

MINUTES OF WINCLE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2009
AT WINCLE SCHOOL

Present: Mr N Heald (Chairman) Mr J Weston (Clerk)
 Cllr L Smetham Cllr M Asquith
 Mrs T Stubbs Mr T Clapham
 Rev V Breed Mrs E Heald
 Mr I Burns Mr P Malkin
 Mr & Mrs P Woodcock Mr F Goodwin
 Dr R Allcorn Mr S Goodwin
 Mr & Mrs D Page

Apologies: Cllr H Gaddum Mr & Mrs J Marsh
 Mr G Bloom Mr & Mrs J Morris
 Mrs A Weston

Introduction

The meeting started at 7.30 pm and the Chair (NH) welcomed guests Cllr Smetham and Cllr Asquith who both gave a brief review of their history and responsibilities within the Cheshire East Council.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

JW explained to Cllr Smetham and Cllr Asquith that in accordance with the agreed procedure the minutes of the last AGM held on 9th December 2008 had already been approved by Nick Heald, Peter Malkin and Kay Morris in order that they could be published on the Wincle website as soon after the meeting as possible.

JW gave a brief overview of the actions taken on relevant items:

A54 Safety Barriers - Cllr B Hardern had taken this as an action to follow up with CCC Highways. As Cllr Hardern had now retired and CEC Highways had replaced CCC Highways it was expected that the work was being included in the repairs now being effected on that stretch of the A54. SG reported that so far no barriers had been installed.

Actions: JW to email Cllr MA with details to follow up with CEC Highways.

Wincle Parish Plan Update - JW said that he hadn't reconvened the Wincle Parish Plan Working Group as he didn't believe there were any actions outstanding. It was agreed that this was correct and that no further action was required. Action Closed.

Parking - NH asked if the policy of self regulation had worked and the problem eased. It was agreed that parking was less troublesome than in previous years and it was commented that in some part this was probably due to a decrease in the popularity of The Ship Inn. Action closed.

State of Local Roads - JW confirmed that with help from Cllr Hilda Gaddum he had been able to get MBC Cleansing to sweep the roads last December. However this year, it had once again taken several telephone calls since mid-October to various departments and contacts

within CEC to get Barlow Hill swept by end-November this year. However, now that a contact had been established, it was thought that the process should be easier in the future.

NH reported on the meeting the Parish Officers had with CEC Highways earlier in the year. Predictably, the lack of finance was stated as the reason that CEC Highways had difficulty in being proactive with regard to road repairs throughout the region. However, work has subsequently been carried out on the problems with drainage at the bottom of Top House Lane and on Dane Bridge, and that improvements to the remainder of Top House Lane and channelling around drainage grids on Barlow Hill/Rabbit Bank are on the CEC Highways current bid list.

Actions: NH/JW to monitor progress.

PM commented to Cllr MA on the number of workmen that came to do the repair work on Top House Lane and initially the poor quality of that work, so much so that a team had to return to make good the next day. PM stated that the final work was of a reasonable standard, but was concerned at the unnecessary overspend of public funds for such a minor repair.

There were no other matters arising.

Planning Application Review

NH gave a review of the planning applications that had been made during the year. There were no comments.

Parish Finances

JW stated that there had been very little expenditure over the year and that the contribution from local advertisers on the Wincle website had offset the web hosting charges. The only other expenditure had been on the hire of the school for last year's AGM and the meeting with CEC Highways. With no major expenditure budgeted for 2010 JW confirmed that no precept would once again be requested from Cheshire East Council.

Actions: JW to confirm the nil precept to CEC.

Telephone Kiosk

JW stated that he had received a letter from BT Payphones asking if the Parish wanted to 'adopt' the kiosk for £1 when they removed the telephony. JW stated that he contacted BT and had pointed out that the mobile coverage from service providers was very poor and the resulting concern that calls for emergency and medical services could be a serious problem. BT's response was that approx 7% of emergency calls were made from payphones and less than half of these necessitated emergency assistance. With no funding for loss making facilities they could not provide a service purely for occasional emergency assistance. JW reported that he had passed on all the details to Sue Marriott, Policy Planner for Peak District NPA, who was co-ordinating responses to BT Payphones on behalf of 62 payphones that were at risk with the Peak District National Park. PW pointed out that a similar adoption by another local parish had created a huge amount of bureaucracy. A vote was taken about whether the Parish should adopt the kiosk should BT remove the telephony service. A small majority of 7 to 5 voted in favour to adopt the kiosk.

Actions: JW to monitor progress by SM at PDNPA.

Election of Officers

JW said that he had not received any nominations for new candidates to stand as Parish Officers, but that both Nick Heald and John Weston would be prepared to continue. The meeting unanimously voted that Nick Heald and John Weston be elected as Chairman and as Clerk/Financial Officer respectively.

Any Other Business

Speeding

TC commented on the increase of traffic speeding through the village since the 50mph speed limit had been introduced on the A54. TC asked if the de-restriction notices had to be displayed on the exits from the A54. Cllr MA stated that he had been part of the team that had introduced the 50mph limits on the 'network' that included the Cat & Fiddle road and A54. Cllr MA pointed out that de-restriction was not an invitation to do 60mph, but to drive at safe speeds. DP commented that, as residents on the A54, the speed limit was working and made things less dangerous along this stretch of road. Cllr MA asked if there were any DSI (death and serious injury) statistics for the area, as these would help in getting an official speed review set up. Rev VB said she was appalled that a death or serious injury had to occur before a speed review could be instigated. Everyone agreed and there was a general discussion on the problems of speeding through the village and especially around the school at the times when children were arriving and departing. Cllr MA asked that JW email him with the details and he would progress within CEC.

Actions: JW to email Cllr MA with concerns on speeding.

The Wincle Website

NH commented that the Wincle Website had received 130,000 'hits' in the five years since its launch in January 2005.

The Ship Inn

JW gave a brief overview of the meeting residents had with JW Lees, the owners of The Ship Inn, on 12th November 2009. He stated that local customers had expressed their views on the decline in popularity of the pub and the changes made by the current tenant. A future meeting had been agreed, but it was suggested that it would be easier for a small team to meet with JW Lees senior management to discuss the future of the pub. It was agreed that JW should organise this team.

Actions: JW to organise the team and meeting with JW Lees.

Cheshire East Council Review

Cllr MA gave an overview of CEC's first year. He said CEC were wanting to lower costs as they were aiming for a 0% increase in Council Tax for 2010-11. The Local Area Partnership were starting to work with increased co-operation between services. The Boundary Commission had reviewed local wards and they were being set according to population numbers. Hence Wincle is currently being included in the largest ward that will stretch along

the east side of Macclesfield as far north as Rainow and Pott Shrigley. His opinion was that whoever was elected to this ward would have great difficulty in adequately representing all constituents. His final point was on CEC's drive to install Average Speed Cameras on the A54 and Cat & Fiddle roads. He pointed out that this would probably mean overhead gantries to hold the cameras and that if residents didn't want gantries installed then they needed to make their views known to CEC representatives.

Validate Minutes

Due to the length of time between meetings and the fact that the minutes would be published on the Wincle website within the next few days, subsequent to this meeting JW asked for at least two volunteers to confirm that the minutes for this meeting were fair and accurate records. Dr Richard Allcorn, Emma Heald and Peter Malkin volunteered.

Actions: RA, EH, and PM to agree minutes

Thanks

PW thanked the Parish Officers for their work on behalf of the community over the past year.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.