

## **WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th July 2001 at Admaston House Community Centre, Admaston at 7.30. p.m.**

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#### **Present:**

Cllr. Mrs. R. Hargrave - Chairman.  
Cllrs. K.J.S. Ballantyne, A. Orrell, , V.M.E. Holt,  
D. Powell, S.C. Rawlings and Mrs. J. Savage.  
Mr. M. Goldstraw - Clerk

**Also in attendance:** Cllrs. Blackwell (Unitary Councillor).  
Six members of the public.

#### **01/114 Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and stating that it was particularly rewarding when so many members of the public took an interest in the workings of their community. The Chairman informed Members that it would be her intention to deal with matters as set out on the agenda, up to the confirmation of the minutes, and then to bring forward item 11 (Admaston House) as this was the matter of most concern to those members of the public who were present. After item 11 had been dealt with, the agenda would be resumed.

#### **01/115 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. Carver, Cllr. Mrs. Jones and Cllr. Brown.

#### **01/116 Declaration of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **01/117 Police Report**

There was no report. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had not received apologies from PC Palmer.

#### **01/118 Minutes**

**The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2001 were confirmed and signed, by the Chairman, as a true record.**

#### **01/119 Admaston House**

The Chairman gave an outline of a report presented by Cllr. Orrell and the proposal for financial assistance. The (T&WC) officers recommendation for closure of the House, which was to be put before the T&WC Policy and Resources Committee was read to the meeting. The Chairman asked for

comments.

Cllr. Orrell gave an additional report of the trustees meeting which had been held on the previous evening, along with a suggested response to the officers recommendation, which it was hoped Cllr. Blackwell could present to the P & R Committee.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Orrell if the Trust had come to a workable conclusion. Cllr. Orrell stated that the Trust would take on the running of the House, if offered, and they desire to fight the officers report as being inaccurate. Cllr. Orrell gave details of the stated inaccuracies along with the supposed cause of the, so called, health risks.

Cllr. Orrell summarised by stating that in many ways, the closure on health grounds was irrelevant. Either the Parish Council makes a commitment to support the aims of the Trust or T&WC could carry out its proposals and close the building, in which case any blame would firmly be attached to them. It is no longer the case, he stated, that the Parish Council and the Trust are at loggerheads.

Members discussed the officers report in detail. Cllr. Ballantyne commented on the supposed lack of legal implications, citing reasons why he did not believe there were none. The most important legal consideration being that if the Town Green Application were to be approved, then the land would be worthless. It was felt that the report had been presented in such a way as to provide a “comfortable” way to dispose of the House. Concern was expressed over the possibility of any money raised in the disposal being absorbed into the corporate pot and lost to the community.

7.55pm Cllr. Miss J. Seymour (Unitary Ward Member) arrived.

Members discussed the recommendations tabled by Cllr. Orrell and hoped that Cllr. Blackwell would have the opportunity to take the views of the council to the P&R Committee.

Cllr. Orrell referred to budget summaries and gave details of the trusts finances. He then made reference to the councils budget and precept and stated that if the house is going to stay open, future responsibility will have to be with the Trust and the PC.

Cllr. Mrs. Savage urged members to formulate and agree to a strong proposition to show T&WC we mean business.

Cllr. Blackwell, who had been brought into the debate by the Chairman, stated that he had attended the meeting to learn what stand the Parish Council and the Trust wished him to make. He reminded Members that it was less than 24 hours until the matter was to be dealt with by T&WC. What he really needed was to take back a very positive proposal as without a concrete recommendation or proposal, his words would count for nothing.

Cllr. Powell stated that one of the most damaging perceptions is that the PC and Trust are in conflict and are wasting everyone’s time. He suggested that one way forward was to demonstrate co-operation and a preparedness of the PC to provide funds.

Cllr. Ballantyne stated that it was important that T&WC got the message from Cllr. Blackwell that the PC is behind the Trust's desire to keep the House open and is prepared to make up, from its precept, for a budgetary shortfall.

Following further discussion, Cllr. Orrell proposed that:

**Wrockwardine Parish Council resolve to support Admaston House Trust financially in the running of the House. Financial aid would be available for 3 years initially, subject to a maximum of four thousand pounds per annum, to finance any potential shortfall. In the second and third years, such finance would depend upon the provision of satisfactory financial information from the Trust.**

The proposition was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Savage.

Cllr. Ballantyne called for a recorded vote.

There being no amendments, the Chairman put the proposition to the meeting and the voting was recorded as follows:

In favour; Cllrs. Mrs. J. Savage, S. Rawlings, V.M.E. Holt, A. Orrell and Mrs. R. Hargrave.

There were no votes cast against the proposition.

Cllrs. Ballantyne and Powell took no part in the vote, the Clerk acknowledged their previously recorded declarations of interest.

**The vote being carried, the proposition was therefore resolved.**

#### **01/120 Matters arising**

0/98 Street Lights

Cllr. Holt handed to the meeting an inventory of street lights in the Wrockwardine area of the parish. The Clerk informed the meeting that now he had the complete inventory, a meeting of the Working group could be fixed for a suitable time as soon as Cllr. Brown had returned from holiday.

Contaminated Land Strategy

The Clerk confirmed that T&WC had been made aware of the concerns over the Chemical factory at Overly.

Street Light incident

The Clerk stated that the council had received no reply from the claimant. The Chairman informed the Meeting that she had received a request from the party requesting copies of the relevant council minutes, and had replied courteously giving the correct response.

#### **01/121 Traffic Transport and Highway Matters**

Cllr. Ballantyne apologised for not attending the Rural Bus Group, giving reasons which members fully accepted.

#### **01/122 Notice of Audit**

The meeting was informed that the Audit of the council's accounts would take place on the 6th August and all the relevant public notices had been displayed. Approval for the Accounts was given and the Chairman signed the council

copy.

Cllr. Orrell commented upon the liability of the council towards the playing fields.

**At approximately 8.53pm, Cllr. Holt was taken seriously ill.**

**At 9.05pm, with Cllrs. Mrs. Hargrave, Ballantyne and Orrell, and the Clerk present the Chairman announced that, due to the somewhat distressing circumstances, it would be appropriate for the meeting to come to as swift a close as possible. All present were in agreement.**

The Clerk, with full deference to the situation, requested that the matter of accounts be dealt with quickly to allow bills to be paid. Cllr. Orrell in a similar manner asked that the planning application for Land adjacent to Church Farm be dealt with as the reply date had been postponed to allow the council's opinion.

**01/123 Accounts**

**Resolved that the accounts and payments be approved as tabled.**

**01/124 Planning Matters**

**(a) Applications**

**Consideration was given to the following application:**

W01/0512      Erection of a two storey dwelling with detached garage/garden store. Land adjacent Church Farm Wrockwardine.

Resolved to object.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to make appropriate enquiries as to the health of Cllr. Holt and keep Members informed.

The meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_