

**TICKNALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN TICKNALL
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillors Green (Chairman), Holt, Wolsey, Tibbert, Parker and Shepherd

Staff and Public Clerk to the Council, District Councillor Stanton
in attendance: County Councillor Jones

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

456/07 Apologies: None

457/07 Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Shepherd declared an interest in all planning matters because he sits on the Planning Committee at SDDC. He also declared an interest in the License Application for The Wheel Inn, Ticknall.

Councillors Green, Tibbert, Holt, Wolsey and Parker declared an interest in application 9 2007 0984 TC – The felling of trees at 4 Harpur Avenue, Ticknall

458/07 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st July 2007

Resolved: These were approved and signed as a true record.

459/07 Clerk's Report:

- a) Christmas tree pruning and Christmas Lights

A quote has been received from Ashby Arborist Services for £250.00 to remove the Spruce and prune the Cherry. The Clerk has been advised by the Planning Department that they will have no objections with the application with the provision that we agree to 'formative crown reshaping' not the 20% crown reduction recommended by the Parish Council's tree expert. The Clerk has written to SDDC to agree to this stipulation.

The Parish Council also discussed what to do about this year's Christmas tree and lights.

RESOLVED: To accept the quote to remove the Spruce and the work on the Cherry as stipulated by SDDC. To contact Staunton Logs and order a cut Christmas tree and to purchase a set of lights if the set on the Spruce cannot be salvaged. We agreed also to contact an electrician to put the electrics underground.

- b) DALC Course:

RESOLVED: To contact DALC to book the Parish Council and the Clerk onto the course at Ticknall on December 1st. In the meantime to contact DALC to progress the interest in the course with a view to adapt the times if necessary.

- c) SDDC – Potholes in Chapel Street:

The Parish Council has received a reply to its letter to SDDC asking them to bring some pressure to bear on the Harpur Crewe Estate to repair the potholes on Chapel Street to protect the SDDC tenants who live on the road. SDDC replied that it would send our request to DCC the highway authority. However, the road is privately owned by the Harpur Crewe Estate. It was also reported since then that a pensioner who lives in one of the bungalows fell into a pothole and injured herself. One of the councillors reported that the Harpur Crewe Estate has agreed to investigate.

RESOLVED: To wait for investigations by Harpur Crewe.

d) Gully on Main Street:

A response has been received from County Councillor Jones that the gully is still not working despite it having been jetted. He has contacted DCC and asked them to investigate.

RESOLVED: To wait for a response from DCC after the investigations have taken place.

Since agenda:

e) DCC Speeding along B5006

The Parish Council has received a response from DCC in reply to the Parish Council's request that when the speeding surveys are completed on the 'A' roads and then they undertake the same surveys on the 'B' roads that they will make the B5006 Ashby Road a priority.

RESOLVED: To wait for the surveys to happen on 'B' roads.

f) Rabbit wire on local footpath

A complaint was received from a resident that a local footpath is blocked off with wire put there to stop rabbits from getting into a farmer's field. The SDDC footpaths officer has investigated and found that it has been put there to stop the rabbits eating sweet corn. He promised to revisit and to report later.

g) Wooden Bollards on Rose Lane

DCC has promised to replace the two wood reflective bollards on the lane.

h) Triangle on Staunton Lane:

The Clerk contacted DCC to ask if the link fencing could be reinstated on the triangle and was advised that they do not replace that type of fencing because if a vehicle hits it then the owner of the vehicle could sue the council. The triangle has been mowed and will be mowed regularly and this seems to have improved it.

460/07 Matters brought from Surgery and Public Participation:

There are no matters to report.

461/07 Police Incident Report

A police report has been received and thankfully there are no incidents in Ticknall.

462/07 Midlands Rural Housing – Local Housing Need in Ticknall

No report received.

463/07 Local Bus Service

The Clerk contacted DCC and was informed that bus service companies are legally obliged to advise DCC 8 weeks ahead of any changes. There are six set dates in the year

countrywide when bus companies have to advise of changes, the next date in Derbyshire being the end of October, so 8 weeks prior to that date, is the last date for warning of changes. Bus companies have a voluntary code as well where they advise local authorities of any imminent changes and I was advised that Arriva are very good at abiding by this ruling.

On contacting DCC again today we were advised that the Swadlincote Depot is closing and services are being transferred to Burton. Some building work is needed there so the services are likely to carry on while that is going on. Quite how the 69 service is going to carry on from Burton, DCC could not tell me because they have not had any information from Arriva. However, when they do hear they will work towards keeping the service.

464/07 The Grange and Pavilion Matters:

- a) Quotes for boundaries and hedges - Mr. Heath has been asked to quote for work.
- b) Showers and roof repair. The showers and mortar on the roof has been repaired. Further work is intended on the broken tiles on the roof which were damaged by balls.

RESOLVED: When the invoice is received for the replacement of the tiles to assess whether the Parish Council wants to factor in these repairs into the charging for the pavilion.

- c) Container for mower:

The Parish Council has received information from SDDC Planning that a planning application for a metal container behind the pavilion would be looked at favourably with the condition put in by the Conservation Officer that it should be painted either Donkey Brown or Grey which blend in better than the suggested Green.

RESOLVED: To apply for planning permission. We also will need to ask permission of SDDC as landlord and they to ask permission of the Harpur Crewe Estate. To write to the Cricket Club advising that we will apply for planning permission but that if it is granted that we will put a 3 year restriction on the container and that it will have to be removed after that time.

- d) Items for Users' Group Meeting
 - 1) Untidiness at back of pavilion
 - 2) Advertising Hoarding Boards
 - 3) Ball damage on roof of pavilion

465/07 Village Walk

Councillors Wolsey, Holt and Green who were joined by 3 members of the public walked the village on September 1st.

The following items were noticed:

- 1) Shrubs overhanging pavements and roads, most of which were on Harpur Crewe land. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to Harpur Crewe to ask their tenants to cut these back.
- 2) The grapevine site is very untidy.
- 3) Pavements. Those in Rose Lane and School Lane are in need of repair, also those at the far end of Ashby Road after the white railings. The Councillors found those along the rest of High Street/Ashby Road to be in reasonable condition which is also the opinion of DCC. It was thought that another walk along them when it was dark might prove useful.
- 4) White Railings need painting, also it was suggested that those at the end of Rose Lane should be replaced with something more in keeping.

- 5) Footpath entrances need attention. The Clerk will contact our contractor.
- 6) Ivy on lockup and wells. The Clerk will ask the contractor to clear these and to litter pick at the same time around these areas.

466/07 Spending suggestions to March 2008

- 1) Rose Lane garden restoration. It was felt that this should be restored, but not with roses which need a lot of maintenance. Shrubs or a tree which would not take over the site or damage the stone wall was suggested, as was a seat. Ideas to be tabled at the next meeting.
- 2) Increased cleaning in the village.
- 3) The bus shelter at Staunton Lane is looking drab and it was thought that a stone shelter would be more in keeping. County Councillor Jones was asked to establish who is responsible for bus shelters and he informed the Parish Council that 50% costs are available for the replacement of shelters although these would need to be of the open type for public safety. Bearing this in mind Councillor Jones was asked to provide to the Parish Council DCC information on the current rules and regulations for bus shelters. It was thought that this would probably not be acceptable so a refurbishment with wood stain would improve the bus shelter on the triangle. It was agreed that the Clerk ask our contractor to do the work.
- 4) Planting at each end of the village near the Ticknall signs similar to those at each end of Melbourne. The Clerk was asked to contact Melbourne Parish Council to find out who supplied and maintains these.
- 5) To put an item into the next newsletter to ask Parishioners for their suggestions for improvements to the village and to remind them to cut overhanging shrubbery.

467/07 Finance

Receipts since last meeting: None

Payments for approval:

Norclean Services –clean pavilion July £130.00, £22.76 VAT	£152.76 ch 107
Hardman, Coleman & Whotton – repairs to pavilion roof and showers £487.49, £85.31 VAT	£572.80 ch 108
Norclean Services Ltd – clean pavilion in August £195.00, £34.14 VAT	£229.14
Big on Taste – buffet £94.60, £16.55 VAT	£111.15 ch 110
Hillcrest Landscapes – footpaths work £40.00, £7.00 VAT	£47.00 ch 111
C. Bunston – Clerk’s salary to 5 th September 2007 £182.72 minus £14.44 PAYE	£168.28 ch 112
Limeyard – Web services May 2007-April 2008	£250.00 ch 114
Zurich Insurance - Parish Council insurance	£1506.69 ch 118
C. Bunston – expenses Printing £52.80, Cartridge £11.85, Post £1.18, Paper £2.93	£68.76 ch 115
D. Ingman – Internal Audit Services 2006/07	£125.00 ch 116
Norclean – Clean Pavilion £195.00, £34.14 VAT	£229.14 ch 117

Resolved: That the above payments could be made including Zurich Insurance, the Parish Council agreed that the insurance cover for the old mower should be removed and the Clerk should ask for a new invoice.

468/07 Planning Matters

Planning Applications:

9 2007 0956 TC – The felling of a Spruce Tree and pruning of a Cherry Tree at land on the corner of Main Street and Ingleby Lane, Ticknall.

9 2007 0962 TC – The felling and pruning of trees at Stables, 88a Main Street, Ticknall.

9 2007 0957 FH – The revised position of kitchen external doors at 1 Melbourne Lane, Ticknall.

9 2007 0945 FH – The erection of an extension at Potworks House Barn, Ashby Road, Ticknall.

9 2007 0984 TC – The felling of trees at 4 Harpur Avenue, Ticknall.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council has no comments on the above applications.

Planning Decisions: None

469/07 Licensing Applications & Variations of Premise Licences

Ratify objections made to licensing application for The Wheel Inn, Main Street, Ticknall.

Councillor Shepherd took no part in this decision.

Since the last meeting when the application was on the agenda the Parish Council became aware of the full facts of the application and made the following objections.

The Parish Council has reviewed the Punch Taverns licence application for The Wheel Inn, Ticknall and was also requested to attend a public meeting organised by residents who live in the immediate vicinity of The Wheel, at which 36 people attended.

As a peaceful village, an acceptable licence for The Wheel to the people of Ticknall is one which promotes a typical rural public house, with reasonably restricted opening hours, occasional parties or functions involving some music and/or dancing which may go on until later, but authorised by exception. This application seems to be an all-encompassing blanket application (admitted by Punch Taverns) that is more suitable to a city centre popular venue, being open all-day and every day until very late (admittedly not the latest possible) and with dancing every night of the week including Sundays. No mention is made of the food to be served prior to 11:00pm so we have no idea whether it is intended to be a dining pub with occasional parties or a trendy disco bar with all the attendant overspill into the community.

It is now several years since The Wheel functioned solely as a public house. When it did so, its public house activities were confined to the ground floor. On being converted into a restaurant, it now has 2 floors available to the public, the middle storey being where 35-40 diners were previously accommodated in the restaurant. Now that it is reverting to a pub, the application for an all-encompassing late night drinking and dancing licence has sent shock-waves through the community resulting in many letters of objection being written to the SDDC Licensing Department, and a public meeting organised by the residents most affected, many of whom are very worried about the possible outcome to their peaceful lifestyle should this licence be granted as applied for.

The main concerns are:

Noise

The threat posed by the dancing application for 7 days per week.

Increased parking problems

Increased crime and disorder problems

Whilst the Parish Council supports its residents in their fears, it also recognises that it has a wider responsibility in also supporting local businesses. However, it cannot support an application as wide-open as this one. It therefore objects to what in effect is an ill-thought out application, made without any attempt to consult with the village community (despite what is said in the mitigating statements and on the Punch Taverns website), and requests that in

effect a probationary licence is granted which restricts the opening hours to those which are practised by the other pubs in Ticknall (what actually happens, not what is on the licence) until such time that an adequate history of usage has been created which can then be used to assess suitability for extensions.

Without this approach we are concerned about the following:

1. A neighbour of The Wheel has been in touch with Punch Taverns who have stated that they will be submitting plans to make substantial changes to The Wheel. We infer from their mitigating statements that some of these changes will involve additional lighting; this is to mitigate against increased crime and disorder. Clearly they are expecting increased crime and disorder to be a problem – this is unacceptable. The licence should therefore be restricted to minimise the risk of a rise in crime and disorder.

Already in South Derbyshire there are an increasing level of crime and disorder incidents as a result of increased opening hours and the new anti-smoking laws. We have heard of problems at The Wheel in Findern where there has been damage to neighbours property, and there are also problems in Melbourne, where people living in the vicinity of the main town hotel are experiencing a much higher level of noise and until very late, disruption and damage.

2. Guidance note 6 to the application says “. . . only give details for the days of the week when you intend the premises to be used for this activity.” In section J - Provision of facilities for dancing - the request is for every day until 12 midnight (Su-Thurs) or 0030 Fri & Sat. Given the likelihood of increasing problems in the larger towns and villages of South Derbyshire, we are concerned that a clamp-down by public house landlords in those larger towns & villages will cause a mass transfer to more relaxed hostelrys; this could be facilitated by the 69 bus which not only runs until late but also throughout the night. We already have an increasing and unacceptable number of problems regarding noise, anti-social behaviour and damage from functions held at the Village Hall, and these are only held 10 –12 times per year. This licence application, if granted, is going to potentially increase this problem by a factor of 30. This is completely unacceptable.

3. Parking issues. We understand that the Licensing rules do not consider increased parking problems to be valid. This seems to be a crazy situation. The Wheel only has a small car park, with only a little scope to enlarge it. Ticknall already has a major parking problem, with many kerbside cottages on the main A514 and B5006 having no parking space at all. When The Wheel was open as a restaurant, the parking situation was much worse with side-roads further afield being used. But at least the clients were respectful of the peace in the village and the hours were in reality not that late. The dance attendance potential could easily create an additional 30-40 cars which would necessitate more side roads being used and more noise disturbance due to the later operating times.

4. The new anti-smoking laws seem to have several unintended consequences, one of which is the congregating of large numbers of people on pavements, in car parks etc. And even if shelters are provided these allow the escape of noise. Opposite The Wheel are some memorial seats on a pleasant grassed area; clearly this is going to become the unofficial smokers venue in good weather with the consequential increase in noise and litter.

5. Noise. The other aspect which is of concern is excessive noise from dance music. No mention is made of whether The Wheel is going to have air conditioning installed. We suspect that this would be seen to be uneconomical. If this is the case, then from experience of those of us who have eaten and drunk there in the past, the building will get very hot and the windows will be opened wide with consequential high noise disturbance to the neighbourhood. And of course, sound travels further at night, and therefore seems louder.

Also, revellers do not tend to read signs when they leave – the noise at the end of a dance session will create a big disturbance.

In summary, given the usage history of The Wheel, we think this application is taking too large a step at one go. Clearly many residents feel the same. We are anxious to see The Wheel become successful, but it must not be at the expense of the quality of life of local residents. Ideally we would like to initially see all dancing functions being given permission on a case-by-case basis until such time that either a reasonable history of dancing functions with no consequential problems has been built up, or that a licence is granted which limits the number of dancing occasions to no more than 6 per year for the first 2 years, and also that the drinking closing time is restricted until an adequate history has been built up.

We also suggest that before any licence is granted Punch Taverns are persuaded to advise the village publicly in detail of their intentions and then resubmit their application accordingly.

470/07 Correspondence:

- a) SDDC – Healthy Lifestyle Officer.
- b) SDDC – Anti Graffiti Kits.
- c) Draft East Midlands Regional Plan Public Examination.
- d) Mr. Hibbert – email re: Wheel Inn licence application.
- e) Planning Department, SDDC – Acknowledgement of a notice under Section 211 of intention to Lop, Top or fell a tree in a Conservation Area.
- g) Jean & Peter Burden – invitation to anniversary of Winfeld.
- h) Michael Gell – resiting of village Christmas tree. A local resident suggested moving the site of the village Christmas tree to the Market Place, after some discussion it was decided that the pavements at Ingleby Lane/Main Street were useful for people to stand in wet weather whereas the Market Place would be very boggy underfoot. Also the electric supply is in place and this is a Parish Council site so it was decided to continue here. However it was agreed that the National Trust who owns the Market Place might consider putting a lit tree on the site or on one of the verges entering Calke Park to enhance the village and their own Christmas activities.

RESOLVED: To write to the National Trust asking them to consider putting in a Christmas tree with lights on the Market Place or on one of the verges. To note the other correspondence.

471/07 Reports to Note:

- a) DALC Circular 21 General, Circular 22 Training – Winter 2007, Circular 23 General, Circular 24 DALC President 2007-08, Parish Plan Workshops, Pay negotiations update, Annual General Meeting 15 September, Christmas social evening for Parish/Town Councils 12 December, DALC Annual Report 2006/07, South Derbyshire District Council Standards Committee, Derbyshire Constabulary, Have Your Say Report 2007, Executive Committee 2007-11.
- b) DCC – Climate Change, Excellence in the Community Awards 2007, Derbyshire Police Annual Report 2006/07
- c) Safer Neighbourhoods Group – agenda for meeting on 6 September.
- d) SDDC – Reports of Committees for meeting on 16 August
- e) DCC – Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan
- f) NALC Conference 2007
- g) CVS AGM, 10 October 2007.
- h) Derbyshire County PCT Strategy.
- i) Association of Airport Related Councils – advising the Parish Council that unless it has more support from Parishes it may disband.

RESOLVED: To put a piece into the next newsletter asking parishioners if they have any new issues with aircraft operations, and to note the reports.

472/07 Reports from representatives to outside bodies:

Councillor Tibbert and Councillor Holt attended the Safer Neighbourhoods Group Meeting and were pleased to report that Ticknall is a low crime area, but the public who attended wanted more police patrols.

A Farm Watch has been put in place and some leaflets are available to discourage Trick or Treat callers at Halloween.

The Group has £8000 to spend on youth provision.

Councillor Tibbert was asked at the Safer Neighbourhoods Group meeting about the Neighbourhood watch Scheme and if one could be set up in Ticknall.

735/07 Date of next meetings:

Tuesday 23rd October at 7.30 pm with a surgery at 7.00pm, and 4th December 2007.