

WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2003
at Wrockwardine Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Cllr. - K.J.S. Ballantyne - Chairman
Cllrs. B. Brown, A. E. Cowling, Ms. T. Kenny, A. Orrell,
D. Powell, S. Rawlings and Mrs. J. Savage.
Mr. M. Goldstraw – Clerk

Also in attendance: WPC Judith McPherson
One member of the public.

03/163 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed all present. A particular welcome was extended by all to Cllrs. B. Brown and A.E. Cowling. Addressing Cllr. Brown, the Chairman stated that it was good to see that he was well and fully recovered from his recent minor surgery. In addressing Cllr. A.E. Cowling, the Chairman gave a special welcome at his [Cllr. Cowling's] return following a recent incapacity.

The Chairman stated that, with the permission of Council, he would be making a slight alteration to the published agenda to allow for three matters which had come to his attention post publication. Two matters would be dealt with in accounts for payment and a third would be dealt with in Planning Matters. He proposed to move item 15 on the agenda (accounts) to item 6 and that all subsequent items of business should then follow on, renumbered. Members were content.

Members were reminded that they had the right to have any reasonable matter placed on the agenda and were asked to contact the Clerk at least ten days prior to a meeting to ensure that such items were included.

03/164 Police Session

WPC McPherson stated that she had no report to give and asked Members if there were any matters which required her attention.

Cllr. Powell gave a brief update on the "Youth Shelter" and the matter was discussed.

Cllr. Orrell stated that he had recently attended a meeting of the Wrockwardine Parish Action Group and gave a brief report of concerns expressed at the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Savage reported that the seat on Wellington Road had been completely destroyed by vandals. Cllr. Orrell stated that WPC McPherson had already agreed to get someone from the police to discuss vandalism with a group of residents and Councillors. WPC McPherson confirmed that Inspector

Burke would attend any such meeting along with the Crime Risk Officer.

There being no remaining police business to discuss, WPC McPherson was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

03/165 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Craik along with the reason for being absent. The apology was accepted.

03/166 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Powell informed the meeting that there may be a planning application in which he had an interest presented to the meeting and if such was the case, he would withdraw and take no part in the proceedings for that application.

03/167 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2003 were confirmed and signed, by the Chairman, as a true record.

03/168 Accounts for Payment

The Clerk asked Members to formally approve the recompense to Cllr. Powell for the sum of £5.99 incurred in the purchase of a padlock for use on the refuse bins situated at the Youth Shelter. This was approved. [Cllr. Powell took no part in the discussion or vote]

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

Statement 122 was tabled along with the reconciliation and was approved.

Bank Account Lloyds TSB

The Clerk brought to the attention of the meeting a recent change of policy by Lloyds TSB whereby the account held by Council had been re-designated as a "club" account and thereby no longer enjoyed any interest on the deposits at all. The Clerk asked Members to consider either running a deposit account alongside the current account with the substantial balances being held on deposit and the ability of the Clerk to transfer funds between accounts as necessary, or transferring the whole of the Council funds to another bank following appropriate investigation. The Clerk informed the meeting that there were certain banks which had special Parish Council accounts which took account of reasonably high balances and rewarded accordingly.

Cllr. Rawlings proposed that the account be moved to a bank which offered a more appropriate rate of interest. Following discussion, the proposition was seconded by Cllr. Powell. It was **RESOLVED** that the account be moved to a bank which offered a more appropriate rate of interest. Clerk to investigate.

The Clerk brought to the attention of Members two invoices which had been received but had not been placed on the list for payment approval as it was

understood that Council would not be content that they be paid.

Public Benches

The first invoice was from Raby Saw Mills for construction and provision of seats.

The meeting discussed the quality of the seats and their disappointment in them. It was agreed that they were of extremely poor quality and most certainly not of the quality expected for the job they were ordered for, namely public benches. Cllr. Ballantyne proposed that the seats be sent back stating that Council has no intention of paying for them as they are not of satisfactory quality and that any outstanding orders should be cancelled. Seconded by Cllr. Ms. Kenny it was **RESOLVED** that the seats be sent back stating that Council has no intention of paying for them as they are not of satisfactory quality and that any outstanding orders should be cancelled. [Cllr. Rawlings asked that it be noted for the record that he abstained from the vote]

Legal Fees Grant of Easement

The second invoice had been received from Messrs Foster Baxter Cooksey, addressed to Peter Holt Esq. but marked "Payment by Wrockwardine Parish Council". The invoice was for legal fees relating to a grant of easement in Wrockwardine.

Members discussed the request by (the then Cllr.) Mrs. Watts for help in funding legal costs which may be incurred by Mr. Holt in the granting of a right of way over his land which had been requested on behalf of residents as a safety precaution to protect school children who otherwise would have to use a busy road without a footpath. It had now come to the attention of Council that Mr. Holt was insisting that individual residents sign an agreement which in effect restricted the use of the way to them as named individuals.

The Clerk advised the meeting that that the Parish Council at its meeting of 8th January 2003 agreed (following a request from the Wrockwardine Millennium Committee for funding towards possible legal costs which may be incurred in the procurement of a footpath at Burcott Way) to a grant of up to £200 to the Committee to cover the legal costs should they arise. This agreement was for a grant to the Millennium Committee, not Mr. Holt, and is limited to the sum of £200. The Local Government Act 1972 s137 allows Parish Councils to make grants to local organisations but specifically forbids any grant to an individual. This provision not only forbids funds to be granted to Mr. Holt as an individual, but also presented a further difficulty in that the request for possible funding from the Millennium Committee was made on the understanding that the Committee had negotiated the easement on behalf of (at the very least) the residents of certain roads/streets in the village of Wrockwardine and not, as was understood to be the case, to specific individuals within the Parish. By restricting the use of the right of way to certain named individuals, the Grant of Easement had fallen outside any way in which this Council could lawfully grant funds.

The meeting **RESOLVED** that it would not be lawful to pay the bill and that Messrs. Foster Baxter Cooksey should be advised accordingly.

03/169 Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor by way of Resignation

The meeting was informed that following the expiry of the statutory 14 days of the date of public advertisement, it was now known by the Parish Council that no poll had been demanded. The Clerk stated that this meant that the Council now had a duty to fill the vacancy of Parish Councillor by co-option. The necessary notices had been prepared and would be placed around the parish giving a closing date of 3rd December for any nominations to be received. This would mean that Council would be in a position to co-opt at its next meeting.

03/170 Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Clerk reported that despite the best efforts, owing to the unavailability of Committee members it had not been possible to find one date within the time scale set down whereby the meeting would have been quorate. Therefore there had been no F&GP meeting.

03/171 Budget 2004/5

Budget

The Chairman reported that although there had been no F&GP meeting, there had been an informal meeting of the Chairman, Cllr. Orrell and the Clerk and a draft budget had been prepared.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Orrell for his hard work in preparing the draft. Cllr. Orrell presented the draft budget to Members and invited discussion. Following discussion, Cllr. Brown proposed that the draft budget be accepted with the total being £35'000 (Thirty Five Thousand Pounds). Seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Savage it was **RESOLVED** that the draft budget be accepted with the total being £35'000 (Thirty Five Thousand Pounds).

Precept

Members discussed the setting of a precept in relation to the budget. Following discussion Cllr. Cowling proposed that a precept of £ 35'000 (Thirty Five Thousand Pounds) be raised in the year 2004/2005. Seconded by Cllr. Ms. Kenny it was **RESOLVED** that a precept of £ 35'000 (Thirty Five Thousand Pounds) be raised in the year 2004/2005. [There were five votes in favour and three against the proposition]

03/172 Youth Shelter

There was no report to be made on the shelter. The project having been completed, the Clerk was asked to drop the topic from the agenda.

03/173 Traffic and Transport Matters

Cllr. Orrell gave a report on the meeting held between the Chairman, Cllr. Orrell, the Clerk and Mr. Neil Roderick at the offices of the Borough Council on 11/11/03.

Cllr. Ms. Kenny reported police liaison in Charlton.

Cllr. Rawlings reported concerns over parking problems at the shops in

Admaston. The Clerk reported that the Borough had stated that it was due to take action shortly in response to requests from Cllr. Blackwell.

Cllr. Brown asked the meeting to revisit his suggestion to contact the HGV operators in the area with a view to holding talks about the Borough proposals in the new Local Plan. He proposed that Council continue to push the initiative. Seconded by Cllr. Powell it was **RESOLVED**. Cllr. Orrell asked that it be noted for the record that he was against the proposal and gave his reasons.

03/174 Admaston House Report from Parish Representative

The Chairman reported that Cllr. Cowling had been unable to attend any meetings of the Trust due to ill health and therefore there was no report to present.

The Chairman read out a letter from Cllr. Cowling who wished to resign as Parish Representative on the Trust. Cllr. Cowling was thanked by Council for representing them.

There being a vacancy, the Chairman called for a volunteer. There being no volunteer, the vacancy was placed in abeyance until such time as a volunteer is found.

Cllr. Powell, on behalf of the Trust, formally thanked Cllr. Cowling for all his work during his time as Parish Representative. Cllr. Powell then gave a brief report on the recent activities of the Trust.

03/175 Vital Villages

Parish Magazine

The Chairman informed the meeting that the next magazine was almost ready to be published and members were once again asked for contributions.

Cllr. Orrell urged members to read the feasibility study on the provision of a rail link at Admaston. Cllr. Ballantyne gave an update on the progress of the study.

03/176 Correspondence

1. Telford & Wrekin Council

Enforcement Officer Notice of Withdrawal of application by Express Diaries

Katrina Baker Parish Charter – The Clerk was asked to invite Mrs. Baker to a convenient meeting to resolve the matter.

Bob King Copy of letter to Severn Trent re footpath 14

2. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

SALC AGM 15th November – noted.

T&WP Meeting 26 November – noted.

Safety Partnership Newsletter – noted

CPRE Landscapes newsletter – noted.

CPRE Countryside Voice Magazine – circulated.

Mr. Hudson Report of damage caused by motor accident – The Clerk was asked to refer the matter to the Highway Authority.
NALC Parish Pump – circulated.

03/177 Planning Matters

Members considered the following applications:

- W03/1151 Erection of a sun room, Manor Farm Allscott
- W03/1161 Proposed first floor bedroom extension to rear of 1 Elmsdale Crescent Admaston.
- W03/1276 Erection of detached 5 bedroom dwelling with attached triple garage with ancillary space above. With new boundary wall with entrance gates and construction of new vehicular access Plot 1 Bratton Road Bratton.
- W03/1286 Erection of porch and 2 storey rear extension 7 Rushmoor (see refusal)
- W03/1263 Reduction in height & width of 1 oak tree 33 Burnell Road Admaston. [Cllr. Powell withdrew for this application and took no part in the discussion]

There were no objections to any of the above applications.

There were no permissions.

The following refusal was noted.

- W03/0901 Erection of a porch and 2 storey rear extension 7 Rushmoor

The Chairman informed the meeting that an additional planning matter had come to his attention. He reported that the Wimpy Development at Bratton Road had reached the stage where building was about to take place on the plot of land which had hitherto been used as a storage compound. The developers had now moved all the storage facility and associated temporary structures onto land at Bratton Farm where no planning permission was extant. The Clerk was asked to write to the enforcement officer.

03/178 Reports

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received reports that the street lamp at Turreff Bungalows had not been working for some time. The lamp was not in the ownership of the Parish Council but also appeared not to be in the ownership of the Borough either. The residents were becoming rather frustrated. The Clerk asked for permission to instruct the contractors to repair the lamp on behalf of the Parish Council and to inform the Borough that the Parish had “adopted” the lamp. Members agreed.

- Cllr. Mrs. Savage - Reported a number of pot holes in Drummary Lane. In addition, it was noted that the sign at the bottom of the lane which stated "Not suitable for Heavy Vehicles" had been knocked down.
- Cllr. Rawlings - Reported that the lights (Highway Lights) on Bratton Road were not in good order, many had not been working for some time. Clerk to report to Borough. Asked for action to be taken over grit bins.
- Cllr. Cowlings - Reported that the Borough had not yet supplied a suitable sign for Bratton Road and Whiteways Drive.
- Cllr. Brown - Reported that the finger posts in Wrockwardine were in poor order. Following discussion Members agreed to place the matter on the next agenda for possible action by the Parish Council.
- Cllr. Powell - Reported that the new windows in the bus shelter at Admaston had been smashed.

03/179 Press Statement

There was to be no press statement.

03/180 Next Meeting

The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Wednesday, 10th December 2003 to commence at **7.30 p.m.** at Admaston House.

The meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____