

MINUTES OF WINCLE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2007
AT WINCLE SCHOOL

Present:

Mr P Woodcock (Chairman)	Mr J Weston (Clerk)
Cllr B Hardern	Cllr H Gaddum
Mr L Chadwick	Mr & Mrs E Stubbs
Mrs R Chadwick	Rev V Breed
Mr & Mrs I Burns	Mr G Bloom
Mr & Mrs N Heald	Mr S Holding
Mr & Mrs J Marsh	Mrs C Woodcock
Mr R Goodwin	Mr & Mrs D Page
Dr J Putin	Dr R Allcorn
Mrs J Weeks	Mr A Catherall

Apologies:

Mr & Mrs T Clapham	Mr & Mrs M Bracegirdle
Mr & Mrs J Morris	Mr S Goodwin

Introduction

The Chair (PW) welcomed guests Cllr Gaddum, Cllr Hardern and Alan Catherall (Footpath Committee, East Cheshire Group of the Ramblers Association), to the meeting. PW then gave a brief overview of achievements and events that had happened in Wincle Parish since the last AGM, highlighting the continued success of the annual Fete as well as the sad losses to the community of both Bert Millington and Doug Chadwick.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

PW stated that in accordance with the procedure agreed at the last AGM held on 9th November 2006 the minutes of that meeting had already been approved by Emma Heald, Kate Brough and Jenny Marsh in order that they could be published on the Wincle Website as soon after the meeting as possible. There were no matters arising.

Planning Application Review

PW gave a quick overview of the eight planning applications that had been received since the last AGM. Cllr Gaddum confirmed the outcome of the Sparrowgreave public enquiry to be as follows: (1) the maintenance of the agricultural occupancy restriction to ensure the house remains available for an agricultural worker in the locality and (2) the restoration of the excavated area to the side of the house to grassland to return the appearance of the area to its former state.

Footbridges Over River Dane at Whitelee

JW explained the background to this agenda item. JW had been contacted by the CCC Countyside Access Team (CAT) earlier in the year following the suggestion in CCC's 2004 "Rights of Way Improvement Plan" (ROWIP), for the restoration of the crossing points. The ROWIP is a statutory document which all Local Highways Authorities have to produce to identify improvements to the countryside access network for the benefit of the public. The CAT had requested that the Parish Officers canvass local opinion to see whether there was sufficient support from local residents to justify putting staff resources into a funding bid. JW initially contacted Jonathon & Jenny Marsh, the owners of the land at Whitelee, to ask for their comments and reaction to this proposal. They replied directly to CAT outlining

their objections to the proposal. CAT responded to the points raised, but once again asked for the Parish Officers to canvass local opinion. The matter was then discussed with a unanimous vote that there was no local support for such a proposal.

Actions: JW to contact CCC CAT with the result.

Proposed Repairs to Footpath Beside River Dane at Pingle/Rainbow Cottages

PW confirmed the location of the section of footpath being discussed and gave a brief overview of the proposal and request for a contribution from the Parish to help fund the project. PW then handed over to Alan Catherall to give a more detailed explanation. AC stated that he had spoken to Jonathon & Jenny Marsh, the land owners, and they had agreed to the improvements so long as the fencing beside the path was not extended any further into the field. AC said that at the site meeting with Barrie Poole (CCC PROW), the contractor (David Plumbley), who had done the original reparation to the adjoining section of footpath, had made a recommendation for subterranean drainage and a compacted gravel surface to be built up on a reinforcing structure of Econet to withstand cattle erosion. The quotation for the work for the 25 metres is £2207.25 + VAT (reclaimable). AC said that at the same time it was proposed that maintenance on the previously restored path - to include re-dressing with surface gravel, clearing and enhancing the drains and re-seating the wooden pedestrian bridge by Pringle Cottage (which is tilting because of settlement by the river bank), could be carried out to save money. The cost of this latter maintenance has been estimated at £1600, which would be borne by the PROW Unit, but will exhaust its budget. There was a lengthy discussion on the topic in which concerns were raised about the encroachment of public footpaths into farming land, increased traffic and recent damage done by visitors. The point was made that although this is a picturesque area, it is a working rural environment that visitors and walkers must accept.

A unanimous vote confirmed that there was no local support for the proposal, or the request for Parish assistance with funding or grant acquisition.

A54 Safety Barriers

PW stated that 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. PW explained that SG owned land beside the road and frequently had to repair dry-stone walls along this twisty section of road where vehicles frequently crashed through. Cllr Hardern informed the meeting that it was already in Cheshire Highways plans to erect safety barriers in Q1 2008. PW also raised the question of the proposed 50mph speed limit. Cllr Hardern said that this proposal was just about to be put out as a public notice and would be implemented in the first part of 2008.

Wincle Primary School

Ian Burns gave an update on the building project that has now been completed to provide two new classrooms at the rear of the school. At the start of construction the outstanding school's proportion of the total cost was £30,000, of which £17,500 has already been raised. IB congratulated everyone on their efforts to date, but asked that they continued their organisation and support of future events to raise the remaining balance.

IB also gave an update on the Cheshire Education Authority's invitation for Bosley and Wincle Schools to form a federation. He said that the School's Governors had met Alison Penny a senior representative of CEA to discuss the matter. IB stated that Wincle School, along

with those of Kettlethume, Bosley and Pott Shrigley had already formed The 'Small Schools Big Ideas Partnership'. He also said that the Governors had issued a statement saying that there was no suggestion of any school closing or amalgamating, but that they could foresee working much more closely with the other schools within the Partnership in the future.

Cllr Gaddum suggested that the rebuilding was so impressive that it might be worth while putting it forward into the Peak District NPA's design award competition next year.

Actions: IB/HG to monitor when PDNPA award nominations were being requested.

Wincle Parish Plan Update

PW gave brief overview to new residents of how the Parish Plan had been compiled and published and reviewed the actions that were still outstanding from the Wincle Parish Plan.

Actions: JW/PW to continue completing the actions.

Parish Finances

JW stated that there had been very little expenditure over the year and that the current bank balance was £309.02. With no major expenditure budgeted for 2008 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

No other candidates were put forward for either position. The meeting unanimously voted that Paul Woodcock and John Weston should remain as Chairman and Clerk/Financial Officer respectively. PW stated that this would be his last year as Chairman and asked others to consider whether they would be willing to stand for election next year.

Any Other Business

Neighbourhood Watch

PW said that since the sad demise of Doug Chadwick, Johnny Morris had volunteered to become the focal point for the Wincle Neighbourhood Watch and was proactively distributing information received from Cheshire Police via email.

Local History

PW said that it was possible to find out about local history from the recently released records of UK Census and to contact him for further information. Cllr Gaddum observed that house deeds were no longer being retained by mortgage lenders and in some case were being destroyed.

Main Notice Board

PW asked for a volunteer to refurbish the main notice board. He said that it just need rubbing down and re-varnishing and that materials would be supplied. Emma Heald volunteered to do this.

Actions: EH to refurbish main notice board

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, PW asked for at least two

volunteers to confirm that JW's minutes for this meeting were a fair and accurate record. Richard Allcorn, Emma Heald and Ian Burns volunteered.

Actions: RA, EH, and IB to agree minutes

Nature Trail at Danebridge Fisheries

Lorne Chadwick outlined his plans for a nature trail in the woods above the fish farm's main lake to introduce children to the natural environment. LC said it would be a small area that would include paths and wooden animals to provide sensory objects for disabled and blind children. It would primarily be aimed at schools and shouldn't impact local parking.

LC asked that the Parish Officers to provide a letter of approval backing the scheme. There were no objections to the scheme.

Actions: PW/JW to provide letter of approval to LC

State of Local Roads

Peter Malkin commented on the deteriorating state of the roads in Wincle and the lack of maintenance carried out by Cheshire Highways. Others agreed there are many road surfaces and verges that are in poor condition, as well as many drains and culverts blocked. Cllr Hardern responded by highlighting that although Cheshire was £90m in arrears with highway maintenance and improvements, residents should still let him know about these local problems and he would try and get CCC Highways Department to address them.

Actions: JW to contact CCC Highways with the overall concerns/All to contact BH on specific issues to them.

Parking

Ed Stubbs raised the ongoing problem of parking by visitors to the village. A particular problem arose not too long ago when a countryside walk was advertised in the local paper causing a huge influx of people and cars to the area. The parking became so difficult that cars were parked on both sides of the road from the Ship Inn to the bridge over the river, making it almost impossible for milk lorries and farm vehicles to pass. It was suggested that organisers of events in the village to be encouraged to consider the parking implications and possibly liaise with police on the use of traffic cones.

Actions: JW to raise the issue with CCC Highways/Organisers of village events to consider parking implications.

Telephone Box

Ed Stubbs stated that the money box from the telephone kiosk beside Tolls Farm had been removed. ES said that normally these coin boxes are alarmed to let BT know of the problem, but nothing had been done since the loss three weeks ago. There was general concern that BT might try and remove the facility, which the village felt was essential as no mobile signal was available in this area.

Actions: JW to raise the issue with BT.

Jonathon Marsh proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Clerk for their work during the year.

The meeting ended at 20:45.