

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING  
OF DALE ABBEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2011**

Present: Parish Councillors S Bown, T Davies, A Dunn,  
P Farmer, P Harvey, J Heraty, C Just,  
N Sisson, J Smith and G Stevens

Councillor P Farmer (Chairman) in the Chair

In attendance: Mr Keith Shiers (Erewash Ramblers Association),  
Borough Councillor B P Broughton.

**Part 1 – Non confidential information**

**1068 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Borough Councillor Mrs C Hart.

**1069 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS  
RESOLVED**

- (1) that the order of business be varied as required when Mr S Leleux arrives at the meeting to make his presentation on the management of Hermits Wood.
- (2) that it be noted that the Clerk has the following additional items to be taken under his report, public notice of which had been given –
  - Electronic Planning. IT Equipment
  - Wirksworth Road Playing Field
  - Bridleway Order – Far Lane, Ockbrook to Potato Pit Lane, Dale Abbey
  - Invitation to the Civic Dinner.

**1070 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

- (a) Councillor Harvey declared a personal interest in relation to any discussions which may arise in relation to the proposed Stanton Regeneration, by virtue of his Chairmanship of Green Squeeze.
- (b) Councillor Just declared a personal interest in the item relating to the Bridleway Order to be discussed at part of the Clerk's report as a landowner affected by the route of the Order.

## **1071 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Chairman had spoken to PC Russell Crooks who had asked that any unusual vehicles in the Dale Abbey area be reported to him. The Parish Council was made aware of types and colours of the details concerned.

Councillor Davies would provide the Chairman with details of a shed break in for onward transmission to PC Crooks. Finally, the Chairman made reference to missing metal scrolls from the railings outside of the Gateway Christian Centre.

## **1072 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY, 2011**

### **(a) Approval and Confirmation**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 January, 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **(b) Matters Arising**

#### **(i) Stanton Regeneration – Joint Working**

The Clerk reported an exchange of e-mails with the Clerk to Stanton-by-Dale Parish Council the purpose of which was to set the agreed terms of the joint working arrangements in connection with the proposed Stanton regeneration (Minute No 1059 20/1/2011 refers)

#### **(ii) Great Poppy Weekend – June 2011**

Arising on Minute No 1063(c)(20/1/2011) the Chairman reported that the Gateway Christian Centre had no proposals to celebrate the above event.

#### **(iii) E-on Household Pack for Use During a Power Cut**

The Clerk had received a response from E-on Central works that the demonstration pack supplied to the Parish Council was not available for purchase by residents (Minute No. 1063(f)(20/1/2011 refers).

## **1073 REPORT OF THE CLERK**

### **(a) Borough Blitz**

The Clerk reported that the litter pick in Dale Abbey village had been agreed with Erewash Borough Council to take place on Saturday 19 March, 2011 at 10.00 am – meeting outside the Carpenters Arms.

**(b) Notice Board, Wyndale Drive, Kirk Hallam**

The Clerk reported that the above sited notice board was covered with green mould, had discoloured Perspex which inhibited residents reading any notices posted and would only lock occasionally. It had been the subject of local vandalism.

**RESOLVED**

- (1)** that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, investigate the possibility of a more suitable site at which to locate the notice board within the Parish Ward.
- (2)** that the Clerk investigate whether or not it is possible to purchase and have fitted a new Perspex cover and replacement locks.

**(c) Electronic Planning IT Equipment**

The Clerk read to the meeting the contents of an e.mail from the Development Control Manager, Erewash Borough Council indicating that IT equipment had now been purchased and was available for Parish Council use.

The Chairman and the Clerk had been invited to attend a Borough Council seminar on the matter on Monday 7 March, 2011 at 6.00 pm, Long Eaton Town Hall.

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to attend the seminar.

**(d) Wirksworth Road Playing Field, Kirk Hallam – Gates to the Playing Areas**

The Clerk reported on a number of issues relating to the Wirksworth Road playing field.

The damaged gate to the swings area had been replaced by Erewash Borough Council, but a small section of fencing still required to be re-sited.

One of the hinges to the gate to the slides area had been damaged yet again. The gate had been secured back to the metal fence with a plastic tieback, possibly by the Borough Council.

In addition and at the request of the Chairman, the Clerk had pursued again the outstanding provision by Three Valleys Housing of a metal barrier at the entrance to the playing field in order to restrict access to only those entitled and with the Borough Council the flailing of the hedgerow bottom at the far end of the field.

(e) ***The Derbyshire County Council (Addition of a Bridleway between Far Lane, Parish of Ockbrook and Potato Pit Lane, Parish of Dale Abbey including upgrading of lengths of footpath) Modification Order 2011***

The Parish Council considered the above named Order amending the County's Definitive Map and Statement which Derbyshire County Council had been directed to make by the Secretary of State under the above Act following an appeal by the applicant.

The appeal by the applicant was against the County Councils decision not to make an Order.

Considerable discussion took place on potential grounds for objecting to the Order and Borough Councillor Broughton, allowed to speak at the discretion of the Chairman, indicated that the only ground for objecting was to challenge the applicants evidence which the Secretary of State had relied on to direct the County Council to make the Order.

Any objections to the Order had to be made by Thursday 24 March 2011.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk circulate to Members by e.mail a draft response of objection to the Order for discussion and approval.

(f) ***Civic Dinner 2011***

The Clerk read to the Council a letter received from the Borough Council setting out details of the 2011 Civic Dinner.

**1074 HERMITS WOOD – PRESENTATION**

Just prior to the conclusion of the Clerks report, approaching 8.30 pm Mr S Leleux, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council arrived.

He was invited by the Chairman to address the Members on the management of Hermits Wood and the Management Plan which applied to it.

The wood had been given to the Parish of Stanton-by-Dale with Dale Abbey around 1990 and Erewash Groundwork had produced a Management Plan for the period 1992 to 1998. The Parochial Church Council had appointed Mr Leleux as the person responsible for organising the upkeep of the wood. This he did by enlisting the help of Church Members.

He referred to the damage caused by vandalism to the cave the solution to which would be both cost prohibitive and aesthetically unacceptable and went on to outline the works done by Groundwork in the early years of the Management Plan. He reported on the works and planting carried out annually by he and his colleagues and acknowledged that it had not been possible to yet deliver the full Management Plan.

He relied on grants for planting and other materials.

Following the presentation a lively question and answer session ensued, after which the Chairman thanked Mr Leleux for his attendance.

## **1075 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

### **(a) *Parish Council Newsletter***

The Chairman reported the circumstances in which an individual had delivered on behalf of the Scouts Group the majority of the last Parish newsletter in the Kirk Hallam North Parish Ward.

There would be a need to increase the numbers printed when the next newsletter was prepared.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council make a donation of £30 to the 21<sup>st</sup> Ilkeston Scouts Group.

## **1076 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES**

### **(a) *Dale Abbey Playing Field***

There were two issues arising in connection with the Dale Abbey playing field.

First, the Chairman reported that whilst the gate spring closure was still in place the lock catch on the gate to the playing field had been smashed off which in turn was causing the stop to twist and turn, This had been reported to the Clerk who was to authorise an urgent repair when the cost was known under his delegated authority.

Secondly, the wire meshing around the yew tree in the hedge of the playing field on Moor Lane had once again been broken down. Councillor Just offered to provide some blackthorns to plant around the tree and the Chairman would speak with a local contractor to ascertain what he would recommend.

**RESOLVED** that the action taken and that proposed in relation to the foregoing matters be noted and approved.

**1077 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications for formal consideration but the Clerk had noted an application for a tree crown reduction by 20% of two ash trees at the rear of Three Jays Cottage, Croft Close, Dale Abbey.

**1078 FINANCE**

**(a) Accounts to be authorised for payment**

**RESOLVED** that the following accounts be approved for payment.

		£
001736	Gateway Christian Centre (room hire for the meeting)	13.00
001737	Park Hall Designs (Website maintenance and printing for the meeting)	30.08
001738	Premier Landscaping East Midlands (maintenance of Ladywood Road and Dale Abbey planting areas – Contracts 1007 and 1009)	70.00
001739	K M Spencer (Salary February 2011)	469.78
001740	K M Spencer (Mileage February 2011)	13.22
001741	Erewash Borough Council (Christmas Lights including purchase of new lights for Dale Abbey – VAT £436.22)	2928.92
001742	Dallimore Primary School (Hire of room for meeting on 20 January 2011)	30.00
001743	Johnston Publishing Ltd (Christmas Lights advert, Ilkeston Advertiser)	181.54
001744	21 <sup>st</sup> Ilkeston Scouts Group (Charitable Donation for the delivery of Parish Newsletters)	30.00

**(b) Income**

The Clerk reported receipt of income of £140.00 in connection with a VAT reclaim from Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs.

**1079 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the balance of the meeting on the ground that the item to be considered next contains confidential and exempt information.

**Part II – Confidential Information**

**1080 RESIGNATION OF THE PARISH CLERK AND PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPLACEMENT**

**N.B.** The Clerk left the meeting for the initial consideration of this item.

The Chairman reported the contents of a letter from the Clerk resigning from that position commencing on 1 March and expiring at the end of May, 2011. Members discussed the contents of the letter, including an offer from the Clerk to be involved in the process of appointing his successor.

**RESOLVED** unanimously

- (1) that the resignation be received with regret and that the Parish Council place on record its thanks for the service given by the Clerk
- (2) that the offer of the Clerk to be involved in the appointment process for his successor be accepted.
- (3) that a Recruitment Sub Committee comprising the Chairman, Councillors Harvey and Sisson be established to take whatever action is considered necessary to eventually make a recommendation to full Council on a new appointee.

At this stage the Clerk was invited to rejoin the meeting when the Chairman informed him of the foregoing decisions and, at the request of the Parish Council, asked him to reconsider his decision to resign. The Clerk indicated that he would discuss this request with his wife.

Signed ..... 17 March, 2011  
**Chairman to the Parish Council**