

The 842nd meeting of Wheelton Parish Council was held on Monday 7th July 2003

Present: Councillor T Dickenson – Chairman

Councillors K Berry, N Hayes, S Monaghan, R E Scambler and R Wheale.

Also present: Sgt Evans – Lancs Constabulary

Minutes of meeting held on 2nd June 2003

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Apologies for absence

Borough Councillors C Howard and Mrs I Smith

Matters Arising

151/7/03 Awards for All – Young People's Summer Scheme – Chorley Borough Council will pay the cost of the Film Making course to be held this Summer.

152/7/03 After Councillor Dickenson approached the Deputy Head of St John's School, Brinscall, the hedge obstructing the sight lines of vehicles turning out of Harbour Lane was cut back.

Police Report

153/7/03 Sgt Evans reported that travelling criminals from Bolton, Bury, Rochdale and Liverpool had been responsible for around 60% of burglaries in the area at the end of last year. The numbers have now subsided due to the employment of a special squad using equipment that can read number plates. Suspicious vehicles were stopped and many stolen vehicles recovered. This is making it more difficult for travelling criminals to get into the area. Staffing levels are still below strength, but it is hoped this will be rectified in the next year. There are no community policemen in this area at present, but they may be introduced again in the next 18 months. Neighbourhood Wardens, with powers to impose fixed penalties, have replaced Traffic Wardens. They are employed by the Borough Council but under the direction of the Police. Sgt Evans agreed to provide an article on local policing for the next edition of the Parish Newsletter. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance at the meeting and for his very interesting and informative talk.

Questions from Public

154/7/03 None.

Financial Report

155/7/03 There were 2 additional accounts to be approved:

W A Geddes – photocopying - £4.83 + VAT £0.85 = £5.68

Tulketh High School – photocopying - £8.00

156/7/03 Following discussion, it was formally proposed, seconded and passed unanimously that the Chairman should sign the Statement of Assurance for the annual audit.

157/7/03 The financial report was approved.

Planning Matters

158/7/03 There were no objections to the following application:

No. 9/03/00581/FUL

159/7/03 Complaints have been received about an additional building being erected at "XXXXX", Blackburn Road, Higher Wheelton. Clerk to contact CBC planning and enquire if planning permission has been granted.

160/7/03 Complaints have been received about a car on the grass verge in front of the Golden Lion being used as an advertisement. Clerk to notify the Enforcement Officer, CBC planning.

Old Sand Quarry

161/7/03 A meeting with Heapey and Whittle-le-Woods Parish Councils was held on Tuesday 1st July. A copy of the minutes is attached.

162/7/03 A letter has been received from the District Valuer notifying the Parish Council that an up-to-date valuation of the Old Sand Quarry is in the course of preparation and setting out the Standard Terms of Engagement. A copy has been sent to Mr Rodger Handscombe, Head of Property Services, CBC.

163/7/03 It was agreed that the Chairman should call a meeting of the Trustees of the Heapey and Wheelton Charity Trust and seek their agreement to approaching the Charity Commissioners in order to ask their permission to release £25000 (part interest and part capital) for the purchase of the Old Sand Quarry .

Borough/Parish Council Meeting

164/7/03 A representative will attend the next meeting which will be held on Thursday 25th September.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

165/7/03 As a result of the "flyer" which was distributed around the Parish, 3 people have indicated an interest in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor. It was decided that interviews would be held on 1st September starting at 8.10, 8.25 and 8.40. If there were any other applicants, these would be added to the list. The interviews would be informal and concentrate on the applicant's personal details and what they could do for the Parish. Clerk to write and inform the applicants.

166/7/03 To enable the work of the Council to be completed, as well as the interviews , it was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously that the meeting on 1st September should commence at 7.45pm

Village Design/Parish Plan

167/7/03 The Parish Council are still awaiting the results of advertising for volunteers at the village fete to serve on the Steering Group for the Parish Plan. Councillors were urged to find other volunteers so that work on the Plan could commence in the Autumn.

Wheelton Web Site

168/7/03 Work is still progressing and the launch date has been set for October.

Parish Newsletter

169/7/03 Some articles have been received for the next edition, but Councillors were urged to provide more so that the publication date of September could be met.

Parish Amenities

170/7/03 It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply for a grant to assist towards renewing the safety surface in the Children's playground and provide more safety fencing. Councillor Hayes agreed to complete the application form.

Items for Information

171/7/03 Information about School Governors – noted.

172/7/03 Periodic review of Lancashire County Council – Ward boundaries – noted.

173/7/03 Local Government Review of two-tier areas in the North West – noted

174/7/03 Standards Board for England – The Code in Practice video – This will be circulated to all Councillors.

175/7/03 The I&DEA guide for new members – noted.

176/7/03 Community Futures – Database of rural shops To be circulated, completed and sent off to Community Futures.

177/7/03 The Quality Parish Scheme – noted.

178/7/03 Draft School Organisation Plan for Lancashire 2003/2008 – noted.

Date of next meeting

Monday, 1st September 2003 at 7.45pm.