

WINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Burton Institute, Winster on 8 May 2006

Present	Parish Councillor Brian Long in the chair. Parish Councillors Rob Greatorex, Geoff Lester (from part way through Clerk's Report), Kevin Markham, Frank Mason, Don Shimwell, Allan Stone and Judy Williams.
In attendance	Three members of the public, District Councillor John Moseley and Veronica Kemble, Clerk.
Apologies	None were received.
361/06 Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Resolved That Parish Councillor Brian Long be elected as Chair of the Parish Council, and Parish Councillor Rob Greatorex be elected as Vice Chair. The Chair signed the Declaration of Office.
Public open session	The Chair welcomed District Councillor John Moseley to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment.
362/06 Minutes	Resolved That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 April 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.
363/06 Clerk's update on matters in hand and action required	16/04 Dog fouling DDDC has reported that the final pieces of legislation came into effect at the end of April 2006 along with the majority of the 'advice and guidelines' to local authorities. The next step is the withdrawal of the Dogs Fouling of the Land Act and the ability for Local Authorities and Parish Councils to create and adopt 'Dog Control Orders' which can include excluding dogs from certain areas, controlling the number of dogs people can walk in certain areas, designating 'lead on' areas, dealing with stray dogs and dog fouling. There are a number of issues involved in designation areas, having the dog control orders adopted and then implementing the controls and fines and this could take some time. The main theme of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act is that Councils will be able to serve Fixed Penalty Notices for a wide range of 'offences' from dog fouling, littering, fly tipping, waste offences, noise, abandoned vehicles, fly posting etc. DDDC is planning to implement a system of FPNs during this financial year. It was felt that the Parish Council will need to implement the scheme as DDDC will concentrate on towns and the busier tourist villages. The Clerk will write to welcome the new legislation and express hope that DDDC will implement it as soon as possible. 62/04 Buckdale/Lower Westhills The PDNPA officer has tried to make an appointment to visit the site without success. Due to dogs being kept on the site she is reluctant to attend without an appointment. The officer will visit to assess its appearance from nearby vantage points. 229/05 Main Street bus shelter light This will be placed on a future agenda. A gate keep needs to be purchased and installed. 244/05 Rubbish on Common outside Wesson Cottage The remaining rubble has not been removed. 311/05 Westhills/allotment gate Quotes should be available for the next meeting.

**363/06
Clerk's update
on matters in
hand and action
required
continued**

312/05 Warning signs for Warden The details will be given to the Clerk for ordering.

319/06 Pedestrian Safety on Elton Road This will be dealt with once the school's traffic survey is available.

330/06 Gulley at Ephraim House This has again been reported to DCC together with information about the planning condition that the driveway should be a hard surface rather than gravel.

330/06 Wall on Woodhouse Lane DDDC will now send a standard letter confirming that the wall is considered to be structurally safe. The Clerk will ask the insurers to inspect the wall and give their opinion.

330/06 Wall on West Bank Due to a misunderstanding quotes have not been obtained and details of suggested contractors will be passed to the Clerk.

342/06 Florence Gladwin Close The recent planting has been pulled up and most of the whips have either disappeared or died. Some of these will now be replaced and Walbrook Housing will be informed.

342/06 Rights of Way survey A request for a volunteer will be placed in the Village Magazine.

352/06 Overhanging vegetation at The Nook The neighbour has cut this back.

355/06 Mosey Mere In response to the article in the Village Magazine a tractor was seen in Mosey Mere and then driven into Jim Roper's farm. The Parish Council were grateful for this information.

356/06 Affordable Housing/Housing needs A message has been left for Rob Coggins at DDDC to get this underway.

357/06 Headstone survey Advice from ABA is to do an overall written risk assessment of the cemetery including memorials, topography and environment to see which are most at risk and why, eg near footpath, uneven ground, serious mole/rabbit problem etc. This will show that something has been done and provide a documented report.

The very high risk areas should have a hand test - important to stand at the side when wiggling the stone to avoid it falling onto you. Eventually a force measuring instrument will be required to reassure people that the stones have not been pushed too hard and that stability is good. This is the only way to be sure.

When the Regulations are reviewed, and definitely for the new area ABA recommend using monoliths as the stones made of several pieces glued/bolted together, usually not centrally on bottom plinth will become unstable in time and it is impossible to reinforce an unstable structure.

With a true monolith, 1/3 is beneath ground, giving excellent security. However, stonemasons do not like these as they are hard to remove, so a good compromise is to use a concrete shoe with a slot in the top and for the stone to be buried about 1 foot into the ground and slotted into the slot. These two types of stone/fixing are the only ones recommended by ABA and should be incorporated into the new Regulations.

The open spaces committee needs to meet as soon as possible to discuss these issues and bring recommendations to Council.

NPDDD 0405 0406 Chesterfield House This retrospective application was refused and is now on PDNPA's enforcement list as a low priority case.

363/06

Clerk's update on matters in hand and action required continued

The following items are still pending or being monitored.

75/04 Birchover Lane	309/05 Verges on Leacroft Road
216/05 Cemetery turning area	321/06 Cemetery expansion
241/05 Footpath at bottom of Woodhouse Lane	333/06 Yew trees in churchyard
254/05 Seeding on Woodhouse Lane	334/06 Land Registration
269/05 Woodhouse Lane Path	345/06 Handrail in Churchyard
270/05 Noticeboard	352/06 Football on Leacroft Road

The Chair stated the importance of settling these item as a matter of urgency.

Resolved To note the matters in the report and to take the action outlined.

364/06

Reports from village organisations

Burton Institute Parish Councillor Frank Mason reported that the work on the "morgue" is finished and the new computer and copier have been installed and the photocopier is making a small profit. There are ongoing problems with the lift. Bookings are slightly down and the loss of the evening classes has caused a significant reduction in revenue. Gas and electricity suppliers have been changed and are no longer charged at the commercial rate which has reduced the bills substantially. The rolling redecoration programme will cover the ladies' toilets and the upstairs room. The boiler has been replaced. The chairs continue to be a source of complaint. It costs a minimum of £6,500 to run the Burton Institute a year to cover insurance, cleaning staff and utility bills. They continue to rely on key people, especially John and Gill Geddes.

Heathcote Charity Parish Councillor Judy Williams reported that the Charity met in December 2006 when Jack Hession replaced Gilbert Heathcote as Chairman. The finances of the Charity are healthy and grants of about £2,000 were given during the year.

Playing Fields Parish Councillor Judy Williams reported that Playing Fields Association has issued a questionnaire to the village to try to encourage residents to use the facilities and ensure that new people in the village know it is there. The school is being encouraged to use the tennis courts during the summer. Bookings and income are stable. There was an incident when the lights were turned off whilst people from outside the village were using the facilities. The light switches are in a locked box but the lock has been broken.

Winster Church Charities Parish Councillor Brian Long continues to oversee the distribution of the small amounts to widows and widowers.

Winster School Parish Councillor Rob Greatorex reported that the school governors continue to meet at least once a term with committees meeting as necessary. Bill Fargent left on 31 August 2005 and Sue Tomlinson became acting headteacher on 1 September 2005 and was appointed on 15 February 2006 after an extensive interview process. She is the first female headteacher at the school and is leading the school through an exciting new stage.

The new Instrument of Governance allows for 3 parent, 1 LEA, 2 staff, 1 community and 2 foundation governors. The staff governors include the headteacher, and the community governor is appointed by the Parish Council. Two new parent governors were elected at the beginning of the year and one was re-elected. The new Self Evaluation Form is an electronic form which is required by OFSTED and is continuously updated. The admissions number increased from 7 to 10 and there are 7 new children starting during the 2006/2007 school year.

**364/06
Reports from
village
organisations
continued**

The governors have approved a building project which includes moving the main entrance to the side of the building, extending the covered walkway to make a new teaching area for the Reception children and providing a new office for the clerk. The old heating pipes will be replaced and a new path created from the road to the side gate. Carpets have been fitted throughout which looks much better. The school continues to flourish.

Resolved To note the reports given.

**365/06
Election of
representatives
to serve on
village
organisations**

Resolved That the following Councillors again be appointed representatives of:
Burton Institute Management Committee Parish Councillors Rob Greatorex, Geoff Lester and Frank Mason.

Heathcote Charity Parish Councillors Allan Stone and Judy Williams.

Winstor Church Charities Parish Councillor Brian Long.

Winstor Playing Fields Association Parish Councillor Judy Williams.

Winstor Primary School Parish Councillor Rob Greatorex.

**366/06
Parish Council
committees**

Resolved To reaffirm Parish Councillors Rob Greatorex, Kevin Markham, Allan Stone and Judy Williams to sit on the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee. Other committees will be formed as and when necessary.

**367/06
Planning**

NPDDD 0306 0189 Heathcote House, Main Street, Winstor Parish Councillor Judy Williams expressed a prejudicial interest being a close friend of and joint land owner with the applicants and left the room for this item only. The Parish Council approved this application.

NPDDD 0406 0338 Parking space at The Headlands, Winstor The Parish Council approved this application.

NPDDD 0905 0908 Appeal relating to Highfields, Painters Way, Winstor The receipt of this appeal was acknowledged.

There has been tipping of agricultural type material between Westhills Farm and Islington Lane. This will be reported to PDNPA and DDDC.

Resolved To write the letters as outlined above and note the matters raised.

**368/06
Footpaths,
highways and
related issues**

A site meeting took place with Parish Councillors Rob Greatorex and Brian Long, the clerk and Simon Tranter and a colleague from DCC to look at village issues including the following four outstanding items.

04/04 Bus stop markings DCC will create a raised platform for the bus bay outside Moot House and proposes additional markings to the rear of the bus bay by the junction with East Bank to help buses to pull in without crossing the junction. The cars which are parked in this area are parked illegally due to the close proximity to the junction. The raised platform by the bus bay at The Hall is clearly not in the correct place and will be extended. Further discussions with DCC and the bus company are needed to encourage the bus drivers to pull into the bus bays. The width of all markings are stipulated by the Department of Transport and if they are not of the correct width they are unenforceable. The markings and raised kerbs were agreed by Council.

128/05 Wensley Road On the day there was a fresh set of skidmarks about 10m long on the footway between Wyntor Avenue and the school. DCC proposes placing three wooden bollards at the edge of the carriageway along this length of road. The Parish Council agreed to this in principle subject to seeing a plan of the proposed locations before a decision is made on these works.

368/06
Footpaths,
highways and
related issues
continued

242/05 Street lights/30MPH signs As part of the programme of reducing signage, the four 30MPH signs currently at the top of East Bank and West Bank will be reduced to two, to be sited alongside the Bank Top car park. This is the furthest point from the village that they can be placed. The DCC officer needs to check the current orders and will then write to the Parish Council to confirm the new siting before any action is taken.

309/05 Weight restrictions During the meeting at the top of East Bank, an HGV tried to navigate East Bank but had to reverse out. DCC agreed to contact the Chief Constable to see if he would support an application to the Department of Transport for special dispensation for a 3 tonne weight limit due to the nature of these roads. The other options are to have "unsuitable for heavy goods vehicle" signs which are advisory only, or to accept DCC's preferred option of a 7.5 tonne weight limit. It was emphasised that most of the offenders are local companies taking a short cut. The clerk will write to the Police Authority asking for support for a 3 tonne weight limit.

The school proposes to relocate the main entrance to the side of the building and the radius of the footway turning into the car park needs to be extended, the street light column moved and a barrier erected to protect the children. DCC will be sympathetic to this work.

75/04 Birchover Lane Whilst DCC has agreed to do some minor work on this road, the Parish Council sees that other unclassified lanes in the area are surfaced and Birchover Lane should not be treated differently. The Clerk will write to Brian Lucas, Cabinet Member for Highways, expressing the Parish Council's concern that this lane is not fit to walk, ride, cycle or drive on. Only very minor work has been carried out on the potholes and ditches after DCC has been pressed. The Parish Council believes some serious remedial work should be carried out.

Road surface on East Bank/The Flat Complaints have been received about the condition of the road surface at this location. This has been brought up before but DCC views it in the same way as Birchover Lane, ie low priority which would be expensive to repair. This will be reported again to DCC.

Rubbish has been dumped at Water Lane, near the Cemetery. The clerk will report this to DDDC.

The Warden is encountering large amounts of dog mess in the Churchyard and needs disposable overalls. He also requires a new visor.

Resolved To note the reports and write the letters outlined above.

369/06
Grit bin on East
Bank

A letter had been received from a resident about the location of the new grit bin. A lot of thought was put into the locations of the new bins and all sites were inspected and approved by DCC Highways Department, who turned down one proposed site due to sight and manoeuvrability issues. Almost all of the salt in this bin has been used which implies that a bin is required in this area. Storage of grit bins during the summer months is problematical due to the corrosive nature of the salt, but a suitable storage site has been found for this bin. Therefore this bin will be removed during the summer months this year and replaced in the same position for the winter season. Removal of the bin during the summer in future years will be considered on a year by year basis subject to suitable storage being available.

Resolved To write to the resident as outlined above.

370/06
“Burma Road”

The resident’s letter concerning the “Burma Road” and a drainage problem on the lower gennel was discussed. The Chair mentioned that the Clerk’s previous letter to the resident included reference to the “Burma Road” when the Council’s concerns were about damage to the grass on the Common. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that this track can be utilised as a footway. The potholes on the track could be considered a trip hazard for pedestrians. A comment was made of utilising a residents’ workparty to fill in the potholes.

Resolved To:

1. Examine the possibility of a residents’ workparty and to check for any costs and/or insurance implications.
2. To carry out some minor remedial work on the potholes in the near future.
3. Refer the drainage problem on the gennel to DCC.
4. Reply to the resident.

371/06
Memorial bench

Resolved To approve a memorial bench at Bank Top to replace the existing structure. This will be of a similar quality and design to those on Main street.

372/06 Cemetery turning circle

The piece of stone has again been moved and the ground damaged by vehicles.

Resolved To form a dip for the stone and set it in concrete up to a cost of £200.

373/06
Financial update

Resolved To note:		£
Income	s/o Clerk’s salary	122.60
Payments requiring approval	s/o Warden’s salary	121.52
	180 Post Office Ltd re tax on clerk’s (£34.32) and warden’s salaries (£34.10) plus clerk’s backdated pay (£32.56)	100.98
	181 Inland Revenue for tax underpaid for Warden during 2005/2006	89.25
	182 Veronica Kemble back pay to take account of pay rises since 1 April 2004	115.52
	183 Richard Comley for skip to clear Churchyard (VAT £8.75)	58.75
	184 Platts Harris for machinery maintenance (VAT £18.01)	126.01
	185 Burton Institute room hire January to March 2006 (4 meetings) (VAT £10.95)	73.50
	186 Allianz Cornhill insurance	619.27
Balances at 7.5.06	Current account	416.58
	Savings account	17,445.97
Including	Earmarked reserves for open spaces	1,650.00
	Earmarked reserves for taxi voucher scheme	1,295.68

The salaries have increased in line with the National Pay scales.

The amount of tax deducted for the Warden during the financial year 2005/2006 was incorrect. Cheque 181 will correct this error with the Inland Revenue and this will be deducted from the Warden’s salary over the next 12 months.

374/06
Correspondence

DCC	Derbyshire Police reorganisation
DCC	Maintenance of Birchover Lane
DDDC	Copy letter to Mr Harper, Wesson Cottage, West Bank
A resident	E-mail re vehicles on Mosey Mere

**374/06
Correspondence
continued**

C Higgs and S Harrison "The Burma Road"
Joanna Noble Grit bin on East Bank
Nottingham East Mids Airport Consultation

There is a conference on Police re-organisation on 10 June 2006. The Chair asked Parish Councillors to notify the Clerk if they wish to attend.

**Public open
session**

Part of the problems on West Bank are caused by inconsiderate parking especially on the blind bends.

The new white lining on Wensley Road is not slowing traffic and bollards have been used unsuccessfully in the past.

**375/06 Matters
for information**

It is hoped there will be a good attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The National Society of Flower Arrangement Societies is holding a countrywide wreath laying to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 2006. A wreath will be placed on the War Memorial.

The grit bin on Woodhouse Lane has been nudged out of position and needs to be resited to its original position.

There are two bags of rubble outside the shop.

Next meeting

Monday 5 June 2006.
