

Duffield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held in the Committee Room, Hazelwood Road, Duffield, on Tuesday 13 May 2008 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman: Councillor A Woodings
Councillors: Buckle, England, Garner, Greenwood, Storer
Knibbs, Rowlands, Short, B Woodings, Rice

Also in Attendance: Clerk: Mrs S Bygraves
Assistant Clerk: Mr Chris Carter
Seven members of the public

Public Participation

1135 The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting. He noted their interest in agenda item 20, the proposed development of playing fields belonging to Ecclesbourne School, located at Meadow Primary School. The Chairman stated his regret that Ecclesbourne School had not passed on any information regarding this proposal to the Parish Council, and to date no planning applications had been made to Amber Valley Borough Council. Due to the very limited information available to the Parish Council it would be unlikely that members would be able to form a definitive view on the matter at this time.

Mr Stan Scott noted his objections to the development and thought it unacceptable that the Council was spending taxpayer's money but was unaware of the plans and should be more professional in future. He thought the development company would ride roughshod over any objectors and would probably win.

Mr Shipley did not think the village infrastructure could cope with any more houses. In particular there was nothing for the young or the elderly, and he noted there was no bowling green. He stated his belief that two bungalows had been sold by Amber Valley Borough Council on Meadow Vale to provide access to the field (at this point Councillor Short attempted to clarify that the bungalows had in fact been sold by Amber Valley Housing, a separate entity from Amber Valley Borough Council). Mr Shipley believed that Duffield was now a 'town'.

Mr Marshall wanted to know why the Parish Council did not know anything about the matter and the status and relevance of the Village Plan was queried.

Councillor Garner stated that for a while the school had been discussing with Radleigh Homes the possibility of moving the whole school site.

Mr Stevens queried whether the fact the Derbyshire County Council owned the school land was relevant. His belief was that the Parish Council should be 'ready'.

- 1136 Resolved:** that a public meeting would be held to discuss the proposed housing development on the Ecclesbourne School's Playing Fields once full details of the proposal had been received by the Parish Council

Seven members of the public left the meeting

- 1137 Police Constable Darren Heithus** a member of the neighbourhood community policing team for Duffield addressed the meeting. He explained that he and Police Community Support Officer Paula Johnson worked together to cover Duffield and the surrounding area stretching from Alderwasley to Mackworth. Recently he had been dealing with dog fouling and shed break ins .

Members requested notification on crime statistics in the area. Progress on the investigation into the assault on the A6 and the use of speed cameras in the village was also requested. The Clerk requested clarification on the legality of flying model aeroplanes in public spaces and members again requested action on irresponsible parking in the village particularly on Park Road.

PC Heithus took note of all the points and agreed to progress them further. He reminded members of the surgery to be held on 22 May at the Community Room on Ecclesbourne Close. 'KINS' forms were distributed to members for completion.

Apologies for Absence

- 1138** Apologies were received from Councillor Hibbert.

Declaration of Members Interests

- 1139** Councillor Storer declared an interest in agenda item 20, the proposed development of playing fields belonging to Ecclesbourne School.

Items for Exclusion

- 1140** No items were identified for exclusion.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

- 1141 Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 8th April 2008 and on the 22nd April 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

- 1142 Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on the 22nd April 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreational Committee

- 1143 Resolved:** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreational Committee held on the 26th February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee

- 1144 Resolved:** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on the 18th March 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Relocation of Parish Meetings

Further to a report, previously circulated detailing the proposal to pilot the relocation of all Parish Council meetings to the Weston Centre, it was:

- 1145 Resolved:** that a pilot scheme would be run over the winter months starting in October 2008 for a period of six months subject to Councillors agreeing an alternative night for meetings other than the current 2nd Tuesday, which is known to be unavailable. It was further:
- 1146 Resolved:** that no actions be taken during this trial period to prevent a return of meetings to the Committee Room should the pilot prove unacceptable.

Format of Annual Parish Meetings

Following the disappointing level of attendance of members of the public to the Annual Parish Meeting, it was:

- 1147 Resolved:** that the Clerk establish if the Annual Parish Meeting can be combined with existing Parish Council Meetings, whilst ensuring all legal requirements are met.

Tax Exemption on Small Payments

- 1148** Further to correspondence received from H M Inspector of Taxes as previously distributed, the Clerk confirmed that agreement had been met to allow members allowances to be paid free of income tax, and national insurance . She confirmed that these need not be disclosed on tax returns

Registration with Information Commissioner

- 1149** The Clerk confirmed that the registration was complete.

Gray's Recreation Ground Official Opening

Further to a report previously circulated, the Clerk confirmed that all items on the itinerary were running to plan, and that the contractors had been contacted to ensure the play area was prepared for the opening.

At this point members randomly selected children from each primary school to open the play area

- 1150 Resolved:** The Clerk to contact the parents of the children selected to open the play area and inform them of the schedule for doing this.

Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

- 1151 **Councillor Knibbs** reported that the **Weston Centre** was still having problems recruiting a secretary but an advertisement had been placed in the Duffield Scene and he was hopeful of a positive response.
- 1152 **Councillor Storer** reported that he had attended a meeting of the **Meadows School** Governors at which the budget was approved. A discussion had taken place regarding the proposed development of the playing fields and that the Chairman Mr Keith Wareham had resigned.

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

- 1153 All circulars were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. Nothing required discussion.

Planning and Licensing Matters

- 1154 [AVA/2008/0384](#) **31 Wirksworth Road Duffield:** Representations had been made on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of this development on the grounds of highway and back fill development.

Financial Matters

Details of the monthly payments and income to May 13th 2008, having been circulated prior to the meeting, it was:

- 1156 **Resolved:** that the Clerk's tabled monthly schedule of accounts for the month to 13th May 2008, in the sum of £13,414.42, be initialled and approved, with cheques due signed by the members and the Clerk.

Year End Accounts

Details of the Final Year End Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet, for the year ended 31 March 2008 having been previously circulated, it was:

- 1157 **Resolved:** that the End of Year Statement of Accounts to 31 March 2008 showing income of £201,607; net expenditure of £209,544; and balances of £43,527 be received, approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk & RFO

Eyes Meadow Development

The Chairman outlined the options for the re-development. The minimum requirement was for a re built changing room. The advantage of this limited option being that it's ongoing operation was within the scope of the current activities of the Parish Council.

At the other end of the spectrum was a combined Youth Centre / Cricket Pavilion development. Any such option will be a big commitment from the Parish Council.

The Clerk outlined the option of applying for 'Myplace' funding. The deadline for applications is 1 September 2008 and a 'vision' document would need to be in place by the end of July. It was recognised that this was a tight deadline but the clerk was able to confirm that Wendy and Matthew from AVBC would be able to provide assistance in this.

1158 Resolved: that the Clerk will contact members to arrange a working party meeting shortly.

Date and time of next meeting

1159 Resolved: that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th June 2008 in the Committee Room, Hazelwood Road, Duffield at 7.00pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed _____ **Dated** _____