

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 20 JULY 2009 AT 6.30 PM**

**C031/09 Present:** Cllr F Bark, Cllr D Brown, Cllr A Clamp, Cllr D Haspel, Cllr S Maskrey, Cllr A Pollock, Cllr I Ratcliffe, Cllr M Ratcliffe, Cllr J Stockell, Cllr C Whittall.

In attendance: Member of the Public, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

**C032/09 Apologies for absence:** Cllr K Frith

**C033/09 Members' Interests in Agenda Items:**

None declared.

**C034/09 Open Forum:**

- a) Public Forum: Mr Steve Brett spoke about the problem of Japanese Knotweed in the town. Several sites had been identified in the town and the situation needs to be addressed before it becomes a major problem.
- b) District Councillor Reports: Cllr P Slack had circulated a written report prior to the meeting. A discussion took place on the public conveniences review.
- c) County Councillor Report: Cllr G Purdy had submitted a written report, but updated members on recent matters.
- d) Police Matters: No member of Derbyshire Constabulary was present at the meeting.

**C035/09 Japanese Knotweed:**

Cllr M Ratcliffe proposed that this item (No 9 on the agenda) be brought forward for discussion in view of the attendance by the member of public. He drew attention to the fact that Wirksworth has the third highest infestation of Japanese knotweed in Derbyshire, and although it is not a notifiable weed, unless a programme for eradication is put in place, it will spread and become uncontrollable. A discussion took place on this matter, and it was agreed that members of the public need further information with regard to tackling this problem.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That letters be sent to DDDC and tarmac regarding the need to address this problem with a long-term policy of spraying;
- b) That the Mayor and Deputy draft a policy for the Town Council with regard to Japanese knotweed;
- c) That Steve Brett be invited to take part in the next Environment Day at Stoney Wood, to highlight the problems with Japanese knotweed;
- d) That Cllr M Ratcliffe pursues this matter further as a District Councillor.

**C036/09 Minutes of the Meeting of the Wirksworth Town Council:**

The minutes of the Meeting of Wirksworth Town Council dated 15 June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

**C037/09 Town Mayor's Announcements:**

The Mayor reported on events he had attended since the last meeting.

**C038/09 Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee:**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes and recommendations of the Environment & Planning Committee dated 6 July 2009 be approved.

**C039/09 Minutes and recommendations of the Town and Finance Committee:**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes and recommendations of the Town and Finance Committee dated 13 July 2009 be approved.

**C040/09 Accounts Paid – June:**

**RESOLVED** That payment of the attached accounts in the sum of £17630.55 be formally approved.

**C041/09 Town Councillor Representative Reports:**

Stoney Wood : Cllr Pollock reported that the postponed Acoustics Evening would now be held on 26 July.

Heritage Centre : Cllr Brown reported that visitor numbers were up this year. He drew attention to the poor signing of the Centre.

NOW : Cllr Clamp reported that she would like to see the Town Council's links with NOW strengthened.

Care Centre : Cllr I Ratcliffe reported on a change of catering contractor at the Care Centre.

**RESOLVED** That the reports be noted.

**C042/09 Motion put by Cllr I Ratcliffe re Quality Parish Council Status:**

Cllr I Ratcliffe put the following motion before the Town Council:

*“That the Wirksworth Town Council commits to achieving Quality Parish Status over the next twelve to eighteen months”:*

A discussion took place on this matter and the implications/benefits to the Town Council, should seek achieve Quality Parish Status. Cllr Whittall proposed an amendment to the motion, to defer a decision until September, when the costings of such a project would be available.

**RESOLVED:** That the Mayor, Chair of Town & Finance and the Clerk cost and scrutinise the proposal in terms of finance and workload, and report back to full Council in September.

**C043/09 Information:**

The following documents had been circulated, for information:

i) Correspondence:

- a. From DDDC – Review of Housing Renewal Policy (circulated)
- b. From residents re commercial wheeled bins in town (circulated) – Cllr M Ratcliffe gave an update on this matter which he was continuing to pursue.

RESOLVED That the Town Council send a letter to DDDC, pointing out their concerns with regard to this matter.

ii) Tabled at meeting:

- a. DALC Circulars
  - 29/2009 – Free Energy Audits for Community Buildings
  - 30/2009 – VAT Workshops & Training
  - 31/2009 – Training Course : Responding to a Planning Application
  - 32/2009 – General Circular: OBE for John Findlay, Death of Charles Arnold Baker; Vacancy.
  - 33/2009 - General Circular: East Midlands Regional Plan; Business Link; NALC Awards
  - 34/2009 – Publication of Report : Local Authority Investments
  - 36/2009 – General Circular : Obituaries; Village SOS; Vacancy
  - 37/2009 – General Circular : Training
- b. EMDA News Spring 2009
- c. East Midlands Airport – Community & Environment
- d. East Midlands Regional Assembly – Regional Plan Partial Review : Options Consultation

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The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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Chairman