

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
15 OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM IN WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD,
WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present : Councillor Ken Morris - Chairman
Councillor Barry Abraham – Vice Chairman
Councillors Corinne Carey, Dick Doran, Edward Giles, Barrie Hailstone,
Pete Mundell, Steve Porter, Daryll Pitcher

Also present: 6 Members of the public
0 Member of the press
Val Cooper - Parish Clerk

Items raised in the Open Forum:

No items were raised.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13/341. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Ballard who was still recovering from his spell of ill health.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2013

13/342. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2013.

RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2013 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION OF A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

13/343. No requests for dispensation of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest had been received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

13/344. No declarations of Pecuniary or non Pecuniary interests had been received,

4A. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW CONSULTATION (Brought forward from Item 13)

13/345. To consider the changes on the governance arrangements for the Isle of Wight Council and to comment on the three options put forward.

The meeting heard that the Isle of Wight Council is running a consultation on the governance arrangements for the Council. The consultation will run to 31 October 2013, with the results to be reported to the November 2013 Full Council meeting. Details had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The three options for comment were:-

1. The current cabinet /leader/scrutiny model
2. A committee structure
3. A hybrid system consisting of one party cabinet with a small number of politically proportionate committees and one Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting heard a significant number of views on each of the options proposed, with six members voting for the first option and two members voting for the third option, with none for the second option.

RESOLVED – THAT WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD COMPLETE THE CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL AND WILL VOTE FOR OPTION ONE, THE CURRENT CABINET/LEADER/SCRUTINY MODEL. IN ADDITION A COMMENT WILL BE MADE THAT THE VOTE WAS 6 VOTES FOR OPTION ONE, TWO VOTES FOR OPTION 3 AND NONE FOR OPTION 2.

5. MATTERS ARISING.
Progress reports only.

13/346. Rugby Club (Minute 13/304)

One of the residents backing on to the Rugby Club referred to the meeting on 8 October 2013 which was attended by representatives from the Rugby Club, Rugby Football Union, Isle of Wight Council,

Wootton Bridge Parish Council and residents backing on to the Rugby Club. A lot of proposals had been put forward at the meeting including the possibility of:-

- Enlarging the clubhouse
- Two further rugby teams
- A road or path to the clubhouse if grant funding is given
- The clubhouse being used for other activities
- Floodlighting
- The creation of a 50 year lease.

Concern was raised by residents that these proposals would change the ethos of the Doorstep Green and would have an impact on residents and the general public. Car parking is already inadequate and a fifty year lease would tie up a large proportion of the recreation ground affecting future generations for the next 50 years. The residents stated that all they are asking for is for the Rugby Club to comply with their lease and for the Isle of Wight Council to endorse the conditions, which has not happened. A query was raised as to whether now is the time for all Wootton residents to be made aware of the proposals.

The issue of bad language was again discussed, as well as access and parking and how other sports facilities can fit in with the proposals being made. It was agreed that once the plans for the Rugby Club have been formulated the matter will be discussed again.

13/347. Litter Bins (Minute 13/305)

Matt Shaw, Island Roads District Steward, was liaising with Dave Wallis about bins being installed in the High Street. He apologised for the delay and will get an answer as soon as possible.

13/348. Doctors Surgery (Minute 13/308)

The Practice Manager had spoken to the developers who reported that all relevant paperwork is now in order and they are hoping the diggers will be on site to begin the building within the next two weeks. The practice manager will pass on the exact date when she receives this.

13/349. Parish Council rent for use of the Primary School buildings for meetings (Minute 13/312).

Councillor Stubbings had obtained confirmation that the Isle of Wight Council will continue to pay for the room at the school and had asked the Clerk to send the invoice to the Isle of Wight Council. Councillor Stubbings was thanked for his work on this matter.

13/350. Lay Assessors (Minute 13/330)

Information had been sent to Councillors on 18 September about Island Roads' request for Lay Assessors.

RESOLVED – THAT ISLAND ROADS WILL BE ADVISED THAT COUNCILLORS EDWARD GILES AND BARRIE HAILSTONE VOLUNTEERED TO BE LAY ASSESSORS TO INSPECT THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY ISLAND ROADS.

13/351. Wootton Short Mat Bowls Club (Minute 13/334).

Carol King called into the office and thanked the Parish Council for their kind offer to fund £250 towards one of their Long Mats out of the Sports Bursary Fund. She will let the Parish Council know nearer the time when the mat is going to be purchased.

13/352. Community Bus (Minute 13/323).

The Clerk had attended a meeting at East Cowes Town Council office. Discussions were under way about amending the bus timetable and details will be made available when known. There is now a flat fare of £2 per return journey to non bus pass holders on all routes. The Clerk was to look into why there was no sign about this on the number 34 bus.

13/353. Condition of New Road/Footways.

Councillor Hailstone had been in correspondence with Julie Cohen of the Isle of Wight Council who had been very helpful, with the email being copied into Mark Griffin so that the road condition can be looked at as Councillor Hailstone was very dissatisfied that nothing is planned to be done until 2016.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:-

13/354. P/01169/13 TCP/31523/A

37 Palmers Road, Wootton Bridge

Demolition of garage and covered way; proposed single storey side extension to form double garage/workshop; wet room and new porch (revised scheme).

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01169/13.

13/355. P/01206/13 TCP/12446/C

Ivy Hall, Mill Square, Wootton Bridge

Proposed conservatory.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01206/13.

13/356. P/01190/13 TCP/20851/T

Little Canada Centre, New Road, Wootton Bridge

Retention of six static caravans providing staff accommodation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01190/13.

13/357. Decisions.

P/00982/13 – Approved (40 Station Road, Wootton Bridge)

13/358. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1991/38/A2- Land opposite Ashlake Copse House, Ashlake Copse Lane, Wootton Bridge.

13/359. Appeal

E/31135/J – Styles, Creek Gardens, New Road, Wootton Bridge

Non compliance with Condition that occupation of the units of accommodation shall be limited to holiday use only and not for permanent or main residences.

7. MONTHLY REPORT OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ISSUES AFFECTING THE VILLAGE

13/360. Report by local member.

Councillor Pitcher provided a written report on the following items:-

- The debate over the new system of governance for the Isle of Wight (already discussed under Item 4A above).
- 20 mph zones. Councillor Pitcher talked further on this under Item 14.
- Grass Area at Brannon Way Car Park. Councillor Pitcher will hopefully have further information on this item by the time of the next meeting.

8. OLD SCHOOL BUILDING, NEW ROAD

13/361. To receive an update on the position regarding the lease on the old school building in New Road.

The Solicitor had confirmed a completion date of 21st October for the Parish Council to take over the Old School Building. The insurance had been requested to start from this date. Councillor Porter was thanked for signing the lease and moving this matter on. Councillor Porter reported that tenants were inherited from the Isle of Wight Council who have already started decorating. A Management Committee was to be set up with representatives from PGL, Blue Sky Arts, the Village Partnership (Carol King), Wootton Bridge Sports & Fitness Association (Councillors Brian Ballard and Steve Porter) and the Parish Council (Corinne Carey), with the first committee meeting to be held on Thursday 17th October 2013. It was felt to be important that the building is available for community use.

9. WILDFLOWER VERGES AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

13/362. To further consider the suggestion for wildflower planting on verges and the planting of poppies to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of World War 1.

The Clerk had contacted Island Roads. Matt Shaw said items to think about included who would carry out maintenance of the verges, cutting etc and think about who owns the land. Visibility will

need to be taken account of including driveways, and planting should be set back from the carriageway. He did not feel there will be any objections in principle, as long as we have answers to these issues.

The Peoples Trust had been contacted, with a response awaited. Councillor Abraham felt areas suitable for planting were the village gateways (the bottom of Lushington Hill, the bridge at the bottom of the High Street and opposite Briddlesford Road Cemetery), with neighbouring Parish Councils to be contacted to see if they were on board with this.

Discussion took place about wildflowers taking a long time to get established, which may result in the areas looking unkempt for a while. The project would need a team of volunteers to both plant and maintain the areas and a survey will be required regarding which soil is suitable for which plants. The planting of poppies to commemorate WW1 was also discussed, with poppies needing virgin soil. Island Roads release staff on community projects, with the Clerk at Fishbourne already approaching them about this issue. There is also information about this in Community Insight.
RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL CONTACT THE CLERK AT FISHBOURNE ABOUT THE POSITION OF ISLAND ROADS ON RELEASING STAFF FOR PLANTING UP WILDFLOWER CORRIDORS.

10. TREE WARDEN REPORT

13/363. To receive a report from the Tree Warden about the health of the trees in the village.

Gill Salter gave a comprehensive report on the health of trees in the village. Overall the trees are healthy, with no reports of Ash die back, although she will keep an eye on this next Spring. Gill mentioned some trees that are showing signs of stress due to the long dry spell, which will be monitored and looked at in the Spring. Any tree can look healthy but if there is a crack where the branch comes out from the tree then advice needs to be sought as the branches may fall.

11. VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

13/364. To endorse the minutes of the Village Partnership Meeting held on 28 May 2013.

Councillors had been sent minutes with their briefing notes. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2013 had been signed off at the AGM of the Village Partnership on 2 October 2013. It is a formality for the Parish Council to endorse these.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL ENDORSE THE MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2013.

13/365. To report on the AGM of the Village Partnership held on 2 October 2013.

Councillor Ken Morris was re-elected as Chairman and Roger Macdonald as Vice-Chairman. Christmas Festival arrangements will be progressed at the Social Committee Meeting on 12 November 2013.

A Management Committee will be set up for Party in the Park at the special meeting on 14 January 2014. The leader of this committee will be decided at this meeting. A Clubs and Societies Day was also suggested for next year to increase awareness of what goes on in the village. The next full Village Partnership Meeting will be 11 February 2014.

12. WAR MEMORIAL

13/366. To report on the Best Kept Village Awards Presentation held on 26 September 2013.

Wootton Bridge came Joint Third for the War Memorial Award. The judges felt there had been an excellent difference. Thanks were given to Councillor Mundell and his wife for attending the presentation. Councillor Mundell felt the award was a credit to the village who had “put their hands in their pockets” for the War Memorial.

13. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW CONSULTATION

Moved to Item 4A.

14. 20 M.P.H. SPEED LIMIT ON SIDE ROADS IN THE VILLAGE

13/367. To relook at the issue of trying to get a 20 mph speed limit implemented on roads off of the main highway in the village.

Councillor Giles had provided his colleagues with information on the Isle of Wight Council policy on speed limits prior to the meeting. The meeting heard that there is now a new policy, with details to be sought after the meeting.

Discussions took place about the Parish Council trying to obtain a 20 mph speed limit for many years on all side roads in the village. Councillor Pitcher (local Member) stated that the new Isle of Wight Council also supports the 20 mph speed limit, but funding and enforcement is the issue. Putting signs up is relatively inexpensive but this is not sufficient, as the 20 mph speed limit would need to be self-policing. The point was made that Brading High Street has a 20 mph speed limit which is enforceable and Barton Road has no calming measures. The Government policy endorsed by Mr Pickles says 20 mph should be more prolific in side roads. The village has a high number of elderly and young children, with there being near misses to what could have been serious accidents. The meeting was reminded that not everyone will be in favour of 20 mph speed limits in the village. It would also be good to have a crossing on the bridge, but again it comes down to money.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORTS A 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON ROADS OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY. THIS WILL BE PUT ON THE NEXT AGENDA ONCE COUNCILLOR PITCHER'S REPORT HAS BEEN CIRCULATED.

15. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues

13/368. There were no further Highway issues to discuss.

16. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

13/369. IWALC Executive.

Councillor Doran had circulated his report regarding the IWALC Executive meeting held on 19 September 2013. It was of concern that only two people had been prosecuted on the Isle of Wight for dog fouling in the last year.

13/370. Neighbourhood Planning Training.

Councillors Steve Porter and Corinne Carey had attended this training. A brief discussion took place about the "fors" and "againsts" of having a Neighbourhood Plan, with the Parish Council already having a completed Local Housing Needs Survey.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

13/371. Royal British Legion – Flanders Field of Poppies

On Armistice Day this year, the Royal British Legion is honouring the memory of all those who fell in WW1 and during action in later wars by planting a Flanders Field of Poppies. The Parish Council had been invited to return the special Poppy with a personal message of Remembrance which will be planted beside the Menin Gate in Ypres. A Remembrance donation would mean the RBL could help provide vital support to today's heroes when they need the RBL most.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD RETURN THE SPECIAL POPPY WITH A MESSAGE OF REMEMBRANCE TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AND WOULD MAKE A DONATION OF £15.00.

13/372. St Marks Church – Christmas Tree Festival – Saturday 14th December 2013.

Rev Kath Abbott had invited the Parish Council to provide and decorate a Christmas Tree for their Community Christmas Tree Festival. All trees will be on view from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there will be Big Breakfasts available and musical interludes throughout the day. The Village Partnership had already discussed this at their AGM and had expressed an interest in entering the festival.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREED A BUDGET OF £50 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CHRISTMAS TREE AND DECORATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST MARKS CHURCH ON 14 DECEMBER 2013.

13/373. Our Place

The Society of Local Council Clerks had requested the Clerk bring to Councillors attention a letter from the RT Hon Don Foster MP - Department for Communities and Local Government. This was about the Our Place Programme as the second phase of Neighbourhood Community Budgets. He would like to invite local councils to become a part of the Programme. Over the past year, twelve

neighbourhoods have been using a community-led approach working closely with public services and others at a very local level to tackle local issues.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD CIRCULATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OUR PLACE PROGRAMME TO COUNCILLORS TO ENABLE THEM TO DECIDE IF THEY WANTED TO BE PART OF THE OUR PLACE PROGRAMME.

13/374. Sustainable Communities Act

An email had been received from John Medland on behalf of Councillor Tolfree – IWALC's delegate to the Isle of Wight Sustainability Forum. This was asking if the Sustainable Communities Act can be put on our next Agenda for discussion to collect sustainability issues being addressed by our council. Their broad definition of Sustainability is preserving resources for future generations and measures to protect and preserve the natural environment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD CIRCULATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT TO COUNCILLORS TO SEE IF THIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

18. ACCOUNTS.

13/375. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment for October 2013.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER TOTALLING £6,667.63, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

19. TO RECEIVE ANY ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

13/376. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

Whether the Parish Council Meetings should be held at the Old School Building now that the Parish Council has secured the lease.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m

Signed

Date