

WENDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9 July 2008 in the Village Hall.

As there were no members of the public attending the meeting started at 8.00pm.

Present: Parish Councillors Anna McDonagh (Chairperson), Kathy Sharp, Caroline Abbott, Jackie Hucker and Julian Cordy, County Councillor Charles Shouler and Shirley Parker (Parish Clerk).

1. The Chairperson formally welcomed Julian Cordy who has been co-opted to the Parish Council following the resignation of Frank Shouler.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Justine Brown and Chris Burton and District councillor Andrew Fulljames.
3. Declaration of interests – Kathy Sharp for planning application.
4. The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 30 April 2008 were approved and signed.
5. Statutory business:
 - a. A new signatory for the Council's bank account is required following the resignation of Frank Shouler – Jackie Hucker will become the fourth signatory and the clerk will obtain the necessary form.
 - b. Payments for churchyard and lighting and ½ clerk's annual salary were approved.
6. Matters arising:
 - a. Flooding and flood plan – flooding has again occurred in the village with houses and the roadway flooded. A letter has been received from a resident of Waterside Cottages in respect of flooding problems and also an update from the Environment Agency. After discussion it was decided to arrange a meeting between the Parish Council, Thames Water Authority, County and District Councils and the Environment Agency to try to find a way forward. The making and implementation of a flood plan is on hold at present. Anna will arrange a meeting and inform Councillors of the date and venue.
 - b. Meetings attended on behalf of the Council – various meeting on the proposed new town have been attended and will be reported on at 6.e.
 - c. Notice Board – the clerk had been informed that work would be carried out at the end of June and will chase.
 - d. Weight restriction – a problem had occurred as the village road at the Oxford end came into the Parish of Weston on the Green, backing from Weston on the Green Parish Council has been sought and obtained and passed to Louise Harrison at Highways. The clerk will contact Highways to check on progress.

e. Proposed new town – our county Councillor reported that following the cabinet meeting the County Council had responded to the government strongly objecting to the proposed site as an eco-town. There is expected to be a Planning Policy Statement on the draft for eco-towns to be issued at the end of July and after a short consultation period should conclude with an annex with the 10 preferred sites. The populace, surrounding villages, the District Council and the County Council are all against this proposed site. The Minister's decision has not yet been received on the South East Plan which covered the period 2006-2026. Anna reported that the Parish Council's response to the proposed site had been sent along with copies to various other parties. Following the roadshow presentation from Parkridge other facts had emerged and it was decided to send a further representation to government covering these facts. Parkridge have requested a meeting with the Parish Council and the Clerk will make contact with our 2 preferred dates of 23 and 25 September. The Weston Front has been very active and following the County Council meeting and the Cabinet meeting of the Council where a village representative had been allowed to address the Council a number of supporters had attended Parliament. Due to the close proximity to the village of a new roundabout and roadway it was decided to look into placing some type of signage informing residents of the likely location – Julian will look into this and keep the Council informed.

7. Reports:

- a. County Council – Unison has called for a two day strike on the 16 and 17 July to support their pay claim of 6% or 50p per hour. The employers have offered 2.45%. County Council budget has allowed for 2.5% and anything over that percentage would have to be absorbed by the Directorates which would result in a cut in services. All services would be affected by the strike and some schools, libraries and offices may have to close. Informal arrangements have been made to exempt essential services. The Council's accounts have been finalised with a 1% under revenue spend – schools with local budgets have £14m in balance and if schools have over 8% rural and 5% urban these will be looked at. 3 months into the financial year and there is pressure due to inflation – rising fuel costs affecting fire appliances and contract school buses and the Council is looking into turning off some street lighting. The waste disposal by incineration is between 2 contractors at Ardley and Sutton Courtenay with results expected in the autumn which would then be the subject of a planning application.
- b. District Council – no report
- c. Planning – The council endorsed the following – no objections or comments for an extension at Brookside and there were no objections just an observation of the tree preservation order for Orchard House.

8. Other matters:

- a. Road between garden centre and Chesterton overbridge – the clerk has written to the Wyvale Centre (copied to Highways) but has not yet received a reply.

- b. Event recycling – this has been passed on by the Village Hall committee to the Village Club.
- c. Outdoor equipment for adults – the possibility of an area for this will be discussed at the next Village Hall committee meeting to be held this month.
- 9. The date for the next meeting is 8 October 2008 to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 8.00pm.

Chairman date

Following the close of the meeting the following items were raised and will be discussed in full at the next meeting when further details have been circulated

- 1. Caroline informed the Council that it had been reported that persons unknown were using other people's refuse bins, in some cases to overload them, when they were put out the evening before collection.
- 2. Councillors were asked to consider resurrecting the Village Fete – Julian will look into this possibility and keep the Council informed.