

MINUTES OF WINCLE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2008
AT WINCLE SCHOOL

Present:

Mr P Woodcock (Chairman)	Mr J Weston (Clerk)
Cllr B Hardern	Cllr H Gaddum
Mr & Mrs E Stubbs	Mr G Bloom
Rev V Breed	Mr & Mrs N Heald
Mr & Mrs I Burns	Mr & Mrs J Morris
Mrs C Woodcock	Prof B Porter
Mr J Marsh	Mr P Malkin
Mr F Goodwin	Mr J Henshall
Mr A Brocklehurst	

Apologies:

Mr & Mrs T Clapham	Mr & Mrs S Holding
Mr J Putin & Dr R Allcorn	Mr & Mrs J Ruddock

Introduction

The Chair (PW) welcomed guests Cllr Gaddum and Cllr Hardern. PW then gave a brief overview of achievements and events that had happened in Wincle Parish since the last AGM:

- Meeting with the organisers of the Altrech Car Rally and police to negotiate the re-routing of the cars away from Top House Lane;
- Getting a 30mph speed limit imposed promptly after closure of A523 at Bosley for engineering and resurfacing work, which had increased traffic volume dramatically because of the diversions;
- Organising a campaign on behalf of the village to oppose the proposed closure of Sutton General Store Post Office. Cllr Gaddum commented that Wincle parish's support and reasoned arguments were a contributory factor in the Post Office remaining open at least until the next review in 2011;
- Ongoing dialogue with CCC Highways and MBC Cleansing Departments about the repairs and maintenance of roads in Wincle;
- Liaison with police and MBC over parking and traffic flow in Wincle;
- Retention of the telephone box when others in surrounding area are being removed by BT.

PW also highlighted the continued success of the annual Fete at the new venue of Burnt House Farm. Although there were some reservations over the exposed location of the site because of the bad weather the week before, warm sunny weather prevailed and visitors were treated to some of the most spectacular views in the parish, whilst car parking and congestion were minimised by creative use of the site. Other community activities included the home-worker lunches, the parish clean-up day and the school's fund raising all of which illustrated the strong community spirit in the Parish. PW further commented that the school's supporters had raised over £30K in little over a year to pay for the 10% contribution and over-spend on the school's extension.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

PW stated that in accordance with the procedure agreed at the last AGM held on 29th November 2007 the minutes of that meeting had already been approved by Dr Richard Allcorn and Mr Ian Burns 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 and confirmed there was nothing outstanding. JW also highlighted that although the Meeting had unanimously voted against any Parish funding for a proposal to repair the footpath beside the River Dane at Pingle/Rainbow cottage, the work had subsequently been completed. It seems that CCC PROW and the East Cheshire Group of the Ramblers Association had been able to raise all the funding required and secured the necessary approval. There were no further matters arising.

Planning Application Review

PW stated that unusually there had been no planning applications during the year. PW said that he was pleased to see that Peak District NPA planning had given permission for a new house to be built beside Burnt House Farm for use as an agricultural workers dwelling. FG confirmed that his son had just moved in the day previously and it would be called Burnt Side Cottage.

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 almost offset the web hosting charges. The only other expenditure had been on the hire of the school for last years AGM so the total net spend had been £14.54 and the current bank balance was £354.16. With no major expenditure budgeted for 2009 JW confirmed that no precept would once again be requested from Macclesfield Borough Council.

Actions: JW to confirm the nil precept to Macclesfield BC.

Election of Officers

PW confirmed that he would be standing down as Chairman, but that John Weston would be prepared to stay as Clerk/Financial Officer. Nick Heald was proposed by John Henshall and seconded by Geoff Bloom. There were no other candidates. The meeting unanimously voted that Nick Heald and John Weston be elected as Chairman and as Clerk/Financial Officer respectively.

Actions: JW to notify change to CCC, MBC and alter bank authorisation mandate.

Any Other Business

Sparrowgreave

JW said that he had been contacted by the Parish Clerk of Wildboarclough regarding complaints from neighbours of Sparrowgreave that the outside security lighting was on continually and that the light pollution was annoying. JM commented that it was generally thought that the owner, Andy Brown, was in Thailand with no indication of an imminent return.

State of Local Roads

Once again the state of local roads has been an issue within the parish. Although some repair and maintenance has been done during the year it was generally agreed that due the fact that CCC Highways now subcontract the work, the standard of workmanship was poor and the work often misdirected in its attempt to rectify the problems. This was highlighted by Prof Brian Porter drawing attention to the state of Top House Lane and the fact that he had written to CCC Highways recently about the problems, but had yet to receive a reply. JH commented that he thought that the roads were getting narrower owing to the verges and retaining walls not being maintained. JW also stated that he had contacted MBC Cleansing to sweep the roads and clean the grids in early November, but as yet nothing had been done. BH said that he would organise with senior CCC Highway officials an on-site meeting with Parish Officers and local residents to discuss these problems. HG said that she would investigate the MBC street cleaning problem if JW could forward the relevant emails.

Actions: BH to organise on-site meeting with senior CCC Highways officials;
HG to contact MBC Cleansing Department.

Parking

Concerns were raised about the number of incidents caused by visitors' poor parking when it impeded milk lorry collections and farm vehicles. After discussion it was agreed that increased signage in the village was not wanted and that a policy of self regulation with the occasional help of traffic police to assist with the most difficult cases of obstruction.

Actions: All to help self-regulate the problem when it occurs

CCC Speed Limit Review

JW stated that he had received notification that CCC had carried out Phase 1 of a speed limit review throughout the county. The initial findings had indicated that 18% of A and B roads needed reduced speed limits and that 41% required additional measures to encourage speed compliance and/or reduce collision rate. Of the roads already highlighted for changes JW stated none were in the local area, but that he would continue to monitor the situation.

Actions: JW to monitor.

A54 Safety Barriers

PW stated that at last year's AGM he had received a request from Stuart Goodwin to ask Cheshire Highways to erect safety barriers along the section of A54 road between Sandyway Farm and Long Gutter Farm. Cllr Hardern had informed the meeting that it was already in Cheshire Highways' plans to erect safety barriers in Q1 2008, but PW confirmed that no work had been done.

Actions: BH to follow up with CCC Highways

Wincle Primary School

Ian Burns commented that Head Teacher Sheila Loughlin will be retiring next year and that the school's governors will be advertising for a suitable replacement.

Wincle Parish Plan Update

JW stated that that he would be reconvening the Wincle Parish Plan Working Group to review any actions still outstanding from the Wincle Parish Plan.

Actions: JW to organise PPWG meeting early 2009.

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, JW asked for at least two volunteers to confirm that the minutes for this meeting were a fair and accurate record. Kay Morris, Nick Heald and Peter Malkin volunteered.

Actions: KM, NH, and PM to agree minutes

Cheshire East Council

With the impending reorganisation of CCC, BH said that his 8 year tenure as Councillor for this area would be ending. He thanked Wincle for being such a self-reliant parish that did so much for itself. HG, as one of the three elected CEC representatives for this area over the next three years, said there was a lot of reorganising and implementation to be done in the one year of shadowing before CEC went operational and that there would be challenging times ahead.

Twinning

JM said that the proposal to twin with the French town of Winkel had been declined by the French town's mayor. JM stated that any further suggestions for possible twinning with the village would be welcome and a committee could be formed to review possible funding.

Church Vestry

JM stated that notices had been put up regarding the work that needed to be done to the Church Vestry and that funding was being sought.

Thanks

PW thanked Cllr Hilda Gaddum and Cllr Barrie Hardern for their support and help during his five year tenure. He also thanked John Weston as Clerk for his work during this time and wished the new Chairman, Nick Heald and JW best wishes for the future.

The meeting unanimously gave their thanks to PW for all his work as Chairman, and JW added his personal thanks for the major contributions PW made to the completion and publication of the Parish Plan and help in getting broadband installed into the area.

The meeting ended at 20:25.