

WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 8th July 2004
at Admaston House at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Cllr. – E. A. Cowling Committee Chairman
Cllrs. K.J.S. Ballantyne, C. Carver, Ms. T. Kenny and
S. Rawlings.
Mr. M. Goldstraw – Clerk

F&GP

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

04/30 Apologies for Absence

All Members of Committee being present, there were no apologies due.

04/31 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2004 were confirmed and signed, by the Chairman, as a true record.

The Clerk informed the meeting that cover for gates and fences had been added to Council's insurance policy as instructed and that there had been no additional premium.

04/32 Budget 2005/6 Preparation

a) Budget 2005/6

Cllr. Cowling presented to the meeting a discussion document prepared by the Clerk in consultation with himself and Cllr. Ballantyne (Council Chairman) which set out a draft budget for the year 2005/6.

Members went through the draft budget heading by heading, discussing each and suggesting amendments where it was felt appropriate. Members were aware that the exercise was to set a draft budget to be put before main Council for approval.

The following headings were amended:

Hall Hire – Cllr. Ballantyne proposed that the suggested budget for Hall Hire should be sufficient to reflect an equality of fees between Wrockwardine Parish Hall and Admaston House and that Council should endeavour to ensure that all meetings [now including those of the F&GP Committee] should be alternated between venues. An increase (of £200) to £600 was thought to be sufficient to allow for the proposition. Seconded by Cllr. Rawlings, it was RESOLVED.

Chairman's Allowance – [Cllr. Ballantyne withdrew from the discussion]
Cllr. Rawlings proposed that the Chairman's Allowance should be increased to £600. Seconded by Cllr. Ms. Kenny it was RESOLVED.

Playing Fields – Members felt that there were insufficient funds set aside for the resurfacing of the football pitch at Wrockwardine Playing Fields. Cllr. Ballantyne proposed that a sum of £1300 be set aside in addition to the reserve of £700. Seconded by Cllr. Carver it was RESOLVED.

Parish Improvements

Members agreed to increase the budget for Parish Improvements by a further £1400.

Members were content that the proposed budget was in line with that of the previous year and RESOLVED to commend the budget to Council with the recommendation that the level of precept could be kept the same as the previous year with the addition of 5% for inflation.

	BUDGET 2004/5	BUDGET RECOMMENDED 2005/6
Clerks Salary	4600	6000
Tax & N. I	}	2500
Clerks Travel	200	300
Stationery Telephone Postage	600	700
Subs & Fees	1200	2800*
Insurance	1200	1200
Cllrs. Travel	100	100
Training (was legal fees/training)	N/A	200
Lighting (electricity)	4100	4500
Hall Hire	200	600
Fields Maint	1500	3000
Misc	1000	0.00 (Heading discontinued)
Chairman's allowance	<u>300</u>	<u>600</u>
Sub Total	15000	22500
Grants (sect 137)	5000	3000
Lighting Refurbishment	3000	1000
Rights of Way	1300	0.00 (see Subs & Fees above)
Election Exp	1200	0.00
Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Sub Total	25500	26500
W'dine Playing Field	700	1300
Bus shelter (Admaston)	1000	1000
Newsletter	500	1800
Admaston Halt study (net)	1800	1000
Legal fees/training	2000	0.00
Parish Improvements	3000	3400
Stone inscription	<u>500</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	35000	35000

b) Development Plan 2005 - 2007

Cllr. Ballantyne asked that the production of a Development Plan be looked at in more detail at the next F&GP meeting after full Council had been given the opportunity to explore further those items raised at the informal “Blue Sky Thinking” session. The Clerk agreed to make his notes from the session available to Councillors and place the matter on the agenda for the next F&GP meeting. Cllr. Ballantyne reminded the meeting that a Development Plan was simply a statement of intent and would perhaps aid Council in its forward thinking.

04/33 Request for grant aid by Admaston house Trust

The Chairman expressed concern over the two applications recently received from Admaston House Trust; he reminded members that at a recent meeting of the Committee a full discussion had taken place on ways in which the Trust could be helped to solve some of the difficulties it was having. During that discussion Members made it quite clear that the Committee had no difficulties at present with users of Admaston Green [Parish Council ownership] occasionally parking upon it (the football clubs were specifically referred to) and it was agreed that there was no need to prevent access to the Green by placing bollards along the perimeter. What had been agreed at the previous meeting was that a gate at the entrance to the car park [Trust ownership] would most probably be the best solution and if the Trust felt that it needed financial assistance to provide such a gate it should request a grant in the normal way.

The Chairman stated that what was before the Committee for consideration was two applications for two different schemes. The larger of the two schemes was simply a resurrection of the proposal that (amongst other provisions) there should be bollards along the perimeter of Admaston Green; the very scheme which had already been rejected by the Committee. For this scheme, the Chairman proposed that under the provision of Council’s Standing Orders which states that once a matter has been decided upon it shall not be discussed again within a period of six months, the Committee recommends to Council that this larger of the two schemes be not considered. Seconded by Cllr. Ballantyne it was RESOLVED that Committee recommend to Council that the larger of the two schemes be not considered.

Cllr. Ballantyne asked if the Committee could give some guidance to Council on the second scheme put forward for financial assistance by the Trust. The scheme being essentially the provision of a gate and two drop bollards.

Cllr. Cowling read to the meeting a letter recently received by the Clerk from the Trust Secretary. Cllr. Cowling stated that substance of the letter appeared to be that the Trust was in imminent danger of failing, the main helpers being elderly and none of the present users apparently willing to take on the responsibility of running the House. The letter sought information on whether it was possible for the Parish Council to either take over the House or substantially grant aid it to allow for professional paid staff.

Members expressed concern that the present users seemed unwilling to prevent the Trust from failing. The meeting heard that the Trust AGM was to be held the day after the F&GP Committee Meeting. Members hoped that the users would come forward and support the Trust.

Cllr. Ballantyne proposed that the Committee recommend to Council that because of the content of the letter received from the Trust Secretary Council may wish to consider it premature to make a grant for the provision of a gate. If the Trust is able to overcome its difficulties then the application could be reconsidered. Seconded by Cllr. Ms. Kenny it was RESOLVED.

04/34 Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be Thursday 2nd September 7.30p.m.to be held at Wrockwardine Parish Hall if available.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____