

The 853rd meeting of Wheelton Parish Council was held on Monday 5th July 2004

Present: Councillor R Wheale – Chairman
Councillors K Berry, T Dickenson, N Hayes, A Mohamet, S Monaghan and
R E Scambler

Minutes of meeting held on 7th June 2004

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Apologies for absence

Borough Councillor Mrs I Smith
PS D Brown – Lancs Constabulary

Matters Arising

92/7/04 None.

Police Report

93/7/04 Although Sgt Brown was unable to attend the meeting, he reported that the parking problems in the village were escalating. Action needed to be taken before a serious accident happened.

The Parish Council needed to consider, on safety grounds, where double yellow lines could be placed to provide clear sight lines and keep vehicles from parking on the footways. It was agreed that a plan would be drawn up and Sgt Brown consulted before it was submitted to LCC Highways Department. Double yellow lines would only be proposed where it was necessary to safeguard road users and pedestrians. Parking would need to be policed, not only during the day but in the evenings. Enquiries to be made from Chorley Borough Council to find out if community wardens could take on some of these duties. It was frustrating that none of the authorities wanted to do anything about these problems. It would appear that action will only be taken when someone is seriously injured or killed.

It was reported that an ambulance was unable to get up Meadow Street due to the number of parked cars and the patient had to be taken to hospital by private car. Luckily all turned out well on this occasion, but there could be serious consequences if an ambulance was required in a life or death situation or a fire engine was unable to gain access.

Questions from Public

94/7/04 None

Financial Report

95/7/04 The financial report was approved with the following additions:

Credits:

Royal Bank of Scotland – Interest - £18.86

Accounts:

J J Bennett – Garden Maintenance – W/M £44.00 + VG £77.00 = £121.00

R Wheale – Teak oil for notice boards - £13.00 + VAT £2.27 = £15.27

96/7/04 Clerk to make enquiries if VAT can be re-claimed on repairs to the village hall.

Planning Matters

97/7/04 No. 9/04/00286/FUL – Erection of stable block – Sitchcroft Farm, Brown House Lane, Higher Wheelton.

A meeting was held between residents of Lawton Close and the planning officers on Monday 5th July to voice their objections to this application. Councillors agreed to support the residents and object on the following grounds:

1. Size of development
2. Siting of stable block
3. Visual, light and sound pollution
4. No definite siting of midden that could be a source of pollution to the brook
5. Dangerous access to the site.

98/7/04 No. 9/04/00611/OUTMAJ – Outline application for the erection of 12 cottage style dwellings (affordable housing units) and removal of trees and landscaping – part of Stocks House Farm, Blackburn Road, Higher Wheelton.

While welcoming the provision of affordable housing in the area, Councillors had the following comments to make:

1. The number of dwellings proposed for this site would overdevelop it
2. All the trees on the site would have to be removed (not two as proposed). These trees are a central part of the village and their removal would take away its character
3. To construct suitable sight lines would require using part of a lay-by for access. This would reduce the very limited parking available.
4. Access to the site is very close to the junction of Bett Lane and the A674 (Blackburn Road). This is a very busy road and would cause traffic problems.

99/7/04 No. 9/04/00658/FUL – Erection of single storey extension to rear – 400 Blackburn Road. Higher Wheelton.

No objections providing the extension is in keeping with the local environment.

100/7/04 There was one additional application to be considered:

No. 9/04/00715/FUL – Two storey side and single storey front and rear extensions – “Overlea”, Bett Lane, Wheelton.

While not objecting to this application, concern was expressed about the size of the extensions and the effect on the neighbouring property.

Old Sand Quarry

101/7/04 Three meetings, two with Jamie Carson, have now been held and work is proceeding on collecting information for inclusion in the Business Plan. Mr Handscombe will put a revised offer to the owner in a last ditch attempt to buy before pursuing a Compulsory Purchase Order. The next meeting with Jamie Carson has been arranged for 10.30am on 9th September at Duxbury Park.

Parish Plan

102/7/04 The first “Launch Venue” was held at the village fete on Sunday 4th July. It was a success and generated a lot of interest. There has been some very good publicity in the local papers and on Radio Lancashire. The next venue is on Saturday 10th July at the Red Lion.

Wheelton Web Site

103/7/04 Work is continuing on updating information for the site. More volunteers are needed to assist with this work.

Parish Newsletter

104/7/04 Articles are required for the next edition. Some of the current news will be obtained from the web site.

Items for information

105/7/04 Noted with the following additional items:

Chorley Borough Council – Chorley profile

Shaw & Sons – Local Government Directory 04/05 available

LCC – Website

Clerks and Councils Direct – Newsletter

Countryside Agency – Conclusive map of registered common land and open country

Chorley Partnership – Website and Community Plan

ROSPA – Playground inspection to be held in August (Clerk to request a postponement so that remedial work can be completed) Clerk to obtain quotes for bark and wood chips to be used as a safety surface.

LAPTC – Local Council Review – Circulation list update

Hurcombe – Dangerous fencing in Lawton Close

Hurcombe – Unsightly blue pipe and woodwork on bridge in Dark Lane.

106/7/04 It was agreed that a number of Young People's events would be held at the Village Hall from 26th July to 20th August in conjunction with Chorley Borough Council. Wheelton PC would contribute £1500 from "Awards for All" and Chorley Borough Council £1000.

107/7/04 The Clerk gave notice of his impending retirement. He will continue until a suitable replacement can be appointed. The vacancy will be advertised on the notice boards and local press as soon as possible. The Chairman accepted his notice with regret and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Date of next meeting

Monday 6th September 2004 at 8.0pm.