

PARISH OF WROCKWARDINE
Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2004
at Admaston House at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Cllr. - K.J.S. Ballantyne – Chairman of the Parish Meeting
Mr. M. Goldstraw – Clerk to the Parish Meeting

Also in attendance: Fourteen members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all to the 2004 Annual Parish Meeting and gave a brief outline of the purpose of and requirement (in law) for an Annual Parish meeting and reminded all present that this was not, as was sometimes mistakenly thought, a meeting of the Parish Council but a meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman offered refreshments to all.

Cllr. Brown explained to all present that he had placed around the room photographs of various sign posts within the Parish and invited those present to identify their individual locations as part of a competition; the prize of which was to be a bottle of fine wine selected from the Brown household “cellar”. Cllr. Brown explained that the photographs were part of the Parish Council’s plans to refurbish the signs and where appropriate provide location finials.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Carver and Craik, Mr. A. Orrell and PC McPherson.

2. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Savage, seconded by Cllr. Brown it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report of the Parish Council

Cllr. Ballantyne presented his report as Chairman of the Parish Council. The report was both a look back at the past year and a look forward to the forthcoming year. He spoke of the level of the present precept set by Council and the desire of the Parish Council to improve the community in which we live. Brief details of future projects were outlined and Cllr. Ballantyne spoke of a parish improvement fund.

Cllr. Ballantyne then asked if there were any questions.
Mr. Bingham asked what the PC intended to do about the increase in the amounts of rubbish around the (parish council provided) Youth Shelter. The Clerk

explained that negotiations were in hand with the Borough to ensure that the bin was emptied more regularly and that there had been difficulties in the early days shortly after the shelter had been installed when the refuge operators had occasionally forgotten that a new bin was in situ. It was hoped that the matter would find a satisfactory resolution.

Mr. Meredith asked Cllr. Ballantyne to explain the necessity for a precept increase of 27%. Cllr. Ballantyne gave a financial breakdown and explained that in fact the rise was £5 per household per year or 10p per week and that the Council had prepared a very carefully thought out budget. The Clerk gave details of some budget items for example street lighting refurbishment which had previously had no budget provision but it was inevitable that such things would need attention. Council was a lighting authority and the physical condition of the lamps had reached the stage where remedial attention was essential. This meant that a large capital sum needed to be raised in one year. To prevent such a rise happening in the future Council had resolved to set aside a rolling fund.

Mr. Meredith expressed a concern that the Parish Council was taking over things which should be attended to by the Borough. Cllr. Ballantyne stated that the parish had always been the lighting authority and because of this the service was in fact cheaper than it would be if the electorate had to pay the Borough; as to the refurbishment of the finger posts (direction signs), this was realistically never going to be done by the Borough and it was incumbent upon the PC to enhance and improve the quality of the area.

There being no more questions Cllr. Ballantyne then called for Charles Whittingham Esq. to come forward to receive a gift from the Parish Council in recognition of his unfailing support and duty to the Parish spanning back six decades. He informed all present that it was with the greatest of pleasure that he had been delegated the task of presenting to Mr. Whittingham a certificate commemorating the fact that the Parish Council had awarded to him the status of Honorary Citizen of the Parish of Wrockwardine [Mr. Whittingham being the very first recipient of such an award]. All present were in agreement that the award was well deserved and Mr. Whittingham received a very warm thank you from the meeting for his service to the community.

The meeting then took a break for refreshments during which Cllr. Brown adjudicated upon the sign post competition.

4. Report from the Parish Councils representative on the Board of Governors of St Peter's Primary School

Cllr. Mrs. Savage gave a detailed report informing the meeting that the school had 423 pupils although it was by no means full. There had been a worry about LEA attendance areas. Bratton takes children from the rural areas as Wrockwardine used to do and this will continue. Mr. Savage spoke of the governors involvement

and of the work of the pupils and staff giving details also of the school's after school club "The Brat Pack".

Cllr. Brown asked about the capacity of the school and was informed by Cllr. Mrs. Savage stated that this was set at 450.

There was a discussion on the capacity of the school and Mrs. Savage advised that it was always best to contact the Headmaster if trying to ascertain if there was room in the school for a potential pupil.

Mrs. Savage received the thanks of the meeting for her hard work as a governor representing the Parish Council.

5. Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr. Miss Seymour gave a detailed report on behalf of herself and Cllr. Blackwell.

Mr. Meredith asked questions relating to Heavy Goods Vehicle operators in the Parish and was answered by Cllr. Blackwell.

Cllr. Cowling asked why the Borough found it so difficult to fly the "St. George" and preferred to promote the Euro Logo and who were the members of the Community Panel (and how were they selected). Cllr. Blackwell explained the composition of the panel but stated that he could not answer for the ruling group on the stance they took over the flying of flags.

The Chairman thanked Miss Seymour for her report. Cllr. Miss Seymour and Cllr. Blackwell were thanked for their work representing the Ward during the year.

6. Report from Local Organisations Wrockwardine & Tiddicross Charities

Mr. Goldstraw informed the meeting that there was no report to present because the Trustees had not yet met for the year.

Wrockwardine Parish Hall

There was no report.

Wrockwardine Millennium Committee

There was no report.

Admaston House Trust

Cllr. Powell gave a report and answered questions as to the usage of the hall.

Cllr. Powell then answered questions over youth facilities in the area.

Mr. Bingham informed the meeting that the hall had gained bookings from the Brownies, Guides and Rangers due to the closure of Shawburch Centre.

Cllr. Rawlings asked how the Trust was proposing to gain sufficient resources to deal with the imminent Disability Discrimination Act. Cllr. Powell stated that the Trust was researching grant options and had engaged a professional to seek advice.

The Chairman thanked the Trustees for their work and highlighted the terms of the Trust Deed which stated that the Trust was for the benefit of the residents of Wrockwardine, Wellington and Admaston. The Parish was grateful that through the hard work of Cllr. Powell and Mr. Bingham the whole place was kept going. The Meeting gave a vote of thanks to Cllr. Powell and Mr. Bingham.

7. Local Police Report

The Chairman presented the Police Report on behalf of PC McPherson.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions to be put.

Question Time

There were no questions put.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Meeting

Date.....