

Duffield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held in the Committee Room, Hazelwood Road, Duffield on Tuesday 10th January 2006 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Councillor N G Storer
Vice Chairman: Councillor D A Hibbert
Councillors: Buckle, England, Fletcher, Rowlands and Sartin, .

Also in attendance: Mr D R Bostock – Parish Clerk & R F O
Mrs S Bygraves – Assistant Parish Clerk & Treasurer

Prior to the meeting the Reverend Mark Pickles, led those assembled in prayer.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Carmichael- Smith, Knibbs, Rice, A Woodings and B Woodings.

001/06 Public Participation

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order for members of the public to address the meeting.

Mrs E Scullion and Mrs S Leeder – sought the Parish Council's support in opposing any development over two storeys high and any incursion into the Green Belt, with regard to the proposed development of land at Cumberhills Farm, Cumberhills Road, Duffield.

At this point the Chairman thanked the members of the public present for their contributions to the above debate and reinstated Standing Orders.

002/06 Declaration of Members Interest

In relation to Planning Application AVA/2005/1075 Chevin Golf Club, Councillors Buckle, Fletcher and Rowlands declared a non-pecuniary interest.

In relation to Tree Application TRE/2005/0119, Councillor Buckle declared an interest and took no part in the related discussion and decision.

003/06 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Arising from minute 140/05: resolution f): members suggested the following Double Taxation areas affecting the Parish: ie. Cemetery, Open Spaces, Play Areas and Litter Bin emptying.

Arising from minute 153/05: resolution b): the Clerk advised members that the Borough Council had conceded that they had made a mistake regarding the inclusion of the grazing land adjacent to the Cemetery Pasture in the Local Plan. The land was apparently not included on the 1994 adopted plan or the 2001 deposited plan, however their Parks Department did include it in error on their 2002 revised deposited plan. It was intended only to include Local Authority held land in the plan.

Arising from minute 155/05, Councillor Sartin pointed out that the Correspondence item should have been headed Appendix "A" and not "B" as shown.

Arising from minute 155/05, item 5, the Clerk confirmed that he had requested James Beresford & Sons to suggest a scheme for anchoring the Poppy Wreaths to the War Memorial.

Arising from minute 156/05, the Clerk reported that the Appendix should read "B" and not "C" as shown.

The Clerk advised members that minute 162/05 Planning and Licensing matters should have referred to Appendix "C"

Resolved:

a) that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 December 2005, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) that arising from the Clerk's report regarding minute 153/05 item b) – the Clerk requests the Borough Council to confirm their error in the 2002 Revised Deposited Plan, in writing.

c) that arising from minute 155/05, item 6, a Training Budget of £500.00 be allocated in the 2006/07 financial year.

004/06 Clerk's Report

Correspondence was tabled and received in accordance with Appendix "A"

Further to item 1, the Clerk circulated members with the details of recorded and detected crime for 2005/06 and the November 2005 crime figures.

Further to item 2, the Clerk reported to members on the Borough/Parishes Liaison Committee, which was attended by Councillor Rowlands, the Chairman and Clerk, at which Councillor Rowlands raised the "double taxation" problem with those present.

Further to item 3, the Clerk read a letter from the Borough Council, confirming that they were going to consult residents regarding the possible provision of a green waste collection service, subject to the charge payers meeting the cost.

Further to item 4, the Clerk advised members that arising from the Borough Council News Release No.128, he had requested their help with the Parish Council's Memorial Safety Check programme.

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Further to item 5, the Clerk circulated members with copies of the latest draft of the Council's Budget Proposals for 2006/07 for their consideration and advised also, that the Parish

Council's Precept requirement for 2006/07 financial year was required by the Borough Council, by 31 January 2006.

Further to item 6, the Clerk circulated members with a letter and questionnaire from the Borough Council regarding the possible introduction of a system of allowances for Parish Councillors.

Further to item 7, the Clerk read out a letter from the County Council to the local MP, which identified Wirksworth Road, Park Road and Old Hall Avenue for inclusion on their future Resurfacing and Reconstruction programme, subject to budget availability.

Further to item 8, the Clerk read out a brief holding response from the County Council, regarding the Parish Council's complaints about the poor condition of the two Railway Footbridge decks in Duffield.

Further to item 9, the Clerk circulated a letter from the Environment Agency indicating that they will be de-silting the River Ecclesbourne Flume during the Spring of 2006.

Further to item 10a, the Clerk circulated a copy of a further letter from the Information Commissioner's Office, arising from a complaint from the West Derbyshire Labour Party regarding the provision of the new football pitch for Allestree FC, on Eyes Meadow.

Further to item 10b, the Clerk circulated a letter from the West Derbyshire Labour Party, regarding CCTV provision in the village.

Further to item 11a, the Clerk advised members of a request from Mr R Jeffery & Ms S White to hold their Wedding Reception in a marquee on Eyes Meadow 9 December 2006, for approximately 100 people.

Further to item 11b, the Clerk advised members that no funding would be available from the Borough Council in the current financial year for the Granville Close footpath Blackspot Lighting scheme, they have however forwarded our request to the 2006/07 year.

Further to item 11c, members noted that the National Trust have now given permission for the new Duffield Boundary sign, to be erected at the corner of the Duffield Castle site and the Assistant Clerk confirmed that an order had been placed for the provision of the sign.

Further to item 11d, the Clerk confirmed that he had reported the dangerous state of the boundary fencing between the Ecclesbourne School Playing Fields and the adjacent Public Footpath, to the Headteacher, the local County Councillor and the Education Authority.

Further to item d), the Clerk circulated a copy of a letter regarding the Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future.

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Resolved:

a) that further to item five above, Duffield Parish Council hereby agree the annual budget for the coming year in the sum of £90,890; taking into account likely income and carry forwards

to 2006/07 and that a precept requirement for the year of £73,000 be notified to the Borough Council.

b) that arising from item six above, the Parish Clerk returns the Questionnaire regarding possible future provision Councillor Allowances to the Borough Council, following its completion by the members in attendance.

c) that further to item nine above, the Clerk reports the letter from the Environment Agency regarding the Duffield Flume in the next Newsletter and forwards copies of the letter to the residents of Duffield Court on Chapel Street.

d) that arising from item 10a above, the Clerk tries to make telephone contact with the Information Commissioner prior to a response to the complaint registered by the West Derbyshire Labour Party, as the Council has great difficulty in understanding and dealing with the request regarding the new Allestree FC football pitch, as it is still not completed or in use.

e) that arising from item 10b above, members confirmed that they investigated the matter of CCTV provision some two years ago and reported back verbally to the Parish Council, and that the Clerk responds accordingly to the West Derbyshire Labour Party.

f) that arising from item 11a above, the Parish Council agree to allow a Wedding Reception to be held on Eyes Meadow at location 2 on the site plan, on Saturday 9 December 2006, for a hire fee of £100.00.

005/06 Reports from Outside Bodies

Councillor Buckle reminded members that the Parish Plan was to be presented to the village on Saturday 21 January 2006 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in the Weston Centre. When it is hoped that more people in the village will get interested in taking part and hopefully join one of the Committees, (ie. Environment, Business, Youth and Sport, Post Retirement and Transport).

006/06 DALC Circulars

Circulars and correspondence received from DALC were tabled and received in accordance with Appendix "B" and placed in the DALC file on the table, for member's inspection.

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007/06 Financial Matters

Details of the monthly payments and income to 10 January 2006, having been circulated prior to the meeting, it was:

Resolved: that the Assistant Clerk/Treasurer's tabled monthly list of invoices and payments for December 2005, in the sum of £3,882.17 be initialled and approved, with cheques due signed by members and the Clerk.

008/06 Quarterly Statement of Accounts

Resolved: that the Assistant Clerk/Treasurer's tabled Quarterly Accounts, detailing Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading and by Account & Actual Comparison to 31 December 2005, showing income of £87,608 and expenditure of £53,126 be received, approved and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Finance Officer.

009/06 Parish Plan

The Assistant Clerk advised members that the accounts submitted to the Countryside Agency, will include a nominal sum of £14,000 of volunteer time, expended at £6.00/hour. The final cost submission has to be made to the Countryside Agency by the 31 March 2006 and will include the Assistant Clerk's costs and stationery etc.

010/06 Parish Council Web Site

Councillor Buckle reported that a cost for Snake Lane Design hosting the Council's Web Site was not yet available.

011/06 Information (Strategy) Group

Councillor Buckle advised members that she was currently working on a filing data base.

012/06 Reorganisation (Work Flow) Group

Councillor Rowlands reported that Mr M Shenton of the Weston Centre requires a letter from the Parish Council, detailing the Council's specific requirements for the proposed office and the two nominated half days for our Council's use of their office.

013/06 Planning and Licensing Matters

Members noted the Planning and Licensing Matters circulated, as detailed at Appendix "C" on the agenda. Furthermore they made the following decisions on current applications:

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AVA/2005/1379 – Access, siting, design and external appearance of buildings and landscaping reserved matters pursuant to outline permission for residential development, on land at Cumberhills Farm, Cumberhills Road, Duffield – Representations: In 2003 the Parish Council questioned the original application for 20No. dwellings being placed on this relatively small site, as at the same time it exceeded the number anticipated in the Local Plan.

We also questioned the suitability of this site due to its susceptibility to flooding, in its position at the confluence of the two main watercourses draining the Cumberhills catchment-area. The Parish

Council continue to be concerned that this development and its associated impermeable area will continue to exacerbate the problems in this vicinity.

Furthermore, the Parish Council understood that the redevelopment of the land at Cumberhills Farm, would comprise of two storey dwellings only, which would have been in keeping with the existing surrounding property and the height of the original farm buildings. **No change to this situation, should be permitted.**

The visual impact of these oversized properties from the head of the Cumberhills Valley would be appalling and present a very poor visual approach to the Duffield settlement from the south.

We also have concerns at the size of the development site, which seems to have almost doubled from the original Outline Application. We understand that some of the site, including the old Hay Barn was originally within the Green Belt.

AVA/2005/0844 – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 24 dwellings at Burley House, New Zealand Lane, Duffield – Representations: that the Parish Council feel that the roof levels on this proposed development are still too high and not in keeping with surrounding development.

AVA/2005/1075 – Re-siting of one hole and provision of a practice area at Chevin Golf Club, Duffield – Representations: that the Parish Council wish to repeat their previous representations on the above matter, in that they continue to have concerns regarding the safety of the Public Footpaths in the area of the above development and the safety of the public using them.

The footpaths in this area are well used and the path concerned is also part of the Midshires Way long distance path network. This path therefore could have quite a few strangers to the area using it, thus increasing the potential for accidents and conflict in the area of these proposals.

Walkers will be particularly exposed, whilst crossing directly in front of the three tees on the proposed 17th hole and possibly around the perimeter of the new practice area. The loss of further pleasant agricultural land in this vicinity for the practice area, is also unfortunate from a local amenity point of view.

The Clerk confirmed that AVA/2005/1370 – Conversion of redundant outbuilding to a one bedroom residential unit at The Kirkstyles, Wirksworth Road had been refused by the Borough Council.

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014/06 Outstanding Matters

The Assistant Clerk reported that the Probation Service were interested in renovating the internal decoration of the meeting room, provided that the Parish Council supplied the necessary materials.

015/06 Resignation of the Parish Clerk & RFO

The Clerk advised members that on the 29 December 2005 he tendered his resignation to the Chairman of the Council, giving the Parish Council notice that he intends to terminate his employment with them on the 31 March 2006. He also confirmed that his last Parish Council meeting would be held on the 14 March 2006.

The Clerk stated that he had on the whole enjoyed his six and a half years with the Parish Council and hoped that he had succeeded in moving the Authority forward during this period. He also explained that with the addition of his previous service with the Borough Council and the former Belper Rural District Council, that this decision would break a 28 year connection with the village, in one capacity or another.

He finally, thanked all members of staff, Councillors and members of the public who had helped and supported him during his period of service with Duffield Parish Council.

Resolved:

a) that on behalf of the of the Duffield Parish, the thanks of the village for the Clerk's efforts on their behalf be placed on record.

b) that arising from the above resignation, the Chairman convenes a meeting, to discuss the appointment of a new Parish Clerk & RFO and process the associated matters as necessary.

016/06 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 14 February 2006, at **7.00pm** in the Meeting Room on Hazelwood Road, Duffield.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10pm.

Signed _____ Date _____