

WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 25th March 2010 at Wrockwardine Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Cllr. – T. Kiernan
Cllrs. E. Dawes, Nadine Evans, S. Rawlings, Jo Savage and Sheila
Turner.

M. Goldstraw – Clerk.

F&GP

09/01 Welcome from Chairman

The Chairman (Cllr. Kiernan) welcomed all to the meeting.

09/02 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

09/03 Minutes

There were no minutes to receive.

09/04 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Rawlings declared a pecuniary interest in all matters relating to the grass cutting contracts.

09/05 Dothill Nature Reserve

Cllr. Rawlings presented a report on a meeting he had attended on behalf of council which had discussed proposals to create a Local Nature Reserve (Dothill Nature Reserve). The meeting heard that the initiative was being promoted by Pete Lambert of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and supported by Wellington Town Council and the Borough. Although the majority of the land which would be affected was in the parish of Wellington a substantial portion was in the parish of Wrockwardine and included the site of the proposed allotments and orchard.

The meeting discussed the proposals and concerns were expressed over what restrictions might be imposed by such a QUANGO on the areas in question.

It was resolved to invite Mr. Lambert to talk to members and answer questions at a main parish council meeting.

09/06 Electronic delivery of planning applications

The meeting discussed the imminent cessation of the receipt of paper copies of planning applications and their replacement by digital files. Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to Council that the Clerk should purchase a “memory stick” for use with his personal lap top (Council to

“borrow” the Clerk’s lap top for the time being) and that the planning files should be downloaded onto the memory stick and made available to meetings.

The Clerk agreed to notify all members who had access to email of any planning applications relevant to the parish in advance of any meeting and to continue to notify all members of planning matters by way of the normal agenda. It was agreed to request that all members should endeavour to review planning matters prior council meetings and notify the Clerk if there were any issues which needed to be brought to the attention of Council. The Clerk agreed to make all plans available electronically half an hour before all meetings to allow any member (or member of the public as a courtesy) to view them.

It was agreed that the presentation of planning matters to the council should be kept under review.

09/07 Grass Cutting Contracts - Specification

The meeting agreed that Cllr. Rawlings could take part in the discussion because it was to be limited to the production of a standard specification to allow a fair tendering process. Cllr. Rawlings restricted his comments to answering questions on the present cutting regime.

It was noted that for the time being Council had agreed to keep the contracts for the two playing fields of Pemberton Road and Walcot as separate contracts because the terms of their lease required the addition of regular ROSPA inspections and litter picking as well as grass cutting and this was presently subject to an existing contract.

The meeting discussed the production of a tender specification for grass cutting at Wrockwardine Playing Fields, Longyard Meadow and Admaston Green along with provision for the addition of the soon to be acquired allotment and orchard site.

Following discussion it was agreed that a tender document consisting of greater detail should be produced. Members agreed to co-operate in the production of a specification which could be presented to council for approval.

Referring to a discussion held at the March meeting of Council, Cllr. Mrs Savage asked for guidance in how she should advise the PCC to provide information to Council in regard to its grass cutting responsibilities. The meeting assisted Cllr. Mrs Savage.

It was agreed that a separate specification for the cutting of hedges should be produced.

09/08 Cost of Street Lighting to the Parish

The meeting noted that the Borough Council were charging an extra charge of £29.44 to the residents of those parishes who had not taken the responsibility

of street lighting. It was calculated that if Wrockwardine was not a lighting authority the total cost to the parish would be £39'096.32. The meeting was content that it provided an economical service to its residents under the status quo.

09/09 Next Meeting

Next meeting *if required* to be Thursday 29th April 2009 at Admaston House at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:07 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____