



Chairman's report April 2010/March 2011

As your Parish Council our aim is to serve the village and make improvements in a way that you tell us you would like. We deal with a huge variety of issues over the course of the year and my report provides a summary of our activities over the 2010/2011 financial year.

The Wootton Bridge Plan.

This was again highlighted at the Party in the Park and further comments taken on board. This has now been completed subject to approval. A copy can be found on our website at www.woottonbridge.org.uk. The Village Plan 2011 reflects the results of detailed consultations with residents over the past 18 months on topics from highways and transport to the design and location of any new housing developments or other facilities.

Wootton Bridge Village Square.

The Village Square has become the hub of the village. We now have a quality tea room in the premises that used to be the IW Council Outreach Office which is proving to be very popular and well supported. The Christmas Festival was curtailed by the inclement weather, but the carol singing and pantomime on the Friday night still proved popular. Some hardy souls ventured out in the snow on the Saturday, with mince pies and hot drinks warming them up. On the whole an enjoyable time was had by all.

Partnership Working.

We pride ourselves in how we work in partnership with other authorities and agencies to help improve our village. We continue to support the Wootton Bridge Village Partnership, the main body which organizes our annual Party in the Park, an event which every year seems to be getting better and better. We have continued to work closely with our Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer, who both call in to our office on a regular basis to liaise with us and pick up any messages. The Community Support Officer runs a monthly surgery at the Help and Information Centre, as does the Tree Warden. Telephone 884555 for more details.

Day to Day duties.

We continue to comment on every planning application received for the village and have lobbied on planning enforcement issues. It is good to see that the former Lloyds Bank building in the High Street has now started being renovated. We have also responded to a wide number of consultation papers including the Island Plan and the Shoreline Management Plan. I am pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining a provision for a bus service around the village and Havenstreet driven by volunteer drivers. We continue to press the Isle of Wight Council on various traffic issues such as traffic safety and speed issues around the village.

Quality Status.

We are a Quality Parish Council which provides you with a guarantee of standards on how we, as your Parish Council, operate. It is a rigorous process and we are proud to give you this level of service.

Recreation ground improvements Phase 2.

The play area is being very well used, with the feedback being extremely positive. We are now in the process of trying to obtain funding to fence off the play area, and for putting some more play equipment in. Unfortunately the toilets have had to be pulled down.

Wootton Interactive Community Information (WICI).

Our interactive website has proved popular and is currently undergoing a makeover. We received grant funding for this initiative, with a second amount of grant funding paying for another kiosk. One of the kiosks is located in the tea room next to the Help and Information Centre where it is available to the public to look up information even when the office is closed.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support. Without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do. I would like to thank Val our clerk who continues to do sterling work in the office, as well as Madge and Gordon.

Ken Morris, Parish Council Chairman

WOOTTON BRIDGE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

We continue to have a very active Village Partnership. The Partnership is the development arm of the Parish Council and this way it is accountable to the electorate.

Our membership involves a wide variety of village organisations and residents of all ages. We all work together to help make the village a better place in which to live. Some of our members join us for specific projects and others are there all the time. It just depends how much time people can give. We welcome all input, however great or small, and we really do get things done. Our meetings usually consist of around 12 members. However, we still have a core membership of over 40 members who continue to help in one way or another.

The Village Partnership has a social committee who get involved in areas such as:-

- Party in the Park – our annual village party!
- Christmas festival – looks like this will be an annual event.

We are also in the early stages of looking at an event to mark the Jubilee 2012 celebrations. We find that these events enhance the community spirit already in evidence in our village.

The vast majority of projects undertaken by the Partnership are grant funded and it is always worth noting that since the Partnership formed in 1999 we have raised over a quarter of a million pounds. We have recently applied for grant funding to assist with several items of new play equipment for the play area at the recreation ground as well as fencing in the play area to make this a safer area for the children to play.

Anyone in the village can join the full Partnership - everyone is welcome.

Ken Morris
Village Partnership Chairman

WOOTTON BRIDGE HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE REPORT (HIC)

The Help and Information Centre continues to be well used. Issues we deal with are very varied, from potholes in the road to coastal erosion. We also hold every planning application submitted for the village. The HIC has been going for 10 years this November and it has become an established part of our village life. We are proud of all the very positive feedback received from our customers.

The office provides us with a very good way of communicating with the village and is invaluable for carrying out our consultation exercises. These exercises are vital in the process for securing grant funding.

Our facilities include:-

- The Beat officer and PCSO are always calling in either to hold a surgery or pick up messages.
- Gill Salter, our Tree Warden, has her surgery on the first Friday of each month.
- Our various Project Groups meet at the office.
- CCTV coverage of the square and the new toilets.
- Photocopying, faxing and laminating service.

Although we lost the Isle of Wight Council outreach facility due to budget cuts, we continue to provide assistance where possible on general issues including:-

- Sale of green garden sacks.
- Advice on local issues.
- Signposting on services.
- Walks leaflets.

HIC OPENING TIMES:-

Parish Council	Mon 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Tue to Fri 10.00 am to 1.30p m
Tree Warden	First Friday in month 10.00 am to 12.00 pm
Beat Officer & PCSO	First Tuesday in month 10.00 am to 12.00 pm or messages can be left.
Parish Councillor surgeries	By appointment - contact HIC
IW Councillor Surgery	By appointment - contact HIC

Val Cooper, Clerk



PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2009/2010, the last accounts to be audited by the Audit Commission. No matters giving cause for concern came to the attention of either the Internal Auditor or the District Auditor and the books were successfully signed off by the District Auditor on 26 August 2010. Local government electors have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts and have the right to attend to the auditor and make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Full details on how this can be done are posted on the Village Notice Board and at the HIC prior to each annual audit, usually in the summer.

The council tax precept for 2011/2012 is £57,800 and represents approx. £38.73 per annum per household at Band D or 74p per week. The additional increase in the precept is due to the Parish Council taking on the toilets in the village square in Brannon Way. The Isle of Wight Council were going to close the toilets as part of their review on Public Conveniences.

Any questions or a request for copies of the accounts can be directed to me at the HIC any weekday morning.

Val Cooper
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010			
31 March 09		Current year end 31 March 2010	
INCOME			£
45,000	Precept		46,350
8,586	Partnership/Regeneration funds		1,065
3,138	Interest on investments/bank interest		72
804	Grass cutting grant		589
	Playbuilder grant		50,000
250	St Marks PCC grant		500
100	PAYE Online filing incentive		0
601	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks		422
567	HIC Income		53
59,046		TOTAL INCOME	99,051
EXPENDITURE			£
29,095	General Administration incl. salaries		32,957
276	Capital		0
61,352	Capital schemes (Play Area & WICI)		56,254
50	S137 payments		699
4,119	Help and Information Centre		4,814
1,311	Grass cutting		1,865
7,231	Partnership/Regeneration projects		4,284
1,417	Churchyard maintenance		1,456
270	Miscellaneous and grants		355
609	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks		383
0	Seats/sign maintenance		0
40	Training		175
105,772		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	103,242
GENERAL FUND			£
102,239	Balance at 1 April 2009		55,513
59,046	Add total income		99,051
161,285		<hr/>	154,564
105,772	Deduct total expenditure		<hr/> 103,242
55,513	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2010		<hr/> 51,322

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCILLORS: -

Ken Morris Chairman
Steve Porter Vice Chairman
Barry Abraham
Rob Ashley
Brian Ballard
Dick Doran
Sarah Fulford
Barrie Hailstone
Peter Mundell
Roy Murphy

OFFICERS

Val Cooper Parish Clerk
Madge Reeves Assistant Parish Clerk
Gordon Tutton Financial Assistant

MEETINGS

The Parish Council usually meets on the third Tuesday in every month except August when no meeting is held. We meet at 7.00pm in the Primary School and members of the public and press are welcome to attend. Members of the public are able to participate in meetings and speak on any agenda item. There is also an Open Forum at the start of every meeting where issues can be raised that are not included on the agenda. Notices and the agendas are posted on the village notice boards, on the web site and at the HIC. Sometimes extra meetings are held to deal with urgent matters such as planning.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Additionally there is a statutory Annual Parish Meeting held during April. The Annual Meeting provides another opportunity for residents to come along and address the Parish Councillors or just to have a say on matters of interest or concern. Additionally reports are given by the Parish Council Chairman, Clerk, Village Partnership Chairman, Isle of Wight Councillor, Tree Warden and Beat Officer.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The following attendance record is in respect of the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.
Of the 11 scheduled monthly meetings held, Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:-

Barry Abraham 9 Rob Ashley 4 Brian Ballard 11 Dick Doran 11 Sarah Fulford 10
Barrie Hailstone 11 Ken Morris 11 Peter Mundell 10 Roy Murphy 11 Steve Porter 8

OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Parish Council Office opening times: 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on Mondays. 10.00 am to 1.30 pm Tuesdays to Fridays.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish Councillors/officers can be contacted at the Wootton Bridge Help and Information Centre on 884555 or by email at wbpcc@onwight.net

Remember that your Parish Councillors give their time for free because they care about the village; they receive no payments or expenses. Also, much of what we achieve is thanks to the many volunteers who help us in all manner of ways. Together we have raised thousands of pounds worth of grant funding for village regeneration projects. It is very rewarding to work together and to see so many projects come to fruition. If you would like to become involved or would like more information please contact any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk on 884555.

Questions relating to this report can be addressed to any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk at the Help and Information Centre.

