

WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2008 at Wrockwardine Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. – S.C. Rawlings - Chairman
Cllrs. Mrs. E. Ballantyne, K.J.S. Ballantyne, E. Dawes, Mrs
Nadine Evans, T. Kiernan, D. Powell, Mrs Jo Savage and Mrs
Sheila Turner.
Mr. M. Goldstraw – Clerk

Also Present: Mr A. Orrell.

08/121 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending on such a wintry evening.

08/122 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Craik who had informed the Clerk that although he would do his best to attend on time, his arrival would be subject to the vagaries of rail travel and therefore he may be late.

Apologies were received from PC Judith McPherson and CSO Suzy Coombs. Courtesy apologies were received from Borough Councillor Miss Seymour.

08/123 Police Report

The Chairman moved to the Public Session.

08/124 Public Session

Mr. Orrell asked which play areas were to be discussed under agenda item 12c as he felt that if the discussion was to be related to the recently provided Admaston facility he may have been able to assist Council; having been informed that the areas to be discussed were to be the Burnell Road and Walcot playgrounds, he left the meeting after being thanked by the Chairman for his attendance and offer of assistance.

08/125 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. K J S Ballantyne declared an interest in planning application W08/1305.

08/126 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2008 were confirmed and signed, by the Chairman, as a true record.

7. 37 p.m. Cllr. Craik joined the meeting.

08/127 Street Signs

The meeting was reminded that Council had adopted a policy of providing street signs in the parish and the Chairman asked Members where they would

like the next signs to be placed as part of the rolling programme. The Chairman stated that he felt there was a need for a sign at Burcott Road and he asked members to reconsider placing one opposite the Umbrella House for “Aston”.

Cllr. Ballantyne asked the meeting to consider placing a sign for Bratton Lane by the Gate as it may, in the future, be considered to be a “quiet lane” along with a sign for the road from Wrockwardine village to the bridge “Station Road Wrockwardine”. Other suggestions made by Cllr. Ballantyne were for “Allscott Bank – also known as Smithy Lane” (x 2).

Following discussion Cllr. Ballantyne proposed that, subject to the clarification of names, the following signs be ordered:

“Allscott Bank” x 2

“Station Road” x 2

“Aston Lane” x 1

Seconded by Cllr. Mrs Savage it was RESOLVED.

08/128 Rural Matters

a) Parish Plans

The Chairman stated that he would like to put Parish Plans on the next F&GP agenda so that some discussion can be had to assist Council in deciding whether or not it wished to go ahead with producing a plan.

The Clerk was asked to invite Caroline Oaks to address the next meeting on the subject of Parish Plans.

b) Street Lighting in Wrockwardine

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been contacted by a resident concerned about the lack of lighting at the Smithy end of the village and, in anticipation of the Council meeting, he had met with representatives of Eon to explore possible solutions. It was noted that there was strong opposition from the owner of the Old Vicarage to the existing light being activated.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the possibility of a new lamp on the other side of the road had been explored and it was hoped that estimates of costs would be available in January.

The meeting heard that there had also been requests for the provision of lighting in the vicinity of the cemetery and details of a possible solution were provided. The Chairman felt that the views of the residents should be obtained. Cllr. Mrs Savage recalled that an ad hoc survey had been carried out some considerable time ago and at that point no one wanted extra lighting because it was felt that it would spoil the rural nature of the area.

Cllr. Kiernan stated that he would make enquiries as to the views of present residents.

Cllr. Ballantyne stated that he was conscious that Wrockwardine had jealously guarded its village atmosphere and he had concerns that the one thing that urbanised a rural community was street lighting, followed by footpaths etc. Given the often expressed concerns of residents of Wrockwardine over increasing traffic, Cllr. Ballantyne felt that residents could not have it both ways.

Cllr. Ballantyne stated that if Council were minded to consider the addition of such lighting he would first like to see a full consultation of the whole village taking into account the likely impact on traffic volumes with Council setting down all the arguments both for and against. Cllr. Ballantyne requested that in the event that lights were provided they should be white down lights.

08/129 Traffic Matters

The meeting agreed to request that the Borough provide a sign to be placed at the part of Bratton Road after vehicles have turned right leaving the one way portion of the road clearly indicating that the road has become two way traffic.

Cllr. Dawes reported that the white lining at Admaston cross road had become too faded.

Cllr. Craik asked if the Borough could be urged to clear the drains at the cross roads.

Cllr. Kiernan (as Borough Councillor) agreed to take the traffic matters to the Borough.

08/120 Code of Conduct – Member’s Indemnity

There Clerk reported that he had been required to fill in anew proposal form and had done so.

08/121 Admaston House Trust

a) Report from Parish Representative.

There was no report.

Cllr. Powell gave details of the Carol Concert to be held on the 12th December.

08/122 Parish Improvements

a) Handy man Wrockwardine

The meeting discussed the need for someone to be available to attend to urgent maintenance in the village. No resolution was made.

b) Adoption of red telephone kiosk Alscott

The Clerk confirmed that contracts had been exchanged and that as soon as BT had confirmed that the equipment had been removed the ownership would

automatically transfer to the Parish.

c) Play Areas

The meeting heard that considerable positive progress had been made in the possible transfer of the play areas at Bratton Road and Walcot from the Borough to the Parish. The meeting thanked Cllr. Kiernan for his efforts to focus the Borough to bring this matter to completion.

Cllr. Kiernan stated that he had been informed by Borough Cabinet members that the transfer ought to be completed by January 2009.

d) Quotes for work on Wrockwardine Playing Field

The meeting received an estimate from M J Powell for the concreting of slab for seating area and concreting all around the old seating plinth and to replace the guttering around the shelter in the sum of £650 plus VAT. It was RESOLVED to accept the estimate and to instruct Mr. Powell to carry out the work as soon as possible.

The meeting received a quote A Y Fabrications to repair the seat on the playing field (metal seat in the old shelter) in the sum of £690 plus VAT. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote and to instruct A Y Fabrications to carry out the work as soon as possible.

e) Village planting

The meeting discussed the recent instructions to the Borough to provide bulbs. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Borough had agreed to extend the project (at no further cost to the parish) and details were provided.

08/123 Purchase of Office Equipment

The Clerk requested that Council should purchase a computer on the basis that it belonged to them and the Clerk could use it for personal use. That the Parish Council would write the computer off over a period of five years and if the Clerk left the employ of the Parish Council for whatever reason during that period he would pay them for a percentage of the value of the computer based on the remaining term of the five year write off.

It was RESOLVED that Council should fund the purchase of the Clerk's Computer in the sum of £577.38 including VAT with the PC able to reclaim 15% VAT. It was resolved that the purchase was to be based on the write off principle.

08/124 Adoption of the new Freedom of Information Act Standard Document

It was RESOLVED to adopt the new Freedom of Information Act Standard Document.

8.37 p.m. Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage left the room.

8.40 p.m. Cllr Mrs Jo Savage rejoined the meeting.

08/125 Parish Magazine and its distribution

The Clerk tabled a number of examples of existing parish magazines and the meeting discussed the production and distribution of the newsletter. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a number of alternative quotes for printing and distribution.

08/126 Correspondence

1. Correspondence requiring a decision

A. Orrell Report on Parish Lighting. Following discussion it was acknowledged that Mr. Orrell's correspondence was helpful and it was RESOLVED to instruct the F&GP Committee to fully investigate the implications. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of lighting to other parishes.

West Mercia Constabulary Your Police Service – Consultation. It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Craik represent Council and it was noted that the date of the meeting was to be the next PC meeting; Cllr. Craik was formally excused attendance at the next meeting.

W'dine Over 60's Club

The meeting received a request for assisted funding for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. It was RESOLVED to deal with the matter immediately rather than at the next grants meeting. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Craik that a donation of £300 be made; seconded by Cllr. Nadine Evans it was RESOLVED.

2. Correspondence not requiring a decision

CPRE Fieldwork Magazine. Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage.

NHS Developing Health and Health Care – a strategy. Cllr. Craik.

NALC Annual Report – Chairman.

T&WC Draft Charter for working together – Chairman.

T&WC Bus User Group Meeting – Cllr. Kiernan reported that in 2010 the contract between Arriva and the Borough would be up for renewal and that there were concerns over maintenance of service levels; the matter would be discussed at the group's January Meeting.

The Chairman presented the Police Report to the meeting.

08/127 Planning Matters

The following planning matters were placed before the meeting:

Applications

W08/1298 Erection of conservatory 8 Charlton. There were no objections.

W08/1305 Erection of a single storey utility room extension; Silverdale Station Road Admaston. There were no objections.
[Cllr. Ballantyne withdrew for the duration of this matter]

Permissions

W08/1175 Erection of conservatory to rear Meonshaw Wrockwardine.

W08/1130 Erection of three storey side extension and single storey rear extension 24 Whiteways Drive Bratton.

Refusals

W08/1121 Erection of first floor extension over existing garage 19 Aldermead Close.

The meeting noted that the Borough had received notice of appeal against refusal for erection of two storey side extension etc to 18 Aldermead Close.

The meeting noted that in the matter of the appeal against refusal of permission for the erection of walls, lions etc at 19 Aldermead Close the appellant withdrew from the appeal hearing of 25th November. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to the Planning Authority for clarification of whether the appellant has withdrawn his appeal and was informed that the appeal had been withdrawn and the appellant would be required to demolish the offending parts of the wall within a given time frame.

08/128 Accounts for Payment

The meeting noted the following additional payments:

Cheque 010221	W'dine Parish Hall rent	£77.00
Cheque 010222	JW & SC Rawlings grass cutting	£96.60
Cheque 010223	JW & SC Rawlings grass cutting	£2640.40
Cheque 010224	M J Powell erection of notice board	£69.00
Cheque 010225	W'dine Over 60's 0 Grant	£60.00

Receipts & Payments - It was RESOLVED - that these be approved and paid as tabled.

Statement 21 was tabled along with the reconciliation and was approved.

08/129 Press Statement

Delegated to the Chairman.

08/130 Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting and wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

08/131 Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Council was to be on Wednesday 14th January 2009 to commence at 7.30 p.m. at Admaston House.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____