

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 October 2007

Present:

	Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr Tom Snowdon (Vice Chairperson)		Cllr Peter O'Neill (<i>until 193/2007</i>)
Cllr Stuart Ellis		Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Chris Hutchings		Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr Ron Lewin		Cllr Jan Robinson
Cllr Kevin Moore		with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

176/2007 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Anne Knyhynyckyj, John Ollis and Margaret Parker.

177/2007 Confirmation of Vacancy on the Council

The Clerk confirmed that vacancy on the Council had been notified to the District Council's Elections Office and that a notice had been posted alerting parishioners about the opportunity to petition for an election. The deadline for receipt of any petitions was Friday 5 October 2007 and in the absence of any petitions the Council would be able to co-opt a Member to fill the vacancy.

178/2007 New Partnership Proposals

The Chairperson welcomed Mike Goodwin, Deputy Chief Executive of NEDDC, to the meeting. Mr Goodwin summarised the recent experience with neighbourhood partnerships which covered the whole of the District Council's area with three prominent exceptions, one of which was Wingerworth. It had been accepted that there was scope for improving the way in which the partnerships worked and the Council had arranged for an external review of the arrangements to date. This review had raised a number of issues and had made a number of suggested improvements in the light of which the partnership arrangements were going to be re-designed and re-launched, possibly with a new name to better reflect a community focus.

Mr Goodwin emphasised the need for effective collective frameworks both to meet Government initiatives and to ensure that a number of key players collaborated effectively to improve the well-being and quality of life in communities. The key players would include the three layers of councils – County, District and Parish – as well as the Police and the Primary Care Trust and while there would be some flexibility in determining particular local arrangements, as a general principle it was intended that there be a relatively small executive that included the key players. However it was essential that the wider community be involved and to that end the new arrangements provided for a series of larger meetings – perhaps four or five a year – to try and make sure that the issues of importance to local people were brought to the attention of the executive.

An important feature of the work of the new partnerships would be the production of an annual plan with identified responsibilities for each of the key players. Another important feature was the commitment of funds for each partnership which would include a modest allocation from the District Council and hopefully contributions from other agencies. In addition, District Council would provide the resources to run the partnership. A number of anticipated benefits and potential advantages of the partnership arrangements were outlined and it was confirmed that the new arrangements were due to be launched in November. Mr Goodwin asked Members to support the new arrangements by engaging in and committing to a partnership for Wingerworth. He stressed that there was much to gain and little to lose, especially as the Council could withdraw in the event that Members felt that the new arrangements were not delivering the expected benefits. There were a number of questions and comments from Members during which time Mr Goodwin confirmed that the relative prosperity of differing areas would not be used to determine any allocation of funds through the partnerships.

Resolved: that the Council liaises with District Council in the development of the new arrangements with a view to signing up to the new arrangements when launched in November.

179/2007 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 5 September and Thursday 20 September 2007 be confirmed as true and correct records of the meetings.

180/2007 Matters Arising

Further to minute 157/2007 Cllr Bill Pickford reported on the situation with regard to moving soil on to the Avenue site.

Further to minute 170/2007 there was no further information on the meaning of the phrase “strategic link to the east” as applied to Birkin Lane.

Further to minute 177/2007 it was reported that there were proposals for an energy generating incinerator to provide power to the eventual development on the Avenue site.

(Standing Orders were set aside to allow discussion on agenda item 21 – which is reported under Minute 196 /2007.)

181/2007 Public Forum

There was general regret at the recent loss of the bowling club’s pavilion which had been destroyed by fire. Requests were made for a dog bin at each end of the Lavender Way and for the hedge opposite the Barley Mow to be cut back. The Chairperson said that a dog bin at one end of the Lavender would be considered. She confirmed that the Clerk had already written to the County Council about the hedge and that the County Council were contacting the landowner to have the hedge cut back

182/2007 Police Matters

PCSO Janis Naylor provided a comprehensive report on incidents in the Parish during the previous month. She stressed that the list was lengthier as it included reported nuisances and some road traffic accidents as well as crime figures. She expressed concern about a group, some of whom had already received Section 59 warnings, who were often seen in the vicinity of the Allendale Road shops and were giving cause for concern. Members welcomed the fuller reporting and expressed appreciation to PCSO Naylor for attending the meeting during her off-duty hours.

183/2007 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:

777	Bole Hill Farm, Bole Hill Lane	Conversion of Barn to Dwelling
994	97 Windsor Drive	Reconstruction Work
996	Pioneer House, Mill Lane	Refurbishment of Office Block
1015	Stubbing Court, Stubbing	Conversion of House to Two ...
1016	Stubbing Court, Stubbing	Conversion of House to Two ...
1032	12A Hockley Lane	Enlargement of Garage
1070	7 Ridd Way	Two Storey Side Extension Plus

The applications were noted.

The following planning decisions were reported:

512	R Hunloke Arms, Derby Road	Open Sided Glazed Roof Structure
513	R Hunloke Arms, Derby Road	Open Sided Glazed Roof Structure
739	G 2 Belfit Drive	Conservatory to Rear
761	G Brooklands, Bottom Road, Hardw'k Wd	Erection of Bungalow
768	G 78A New Road	Two Storey Rear Extension
770	G Green Acre, 19 Mill Lane	Front and Side Extensions
782	G 24 Deerlands Road	Two Storey Side Extension
803	G Barley Mow Inn, Langer Lane	Erection of Canopy to Front

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The Clerk detailed the reasons for the refusal of the Hunloke Arms application. Questions were raised about what appeared to be a commercial practice at Stubbing Court given that no application had been before the Council and that no approval had been reported. The rest of the decisions were noted
Resolve: that the Clerk seeks clarification on any commercial undertaking at Stubbing Court.

184/2007 Accounts

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

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

185/2007 Finance

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

Resolved: that the reports be received and noted.

186/2007 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- 25/2007
 - Pay Awards for 2007/08
 - Public participation Sessions at Parish Council Meetings
 - The Smoking Ban
 - The Licensing Act 2003

The circular was noted.

187/2007 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Questions about Compensation for Damage
 - Parishioner – Concern over Threat to Doorstep Collection of Recyclable Materials in Hardwick Wood
 - Parishioner – Appreciation for Successful Lobbying for Repair of Wall at Edinburgh Court

There was a query about the possible compensation claim which concerned damage to a BMX bike that had been referred on to the organisers of the visit to the bike park. The door-to-door collection at Hardwick Wood had been restored and there was appreciation for the work of the Council and in particular Cllr Jan Robinson for the successful lobbying for the repair of the wall at Edinburgh Court. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- District
 - NEDDC – Street Collection 30 September – RAF Association
 - NEDDC – Street Collection 1-8 November – The RBL Poppy Appeal
 - NEDDC – Neighbourhood Partnerships – Examination of Boundaries
 - NEDDC – Review of Licensing Policy – Hackney Carriages etc
 - Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group – Meeting on 15 October 2007
 - NEDDC – NEDDF Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - DCC – Making the County Safer
 - DCC – Young Achievers Awards 2007
 - DDPJAC – Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document
 - DDPJAC – Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document
 - DCPCT – Result of Consultations on New Road Surgery
 - Chesterfield Royal Hospital – Darley Birth Centre

The Clerk confirmed that details were available on the possible site allocations and that the waste sites, one of which – the Avenue – was in the Parish. The rest of the correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - CPRE – Newsletter
 - Bluebell Wood – Progress Report

The correspondence was noted.

188/2007 Reports from Committees and Representatives

Cllrs Tom Snowdon and Anne Knyhynyckyj had attended the most recent Listening Service and reported on a concern raised about the number of people crossing Langer Lane in the vicinity of Rectory Drive and the possible need for pedestrian lights.

Cllr Bill Pickford had attended the most recent meeting of the Allotments Association when it had been reported that there was a waiting list of 15 people although it was anticipated that some plots would soon be available.

Cllr Kevin Moore reported on the problems facing the Bowling Club following the recent fire when the pavilion had been destroyed and the Club had lost everything stored in the pavilion. The position was made the more serious as it had not been possible to insure the wooden building. The Finance Committee had made arrangements to visit the green and this visit would continue in spite of the fire. The Club had requested permission to hold committee meetings at the Parish Hall following the loss of the pavilion.

Cllr Kevin Moore reported on a number of issues of concern to the Tennis Club. These included the moss on the courts and the need for some form of treatment and the financial problems following a significant reduction in membership subscriptions which was felt to be a result of allowing free use of the courts to the community. This latter may result in a request of a reduction in the annual charges imposed by the Council. He understood that the Club were now ready to sign the agreement although there was a query about the allocation of the three courts and a receipt for the current year fees which had been paid in full.

Resolved: that the matter of pedestrians crossing Langer Land be referred to the forthcoming meeting of the Road Safety Committee; that the Bowling Club be allowed to hold their committee meetings at the Parish Hall free of any charge; that the issues raised by the Tennis Club be considered by the Finance Committee who were visiting the courts shortly.

189/2007 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reported on a Streetscene meeting she had attended with the Clerk at District Council when one of the main matters considered had been the District Council proposal to phase out the grounds maintenance subsidy which would have a considerable impact on the Council's finances.

She reported on a meeting with an officer from the Police's North Road Policing and Traffic Management Team who with the Clerk and a local resident had walked around the Bole Hill area to view the potential problems from the increase in heavy vehicles that would result if the planning application for the re-working of the temporary stone tips was approved. It was hoped that some of the concerns would be fed into the liaison meetings between the Police and Highways.

A further meeting had been held at the mini roundabout at the end of Deerlands Road and while it appeared that Highways would not remove the roundabout they had agreed to look at ways of improving the signage.

190/2007 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 7 November 2007.

191/2007 Allocation of Cricket Pitches for 2008

The Clerk reported that the applications had yet to be received from District Council and it was agreed to defer consideration until the next meeting of the Council.

192/2007 New Road Surgery

Members noted the most recent letter from Dr Jackson and noted that the Finance Committee were due to meet with Dr Jackson later in the month to discuss a number of issues related to the decision to retain the surgery at New Road and the proposed alterations to the facilities so as to offer an improved service by the practice.

193/2007 Proposed Remediation at The Avenue

Following the recent extraordinary meeting of the Council on the proposed remediation process and the fears over the damage to health of airborne particulates, a list of conditions to be attached to any planning approval had been drawn up for submission to the County Council. There was a lengthy discussion on the extent to which these conditions should be raised with EMDA and their response considered prior to submitting the conditions to the County Council who were the planning authority for the application.

Resolved: that the Clerk forwards the list of requested conditions to the County Council.

194/2007 Request for Support from SCEPP

The Clerk referred to the recent extraordinary meeting of the Council when the representatives of SCEPP had requested the use of the Main Hall for a public meeting about the proposed remediation process at the Avenue site. The Hall had already been reserved and the date and time of the meeting would be advertised in Wings. Other issues related to more general support and assistance for the group in gaining legitimacy would be considered at a later date.

Resolved: that SCEPP be allowed to use the Main Hall free of any charge for the forthcoming public meeting on the proposed remediation process at the Avenue site subject to the group stewarding the meeting and taking account of the limited capacity of the Hall.

195/2007 Bole Hill Quarry Planning Application

The Clerk had produced a paper listing a range of requested conditions to be imposed on any approval granted to the current application for the re-working of the temporary stone tips. The conditions took account of concerns raised by local residents and other points that had emerged from discussions with the Police and with COTEP. The conditions covered noise, hours of operation, traffic and dust.

Resolved: that the Clerk sends the listed conditions to the County Council.

196/2007 Issues Concerning Improvements to Central Drive by Wall Pond

The Clerk alerted Members to uncertainties about ownership of differing sections of Central Drive at the Wall Pond which meant that the proposed improvements to that section of the road had to be put on hold. There was some discussion on ways of trying to go forward including looking at a range of options. In the meantime it was agreed that the work to the Wall Pond should proceed even though this would mean an increase in a cost of up to 15% as the tendering was based on a combined project of the Wall Pond and the work to Central Drive.

197/2007 Remembrance Day Arrangements

The Chairperson informed Members that a letter just received from the Rector's secretary meant that the discussion on this matter was no longer necessary. This was because the Rector had re-considered the matter and felt that the proposal to hold the Church service at the Parish Hall would not be practical. As a result the service would be held at the Church which meant that Council would be able to hold the normal Service of Remembrance outside the Parish Hall.

198/2007 Procedure for Co-option of Members

Members considered a paper with a suggested procedure for the co-option of Members that had been supported by the Standing Orders Committee.

Resolved: that the Council adopts the procedure for the co-option of Members.

199/2007 Complaint about a Member

The Clerk detailed an official complaint that had been made by Cllr Jan Robinson about the conduct of Cllr Ron Lewin at the September meeting of the Council. Cllr Ron Lewin admitted having shown some frustration which he believed was justified but refuted the other points contained in the complaint which he felt were out of all proportion. He believed that any dissatisfaction should have been raised at the time rather than in a written form which, in his view, amounted to a vitriolic and personal attack.

After some discussion and suggested ways of resolving the matter, Cllr Levin announced that he would be resigning from the Council as of 31 October 2007.

200/2007 Any Other Business

A query was raised about the amount of green belt land in and around Wingerworth as it was feared that there was less than generally believed to be the case. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact District Council for clarification. Members were consulted on their availability for an extraordinary meeting of the Council on Wednesday 17 October 2007 when there would be a presentation on planning for parishes.

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

201/2007 Recognition of Service to the Parish

Cllr Ron Lewin raised the matter of recognition of service to the Parish in connection with the work by volunteers on footpaths. In so doing he detailed the work of Mike Sims and Dave McDougall in obtaining materials, making arrangements for storage, organising transport to site locations and all the hard work in moving materials, constructing shuttering, restoring paths and other improvements. Cllr Lewin had witnessed this work when walking along some of the footpaths and could confirm the quality of the work and the resulting improvement in access for walkers. Given the monies saved for the Council against the cost of commercial contracts, he felt strongly that the Council should make some form of tangible recognition to the two volunteers. He proposed that each of the two volunteers be given a suitably inscribed tankard.

Members discussed the proposal. While there were some concerns that this would create a precedent there was also a view that this would be a good precedent given the quality and value of the work and in any event it was argued that there was already a precedent. It was clear that the volunteers had never asked for any form of reward but the point was made that the act of volunteering should not automatically disqualify anyone from receiving some form of recognition. However it was agreed that the Council needed to retain a tight control on awarding recognition in such circumstances.

Resolved: that Cllr Lewin arranges for the purchase of two suitable engraved tankards and that the Clerk be authorised to make payment for the tankards at a combined cost of up to £100.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.58pm.