

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2011 AT 6.30 P.M. IN WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present: Councillor Ken Morris (Chairman)
Councillor Steve Porter (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Barry Abraham, Dick Doran, Brian Ballard, Barrie Hailstone, Roy Murphy, Sarah Fulford & Daryll Pitcher

Also present: 2 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press
Val Cooper Parish Clerk

Matters raised during the Open Forum

- No matters were raised in the Open Forum.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

11/423. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Mundell.

2. MINUTES.

11/424. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2011 BE CORRECTED AT 11/416 TO READ:-

Councillor Doran was unable to attend the IWALC Executive meeting set for Thursday 17th November. He mentioned the opportunity for another Parish Councillor to deputise.

11/425. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2011, AS AMENDED ABOVE, BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

11/426. Councillor Doran declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Lushington Hill SHLAA sites and the Steam Railway, and a personal & prejudicial interest in matters relating to Glebe Gardens & Rectory Drive.

Councillor Pitcher declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Lushington Hill SHLAA sites.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

Progress reports only.

11/427. Gateway Signage (Minute 11/394).

The balance had been paid for the new village signs. Councillor Porter offered to collect the signs which it is hoped can be erected "in house".

11/428. Rave at Woodhouse Copse (Minute 11/396).

Councillor Abraham reported that the rave at Woodhouse Copse is still in the process of being resolved, with the likelihood of any further incident forming part of the enquiries.

11/429. Yellow Lines at the Sloop (Minute 11/397).

Councillor Abraham reported that in order to get yellow lines removed an application has to be made to the IW Council under a Traffic Order. The next Traffic Order will be in a year's time.

11/430. Fishing – Pump Lane, Wootton Creek (Minute 11/400).

Councillor Abraham reported that it seems it is possible to have a Bye-Law about No Fishing at Pump Lane but he felt an advisory notice was the best way forward initially.

Continued

11/431. Banners on Lamp Posts in the High Street (Minute 11/402).

The Clerk had received a quotation of between £70 to £80 for the banners to be removed from the lamp posts in the High Street.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO APPROACH THE CONTRACTOR TO TAKE DOWN THE BANNERS ON THE LAMP POSTS IN THE VILAGE FOR THE SUM OF £70 TO £80.

11/432. Hedges in New Road (11/391).

Councillor Hailstone raised the need for letters to be sent from the IW Council to homeowners whose hedges are inhibiting free passage of pedestrians on the footpaths in New Road. If no response is made to the letters then he felt contractors should carry out the work and send the homeowner the bill. Councillor Abraham will take this up with the Highways officer and also ascertain what progress has been made.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following planning applications:-

11/433. P/01684/11 TCP/30812

5 Glebe Gardens, Wootton Bridge.

Demolition of garage; proposed single storey side extension to enlarge living accommodation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION P/01684/11 TCP/30812.

11/434. P/01700/11 TCP/30815

3 Glebe Gardens, Wootton Bridge.

Alterations, single storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation; raised deck area.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION P/01700/11 TCP/30815.

11/435. Decisions

P/01358/11 – Refused (49 Station Road, Wootton Bridge)

P/01359/11 – Approved (2 Riverbank, Red Road)

P/01409/11 – Approved (Silver Sands, New Road)

11/436. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1990/25 – Refusal to fell an Oak Tree as of arboricultural character (Tudor Lodge, 16 Glendale Close).

TPO/1972/1 – Consent to fell an Ash tree to near ground level and to cut back a limb of Oak tree nearest ash tree by 33%. (South Krantjies, New Road).

6. MONTHLY REPORT OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ISSUES

11/437. Report by Local Member.

The local member reported that the budget process is underway at the Isle of Wight Council. Money is to be made available to Parish & Town Councils for use on issues such as improving employment prospects for young people. The proposals for the Youth Service will be published on 10 January 2012, with a detailed report to be included regarding the future of the Youth Club building. The Parish Council can have negotiations with the IW Council after that time about the possibility of taking on the building.

7. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

11/438. To discuss youth issues in the village.

Councillor Porter reported that Monday evenings are still very busy. Youth Workers are being advised that they will probably have to reapply for their jobs, with it being a very uncertain time in the Youth Service. Councillor Porter hoped that colleagues would be as determined as himself to keep a youth aspect at the old school.

Continued

11/439. To look at the progress made regarding the possibility of taking on the old school building in New Road as a community asset.

This can be discussed further once the proposals for the Youth Club Service are published (see 11/437 above).

8. LOCAL ACTION GROUP

11/440. To receive an update from the Representative of the Local Action Group.

Councillor Murphy reported that the Local Action Group meeting had been held on 22nd November 2011. There was a disappointing turnout and dissatisfaction had been expressed as only one proposal had gone forward. The current issues that are to be taken forward are scams and speeding. The group are looking for other avenues that can be explored with a view to achieving change.

9. ISLAND PLAN CORE STRATEGY

11/441. To report on the Parish Council's response to the Island Plan Core Strategy Amendments Consultation.

A response had been submitted on 1 December 2011 regarding the Island Plan Core Strategy amendments. Concerns were reiterated about potential land allocations and the way these had been handled, as well as the need to include Wootton in the ferry study and the importance of preserving the gap between Key Regeneration Area developments and Rural Service Centres.

10. STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT (SHLAA)

11/442. To consider establishing a Neighbourhood Development Plan study group to control development within the village.

A lengthy discussion took place about whether or not to establish a Neighbourhood Development Plan. There were differing views on this, particularly with the significant costs that seem to be involved. (A Neighbourhood Development Plan is a new power available to Town & Parish Councils, with the plan having to stand the test of scrutiny). Concern was expressed that if no action is taken the number of new houses could be forced upon the village. One of the suggestions made was for a Local Housing Needs Survey to be carried out in the first instance. The local member was to obtain further information from Wendy Perera of the Planning Department. Mr Peter Griffiths, also of the IW Council Planning Department is to be invited to the Parish Council meeting on 17 January 2012 to provide further information

11. PLAY AREA AT THE RECREATION GROUND

11/443. To report on the estimated time scale for completion of the works.

Councillor Ballard reported that fencing, gates and play equipment for the Play Area are due to arrive around the middle of January 2012. It was felt to be impractical to enforce the time scale mentioned at the last meeting but it is hoped to have everything installed by the end of March 2012.

12. ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT FUND – ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

11/444. To report on the letter received from Councillor David Pugh regarding the proposal to allocate funding to Parish & Town Councils for the economic wellbeing/improvement of their local parish area on a match funded basis.

Three areas had been suggested for this funding:-

- a) To assist in taking on the old school building in New Road.
- b) To extend the Community Bus to a Saturday service.
- c) To consider relocating the War Memorial whilst it is taken down for repair.

Following discussion it was not felt that extending the Community Bus Service was a priority for Wootton Bridge.

RESOLVED – THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION WILL BE REQUIRED REGARDING THE BEST WAY TO UTILISE THE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT FUND WHICH HAS TO BE MATCH FUNDED. THERE IS A DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THIS FUND OF 17 FEBRUARY 2012.

13. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2012/2013

11/445. To consider the budget estimate for 2012/2013.

A meeting had been held at the Help & Information Centre on 13 December 2011, with figures circulated to members straight after. Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting it was felt there are four areas that are "moveable".

- a) £7,000 from the IW Council that has to be match funded.
- b) Whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) Whether or not to use poll cards at the next election.
- d) How much to put in as a reserve figure for the toilets in Brannon Way.

11/446. To consider the Council tax precept for 2012/2013.

Draft precept figures had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Suggestions/amendments were requested before the precept is set.

RESOLVED – THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION IS REQUIRED BEFORE SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2012/2013 AT THE JANUARY 2012 MEETING.

14. PLANTING AT THE RECREATION GROUND

11/447. To receive a report from the Tree Warden about the progress made on the Butterfly/Insect Garden at the Recreation Ground.

The Tree Warden informed the meeting that permission had been given by the Parks Department at IW Council for the bog area at the Recreation Ground to be developed into a Butterfly Garden. The Tree Warden is keen for this to be a community project. Help will be required in getting the butterfly friendly shrubs and then another group will need to help with the planting and ongoing maintenance of the area. The local member is to approach the Head Teacher at the local Primary School to see if the children would be interested in helping and an article will be put in The Bridge newsletter.

15. CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

11/448. To feed back how the Christmas Festival weekend went and the amount raised for next year's festival.

The Clerk reported that the Friday evening of the Christmas Festival was very successful. The Roving Nativity Play was excellent and requests have been made for this to be repeated next year. The Morris Dancers kept the evening going with dancing and carol singing and the refreshments were well received. There were very few people about on the Saturday so it is proposed to make more of the Friday evening next year and not carry the festival over to the Saturday. This will be discussed at the Village Partnership Meeting on 7 February 2012. After expenses approximately £120 was raised towards next year's Christmas Festival. The chair thanked Ann Capps for her hard work in arranging the Roving Nativity Plan, the contractors for their deep clean of the public toilets the morning of the festival and Councillor Porter for his efforts in getting the donkey to the festival as this was an integral part of the play. Thanks were also extended to all involved at the weekend.

RESOLVED – THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WILL BE TAKEN TO THE NEXT VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP MEETING, WITH A VIEW TO MAKING MORE OF THE FRIDAY EVENING AND CEASING THE SATURDAY EVENT.

16. HIGHWAY ISSUES

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues.

11/449. Speeding at Woodside

Councillor Hailstone felt the omission of speed control is a glaring omission in the plans Darwins have for the holiday park at Woodside. He felt that Darwins should be encouraged to request the IW Council redesignate the speed limit at Woodside to 20 mph (not 30 mph as it is currently). The local member pointed out that this is a private road which is outside of the developed zone so the IW Council will not be able to action this. This would fall on a private individual to install and enforce. The local member will seek advice from Peter Hayward on this matter. Councillor Hailstone reiterated the need for 20 mph on all side roads in the village.

RESOLVED – THAT THE LOCAL MEMBER WILL SEEK ADVICE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SPEED LIMIT AT WOODSIDE BEING REDESIGNATED A 20 MPH AREA.

11/450. Harwoods Crossing

Following the last meeting, the Clerk wrote to Peter Hayward of Highways reiterating the concerns about the crossing and how a Councillor was nearly knocked over. Highways feel nothing has changed since their last email, with their response being kept on file.

11/451. Yellow lining in the Village

Councillor Murphy reported that the Wootton Traffic Order has now gone through.

17. PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

11/452. To consider quotations received for replacement of window blinds as necessary at the Parish Council Office in Brannon Way.

Two quotations had been requested for replacement blinds. When Apollo Blinds came out they were able to mend the window blinds free of charge and just quoted for the blind at the front door at a cost of £156.00. The second quotation had not been received by the time of the meeting.

RESOLVED – THAT THE QUOTATION FROM APOLLO BLINDS FOR THE BLINDS AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE BE ACCEPTED AND THE BLIND BE ORDERED.

18. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

To report on the following meetings:-

11/453. IWALC Executive

Councillor Doran had circulated a report, together with a report from the National Meeting. Two issues highlighted were the membership fees and the idea of Jubilee Crowns for school children. Due to the cost involved in issuing the Jubilee Crowns the local member felt this should be at county level, not local, and he will take this up with the Isle of Wight Council to see if this is something they wish to consider.

19. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2012.

11/454. To set the Parish Council meeting dates for the forthcoming year.

The Clerk requested consideration be given to moving the June meeting to the second Tuesday of the month (12th June) to enable her to take two weeks leave from the 16th June 2012. This would then give her three weeks to prepare for PIP and the July Parish Council Meeting.

RESOLVED – THAT THE JUNE 2012 MEETING WILL BE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (12TH JUNE 2012) TO ENABLE THE CLERK TO TAKE TWO WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE FROM THE 16TH JUNE 2012.

- THAT THE CLERK WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH DATES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2012.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

For information only.

11/455. Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group

A letter had been received about a new organisation formed in response to the Government's health service reforms. This replaces the IW PCT commissioning arm in planning and buying services. The Strategy Consultation document is being distributed widely (copy in office) to enable people to give their views by 3.1.12 on what the group feel are important priorities.

11/456. Eneco.

Letter and summary documents had been received for public viewing regarding the Navitus Bay offshore wind park community consultation. The Crown Estate has awarded Eneco the right to develop an offshore wind park to the west of the Isle of Wight and south of Bournemouth.

21. ACCOUNTS

11/457. To consider and approve the accounts for payment

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £20,821.04, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

11/458. Orange Phone Contract.

Discussion took place about the older persons phone (Orange contract). Consideration is to be given to whether a Pay as You Go Phone may be a better option.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL LIAISE WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANT ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY IS LEFT IN THE RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE OLDER PERSONS PHONE PRIOR TO DISCUSSING THE OPTION OF A PAY AS YOU GO PHONE.

11/459. Payment of the extra Monday evening sessions at the Youth Club.

Councillor Porter requested a summary be given as to how much money has been paid in respect of the Monday night sessions at the Youth Centre and how much is left.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL REQUEST INFORMATION FROM THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANT ABOUT HOW MANY SESSIONS (AND WHICH MONTHS THEY RELATE TO) HAVE BEEN PAID IN RESPECT OF THE JUNIOR NIGHT AT THE YOUTH CLUB AND HOW MUCH MONEY IS LEFT TO FUND FUTURE SESSIONS.

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

11/460. Items to be included on the next agenda:-

- War Memorial – to consider relocating this whilst it is taken down for repair.
- Community Bus parking – to consider which quotation to accept regarding remarking the car park.
- Wootton Interactive Community Information (WICI) – The future of this.
- Steam Railway (Friends of Wootton Station) – Peter Vail to attend.
- Darwin Development public meeting – Clerk to chase for date.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Signed

Dated