

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 6.30 PM**

C108/09 Present: Cllr F Bark, Cllr D Brown, Cllr A Clamp, Cllr K Frith, Cllr D Haspel, Cllr S Maskrey, Cllr A Pollock, Cllr I Ratcliffe, Cllr M Ratcliffe, Cllr J Stockell, Cllr C Whittall.

In attendance: Members of the electorate, County Cllr G Purdy (8.05pm), Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

C109/09 Apologies for absence: Members of the Police.

C110/09 Members' Interests in Agenda Items:

None declared.

C111/09a Open Forum:

a) Public Forum:

1) Janet Pigeon spoke about the Church Walk improvements planned, subject to funding. If the project is successful, plans will need to be in place for a 10-15 year maintenance plan, and Mrs Pigeon hoped that the Town Council could agree to be involved in the monitoring and encouragement of other authorities involved in the maintenance plan.

2) Members of the public and a local landlord spoke about the recent re-erection of a public house sign.

C112/09 Exclusion of Public and Press:

RECOMM: That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting, as publicity to the matters under discussion would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

C113/09 Reinstatement of Public House Sign:

A discussion took place on this matter.

RESOLVED That the information be noted, as no planning, conservation or legal issues are involved.

C114/09 Inclusion of Public & Press:

RESOLVED That the meeting be opened again to the public and press.

Cllr Clamp left the meeting at 7.10pm

C111/09b Open Forum (resumed):

- b) District Councillor Reports: Cllr P Slack had circulated a written report prior to the meeting.
- c) County Councillor Report: Cllr G Purdy reported on action he had taken in relation to various issues in the town. Cllr I Ratcliffe asked if Cllr Purdy could pursue the promised flashing speed sign for Steeple Grange.

C115/09 Minutes of the Meeting of the Wirksworth Town Council:

The minutes of the Meeting of Wirksworth Town Council dated 20 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

C116/09 Town Mayor's Announcements:

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

C117/09 Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee:

RESOLVED That the minutes and recommendations of the Environment & Planning Committee dated 7 September 2009 be approved.

C118/09 Minutes and recommendations of the Town and Finance Committee:

RESOLVED That the minutes and recommendations of the Town and Finance Committee dated 14 September 2009 be approved.

C119/09 Accounts Paid – July & August:

RESOLVED That payment of the attached accounts in the sums of £17572.58 (July) and £24843.79 (August) be formally approved.

C120/09 Town Councillor Representative Reports:

Stoney Wood: Cllr Pollock reported on the Big Green Day to be held on the following weekend.

Gorsey Bank: Cllr Pollock reported on the planned Gorsey Bank activity afternoon to be held on 10 October, when it was hoped to secure the views of local children on play equipment provision.

Cllr Pollock left the meeting at 7.30 pm

Almshouses Trust: Cllr Whittall reported that a trust meeting would be held shortly.

Care Centre: Cllr I Ratcliffe reported that the respite flats would shortly open.

Bolehill: Cllr Brown gave an update on the present position with regard to the proposed car parking area. Insurance information was not yet to hand, but DDDC had confirmed that the grant money had been “ring fenced” for the Bolehill parking area, and would be available even if the 31 March 2010 deadline was exceeded.

Heritage Centre: Cllr Brown said that the accreditation process was under way, but that a Chair of the group was needed.

Festival: Cllr Brown reported on a successful first week of the 2009 Festival.

Town Hall Improvements: Cllr Clamp had left a report and asked the Town Council to confirm their financial commitment to the Town Hall improvements project, in the sum of £15,300.

RESOLVED That the Town Council's financial commitment as outlined above be confirmed.

C121/09 Quality Parish Status:

Cllrs were reminded that a motion had been placed before the Council in July, that the Town Council seeks Quality Parish Status within the next 18 months. Further information had been requested, and the Clerk was now able to supply this. She advised that the portfolio of evidence should contain up-to-date information and would therefore need to be prepared just prior to submission. However, she pointed out that the evidence needed to cover a period of at least one year, and so as the Town Council had not yet produced a newsletter, an application could not be submitted until 12 months from the production of the first newsletter. The Clerk also reminded Cllrs of the need to identify training needs, and for the Council to attend regular training sessions.

RESOLVED That the Town Council proceeds towards seeking Quality Parish Status, but because of the time involved in producing the evidence (ie over at least a 12 month period), and the need to reapply after each election, the submission be made shortly after the next local election.

C122/09 Proposal to move to two full Council meetings per month:

Cllr Bark felt it would be useful to discuss the possibility of changing from a Committee structure to two full Council meetings per month. He felt that this would speed up the transaction of business, and would lead to greater efficiency. A discussion took place on the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.

RESOLVED That further investigation takes place into how such a scheme could be best implemented, before a final decision is taken.

Cllrs C Whittall and J Stockell left the meeting at 8.10 pm

C123/09 Information:

The following documents were tabled:

- a. DALC Circulars
 - 40/2009 : General Circular – Annual Parish Councils Meeting; National Minimum Wage; Vacancies.
 - 41/2009 : County Council & Parish/Town Council Liaison Forum
 - 42/2009 : DALC President
 - 43/2009 : PWB Training
 - 44/2009 : General Circular – Swine Flu – Flu Friend; Active Derbyshire Campaign; Derbyshire Dales CVS Training; Vacancy
 - 45/2009 : Strengthening Local Democracy
 - 46/2009 : General Circular – Free Energy Audits; Market Failure – Can the Traditional Market Survive; Vacancy.
 - 47/2009 : Parish Council Liaison Meeting
- b. Ecclesbourne Express Summer 2009
- c. Comment – Fairtrade Foundation Newsletter
- d. Quart – DDCVS Newsletter July 2009

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The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

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Chairman