

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 September 2008

Present:

Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)	
Cllr Stuart Ellis	Cllr Peter O'Neill (<i>until 174/2008</i>)
Cllr Chris Hutchings	Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Kevin Moore (<i>from 164/2008</i>)	Cllr Michael Prout
Cllr Carole Nelson	Cllr Jan Robinson
Cllr John Ollis	Cllr Diana Ruff with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

160/2008 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj, Cllr Bill Pickford and Cllr Tom Snowdon.

161/2008 Declarations of Interest

There were declarations of interest from dual-hatted Members under planning matters, from Cllr Stuart Ellis and Cllr Jan Robinson on agenda items covered by minutes 176/2008 and 177/2008, and from Cllr Chris Hutchings and Cllr Kevin Moore on the agenda item covered by minute 175/2008.

162/2008 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

163/2008 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

164/2008 Police Matters

Crime statistics for August were tabled, covering eleven incidents including six of burglary and theft, three of violence and two of criminal damage. PCSO Mike Coates was unable to attend the meeting but a report on the Summer Sports Programme was presented by Darren Norwood, the Community Sports Development Officer. The Programme had been a great success both in overall terms and in terms of the participation of young people from Wingerworth. In all, 44 youngsters from the Parish had attended 579 sessions with very positive feedback. It was intended to build on this success in the forthcoming year with the introduction of new activities (including some non-sporting ones) and the extension over more weeks. It was also intended to investigate ways of providing transport where needed and affording opportunities to disabled youngsters. It was anticipated that the Parishes involved would be asked for a sum of up to £5,000 each towards the extended Programme.

The Chairperson reported on the most recent meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Team which had been held at Tupton around the time that travellers had moved onto land belonging to the Tupton Parish Council. This had been dealt with as sensitively as possible and in the light of the experience a list of procedures and contacts was being drawn up to assist other councils faced with travellers making unauthorised use of council land.

165/2008 Public Forum

Concern was raised about the increased amount of fly-tipping in the Parish and the continuing problem of Japanese Knotweed which was in danger of being spread as a result of recent mowing. There was also concern about criminal damage that had taken place to a style and fencing on Footpath 28 and the increasing amount of garden rubbish, building rubble and general litter on the Setts footpath. Residents from the Adlington area requested that the old playground be replaced which would go some way to overcoming a commonly held feeling that the area had been neglected. It was confirmed that the Council had previously invested funds in the area by paying for a County Council youth worker a couple of years ago and that there were often conflicting views about what was needed in the area at that time. The residents offered to undertake a survey of what was needed and this was welcomed by Members.

166/2008 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:

567	Barley Mow Inn, Langer Lane	Retention of Smoking Shelter
652	8 Meadowside Close	Extension to Rear of Garage
674	15 Robincroft Road	New Garage, Utility, Conserv plus
693	29 Windsor Drive	Two Storey and Single Storey Exts
694	8 Longedge Rise	Conservatory to Rear
702	51 Davids Drive	Raising of Roof and Extension
720	106 Longedge Lane	Roof Conversion, Extension plus
721	30 Longedge Lane	First Floor Extension to Side
722	22 Hazel Drive	Two Storey Ext to Front & Rear
738	Yew Tree Bungalow, Bottom Rd, HW	Conservatory and Garage/Wkshop
744	Hillhouses Lane	Erection of Pumping Station
773	10 Paddock Close	Two Storey Side Extension plus
801	Oak Bank, Pearce Lane	Work on Two Sycamore Trees
753	Field opp Parish Rooms	Resubmission of amended scheme
764	21 Halifield Close	Single Storey Kitchen Extension
129	23 New Road	New Parking and Access
854	Alinor, Middle Road , Hardwick Wood	Erection of Replacement Dwelling
798	Woodthorpe Grange, Ashover Rd	Two Storey Rear Extension

The applications were noted and some concerns were expressed about access issues in connection with application 753.

The following planning decisions were reported:

418	G 12 Parkland Drive	Two Storey Side and Rear Ext plus
469	W Nether House Farm, Stubbing	Conversion of Barns to Dwelling
484	G 27 Nottingham Drive	Two Storey Side & Rear Ext (Rev)
499	G 37 Central Drive	Two Storey Side & Rear Ext plus
528	G 636 Derby Road	Two Storey Rear Extension
544	G High Cliffe, Matlock Rd, Spitewinter	Extension and Change of Use ...
557	G Pearce Wood, Pearce Lane	Felling and Pruning of Trees
565	R 21 Halifield Close	Two Storey Extension
567	G Barley Mow Inn, Langer Lane	Retention of Smoking Shelter
578	G 21 Deerlands Road	Single Storey Rear Extension
583	G 4 Walton Way	Single Storey Side Extension
590	G 12 Hazel Drive	Single Storey Rear Extension
601	G 24 Mill Lane	Two Storey Side and Rear Ext
610	G 21 Swathwick Close	Extension to Front Plus ...
611	G The Yews, Wingerworth Hall Estate	Listed - Two Dwellings to One
638	G 17 Woodview Close	Single Storey Side Extension
652	G 8 Meadowside Close	Extension to Rear of Garage

G=Granted R=Refused W=Withdrawn

The planning decisions were noted and the attention of Members was drawn to the reasons for the refusal of application 565. In the main this was refused because of the need to respect the amenity of neighbours and it was felt that the extension in question would be overbearing and would have an overshadowing impact with a significant loss of privacy to a neighbouring house.

Resolved that the Clerk conveys the concerns about application 753 to District Council in connection with the dangers posed by the proposed access to traffic and pedestrians on the busy junction close to a bus stop; further, that the Clerk questions how such a proposal could be approved when the advice from Highways to an application opposite, concerning an extension to the surgery, was that no new access should be permitted so close to such a busy and difficult crossroads; further that the Clerk requests that the application be considered by the full Planning Committee and that a site visit be arranged; further, that the Clerk requests a copy of the Highways response to the application along with their response to the earlier application for an extension to the surgery opposite.

167/2008 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in June and July 2008 and details of income and expenditure to the end of June and July 2008 against a phased budget. Payments made were:

A Hardy & Son Ltd	376.00	Fencing at Car Park
Public Works Loan Board	1,544.02	Loan Repayment
GMS	150.70	Servicing of Mower
Plantscape Ltd	2,861.13	Floral Display
Mr Andrew Thursby	30.00	Refund of Deposit
Mrs J Hutchings	5.98	Receipt Books
Clear View Developments	787.25	Windows at Pavilion
Connaught Gasforce Ltd	556.48	Boiler Contract
Town & Country UK	24.80	Window Cleaning
Arden Winch & Co Ltd	232.67	Cleaning Materials
AOL	22.51	Internet Services
NEDDC	176.00	Business Rates
J Barnes	3,504.70	Electrical Work at P Hall
NEDDC	252.58	Dog Bin Supply & Fit
CPRE	28.00	Annual Subscription
Well Dressing Group	250.00	Donation
Victim Support	25.00	Donation
Chair's Appeal - NEDDC	50.00	Donation
Mr B Wood	109.25	Internal Audit Fees
S Johnson & Son Ltd	59.36	Environment Items
Tupton Hall School	1,000.00	Youth Programme
Rentokil Initial UK Ltd	332.82	Watersafe Contract
Clear View Developments	205.63	New Window at Pavilion
Bitz 'n' PC's Limited	370.00	Computer Contract
Wingerworth PCC Centre	25.00	Hire of Room
Staff	4,004.76	Salary and Expenses
HM Revenue & Customs	1,612.52	Tax and NI Payments
Derbyshire CC	960.98	LGPS Payments
Birdholme SS	30.01	Petrol for Churchyard
Ian Trueman Ltd	152.75	Tree Work at Parish Hall
NEDDC	641.71	Repairs to Play Equipm'nt
Mrs Margaret Sheriff	300.00	Refund of Deposit
Wings	100.00	Council Page
Eurooffice	87.40	Stationery
Town & Country UK	24.80	Window Cleaning
Royal Bank of Scotland	26.45	Bank Charges
Cllr Ann Sainty	125.00	Chairperson's Allowance
John Gregory & Sons	52.40	Footpath Materials
GMS	101.49	Servicing of Mower
Arden Winch & Co Ltd	114.28	Cleaning Materials
John Gregory & Sons	11.75	Footpath Materials
Focus	6.46	Footpath Materials
BT Payment Services Ltd	60.37	Parish Hall Phone Line
NEDDC	144.96	Trade Waste - Parish Hall
NEDDC	65.22	Trade Waste - Church
3rd Wingerworth Scouts	250.00	Donation
Staff	3,872.11	Salary and Expenses
HM Revenue & Customs	1,532.15	Tax and NI Payments
Derbyshire CC	960.98	LGPS Payments
AOL	20.81	Internet Services
NEDDC	176.00	Business Rates
E-on	92.89	Electricity to Pavilion
Yeomans	15.99	Protective Clothing
Birdholme SS	25.02	Petrol for Churchyard
FG Library Products	301.98	Island Stand
DRCC	30.00	Annual Subscription

GMS	129.00	Purchase of Strimmer
Town & Country UK	24.80	Window Cleaning
E-on	497.35	Electricity to Parish Hall
Royal Bank of Scotland	26.17	Bank Charges

Queries were raised about high levels of expenditure on the phased budget under “Administration – Other” and “Parish Hall – Repairs and Renewals”. It was noted that the former included the £1,000 payment for the Summer Sports Programme and the latter included a substantial amount of electrical work. It was also noted that the slightly above profile expenditure on the supply of gas to the Parish Hall was largely due to a carry over from the previous financial year.

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

168/2008 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details and reconciliations as at the end of June and July 2008.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

169/2008 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Election of Parish Council Representative to Serve on the NEDDC Standards Committee
 - Four Candidates including Cllr Diana Ruff
- NEDDC Outstanding Sundry Debtors
 - Advice to Town and Parish Councils
- Circular 35/2008 – Quality Matters
- Circular 36/2008 – Councillors’ Training Course
- Circular 38/2008 – County Training Partnership
- Circular 39/2008 - General
 - Recruitment of New Members for the Local Access Forum (DADLAF)
 - Training Needs
 - 2008-09 Pay Negotiations
- Circular 40/2008
 - DALC AGM – 11am on 6 September 2008 at County Hall, Matlock
 - National Minimum Wage Increase
 - Applications for Appointment to the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC)
- Circular 41/2008 - Consultations
 - Election Day – Weekend Voting
 - Councillors’ Indemnity – Code of Conduct

The correspondence was noted. Cllr Diana Ruff was congratulated on her election to the NEDDC Standards Committee. The Clerk reported that national pay negotiations had been resumed during August and that the outcome of the discussions was awaited.

170/2008 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - Parishioner – Concerns about Setts Footpath
 - Young Parishioner – Thank You Letter for Council’s Contribution to Summer Activities Programme
 - 6th Wingerworth Scouts – Thank You Card for Donation to Annual Fireworks and Bonfire
 - Three Parishioners – Concerns about Cricket Balls Landing In or Around New Houses on Central Drive
 - Parishioner – Grave Concern about Road Safety Issues at Junction of Longedge Rise and Nottingham Drive
- District
 - NEDDC – Thank You Letter for Donation to Chair’s Appeal
 - NEDDC – House to House Collection – Heart Research Institute – 1-24 October 2008
 - NEDDC – House to House Collection – Yorkshire Cancer Centre – 1 August 2008 for 12 months
 - NEDDC – House to House Collection – African Orphans UK – 21-30 September 2008
 - NEDDC – NE Derbyshire – Adoption of Access for All Planning Document
 - NEDDC – NE Derbyshire – Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
 - NEDDC – Offer of Football Pitches to Applicants
 - NEDDC – Comments of Planning Application 572
 - NEDDC – Issues about Use of Land off Longedge Lane
 - NEDDC – District and Parish Liaison Group Meeting – Wednesday 8 October
 - NEDDC – Planning Committee Site Inspection for Application 722 on Monday 1 September 2008

- NEDDC – 50th Annual Brass Band Festival – Saturday 20 September 2008
- Community Safety Partnership – Linking of CCTV System to Funding for a Youth Shelter
- NEDDC – Draft Streetscene Strategy
- NEDDC – Excellence and Beyond – Corporate Plan 2008-2011
- NEDDC – Request for Outstanding Issues with Wheeldon Homes Development
- NEDDC – Consultation on Post Office Closures
- County
 - DCC – Response to Concerns about Reduction in Bus Service 95
 - DCC – Response to Request for Addition Support to Retain Current Level of Bus Service 95
 - DCC – Excellence in the Community Awards 2008
 - DCC – North East Derbyshire Local Accessibility Strategy – Issues and Options Consultation
 - DCC – Foster Care Recruitment in Derbyshire
 - DCC – Accident Cluster Sites – A61 Alfreton Hill
 - DCC – Accident Cluster Sites – A61 Derby Road
 - DCC – Temporary Closure of Setts Way
 - DCPCT – Major Developments at Walton Hospital
- Other
 - TM Travel – Background to Reduction in Bus Service 95
 - Victim Support Derbyshire – Letter of Thanks for Donation
 - HSE – Request for a Response to Representations Made to HSE in connection with Cricket Pitch
 - Wheeldon Homes – Update on Meeting Obligations
 - Plantscape – Apologies for Delay with Work on Jubilee Garden

The correspondence was noted and there were questions about the linking of CCTV systems to youth projects and points raised about the proposals in connection with the A61 work on Derby Road.

Resolved: that the Clerk replies to the A61 Derby Road consultation with a request that consideration be given to improving safety from the perspective of vehicles travelling towards Chesterfield.

171/2008 Reports from Committees and Representatives

There was some disappointment over the lack of attendances at the Youth Forum over the summer but it was hoped that the Forum could make some progress once the Autumn Term had commenced. The Bowling Club had received a donation of £2,000 but it appeared that other possible sources of funding were unlikely to be successful and there was concern that the court repayments did not seem to be arriving so regularly. There was concern that the watering system was not yet in operation and there were queries about the replacement of the strike boards. There was also a query as to why the annual fees for the green at Queen's Park were much lower than the fees in Wingerworth. The work of the Clay Cross Angling Association was noted. The Tennis Club were due to meet in October. Meanwhile the Clerk had been requested to provide details of the maintenance already undertaken and that planned for the courts which he had referred on to District Council.

172/2008 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reported on the recent visit of Members to the allotments which had been so successful and enjoyable and which provided an opportunity to see the results of an exemplary partnership between the Council and the Association. She also reported on the recent Well Dressing, which she had opened, and which had been highly successful with a series of well dressings including the ones near the Salem Chapel. She gave a brief summary of recent meetings connected with the Wingerworth Community Partnership and referred to an exploratory meeting with staff from Rykneld Homes which was based on a walk-about of the area around Allendale Road.

173/2008 Audit Commission's Report on Council

The Clerk reported on the External Audit Report which stated an opinion that the information contained in the Council's Annual Return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and that no matters had come to their attention that gave cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. On a minor point, which did not affect the opinion, it was suggested that the fidelity insurance cover be increased and this had already been requested.

Resolved: That the report be noted and that the Clerk be thanked for his continuing work in managing the Council's financial affairs.

174/2008 Future of Road Safety Committee

The Chairperson explained how the Road Safety Committee had become redundant following the establishment of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the developing work of the Community Partnership.

Resolved: that the Council's Road Safety Committee be disbanded.

175/2008 Concerns about Adequacy of Protective Netting at the Deer Park Cricket Ground

The Clerk summarised the background to the recently expressed concerns about cricket balls landing in and around the gardens of some of the new houses that had build immediately adjacent to the cricket field. Measures had been taken to try and lessen the likelihood of balls flying into the new development and these had been implemented and subsequently reported to the HSE who had had received representations about the standards of health, safety and welfare at the ground. The HSE letter and the Council's response had been circulated with the agenda.

In the time available it was felt that the limited new measures for the final few weeks of the season were as much as could reasonably be done short of stopping cricket being played. However it was accepted that the situation should be further reviewed in the light of the experience to date and that it may be necessary to further extend the protective netting before the start of the next cricket season. This gave rise to discussions as to who would be responsible for the cost of any such work.

Resolved: that the Clerk continues to discuss the matter with the Planning Authority.

176/2008 Threatened Closure of Post Offices

Cllr Stuart Ellis drew attention to the threatened closure of the post office at Ridd Way which was one of eight threatened closures in the North East Derbyshire area. It was generally felt by Members that a post office was an integral part of the local community and that the facility should be retained.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to Network Change opposing the closure of the Ridd Way post office and emphasising the importance of retaining the facility which was so important for the local community; that the Clerk copies the response to the District Council as support for their campaign against the threatened closures.

177/2008 Retention of Livestock on District Council Land

Members were informed of a complaint that had been submitted to the Council about a number of issues to do with land belonging to the District Council adjoining Longedge Lane near Allendale Road. One of the issues raised in the complaint was that chickens were being kept on the land without permission and that they should be removed. The complaint had been forwarded to District Council who had looked into the matter following which they had received a number of letters supporting the practice of keeping chickens on the land. Estates at District Council had subsequently asked the Council whether there were any additional issues regarding the keeping of chickens on the land. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the matter was one to be resolved by District Council as it was beyond the Council's remit.

Resolved: that the Clerk informs District Council that the complaint is a matter for them to resolve although it was felt that District Council should take into account the precedent of condoning the unauthorised use of their land for the keeping of livestock.

178/2008 Acquisition of Watson Lane Lay-by

Following investigative work by the County Council at the request of Cllr Bill Pickford, it appeared that the lay-by at Watson Lane was owned by the County Council who appeared willing to open discussions about the Council having some form of tenure or use of the land. However it appeared that if there was some form of agreement between the two councils, it may be necessary to submit a planning application for the land to be used as a car park.

Resolved: that the acquisition of the Watson Lane lay-by was not pursued at the present time.

179/2008 Establishment of a Twinning Link

The Chairperson reminded Members of the presentation to the Council on the possible establishment of a twinning link. The matter had been left open to give Members time to reflect on whether the Council should pursue the matter. There was some concern about the limited advantages accruing from what could be an expensive and time-consuming exercise.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the North East Derbyshire Twinning Federation to thank them for the presentation and to inform them that the Council did not want to pursue the matter at this time.

180/2008 Community Response Plan

Resolved: that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

181/2008 Review of Parish Hall Hiring Deposits

Resolved: that the Parish Hall Committee be asked to undertake the review.

182/2008 Expenditure

The Clerk reminded Members that expenditure had previously been agreed for the installation of a lighting unit at the bottom of the Setts footpath. After a lengthy delay there was now some prospect of having the lighting unit installed to complement the major renovation of the footpath due to be undertaken by the County Council.

Resolved: that the expenditure on a new lighting unit be approved.

183/2008 Donations

A request for a donation had been received from the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living who had been able to confirm that their work extended to six members and 17 individuals in Wingerworth during the past year.

Resolved: that that the Clerk be authorised to make a donation of £30 to the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living.

184/2008 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council as 1 October 2008.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.