

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 6 September 2006

Present: Councillor RAC Scothern (Chair)
Councillor SJ Ellis Councillor Mrs M Parker
Councillor T Fisher Councillor W Pickford (*from 140/2006*)
Councillor CE Hutchings Councillor R Stafford
Councillor K Moore Councillor K Walker
Councillor J Ollis with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

136/2006 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Mrs A Sainty, PW O'Neill and T Snowdon.

137/2006 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2006 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

138/2006 Matters Arising

Further to minute 129/2006 the Clerk confirmed that an order had been placed for the thinning of the Island Pond copse.

139/2006 Public Forum

In answer to a question on developments with the planning application for new houses on Central Drive, the Clerk stated that the Council's solicitors were still waiting for notification from the developer's solicitors that all matters had been satisfactorily resolved. Other matters raised by members of the public included the slow progress in providing recycling bins and boxes for the Parish, the problems caused for small cars by the speed humps in the village and the disposal of land-fill material off Swathwick Lane. It was acknowledged that these were all matters for either District Council or County Council.

Special mention was made about the considerable support freely given by Mr Bernard Gadsby in storing and transporting aggregate for use on footpaths in the Parish. The lack of white lines on Swathwick Lane and Birkin Lane coupled with the overgrowing vegetation was felt to endanger road safety. There was a request to accommodate a second cricket team from Wingerworth S CC on the Deer Park field to allow for local juniors to have opportunities to play the game competitively.

Resolved: that Councillor W Pickford raises that matter of the speed humps with the County Council having particular regard for the extra problems caused for smaller more environmentally friendly cars and that he requests, if humps were to be retained, that humps be installed on Pearce Lane; that the Clerk writes to County Council about concerns over the type of material being used for infill off Swathwick Lane and that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Council; that the Clerk writes to formally thank Mr Gadsby for all of his assistance and that the Clerk provides a framed picture of the photograph on the recent cover of Wings as a token of appreciation; that the Council considers the application from Wingerworth S CC for a second team to be based on the Deer Park field as soon as District Council forwards all applications for the 2007 cricket season.

140/2006 Police Matters

Concern was expressed about the absence of a representative or a report from Derbyshire Police. Councillor W Pickford confirmed that a number of Parish Councils had commented on the absence of Police representatives from their meetings.

Resolved: that the Clerk conveys this concern to the Derbyshire Constabulary.

141/2006 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:

670	Stubbing View, Steep Lane	Erection of Agric. Building
681	35 New Road	Extension to Garage
734	12 Nethermoor Road	Extension to Existing Garage
742	220 Longedge Lane	Two Storey Side Extension
756	7 Joseph Fletcher Drive	Conservatory to Rear
757	61 Davids Drive	Single Storey Rear Extension
771	30 Longedge Rise	Single Storey Side and Rear Ext
772	51 Davids Drive	Extensions to Rear and Alteratns
864	The Hideaway, Nethermoor Road	Agric L'nd to Domestic Curtilage
867	47 Longedge Lane	Conservatory to Rear
873	Field opp Parish Rooms	Timber Stable Block & Manege
874	Rear of 21 & 23 New Road	Erection of 3 New Dwellings
890	Woodthorpe Grange Cot, Ashover Rd	Conversion to New Dwelling
893	Woodthorpe Grange Cot, Ashover Rd	Change to Residential Dwelling
898	High Cliffe, Matlock Rd, Spitewinter	Garage to New Dwelling
921	27 Nottingham Drive	Two Storey Front Extension

Concerns were expressed about applications 873 and 874 and it was noted that the District Council's Planning Committee was holding site inspection meetings for these two applications at stated times on the morning of Monday 11 September. Parish Councillors were entitled to attend as observers and to make statements of fact. It was agreed that any Councillors available should try to attend the two meetings. The Clerk confirmed that he had requested that application 670 be considered by the full Planning Committee.

The following planning decisions were reported:

326	G 35 New Road	Extension to Garage
432	G Land adj 67 Longedge Lane	Erection of 2 Two Storey Dwell
502	G 24 Longedge Lane	Erection of Conservatory to Rear
537	G 23 Longedge Rise	Two Storey Side Extension
564	G 1A Welbeck Drive	Single Storey Side Extension
571	G Moorlands, Matlock Road	Retention of Balancing Pond
573	G The Old Woodhouse, Middle Rd, HW	Retention of Building to Rear
605	G 23 Ivy Spring Close	Single Storey Front Extension
667	G 174 Nethermoor Road	Construction of Chimney
698	G 17 Belfit Drive	Conservatory to Rear
756	G 7 Joseph Fletcher Drive	Conservatory to Rear
757	G 61 Davids Drive	Single Storey Rear Extension
376	G 9 Hockley Lane	Replace Garage and 1.5 Rear Ext
412	G 27 Edinburgh Road	Erection of Conservatory to Rear
442	G 5 Deerpark Crescent	Retention of Car Port
474	W Woodthorpe Manor Farm, Ashover Road	New Dwelling
517	G 2 Mulberry Close	Single Storey Rear Extension

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The decisions were noted.

142/2006 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in June and July 2006 together with a paper detailing a profile of income and expenditure against budget for the four months to the end of July 2006.

Resolved: that the accounts be approved and the budget position noted.

143/2006 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank reconciliations as at the end of June and July 2006.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

144/2006 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

The following circulars had been received:

- Circular 24/2005
 - Mapping Packages for Parish Councils
 - Revised External Audit Fees 2006-2011
 - Risk Assessment Training
 - Grants for Parish Land
- Circular 25/2005
 - Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006
 - Temporary Event Notices in Village Halls
- Circular 26/2005
 - New Association web site – www.dalc.org.uk
- Circular 27/2005
 - Police Mergers
 - Affordable Rural Housing Commission
- Circular 28/2005
 - Training on Planning – Wednesday 4 October 2006
 - Training for Councillors – Saturday 21 October 2006
 - Training in Chairmanship – Saturday 26 November 2006
- Circular 29/2005
 - Memorial Safety in Cemeteries
 - Freedom of Information Act
 - National Seminar on Common Land and Village Greens – 14/15 September 2006
- Circular 30/2005
 - The Commons Act 2006
- Circular 31/2005
 - DALC AGM – Saturday 9 September 2006
- Circular 32/2005
 - Training for Clerks – Wednesday 13 September 2006

Councillor K Walker requested copies of Circulars 24 and 29 and a copy of Circular 28 was requested by Councillors J Ollis and Mrs M Parker.

145/2006 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Concern over Wires on Cricket Square
 - Parishioner – Concern about verge on Pearce Lane
 - Wingerworth Women's Institute – Agreement to Alternate Spring Bookings
 - Wingerworth Community Association – Willingness to Alternate Spring Bookings
 - Wingerworth S CC- Request for a Second Team on Deer Park
 - Proposal for a Wingerworth Sports Association

There was a discussion on the use of the standard wiring system to protect the cricket square and, while it was appreciated that the new markings would help to lessen any future accidents, it was felt that the overall effect was rather unsightly.

Resolved: that the Clerk orders signs prohibiting cycling and horse riding on the cricket field and looks into an alternative protective system for the cricket square.

- District
 - House to House Collection – Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation Trust – 12-26 August 2006

- Street Collection - The Royal Air Force Association – 16 September 2006
- Chair of the Council – Acknowledgement and Appreciation for Donation
- Chair’s Appeal Event – Pomegranate Theatre – Monday 6 November 2006
- Arts Connections Newsletter
- Neighbourhood Partnerships – Annual Meeting – Thursday 28 September 2006
- Gambling Act 2005 – Draft Statement of Principles Consultation
- Development Framework – Access for All ‘Scoping Report’
- Tree Preservation Order – Lodge Drive

The correspondence was noted.

- County
 - Rights of Way Minor maintenance Scheme 2006/2007
 - Possible Sites for New Waste Management Development
 - Stones on Highway at Pearce Lane

The correspondence was noted.

- Other
 - North Eastern Derbyshire Primary Trust – Invitation to Celebratory Event
 - EnCams – Local Environmental Quality Guide
 - DRCC – Village Halls Newsletter June 2006
 - DRCC – Village Halls Newsletter July 2006
 - BRM Solicitors – Water Easement
 - Chesterfield Borough Council – Statement of Community Involvement
 - Derbyshire Children’s Holiday Homes – Appreciation for Donation
 - Natascha Engel MP – Area’s UK Youth Parliament Representative – Chris Birks

The correspondence was noted and it was suggested that the Youth Forum invite Chris Birks to a meeting during the Autumn.

146/2006 Reports from Committees and Representatives

The Chair and Councillor J Ollis reported on the most recent of the Council’s Listening Services when no issues had been raised by parishioners.

147/2006 Chair’s Business

The Chair reported on the poor state of the Council’s Christmas decorations which was all the poorer following damage sustained due to a recent roof leak. The Christmas event was one of the biggest organised by the Council and it was felt that there was now an urgent need to purchase a new set of decorations.

Resolved: that the Chair together with Councillor T Fisher and the Clerk be authorised to purchase a new set of decorations.

148/2006 Clerk’s Report

The Clerk presented his report which covered Internal Audit, Tax Rewards, Parish Council Statement, Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme 2006/2007, Agreements over Alternating Spring Bookings, Letters of Understanding with the Bowling Club and the Tennis Club, Improvements to the Football Pitch, Vegetation on Central Drive, Concerns from Parishioners, Staffing and Training Matters, and a Council Recognition Scheme. The Clerk raised a further item concerning District Council’s agreement to implementing a tree preservation order on specified trees at Lodge Drive. The Chair congratulated the Clerk on the excellent Internal Audit Report and the Clerk pointed out that this report included complementary comments on the records maintained by the Lettings Secretary. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Lettings Secretary congratulating her on the standard of the lettings records.

149/2006 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as Wednesday 4 October 2006.

150/2006 Grassmoor Composting Proposal

Councillors T Fisher and W Pickford did not participate in considerations on this item other than to offer statements of fact.

The Clerk referred to the circulated paper and briefly summarised the position both as regards the nature of the proposal and a request from a neighbouring Parish Council for support in opposing the proposal. While there was a recognition of the need for new composting facilities to complement the new green bin collections from households, there was also a concern about the location of the plant at Grassmoor. After a discussion on the matter it was proposed that the Council object to the proposal on the grounds that it would result in an increased movement of vehicles in the surrounding area, cause a deterioration in outlook for a number of residents and provide an opportunity for other treatment facilities such as an incinerator. The voting was three for the motion with two against and three abstentions.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to District Council giving notice of the opposition to the proposal and the reasons for the opposition.

151/2006 Well Dressing in Wingerworth

The Council had received a request for permission to use the Sheep Wash for an annual well dressing commencing in 2007. After a brief discussion it was agreed in principle that the Sheep Wash could be used for this purpose by a properly constituted group, but it was also accepted that support would need to be sought from other parties including the Police.

152/2006 Automated Sprinkler System for Parish Sports Facilities

Members were requested to consider giving approval to the purchase of an automated sprinkler system based at the Bowling Green and providing water to the cricket square, worn areas on the football field and, when needed, to the tennis courts. The main benefit would be to the bowling green which needs a regular and controlled watering regime, but off-shoots consisting of an underground piped water supply to the other areas would be invaluable on the few occasions when water is desperately needed but not available, as with the recent seeding of the goalmouth areas on the football field.

The system would overcome the problems of insufficient pressure in the water supply and would be both more efficient and more economical in the use of a scarce resource. The greater efficiency would be obtained by a carefully regulated application of water to the green and the greater economy would be achieved by applying the water in night time hours when the water would penetrate deeper more quickly and be less subject to evaporation. As such the system would contribute to the Council's desire to be environmentally responsible.

District Council's specialist staff considered the system to be a good investment and they had identified a preferred supplier who offered a combination of a good system and a very competitive price and who was already contracted to install a similar system for another Parish Council in the District. The preferred supplier (WFS Water Systems of Worksop) had quoted a cost of £6,760.

In answer to questions, the Clerk confirmed that STRI had stated that such a system could be a sound investment in the management of bowling greens and similar facilities as well as being environmentally friendly. It was also confirmed the costs following installation during the life of the system would be limited to general maintenance and servicing other than any repairs due to accidents or vandalism. Against this, there would be a far more efficient use of water.

After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that approval be given for the requested expenditure on the automated sprinkler system from the District Council's preferred supplier. This approval was on the basis that the expenditure could be contained in the Council current expenditure budgets.

Resolved: that the Clerk liaises with the contractor and the Bowling Club to fix a date for the installation of the system.

153/2006 Use of Vehicle for Council Business

The Clerk reported that volume and type of work being undertaken in the Parish was such that a commercial vehicle was needed on occasions when staff-owned cars were not sufficient, because they were not big enough, or were too inefficient or simply because the type of material was not suitable for a privately owned vehicle. One solution was the setting up of a contract arrangement whereby the Council could call off a commercial vehicle on a daily basis for work in the Parish by Council staff. Suitable vehicles were available from local companies on a call-off basis and with a local authority discount the lowest price to date is £27 a day without insurance which could be requested from the Council's own insurance company. It should then be possible to place Wingerworth Parish Council signs on the vehicle when in use to make it clear that it was on Parish Council business. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed the approval be given to instituting such an arrangement.

Resolved: that the Clerk proceeds to make necessary arrangements.

154/2006 Approval for Expenditure

Approval has already been given for the purchase of a new lawn mower. After much research it has been decided that a Honda Izy 536SD 21" machine would best meet the Council's needs. This cost was well within the figure for which approval was previously given but approval was now sought to purchase the machine from a supplier other than the one offering the cheapest price. The Council's normal supplier (GMS) could provide the machine at a cost of £387.23 net of VAT against the cheaper prices on the internet, the cheapest of which was £366.81 net of VAT from Mowers on Line. However approval was sought to use the local supplier on the basis that it was a better value for money offer given the nearness for any warranty work as well as for servicing and spares during the life of the machine. It was unanimously agreed to vary normal practice and proceed with the local supplier.

Resolved: that the Clerk places an order for purchase of the machine.

155/2006 Any Other Business

Matters raised by Members included the inability of the Enforcement Officer to intervene over vegetation growth in open areas, disappointment at the absence of the village fete for the second year running and the continuing need to proceed with an independent review of energy conversation and the use of renewal energy sources at the Parish Hall.

Members of the Public were thanked for their attendance and asked to leave the meeting for the following item which was of a confidential nature.

156/2006 Staffing

The Clerk explained that one of two items under staffing concerned a possible change in holiday entitlement following ten years' service, but the County Council had now clarified that there was no such increase in entitlement under prevailing conditions of service.

The second issue was confirmation of an inflationary increase in the postage allowance allowed to the Lettings Secretary to compensate for the recent increase in postal rates. This was agreed and it was further agreed that the Clerk be authorised to make appropriate increases in future in similar circumstances.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions before declaring the meeting closed at 8.11pm.