

WENDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 16 May 2007.

Present: Anna McDonagh, Chris Burton, Kathy Sharp, Frank Shouler, Caroline Abbott, Jackie Hucker (apologised for being late) Shirley Parker (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

1. Councillors signed and handed to the clerk their Declaration of Acceptance of Office which she countersigned. Kathy to forward hers to the clerk as soon as possible.
2. Anna McDonagh and Kathy Sharp were proposed for the posts of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson respectively. Both were elected.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Justine Brown (given at the last meeting), County Councillor Charles Shouler and District Councillor Andrew Fulljames.
4. Declarations of interest were received from Frank Shouler for item 10(a).
5. Revised Code of Conduct for Councillors – these papers had been circulated previous to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that:-
 - (a) The mandatory provisions in the Model Code of Conduct set out in the Statutory Instrument 2007/1159 be adopted as the Wendlebury Parish Council Code of Conduct, to be effective from 1 June 2007, subject to:
 - (i) the inclusion of the 'general principles' as an Annex of the Code, with a footnote to explain that it is not part of the Code but is included as an Annex because of the requirement in paragraph 1(2) of the Code for members to have regard to the principles; and
 - (j) the addition of paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code, but excluding the words in brackets each as recommended by the Standards Board for England; and
 - (b) the clerk be requested to notify the Monitoring Officer of Cherwell District Council of the passing of the above resolution.
6. The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 17 January 2007 were approved and signed.
7. Statutory business:
 - a. The financial summary for the year 2006/07 was approved and signed – a copy to be placed on the notice board.
 - b. The Annual Return for the year 2006/07 was approved and signed in preparation for audit.
 - c. Members Allowances and expenses: after discussion it was agreed that there would again be no allowances paid to councillors but expenses of up to 40p per mile could be claimed in respect of meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council as recommended by the Parish Remuneration Panels Report for 2007/08.
 - d. Approval was given for the removal K Wilce as a signatory from the bank mandate and to add K Sharp.

- e. Payments of £111.60 – Parish Update: £20 – Churchyard Lighting: £112.79 – subs OALC: £20 subs ORCC: £248.27 – insurance as per the agenda plus £195.36 – Churchyard maintenance were approved.
 - f. Register of Interests -5 completed forms were handed to the clerk. The remaining 2 to be forwarded to the clerk as soon as possible as they need to be sent to the District council by the end of May.
8. Matters arising
- a. Storm drainage : Church Lane/Main Street – The Parish Council when made aware of flooding problems in this area had offered their support and help to those affected, particularly Waterside Cottages. One verbal reply had been received not taking up the offer at this time. A letter had been received from Thames Water Authority stating that they will be looking into the problems of raw sewage leaking onto the highway in this area and will carry out any work as appropriate. No further action to be taken by the Parish Council. Rectory Close – The Parish Council had offered to facilitate a working party to clear drainage ditches in land belonging to Orchard House as gardens in the close were flooding during heavy rainfall – a straw poll of residents affected had been taken by Jackie and the offer was declined. No further action to be taken by the Parish Council. Flooding of the road between the end of Manor Farm Cottages and the Willows has been investigated by the Highways department and work will be carried out during this financial year to remedy the problem.
 - b. Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council: Caroline had attended a Local Development Framework meeting facilitated by the District Council. It's title was 'Sustainability Appraisal Workshop' and its participants had been split into groups to discuss various options available. Anna and Kathy had attended a reception held by the Chair of the County Council which they found to be a useful networking tool. Anna and the clerk had attended the demonstration of a portable speed indicator signage that required ground fixing points which the Parish Council would be expected to fund. As the cost is to be between £300 and £400 and the budget for this financial year already set the clerk was asked to reply to the District Council that before grant aid was applied for the Council would be contacting Steve Wood, Road Safety Officer requesting that the traffic monitor to be set up in the village again at a different point (between the north traffic calming and the Red Lion). Following the report from this a decision will be made in respect of the portable speed indicator. The clerk also brought to the attention of the councillors various courses available – unfortunately these are held during the working day.
 - c. £100 from the Village of the Year competition: A suggestion has been made that this money be used for the planting of another tree in the play area of the Village Hall for extra shade and/or also for a new picnic bench (it has been noted that the benches are requiring some attention). The clerk will contact the village Hall Committee with these suggestions and ask for approval and also to report the condition of the benches. After discussion it was decided to enter the competition again this year and Jackie will complete the necessary paperwork.

- d. Annual Parish Meeting: After discussion it has been agreed to change the content of the meeting. The Parish Council has a legal requirement only for a report from the Chairman to be presented at this meeting and so residents will be invited to an 'open' meeting to meet the recently elected Council along with the District and County Councillors in an informal setting. The date has already been set – 13 June to start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The clerk will invite both Andrew Fulljames and Charles Shouler.
 - e. Annual Spring Clean: This had taken place and there had been lots of volunteers on the day. The Parish Council thanked all those that took part. It was noted that along with the normal 'litter' a number of full dog litter bags had been left in the verges – they should be taken home and placed in the green domestic waste bin. A note to this effect will be placed on the website. The subject of dog litter bins was again raised and the clerk will ascertain current costs for their supply and emptying - to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.
 - f. Electricity Supply: A reply has been received from SSE Power Distribution stating that the remaining part of the village for renewal of overhead cables is due to commence in this financial year but no specific start date was available.
9. Reports
- a. County Council: no report available but our County Councillor had been approached by some residents in respect of the Garden Centre in particular the highway – the clerk has already been in contact with the highway's department concerning better road signage etc and has also requested a weight restriction – the clerk will chase them for a reply.
 - b. District Council: no report available
 - c. Planning: The Council endorsed the following – Wendlebury Gate Stables application has been withdrawn. The Motocross application has also been withdrawn and the council has been informed by the District Council that another application is not expected. The extension at 'Brookside' has been approved. The appeal made by Merton Grounds has been dismissed. The application for approval for the Bicester Town Centre has been approved and a response sent. The application for Dumbleton's Woodyard has been withdrawn and a new application is expected.
10. a. Chesterton Sports Ground: Chesterton Parish Council have been approached by the Cricket Club for a new pavilion or for repairs to be carried out on the existing one and in turn have approached Wendlebury for their views and seeking contributions as this facility is used by residents of the village. It was also suggested that any development to this pavilion/large village hall may affect the income from our own village hall. During discussion it emerged that all those persons using these facilities pay a subscription to their club – either football or cricket. Councillors felt that it would not be appropriate for them to make a contribution (the budget for this financial year has already been set) however they could offer support and advice on applications for grants etc. as they have successfully applied recently. The clerk will write to Chesterton Parish Council.

b. Parish Plan: Although Wendlebury have carried this out it transpires that we haven't taken the 'next step'. Unfortunately as Justine is not in attendance the Parish Council were unable to clarify the position – Anna will contact Justine and report back at the next meeting.

c. Notice Board – The clerk reported that repairs were needed and was waiting for a quotation from George Dumbleton.

11. Dates and times of next meetings – all to take place in the Village Hall
June 13 – Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm
July 4 – Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm
October 10 – Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm

Chairman..... Date.....