

MINUTES OF WINCLE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2003
AT WINCLE SCHOOL

Present:

Mr P Woodcock (Chairman)	Mr G Meadows
Mr J Weston (Clerk)	Mr T Clapham
Rev D Moir	Mrs A Weston
Mr W Blythe	Mr A Brocklehurst
Mr & Mrs B Clarkson	Mr D Chadwick
Mr B Brunt	Mr S Goodwin
Mr & Mrs A Forrester	Mr E Stubbs
Mrs C Woodcock	Mr P Malkin
Mr I Burns	Mr R Hughes

Apologies: Councillor H Gaddum

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 July 2002 were read and approved. (Proposed Mrs C Woodcock, seconded Mr A Forrester). No matters arising

Speeding and Accidents on A54

The Chairman (PW) confirmed that no action had been taken to review speed limits on the A54 until the inquest into the fatal accident near the Fourways motel had been completed. However, PW stated that he has recently received a report that the 50mph speed limit on the 'Cat & Fiddle' road has now been made permanent and the Speed Review Panel would now urgently review the speed limits and traffic calming measures on the A54.

Action: PW to monitor progress and continue to press parish view on reforms.

State of the Roads in the Parish

The Clerk (JW) reported that he had logged complaints about the poor state of the white lining on Barlow Hill with the Macclesfield Joint Highways Customer Care system and subsequently received a call from the Section Engineer, Steve Wilson. SW stated that he was unable to allocate any lining contractors within the present financial year, but would enter it for early action on next year's plans i.e. after 1 April 2003.

After much discussion several other areas of concern were raised:

- Speeding on the road from Top House to Danebridge;
- Parking on the bend opposite Chapman Row cottages;
- Although the drainage grids on Barlow Hill had been recently cleared, the remainder of grids on the road to Danebridge also needed to be cleared and unblocked, as do the ones in Top House Lane (subject of correspondence from Mr Rod Hughes, Wood Cottage Farm). Roadside curbs and gullies needed to be cleared of leaves and winter debris.
- Effectiveness of trimming roadside grass banks in January was questioned.

Action: JW to pursue with MBC Cleansing Department and MJH Customer Care.
PW/JW would also raise item with Councillor Hilda Gaddum for further advice.

Neighbourhood Watch and local Crime Update

Doug Chadwick commented that he had recently visited a mobile unit of the Police Community Unit that was visiting Sutton. However, no notice had been given of the visit to local Neighbourhood Watch representative and had only been alerted to the fact by Councillor H. Gaddum. However, the visit proved worthwhile and DC learnt that our area had a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator as well as being allocated a local Police Constable.

DC also warned residents not to leave house or car keys hanging near doors (letterboxes) and open windows as thieves were using 'rod and line' techniques to lift the keys to either gain entry to the house or drive cars away. DC requested that any suspicious activity be reported to him regardless of time of day/night and that local residents should use the orange disc scheme in order to assist in identifying unfamiliar cars in and around the village

DC suggested that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme should be expanded to a 'Neighbourhood Response'. It was agreed that the old schematic plan of the village with resident's telephone numbers should be re-introduced and circulated. Householders not wishing to participate or not have their phone numbers circulated will need not be included on the lists or can have their phone numbers omitted.

Action: DC to co-ordinate with PW/JW

Parish Communication Plans

a) Parish Notice Boards

The Clerk (JW) stated that while the main Notice Board at the bottom of Barlow Hill needed refurbishment due the damage suffered during the recent high winds, it would be an ideal time to re-site the Board to a safer and more convenient site. After discussion it was agreed that JW would liase with Rev. David Moir about moving the Board to a position next to the post box between the School wall and wire fence. In the meantime DM would confirm acceptability of the position with the School Governors. It was also agreed that the Board at the top of the village, adjacent to Fourways, would be refurbished, whilst the Board opposite Tolls Farm would either be refurbished or replaced, and re-sited near the telephone box besides the entrance to Tolls Farm. Mr E Stubbs confirmed his agreement to this move. In order to keep costs to a minimum Brian Clarkson and JW would review estimates received for the above work, which BC might take on himself if he felt it to be cost-effective

Action: DM/JW/PW/BC to liase and co-ordinate work.

b) Parish Internet presence

The Chairman (PW) reported that unlike all the other surrounding Cheshire Parishes Wincle did not have an Internet site of its own. As requested at the last meeting PW had supplied Macclesfield BC with a short summary about Wincle to add to their web site. After reviewing probable costs associated with the setting up of such a site PW and JW proposed that the package put forward by MBC seemed to be the cheapest option. However, while the meeting supported such a site in principle, concern was raised that no estimates had yet been produced. It was agreed that PW should review options and present the one-off and annual on-going costs at the next meeting for approval.

Action: PW to liase with MBC to present options and costs at next meeting

Countryside Agency - Vital Villages Scheme - Parish Plans

The Clerk (JW) reported that he had been in contact with Cheshire Community Council consultant, Rachel Cowan, to express the Parish's wish to participate in the scheme. JW explained that the objective of a Parish Plan was to encourage the local community to objectively examine the social, environmental and economic aspects of village life and obtain a 'village voice' on major issues. Hopefully, this would then enable the community to put forward achievable and realistic recommendations to improve both the village and life within it and foster community spirit. JW/PW will be arranging to meet with Rachel Cowan to discuss:

- The process and methodology needed to develop such a plan;
- Suggestions for the type of issues to be included;
- Estimates of effort this would involve;
- Levels of financial support provided by CCC.

Action: PW/JW to contact CCC and report back at next meeting.

Accounts and Auditor's Report

A point was raised that the Clerk (JW) had not been specifically voted in as Responsible Financial Officer, even though he had been voted in to take over all the duties of the outgoing officer at the last meeting. A unanimous vote was given to confirm the appointment.

JW reported that the current balance was £501.43 and that a precept for £500.00 had been requested for financial year 2003/4 to cover estimated costs for notice board repairs and internet site development and any unforeseen costs. MBC Finance Department have estimated that this will add amounts to Council Tax ranging from £3.83 per annum for Band A properties to £11.50 per annum for a Band H property.

A view was expressed that all outgoing expenditure and requests for precepts should be approved by a Parish Meeting before submission. The Chairman explained that because the deadline for submission was before the meeting date a decision had to be made by the elected officers for the amount. After discussion a vote was taken on whether to endorse the amount requested for this year's precept. A majority confirmed the precept amount (12 in favour, 6 against).

PW stated that the limit of pecuniary empowerment given to the elected officers would be put on the next meeting's agenda for discussion and ratification.

JW stated that the 2001/2 audit had highlighted the need for the Parish to appoint an internal auditor to review each year's accounts before submission to the CCC auditors. JW proposed Albert Forrester (a retired Chartered Accountant) as the Parish's Internal Auditor. A unanimous vote was given to confirm the appointment.

Any Other Business

None