

The 846th meeting of Wheelton Parish Council was held on Monday 1st December 2003

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

Also present: Borough Councillor I Smith

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd November 2003

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Apologies for absence

Councillors S Monaghan and R Wheale
Borough Councillor C Howard

Matters Arising

252/12/03 The Chairman announced that the “Through the Villages” road race on Sunday 2nd November had raised around £1000 for the Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall.

Police Report

253/12/03 As there was no Police presence at the meeting this item was held over.
254/12/03 Complaints have been received that irresponsible parking by a resident of West View has blocked access to the Village Hall. The party concerned was very reluctant to move his vehicle. The matter has been reported to the Police.

Questions from Public

255/12/03 Two residents from Higher Wheelton, Martin Keyes and Frank Rogers, attended the meeting to voice their concern about speeding vehicles on the A674 and particularly through Higher Wheelton. They considered that the speed limit of 50MPH with a 30MPH speed limit through the village too fast. They asked the Parish Council to consider making representations to have the limit reduced to 40MPH to allow motorists a greater opportunity to reduce to 30MPH through the village. They also suggested that repeater signs be exhibited throughout the village to remind motorists to reduce speed.
After discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would contact the Police and request the use of a mobile speed camera on the A 674 to deter motorists from exceeding the speed limit. The Clerk was instructed to write to LCC, pointing out that when we set out our list of transportation related issues, top of the list was traffic calming and pedestrian access across the A674 at the top of Victoria Street and request that the traffic calming measures be extended up to Higher Wheelton by the placing of 30 MPH road roundels and count down bars.

Financial Report

256/12/03 The financial report was approved with the following additions.

257/12/03 Additional credit received:
Chorley Borough Council – Amenities grant - £1352.00

258/12/03 Additional accounts authorised:
W A Geddes – Computer stationery - £69.39
Powergen – W/M electricity £4.43
Lancs and Merseyside Training Partnership – New Councillors and Clerks course - £50.00
AQA Training “Your Portfolio” - £75.00

259/12/03 The Chairman reported that he had written to Mrs M Ward, Internal Auditor, thanking her for auditing the 2002/03 accounts.

Precept 2004/2005

260/12/03 The Precept for 2004/05, agreed at the last meeting, of £9114, was formally ratified and will be notified to Chorley Borough Council.

Planning Matters

261/12/03 The Parish Council had no objections to the following application:
No. 9/03/00874/FUL .

262/12/03 An additional application has been received:

No. 9/03/01061/FUL – Erection of stable block – Sitchcroft Farm, Brown House Lane, Higher Wheelton.

The Council objected to this application on the grounds that a stable block of this size would be visually intrusive and a further erosion of the green belt. With six stables, it was considered it would develop into a commercial undertaking and create traffic problems in the area. The access to Brown House Lane is narrow and used for parking purposes at the side of the Golden Lion pub. Generated traffic, associated with this type of development, would create an additional hazard in this location.

263/12/03 The following application had been granted:

No. 9/03/00984/FUL – Thorncroft Bett Lane, Higher Wheelton.

264/12/03 The following application has been refused:

No. 9/03/00992/FUL – Briars Barn, Harbour Lane, Wheelton.

Old Sand Quarry

265/12/03 The Parish Council were concerned that Chorley Borough Council Executive Cabinet had deferred making a decision on the making of a compulsory purchase order in respect of the Old Sand Quarry until a business plan was prepared. It was decided to seek an immediate meeting with Roger Handscombe, Head of Property Services to discuss this unexpected development.

266/12/03 It has been reported that a motor cycling club is interested in the acquisition or sharing of the Old Sand Quarry. It would appear they have been using the site illegally. It was agreed that this activity would not fit in with the Councils' plans and any approach should be rejected.

Parish Plan

267/12/03 It was agreed that a Steering Group would be set up with the volunteers from Heapey and Wheelton Parish Councils. When it got under way it could be enlarged, hopefully, with members of the public. A meeting will be arranged shortly.

Wheelton Web Site

268/12/03 All the required information has not yet been obtained so the launch date for the web site has had to be postponed for a couple of weeks.

Re-Cycling Site

269/12/03 It has not been possible to obtain a site for recycling bottles, newspapers and tin cans in the Parish. Further approaches will be made to local pubs to accommodate the containers on their car parks.

LCC – Local Government Review of Lancashire

270/12/03 The proposals by LCC were noted. It was agreed that no action would be taken at this stage.

Training Courses

271/12/03 Permission was given for Councillor A Mohamet to attend the "New Councillors and Clerks" course to be held in Preston on Saturday 6th December 2003 and the Clerk to attend the "AQA Training –Portfolio of Evidence" course on 17th January 2004.

Items for Information

272/12/03 Noted.

Items for Consultation

273/12/03 The Chorley Borough Council's new supplementary planning guidance consultation drafts – EM4, EM9 and EM10 were accepted.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that "Carols around the Tree" would be held on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm in the War Memorial Gardens.
He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Date of next meeting

Monday 5th January 2004 at 8.0pm.