

# Wendover Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on 17 February 2009

In Wendover Library Room at 7.34pm

**Present:- Chairman: Cllr Mrs Toft-Hunt**

Cllrs Mrs Carroll, Mrs Hersant, Mrs Stamper, Mrs Hetherington, Thorne, Worth, Myers, 7 members of the public, County Councillor Marion Clayton, District Councillors Richards and Brierley

Clerk: Fiona Lippmann

*The Chair welcomed all members and the public to the Parish Council meeting and apologised if any members had tried to attend the meeting that was cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions on 2 February.*

**09/201 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Saunders and Cllr Stevens sent apologies, which were accepted

**09/202 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**The Chairman adjourned the meeting for Public Question Time**

**The Chairman reopened the Parish Council meeting**

**09/203 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS**

An application for co-option to the council from a Mr David Louis was considered and accepted by all members. Mr Louis signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat at the members' table. The Chair welcomed him on behalf of the Parish Council.

**09/204 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The County Councillor presented her report. Subjects covered included:-

- The County Council's plans on the way forward with regard to the management of snow and ice on the highways and pothole management
- The LAF meeting on Monday 23 February, 2009
- The BCC share of council tax would rise by 3.9%

**09/205 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Birchley advised that there would be a working party from AVDC inspecting the trees in Brook House

Cllr Richards spoke on the LDF way forward and possible impact on Wendover.

The parking review would be between AVDC and BCC, Parish Council input would be included.

**09/206 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5 January 2009 were signed as an accurate record.

**09/207 STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The minutes on the Staffing Committee meeting of 14 January 2009, were received.

**09/208 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 20 January 2009, were received.

**09/209 AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

- The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of 20 January, 2009, were received.
- Cllr Worth invited councillors to join the working groups, Countryside Matters (Cllr Thorne) and Events and Tourism (Cllrs Carroll and Stamper)
- Other groups to be formed would be Lighting and Highways and Property Management.
- London Road Crossing – A briefing paper and report on the site visit was considered which provided 3 options to a crossing on the London Road that should be considered, these were:-
  1. Single pedestrian access at the Main Entrance (BCC would not allow provision of a central reservation for the road crossing)
  2. Single pedestrian access alongside the skate park (£10 - £15k)
  3. Two pedestrian access'; one at each end of the site, for the different users

It was proposed and agreed that option 3 was to be progressed, with the second crossing being delayed for a future year. The Commemorative wood would not be open to the public until the trees were more mature, when a second entrance would be considered.

It was proposed and agreed that the clerk should be authorised to progress the design work for the 1<sup>st</sup> road crossing under Option 3, being alongside the Skate Park

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- The emergency work done to the Ashbrook trees was discussed and a proposal to have the large tree stumps removed professionally was considered. It was proposed and agreed that the large stumps be cleared to below ground level for a sum of £1,000.
- The purchase of replacement trees was discussed. Cllr Worth would present a proposal for the replacements at the March Parish Council meeting.

### 09/210 MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE GROUP

The notes from the meeting of the Management and Finance Group of 14 January 2009, were accepted. The following recommendations from that meeting were proposed, seconded and agreed by full Council:-

- a. The updated Finance Regulations
- b. The Payment List as presented

The report of 16 February meeting was presented and accepted

### 09/211 LAND ISSUES

The Council considered the report from BCC regarding the Back St land. A briefing note on the technical issues and terminology, prepared by the clerk, was presented. It was noted that the report concludes that the land in question is public highway, which means that it is the responsibility of **BCC**. The recommendation of the Management & Finance Group was considered and the resolution as follows was proposed, seconded and agreed.

The Council wishes to reach a conclusion to this issue which provides a long term pragmatic solution and provides value for money while protecting the public interests.

The Council should pursue with BCC highways the clearance of the public highway of any obstructions.

The Council should work with BCC to come to an amicable agreement about the past maintenance fees charged to and paid by WPC in good faith with respect to the land. These discussions should be officer led and should seek a value for money solution for the public.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council reserves the right to challenge the findings of the BCC report into the land in Back Street to the rear of 26 High Street due to several perceived errors and inaccuracies in the report detail. The Council hopes that this can be avoided.

The council considered the status of the Land Registry application for the Manor Waste.

Cllr Toft-Hunt reported that Mr Dary Sweeney, owner of Budgens, had complained about the Councils organisation of the markets and damage to his business. Cllr Toft-Hunt and the clerk had explained that the market had ancient rights and although the council could look at specific issues there were limited options. Subsequently Mr Sweeney had made an objection to the Councils application to the Land Registry for ownership of the Manor waste on the grounds of access rights. The council considered that while this objection remained unclear and title not confirmed there was nothing that could be progressed.

### 09/212 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The notes from the Communications Group Meeting of 20 January, 2009 were accepted.

- Members were asked to consider how the new website should be used and what the navigations should be.
- It was suggested that two stalls be held at the Summer Market, one for the council and one for the TIC.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council would keep the existing motto, 'Gateway to the the Chilterns', but that a prize would be awarded to the youngest entry, which was considered a very close contender.

### 09/213 WAY AHEAD PROJECT

- a) It was noted that the Project Leader had resigned from the position. It was agreed that the outstanding issues were large projects that would be better handled by groups. It was agreed to create a Working Group: Cllrs Hersant (leader), Thorne, Myers were appointed to work on the Parish Plan project / action list  
All current outstanding actions on the Way Ahead Project, would be reviewed by this

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Working Group and recommended for action or closure.

b) Cllr Hersant would join the Management Group. Proposed, seconded and agreed.

c) The Training Leader reported:

- The Groundsman had attended a course on using a brush cutter
- Training for the new councillors was being researched

### 09/214 CONSULTATIONS

a) Aylesbury Area Plan – Cllr Toft-Hunt attended a workshop on the Sustainable Community and reported that the general view at the workshop was that more work was needed to establish a believable and achievable vision.

b) Code of Recommended Practices of Local Authority Publicity Consultation. Cllr Myers would address this with the Communications Group. - The Parish Council responded with support to the proposed revision of the Recommended Practices.

### 09/215 RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

The Parish Council considered subscribing to the Rural Services Network, with the first year's membership free of charge. This was agreed.

### 09/216 CONFERENCES

- a. Chilterns Area Conference - Cllrs Myers and Toft-Hunt to attend
- b. SLCC Conference - The Clerk to attend
- c. Changing Landscapes - Cllrs Worth and Myers to attend
- d. NALC Stepping Stones - No representatives would be attending
- e. Buckingham Palace Garden Party - Cllr Ballantine would be nominated
- f. 2012? Are you ready? - Cllr Myers would attend.

### 09/217 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence list was received.

### 09/218 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk presented her report.

### 09/219 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The format for this year's Annual Parish Meeting was discussed. The Chairman referred the members to the notes from the Management Group.

The Communications Group offered to arrange displays.

A sum of £200 was agreed to spend on refreshments

The list of speakers was agreed

### 09/220 MATTERS OF REPORT

The following matters were reported on:-

- A reply from TVP on policing matters was in the post
- 2 street lights had been vandalised by the use of a pellet gun
- Community Group Gathering, Amersham, 14.3.09 (details from Cllr Hetherington)
- Biodiversity Action Team, holding one day project (details from Cllr Hetherington)
- Appreciation was given to receipt of the Wendover Area Newsletter
- Friends of the Ridgeway AGM on 15.3.09 (Cllr Hetherington to attend)
- Both Terry Wiseman (ex Parish Councillor) and Irene Thompson (BALC) had both passed away
- Memorial Hall AGM took place on 17.1.09. Fees would be increased.
- The Twinning Society would be travelling to Liffre in 2009, 29.5.09 - 01.6.09
- Cllr Hetherington is doing some background research to see if Wendover could do a project similar to the Buckingham Bag project
- WAT funding group meeting to raise £3m

### 09/221 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.40 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Public Question Time**

- Questions were raised on the proposed replanting of trees in Ashbrook
- Concern was expressed on the future of the markets