandalism to the bins. This extra coverage in Wings was agreed.

197/2010 Local Government Pension Scheme – Decision on Transfers-In

The Clerk briefly outlined a proposed change to the Local Government Pension Scheme concerning transferring into the scheme.

Resolved: that the Council adopts the changed policy as recommended by the Pensions Committee and as detailed in the Director of Finance's letter dated 7 September 2010.

198/2010 Expenditure

Approval was sought for the purchase of a Christmas Tree and the contracting of District Council to deliver, erect, deck and eventually dispose of the tree. Approval was also sought for possible expenditure with District Council to dig out the damaged tree socket and install a new socket, should this prove necessary.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a Christmas Tree and to spend approximately £600 with District Council for work associated with the tree, and the expenditure of approximately £600 on the installation of a replacement tree socket should this prove necessary.

199/2010 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Council was 1 December 2010 with the annual Budget Meeting taking place on 8 December 2010.

The Chairwoman reminded Members of the Council's Remembrance Day ceremony at 10.45am on 11 November and encouraged Members to attend the Remembrance Service at the Parish Church at 10.15am on 14 November. She thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.07pm.