

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 September 2011

Present:

Cllr Diana Ruff (Chairwoman)

Cllr Vince Causey

Cllr Dawn Hart

Cllr Lindsey Edwards

Cllr Chris Hutchings

Cllr Stuart Ellis

Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj

Cllr Brian Flude

Cllr Peter O'Neil

Cllr Cecilia Harper

with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

148/2011 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Pat Antcliff.

149/2011 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest other than those from dual-hatted Members who were on NEDDC's Planning Committee and from Cllr Stuart Ellis in connection with the agenda item on the campaign to oppose the proposed housing development off Deerlands Road and Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj in connection with the agenda item on the Café WY.

(It was agreed that the item on Police Matters be brought forward to accommodate PCSO Michael Coates who had to move on to deal with Police business and the report minuted as 153/2011 was dealt with at this juncture)

150/2011 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2011 be confirmed as true and correct record of the meeting.

151/2011 Matters Arising

There had been no notification of matters arising.

152/2011 Police Matters

PCSO Michael Coates reported on a total of 24 crimes that had occurred since the previous meeting of the Council which included seven incidents of theft/burglary, four of damage to motor vehicles, four of other damage, four of common assault, three of possession of illegal substances, one of cultivation of illegal substances and one of shop lifting. During the same period there had been five reported instances of anti-social behaviour including two cases of intrusion and one each of poaching, speeding bikes and car racing..

Some concern was expressed at the higher than usual number of incidents although there was appreciation of the work of the Police who had a total of eleven suspects relating to the incidents.

One concern reported to the Council related to problems caused by parked cars on Florence Road but the parishioner had been advised to take the concern to the next meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Team which PCSO Coates said would take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28 September at Pioneer House.

153/2011 Public Forum

Matters raised by members of the public included a statement of appreciation for the completion of the work on Martins Lane after so many delays over the past six years and concerns over the state of Footpath 17 where overgrown vegetation was creating a danger to walkers at the point where the footpath exited suddenly onto a road and the very poor state of the land alongside the Setts Path.

Other matters raised included the difficulties caused by large wagons parking on Welbeck Drive (which was suggested should be taken to the next meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Team), a request for work to establish at least one footpath that would be suitable for anyone with impaired mobility with the possibility of making styles accessible to wheelchairs (which would be considered by the Council's Footpaths Committee), a request for news on the development of the new medical centre and appreciation for the removal of two damaged tree branches at Smithy Pond which were dangerous.

154/2011 Consideration of Planning Applications and Related Matters

The following planning applications were reported:

110562	off Matlock Road, Spitewinter	Ext of Solar Conservatory and Lobby
110584	off Deerlands Road	Residential Development of 51 Houses
100559	5 Central Drive	Extension to Extension (Revised)
100692	27 Wrenpark Road	Extensions to Front, Rear and Side
100744	Yew Tree Bungalow, Bottom Rd, HW	Enlarged Extension

The following planning decisions were reported:

110181	CA	Stoneycroft Ln and Harpur Hill	Reconstruction and Retention
110455	CA	10 Ivy Spring Close	Construction of Conservatory to Rear
110466	CA	25 Longedge Lane	Extensions and Alterations
110562	R	off Matlock Road, Spitewinter	Ext of Solar Conservatory and Lobby

CA = Conditional Agreement R = Refused

The applications and decisions were noted.

Members were informed that the Planning Inspectorate had dismissed an appeal made against a decision of District Council to refuse the retention of a pedestrian access to Birkin Lane from the rear of the property at 78a New Road. The reasons given by the Inspectorate were the implications of the access for the character and appearance of the surroundings and for highway safety.

155/2011 Accounts

The Clerk presented details of income received and payments made in June and July 2011. He also presented details of income and expenditure against a phased budget at the end of July and the current position of the Council's reserves.

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

156/2011 Finance

The Clerk submitted bank details for the previous month and the month end reconciliation.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted.

157/2011 Audit Commission Report on Council's Financial Affairs 2010/11

The Clerk reported that the Council was in receipt of a clean audit report from the Audit Commission in respect of its financial affairs for the previous financial year and referred to the sheet circulated amongst papers for the current meeting that contained the audit opinion.

158/2011 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- Circular 36/2011 – DCC Winter Service Questionnaire
- Circular 37/2011 – The Localism Bill, Open Services White Paper and Jubilee Beacons
- Circular 39/2011 – Associate Member of East Midlands' Councils – Introductory Offer
- Circular 40/2011 – DALC AGM – 3 September 2011
- Circular 41/2011 – DCC Consultation on Gritting Roads
- Circular 42/2011 – Localising Support for Council Tax in England

The circulars were noted and it was suggested that a small group of Members consider a response to the DCC Winter Service questionnaire.

159/2011 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received during the past month:

- Parish
 - WRAGE – Requests to Use Committee Room for Meetings
- District
 - NEDDC – Situation with Regard to Pallet Advertising Signs
 - NEDDC – Reply to Concerns over Lawful Application of Dwelling on Martins Lane
 - NEDDC – Annual Brass Band Festival – 17 September 2011
 - NEDDC – Extension of Small Business Rates Relief

- NEDDC – Road Closure Applications
- Natasha Engel MP – Notification of MP Surgeries
- County
 - DCC – Use of Verges for Parking of Skips
 - DCC – Questionnaire on Winter Service Scheme for Parish Councils
 - DCC – Consultation on Gritting of Derbyshire Roads
 - Derbyshire Community Health Services – Consultation on Foundation Trust Proposals
 - NDVA – Newsletter
 - DCC – Derbyshire Biodiversity News
 - DCC – Conditions relating to Use of Lighting Columns for Floral Displays
 - NHS Derby City and Derbyshire County - Review of Birth Centres at Darley Dale and Buxton
- Other
 - CPRE – Fieldwork Newsletter
 - LITE – Energy Saving Christmas Lights
 - French Embassy – Enquiry about Use of Parish Hall for Regional Centre for Elections

It was reported that the application for the lawful retention of the dwelling on Martins Lane was due to be refused and that any future road closures needed to be the subject of an application to District Council with at least 12 weeks advance notice. All road closures were due to incur a charge (initially £650) other than for Remembrance Day services.

It was reported that the County Council were taking legal advice on the parking of skips on verges and there was a brief discussion on the reasons behind as well as the likely impact of the proposed closures of one or both of the birth centres. The application to use the Parish Hall as a regional centre for French elections in 2012 was noted but it was felt unlikely that there would be an application which could involve the use of the premises on three successive Sundays.

160/2011 Reports from Committees and Representatives

It was reported that the Tennis Club was highly appreciative of the resurfaced courts and that they were arranging an opening day for Sunday 11 September when Cllr Dawn Hart would stand in for the Chairperson who was unable to attend.

The Chairperson reported on the recent meeting of the Finance Committee when it had been suggested that a new section of netting to bridge the gap in the protective screening at the cricket ground and after a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk could proceed to commit the necessary expenditure.

The Chairperson reported on a successful visit to the allotments when three Members and the Clerk had been given an enjoyable and informative tour of the facilities. It was stressed that Members should make every effort to participate in this annual event. An issue was raised about the nuisance caused by bonfires at the allotments but the Clerk reported that this should no longer be a problem as the committee had decided to ban bonfires for the foreseeable future.

161/2011 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reported on continuing work on creating a tribute wall in the Small Hall including a number of productive meetings with parishioners. She also reported on a very useful training course organised by DALC on Law and Responsibilities which had been attended by four Members and the Clerk. DALC were intending putting on further courses of this type and Members were encouraged to attend with the costs being met out of the Council's training budget.

The Chairperson reported that she had been elected to the DALC Executive Committee and had already attended her first meeting on 3 September when it had been stressed that there were many possible developments for town and parish councils during the next 18 months. One such area of major development was planning which could involve various new roles for parish councils but in this and other areas DALC would be offering training and support and it would be advantageous for Members to attend courses at that time.

162/2011 Co-option of Members

Now that all of the three individuals who had expressed interest in becoming a co-opted Member had attended a meeting of the Council the process could move on to the next stage which was an initial and informal meeting for each of the individuals with the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson following which the panel would be convened for more formal individual interviews. It was hoped that these stages could be completed in time for decisions to be made at the October meeting of the Council.

163/2011 Proposed New Format for Council Agendas and Procedures at Meetings

There was a brief discussion on the new format and associated procedures that were being presented on the recommendation of DALC. The Clerk outlined the changes in the new format for agendas which included a couple of extra items in addition to the re-structuring of existing items. One change involved a more formal opportunity to link in reports from the County Councillor and one of the District Councillors and it also made more explicit the need for Members to declare any interest in a more formal manner. It was pointed out that the public forum section was earlier for the convenience of parishioners. There was some concern that the new format might restrict the opportunity for discussion and with that in mind it was agreed to adopt the new format and procedures forthwith but that the use of these should be reviewed after three months.

164/2011 Update on Campaign to Oppose New Houses off Deerlands Road

Cllr Stuart Ellis gave a brief update on the campaign including the successful raising of sufficient funds to engage a planning consultant. It appeared that there was no single major flaw that would likely result in the refusal of the application but there were a series of smaller concerns that taken together could constitute a significant case against the development. It was understood that the responses from the statutory consultees to date had included a number of suggested conditions but no outright objections.

165/2011 Report on Progress with Café WY

Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj gave a brief report on the progress with the Café WY project which tried to meet twice a month had made good progress in spite of interruptions due to other bookings and bad weather. Both the committee and the volunteer helpers had done very well and she thanked Rykneld Homes and the Parish Council for their support. The café provided light refreshments with games and reading material for the young people of whom there were some 16 of which ten were in regular attendance. Plans were afoot to run disco and pizza evenings and to acquire a snooker table. The support of the Council in meeting the costs of hiring the premises was felt to be essential to the continuation of the project and after some discussion it was agreed that the Council would meet the costs for a further year, hopefully at the reduced rate charged by the Church Centre to date, and that a report should be submitted to the July 2012 meeting of the Council both to detail progress and to enable the Council to decide whether to continue funding after that date.

166/2011 Grit Bins

There was a brief report on discussions about the provision of grit that had taken place at the Finance Committee and it was agreed that, rather than keep buying more grit bins with all of the cost and associated problems, the Council would extend the system pioneered by the Clerk the previous winter which involved setting up small neighbourhood groups in areas that experienced major problems in spells of severe weather and then arranging for the members of the group to store grit on their own premises after dropping a pile of grit for the group. It was agreed that the Clerk should write about the scheme in the next edition of Wings and invite small groups to join the scheme while stressing that the Council's resources would limit the number of groups that could be serviced in this manner.

167/2011 Floral Display 2012

Due to the need to comply with regulations in place for the hanging of floral baskets on lampposts which involved considerable time and expense for the contractors as well as the Council, it was agreed to look at an alternative floral display for 2012 such as the ground-standing displays that were already used by councils in the area. A small group of interested Members would look into possibilities and report back to the Council.

168/2011 Expenditure

There were no items of expenditure for consideration.

169/2011 Donations

I was agreed to donate the sum of £50 to the Chair of NEDDC's Appeal (the Rainbows Hospice) and to donate £350 towards the costs of the 3rd Wingerworth Scout Group's Community Bonfire and Firework Display in November..

The following item was classed as an exempt item and as such was considered after members of the public had left the meeting.

170/2011 Contractual Arrangements with New Road Nursery

Cllr Chris Hutchings declared an interest and left the meeting at this point.

Members were informed of an invoicing error that had taken place during the previous year and which had resulted in an underpayment by the New Road Nursery for the After School Club activities at the Parish Hall. The matter was the subject of discussions with the proprietor. There was also a need to set rates for the new academic year and it was agreed that the hourly rates should be set for the next twelve months £10,20 for the nursery and £14,65 for the after school club as this represented a similar level of increase to the increases on other hourly rates that would apply to other users as of 1 September 2011.

171/2011 Date of Next Meetings

The next monthly meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 5 October

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance before declaring the meeting closed at 9.10pm.