

WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th October 2007 at Admaston House at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Also in attendance: PC Judith McPherson
CSO Suzy Coombs

07/88 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all present and gave notice that item 10 on the agenda (Revision of Standing Orders) would be dealt with between items 5 (Confirmation of Minutes) and 6 (Budget and Precept) and item 12 (F&GP meeting) would be taken at the end of the meeting.

07/89 Apologies for Absence

Apologies along with reasons for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Rawlings who had asked the meeting to allow for possible late attendance due to work pressure.

Courtesy apologies were received from Borough Councillor Miss Seymour; the Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr. Miss Seymour would be attending a planning meeting at the Borough Council where she hoped to make representation on behalf of local concerns about the proposed development on the site of St. Christopher's Hall.

7.31 p.m. Cllr. Miss Seymour joined the meeting.

07/90 Police Report

PC McPherson presented the police report and answered questions put to her from Members.

Members received an explanation as to why hand held cameras had not yet been purchased and gave details of allocations of speed enforcement operators but explained that no statistical information was available as the information was not logged.

PC McPherson agreed to find out if there was to be a review of the mechanism for deciding the criteria for placing enforcement cameras in the parish.

The meeting asked Cllr. Miss Seymour if she would find out from Borough officers John Charles and Keith Harris why a number of traffic related promises made over 18 months ago had yet to be carried out. Cllr. Miss

Seymour also agreed to ask if the Borough officers would take a fresh look at provision of speed enforcement cameras in the parish in light of the changed criteria.

7.47 p.m. Cllr. Rawlings joined the meeting.

7.48 p.m. After being thanked for their attendance PC Judith McPherson and CSO Suzy Coombes left the meeting.

07/91 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Rawlings declared that he had a commercial interest in item 9 on the agenda (Grass cutting contract) and would therefore withdraw completely from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Cllr. Powell declared his interest as Secretary of Admaston House Trust in the item requesting funding for the Trust and stated that he would withdraw completely from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Cllr. Kiernan informed the meeting that he had recently been made a Trustee of Admaston House Trust and therefore declared an interest in the item requesting funding for the Trust and stated that he would withdraw completely from the meeting at the appropriate time.

07/92 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2007 were confirmed and signed, by the Vice Chairman, as a true record.

Cllr. Dawes asked the meeting to note that although the minutes rightly did not record his apologies for the September meeting as they had not been received, he had made strenuous efforts to forward such apologies as were necessary but circumstances had conspired against him. He had in fact attempted on a number of occasions to telephone the Clerk without being able to get through [the Clerk fully accepted that at the time there were known problems with the relevant telephone line] and, having been unable to contact the Clerk, he then wrote a note of apology to the Chairman who, unbeknown to Cllr. Dawes, was away on holiday. The meeting fully accepted that Cllr. Dawes had done all he could to forward his apologies to the meeting on time.

07/93 Revision of Standing Orders

Public Participation in Meetings (Public Session)

The meeting discussed NALC legal briefing L11-07. It was RESOLVED to adopt the revised code of conduct expressly including paragraph 12 (2) and to revise Standing Orders in regard to the public participation in meetings as follows:

SO 70A

At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may at his/her discretion, and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow any member of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct which was adopted by Council on 9th May 2007 shall

apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting. Where, however, members of the council exercise their rights pursuant to SO 70B, below, members of the public shall be allowed to attend the meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted.

SO 70B

At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may permit members of the council (including co-opted members as defined by s.49(7) Local Government act 2000) who have a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business to be transacted at that meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on the 9th May 2007 shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting.

07/94 PUBLIC SESSION

There being no public present, there was no public session.

07/95 Budget and Precept

Budget

Cllr. Kiernan guided Members through the proposed budget which totalled £47'850.

Members discussed each budget item in detail. Cllr. Craik expressed concern over lack of information backing up the proposed expenditure of £4000 for the Clock at Wrockwardine. Cllr. Mrs. Savage gave some detail on the clock and allied church expenditure.

Cllr. Rawlings pointed out to the meeting that the proposed expenditure for the village hall was to be matched funding.

The Chairman explained the ramifications of the budget.

Members discussed the funding of the Clock.

Cllr. Craik proposed that the "Programmed Community Development Fund" be reduced to £8'000 to be achieved by the funding for the Clock being reduced to £2'000. The proposition was seconded by Cllr. Rawlings.

Clerks Salary	7000
Tax & N. I	2900
Pension Fund	1300
Clerks Travel	400
Office/Telephone	400
Stationery/Postage	750
Subs & Fees	1200
Insurance	2000
Cllrs. Travel	100
Training	200
Lighting (electricity)	4800
Hall Hire	500

Fields Maint	6000
Chairman's allowance	600
Grants (sect 137)	1500
Lighting Refurbishment	1200
Footpath Maintenance	1500
W'dine Playing Field	0.00
Bus shelter Maint	500
Parish Magazine	2000
Programmed Community Fund*	8000
Parish Imp (H'way Maint)	<u>3000</u>
Total	45850

Wrockwardine Clock	2000
Admaston House Community Centre	2000
Wrockwardine Parish Hall	2000
Allscott Development Fund	<u>2000</u>
*Programmed Community Development Fund	8000

The Chairman clarified that the meeting was proposing a total budget of £45'850 – the proposal was put. It was RESOLVED unanimously to set a budget for the forthcoming year of £45'850.

Precept

The Chairman proposed that a precept of £45'000 [Forty Five Thousand Pounds] be raised for the forthcoming year; seconded by Cllr. Craik. It was RESOLVED unanimously that a Precept of £45'000 be raised for the forthcoming year.

07/96 Funding of Admaston House

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the proposed development by the House and the recent request for assisted funding.

Cllr. Powell assisted the meeting by providing further evidence of need on behalf of the Trust.

8.45 p.m. Cllrs Powell and Kiernan left the room.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED that: This Council, having taken careful account of the points made by the Trustees of Admaston House and their representative, consider it expedient to allocate a sum of £10,000 [ten thousand pounds] to the Trust to be raised over the five financial years beginning 2008/2009 at a rate of £2,000 per year or at such other rate as Council may decide, such funding being dependent upon full lottery grant aid being forthcoming for the proposed refurbishment work and Phase I development as outlined to the Council at its meeting on 19 July 2007.

7.55 p.m. Cllrs Powell and Kiernan rejoined the meeting.

07/97 Lighting

Members gave consideration to the replacement of time clocks on the footway lights with photo electric cells.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Council owned 98 lamps, 43 of which already had photo electric cells following the recent refurbishment. This left 55 remaining on time switches. An estimated cost of £50 per conversion meant a total estimated cost of £2750. The Clerk then provided a break down of expenditure for the last two years on call outs to reset time clocks following electrical failures.

Cllr. Powell proposed that because it made economical sense to replace all remaining cells Council should resolve to replace the remaining 55 time clocks with photo electric cells; seconded by Cllr. Mrs Savage it was RESOLVED unanimously.

07/99 Grass Cutting Contract

9.00 p.m. Cllr. Rawlings left the room.

The Clerk tabled details of the contract renewal quote and Members discussed the Grass Cutting contract. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Ballantyne that the tabled quotation and cutting regime should be accepted by Council and that the present contract with JW & SC Rawlings should be renewed under the new terms; seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Evans it was RESOLVED.

9.08 p.m. Cllr. Rawlings rejoined the meeting.

07/100 Admaston House

Cllr. Rawlings stated that he had nothing to report.

Cllr. Kiernan reported that the Trust had recently lost one of its tenants who had left a large debt but the Trust were confident that the space would soon be re-let.

The Meeting congratulated Cllr. Kiernan on his appointment as a Trustee.

07/101 Parish Improvements

a) Street Signs

There was no progress to report.

b) Gates to Longyard Meadow

The Clerk informed the meeting that the work had been satisfactorily completed.

c) Planting in the Parish

The Chairman gave Members a progress report.

The Chairman reported that he had asked the Borough to provide a replacement sign for Shawbirch Road.

Cllr. Powell reported a number of Borough matters.

07/102 Grants

Little Chicks Pre-School

Cllr. Mrs Ballantyne reported that she had received no reply from the Pre-School. It was agreed that no action could be taken until the organisation had made contact and that the matter should be put into abeyance until they had.

07/103 Correspondence

1. Correspondence requiring a decision

T&WC	Customer Charter – noted.
SALC	New Parish insurance scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain an alternative quote at the appropriate time.
SALC	AGM 17 th November 2007 – Cllr. Craik.
SALC	New Councillor Training 30 th October 2007
T&WC	LDF Consultation Central Telford Area – Cllr. Rawlings.
T&WC	LDF Strategic Land Availability
Wrockwardine Deanery	Request for funding of Clock. Dealt with in the Budget discussion.

2. Correspondence not requiring a decision

WAC/SALC	Minutes and Agenda – Cllr. Kiernan. Cllr. Kiernan reported on his attendance at the last meeting and gave details of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service scheme to fit free smoke alarms.
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07/104 Planning Matters

Applications

The following applications were considered:

W07/1217	Erection of detached dwelling with attached garage and construction of new access; Land at Church Farm Wrockwardine. There were no objections.
W07/1225	Erection of one open fronted store and two open fronted field shelters (retrospective): Land at Ercall Lane Wellington. There were no objections.

Permissions

The following permissions were noted:

W07/1004	Erection of single storey rear extension Laurel Cottage The Avenue Wrockwardine.
W07/0949	Erection of two detached dwellings with detached single garages and construction of new access; Land adjacent to The Bungalow Allscott.

Refusals

The following refusals were noted:

W07/1030 Change of use from rifle range to stationing of holiday lodges Former rifle range The Wrekin.

W07/0994 Erection of first floor extension 19 Aldermead Close.

It was noted that the applicants for W07/0352 erection of six dwellings and alteration to existing access; 21 Bratton Road had lodged an appeal against the refusal of permission.

It was noted that the Borough had recently made a TPO on one Walnut Tree on land at Church Farm Wrockwardine.

07/105 Accounts for Payment

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

b) **Statements 8 [Bank of Scotland]** was tabled along with the reconciliation and was approved.

c) External Auditor's Report

The Clerk informed the meeting that the report of the External Auditor had been received however it was noted that the summary opinion given in Section 3 of the Annual Audit form – External Auditor's certificate and opinion was inaccurate. The Clerk stated that he had written to the Auditors noting with some disappointment that despite informing them that the comments made by the Internal Auditor had been explained and found to be unwarranted, they have nevertheless repeated those observations and adopted them as their own opinion.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Internal Auditor stated in his opinion that:

“The assets register does not appear to include the office equipment purchased from Tops Typewriter Services, i.e. a fax machine and answering machine.”

It was accepted by the meeting that the Clerk had explained to the Internal Auditor, and that he had been satisfied, that there was no requirement to include the equipment referred to in the Assets Register as it had been purchased by the Chairman out of his personal Chairman's allowance and therefore belonged to the Chairman and not to the Council. The Clerk informed the meeting that the External Auditor had been informed of this fact when the audit was submitted and the fact that this had subsequently been recorded in the Council Minutes of 13th September 2007.

The Clerk had informed the External Auditor that in view of this, it was wholly incorrect to conclude that Council's asset register was inaccurate and he had therefore requested that they amend and revise their opinion by deleting

the stated view. Until this was done, the Clerk recommended to Council that they could not accept the view or certificate signed by the External Auditor.

It was RESOLVED not to accept the view or the certificate as signed by the External Auditor until it had been amended to reflect an accurate opinion.

07/106 F&GP Committee

There were no minutes to receive.

Cllr. Kiernan proposed that as there was no business to put before the F&GP Committee the scheduled meeting for the end of October should not take place; seconded by Cllr. Rawlings it was RESOLVED.

07/107 Press Statement

The press release was delegated to the Chairman.

9.33 p.m. Cllr. Craik left the meeting.

07/108 Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman invited Cllr. Miss Seymour to present a report.

Cllr. Miss Seymour gave a report and answered questions. Members were given a report on the Borough planning meeting which had considered the development at land adjacent to St. Christopher's Hall along with a report on the Borough's budget proposals, Transforming Telford, Housing options and an update on the conservation of areas of the old sugar beet factory by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

07/109 Next Meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded members that the next meeting of the Council was to be on Wednesday 14th November 2007 to commence at 7.30 p.m. at Wrockwardine Parish Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.54 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____