

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00PM IN WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present : Councillor Ken Morris Chairman
Councillor Steve Porter Vice Chairman
Councillors Barry Abraham Brian Ballard Dick Doran Miss Sarah Fulford
Barrie Hailstone Peter Mundell Roy Murphy

Also present: 10 Members of the public
1 Member of the press
Mrs Lynda Smith Parish Clerk
Ms Val Cooper Acting Parish Clerk
Mr A Moulam Practice Manager of Wootton Bridge Doctor's Surgery

Matters raised during the Open Forum

- *A local resident raised the issue of progress of the monitoring equipment around St Mark's Church. The installation of yellow signs giving an advisory speed of 30 mph was also mentioned.*
- *The issue of the speed guns was raised.*

It was responded that these matters were due to be raised at the meeting that was cancelled earlier this week. The meeting will now be held on the 22nd January 2010. The Local Member of the Isle of Wight Council had written to the Head of Highways asking for an update, with the reply awaited.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

10/001. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Ashley.

2. MINUTES.

10/002. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2009 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

10/003. A Declaration of Prejudicial Interest was received from Councillor Doran in respect of the proposed Doctor's Surgery.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Progress reports only.

10/004. Lloyds Bank Building (Minute 09/388)

Paperwork is still awaited from the owner regarding the monitoring regime. Discussion ensued regarding the length of time it is taking to get information regarding this matter.
It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this matter up by the end of the week.

10/005. War Memorial St Edmunds Churchyard (Minute 09/394)

Grant funding for the renovation of the War Memorial is being investigated.

10/006. Island Plan Core Strategy (Minute 09/400)

Details of the meeting have yet to be received from Fishbourne Parish Council.

10/007. Pedestrian Crossing Harwoods (Minute 09/402)

The Highways Engineer has stated that he cannot place any road markings as they won't stand out within the crossings zig zag lines. The onus of responsibility does start and finish with the interacting road users, i.e. both the pedestrian must be happy that traffic has stopped in both directions and the vehicle drivers should be confident that no-one is wanting to cross, even if they cannot fully see both sides of the road, so they should slow down on the approach and make sure it is safe for them to proceed, with no-one using the crossing already.

Members were then informed about a copy of a letter sent to the County Press regarding the safety of the crossing.

Discussion ensued where Members expressed their continuing concerns.

10/008. Dog Bin Fernhill Cycleway (Minute 09/406)

The purchase of the dog bin is in hand.

5. PLANNING.

To comment on the following applications:-

10/009. P/O1801/09 TCP/19281/G

Demolition of garages; proposed detached house with integral garage and access off Gravel Pit Road; partial demolition of front boundary wall to no. 50 to provide parking and vehicular access off Station Road (revised scheme).

Land to rear of 48 & 50 Station Road

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/O1801/09 TCP/19281/G.

10/010. P/01811/09 TCP/17903/F

Proposed detached single storey leisure building and garden shed.

63 Station Road

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01811/09 TCP 17903/F.

10/011. P/01822/09 TCP/02342/F

Demolition of bungalow construction of three dwellings (one detached, one pair of semi-Detached); alterations to vehicular access (revised scheme)

50 Palmers Road

Many of the issues raised by the Inspector have been addressed, with car parking now being the key issue, particularly with regards to the number of spaces and access to the properties. However, it must be noted that integral garages have now been included in the design. Members of the Parish Council were made aware of one letter of objection received from a resident of Palmers Road.

A local resident at the meeting felt everything had been said already on this subject. The Parish Council agreed that their objections should stay the same as before.

RESOLVED - THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL REGISTERS OBJECTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:-

- THE PROPOSAL IS INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT AND OUT OF KEEPING WITH THE LOCALITY.
- THE PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES OVERDEVELOPMENT OF THE PLOT. THE WOOTTON BRIDGE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT ADVISES THAT NEW BUILDING SHOULD STRICTLY RESPECT THE INHERENT SCALE OF THE SETTING.
- THE PROPOSAL WOULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR SIMILAR APPLICATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

ADDITIONALLY:-

- THE WOOD MATERIALS ARE NOT IN KEEPING.

10/012. P/01836/09 TCP/16144/A

Proposed conservatory

Tarongo, Park Road

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01836/09 TCP/16144/A

10/013. P/01864/09 TCP/29905/A

Change of use of land to domestic garden to serve 2A Brocks Copse Road

Land adjacent to 2A Brocks Copse Road

RESOLVED - THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTION TO APPLICATION P/01864/09 TCP/29905/A ON STRICT CONDITION THAT, SHOULD IT BE APPROVED, THE LAND REMAINS OUTSIDE THE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE AND IS CONDITIONED TO BE TIED TO THE ADJACENT 2A BROCKS COPSE ROAD.

10/014. P/01871/09 TCP/02077/U

Alterations to layout of previously approved scheme under TCP/02077/S to include conversion of existing garage/store to be extended accommodation for unit 6 and re-sited vehicular access.

Fernhill Farm.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01871/09 TCP/02077/U

10/015. AGN/23052/D P/01887/09

Agricultural Prior Notification for feed and implement store

Woodside Farm, Upper Woodside Road.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION AGN/23052/D P/01887/09

10/016. Proposed Doctors Surgery, land beside the Community Centre, Brannon Way.

Andy Moulam, Practice Manager, was at the meeting to talk to members about the planning application about to be advertised for the Doctor's Surgery and the land beside the Community Centre. The Parish Council had not had prior sight of the plans as they were not available from Planning until after the meeting. Andy Moulam provided Plans at the meeting and explained some of the proposals, including disabled access, the planned surgery being larger than the current surgery, as well as ideas for the design and how this will be tied in with the Community Centre.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD ARRANGE A SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER THIS APPLICATION.

10/017. To receive any notices of planning decisions, appeals, Tree Preservation Orders. etc.

Members were informed of consent received to carry out work to protected trees at Little Canada, New Road, Wootton Bridge.

10/018. Appeal 62 Mary Rose Avenue

Attention was drawn to the Appeal in connection with 62 Mary Rose Avenue. This Appeal had been allowed, which caused some concern at the meeting.

6. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE.

10/019. To receive and consider young people's requirements in the village.

Councillor Doran had been to a meeting at the Youth Club and invited the Leader and young people to attend the Parish Council Meeting. Councillor Doran informed the meeting that there is a certain age group who lack facilities in the village.

Three young people were in attendance this evening to speak to Members and they were accompanied by the Youth Club Leader. The young people's wish list included:-

- A Skate Park. Discussion took place about where this would be sited, with suggestions being the Recreation Ground or the School Playground. Funding was discussed as well as who would maintain and keep the Skate Park safe from damage and the times it would be open. The Leader stated that the Youth Club would help raise funds for this. A modular design was suggested as this could be added to over time. Further to a question asked, a member of the public present who lives near one of the proposed sites responded that they would have no objection, feeling that a facility for young people was long over due. Careful consideration would need to be given regarding the best position for the Skate Park and the fact that elderly residents living nearby may find it intimidating.
- A Shelter for young people to use, particularly in inclement weather. A suggestion was made about using the front of the toilets on the Recreation ground.

10/020. To consider how the Parish Council/Village Partnership can better engage with the young people of the village.

To keep the dialogue going and hopefully make progress in improving facilities for our young people in the village, members agreed that it would be useful if a representative, or representatives, from the Youth Club were to sit in on Parish Council Meetings.

RESOLVED – AN INVITATION WILL BE SENT TO THE YOUTH CLUB REGARDING APPOINTING A YOUNG PERSON ON TO THE PARISH COUNCIL. THE PARISH CLERK WILL SEND AN AGENDA OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE LEADER

10/021. Other issues that were raised:-

- One of the young people referred to only one goal post up being up in the summer.
- There is good attendance at the Youth Club and it was agreed that the continuation of the Youth Club needs to be supported.
- Difficulties regarding buses to school were discussed

It was agreed that Councillor Porter and Councillor Abraham will take up the issues affecting the pupils when trying to get to school by bus.

7. COMMUNITY TURBINE.

10/022. To discuss an idea submitted by a local land owner for a community turbine to generate electricity for the village and whether to take this further.

A significant amount of discussion took place about the viability of a community turbine on the land offered by a local landowner. This included representatives from IMS. Points raised included:-

- The need to seriously consider alternative forms of energy.
- Appropriate places to site wind turbines to gain maximum benefit.
- Examples given, both of income and expenditure.

- The need to have a proper proposal to consider.
- The need to establish wind data.
- The importance of consulting with the village.
- The community needs to know what income could be generated.
- *A Consultant present in the audience mentioned that a good way forward would be to produce a list of various mechanisms and studies to bring to the table to see what the potential is and he would be willing to do this.*
- *The landowner present expressed his pleasure that the debate was happening.*

The Parish Council agreed that finding alternative forms of energy is an issue which needs very serious thought and agreed that some basic facts and figures on the community turbine suggestion are needed so that consultation can be carried out with the village. It was agreed that this is a big issue that needs to be taken forward by people with expertise in this field.

RESOLVED – THAT A SIMPLE FEASIBILITY STUDY IS REQUIRED IN RESPECT OF COMMUNITY WIND TURBINES TOGETHER WITH THE ATTENDANT COSTS. RECOMMENDATIONS CAN THEN BE PUT FORWARD TO THE VILLAGE ELECTORATE SO THAT THEY CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO PROCEED FURTHER.

- THAT IF THE PROPOSAL FOR A WIND TURBINE IS SUPPORTED BY THE VILLAGE THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL GIVE HELP WHERE IT CAN TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

8. BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS

10/023. To receive information from the Bridge Engineer regarding the proposed renovations to the bridge.

Members were reminded of the e-mail sent to them on the 22nd December 2009 which stated that the scheme is progressing well and it is hoped to confirm a design with the Parish Council early in the New Year for the work to be carried out in the next financial year, most likely after the holiday season. In response to questions raised in the e-mail, the clerk has forwarded the following:-

- Footpath on the north side of the bridge.
Responses from the open day showing local people's desire for a walkway on the north side of the bridge.
- Tidal scheme.
The Clerk stated that no further information had been received.
- Lakeside contact.
The clerk had forwarded contact details to the owner.

It was pointed out that the re-siting of the bus shelter be included in the scheme, as well as a request for a pedestrian crossing. The appearance of the bridge approach barriers was also raised, as the black and white railings are an integral part of the aesthetics of the village.

9. TOILET RENOVATION WOOTTON RECREATION GROUND

10/024. Report on the meeting with Property Services

Councillor B Ballard and the Clerk met with the Property Services Manager on the 15th December 2009 to inspect the current state of the toilets on the Recreation Ground with a view to reopening them. The Property Services Manager made clear that if the toilets were to be opened it would have to be at the expense of the Parish Council both capital and revenue. Issues around disabled access were discussed and the level of improvements regarding this and other associated regulations were raised.

It was reported that there is not much wrong with the structure of the building, although the roof needs replacing. The gap at the front could possibly be used for a youth shelter, but this would mean creating a unisex toilet from the outside. Any costs will need to be grant funded, which the Clerk is looking into. There are repairs required, including an asbestos survey.

10/025. To decide what to do next.

The Clerk explained that there is no funding available in the Parish Council budgets to reopen the toilets, but with some innovative thinking it may be possible to obtain grant funding should the Parish Council decide to explore further the reopening of the toilets. The Property Services Manager had explained that the toilets were due for demolition but he is willing to hold this in abeyance for at least six months to enable the Parish Council to consider whether they wish to take this forward and explore funding opportunities. Furthermore, he stated that he would not take any action on the demolition until he had consulted with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BE REQUESTED TO UNDERTAKE AN ASBESTOS SURVEY WHILST THE CLERK IS AWAY IN ORDER FOR THE COSTS INVOLVED REGARDING THE SHELTER TO BE TAKEN FURTHER ON HER RETURN.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING REGIME REVIEW.

10/026. To review the Parish Council Risk Assessments.

This is an annual procedural matter. The Clerk has looked at the Risk Assessments and Monitoring Regime which are largely unchanged from the review carried out last January.

Members were then asked to sanction the Risk Assessments for 2010.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL GO THROUGH ALL THE PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS WITH THE CHAIRMAN WHO WILL THEN SIGN THEM OFF.

10/027. To review the monitoring regime in respect of the following:-

a) Parish Council land.

b) Seats and litter bins.

Larry Laws, past Parish Councillor, has volunteered to continue monitoring the Parish Council land's seats and litter bins in connection with Health & Safety.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACTING CLERK WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH LARRY LAWS IN RESPECT OF THE ONGOING HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LAND, SEATS AND LITTER BINS.

c) Help and Information Centre.

The assistant Parish Clerk will now be taking on the checks required in respect of Health & Safety at the Help and Information Centre.

RESOLVED – THE ASSISTANT PARISH CLERK WILL CARRY OUT THE WEEKLY HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING REGIME AT THE HIC.

11. TRAINEE CLERK'S CONTRACT.

10/028. To sign and accept the Trainee Clerk's Contract of Employment.

This is a procedural matter whereby the Chairman and the new Clerk must sign the respective Contract of Employment, which is based on Nationally approved guidelines. Hours of work were touched on, with the Trainee Clerk working 5 hours, 5 days a week until the Clerk returns from annual leave. On the Clerk's return the Trainee Clerk will work her 25 hours a week over a four day week.

RESOLVED – THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE TRAINEE CLERK WAS SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE TRAINEE CLERK.

12. WOOTTON WICI.

10/029. Progress report and to update members on the latest situation regarding the grant bids.

Councillor D Doran reported that the grant from Rural Access to Services had been received and this, in addition to the Leader Grant, meant that a total of £10,290 has been awarded. This means that one to two years running costs will be covered and the only input now required is the time of volunteers, with the scheme being fully precept neutral. This scheme is now ready to go, with volunteers being looked into.

This scheme will be expanded on further in The Bridge under the Parish Council Section.

The Clerk requested the Parish Council delegate expenditure to herself, or the Trainee Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman and Councillor D Doran to expedite this further.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CLERK AND ACTING CLERK (TRAINEE) IN RESPECT OF ALL EXPENDITURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE WICI AND PROVIDING IT IS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE GRANTS RECEIVED.

13. HIGHWAYS MATTERS.

10/030. Community Speed Watch

Members were informed that the meeting of 8 January 2010 was postponed due to the snowy weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for Friday 22 January 2010.

10/031. Isle of Wight Council 20 mph speed limit policy

Members have been provided with copies of the Isle of Wight Council 20 mph Speed Limit Policy.

Councillor Abraham referred to the Isle of Wight Council being able to set this as there is now a policy in place. This will be a Member decision.

14. VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP/REGENERATION - PROGRESS REPORTS.

10/032. Sports and Fitness Centre project.

There was nothing to report on this.

10/033. Christmas festival.

It was reported that the Festival had been a success, although the weather had been perishingly cold. The Parish Council Pantomime on the Friday night had been well received and a full report was given in the Gazette. The raffle raised just under £200. The Village Partnership will be reviewing the success of the event and considering any improvements that can be made for this year's festival.

RESOLVED – THAT THE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP WILL REVIEW THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2010 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

10/034. Next date of the Village Partnership Meeting.

Members were reminded of the date of the next Partnership Meeting due to be held on Tuesday 26 January 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at the Help and Information Centre.

15. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

10/035. IWALC Executive.

Minutes of the November 2009 meeting are available for viewing at the Help and Information Centre.

10/036. Veterinary Surgery.

Members were informed of a meeting held between the Veterinary Surgery and the local Member at the Help and Information Centre. The Veterinary Surgery's lease runs out shortly, and it is hoped to see a proposal shortly.

10/037. Arretton Charity Trust

Councillor P Mundell attended the Arretton Trust Meeting. This was a brief but successful meeting.

16. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

10/038. NHS Trust – Snowy weather

Information received regarding helping neighbours and the more vulnerable during the snowy weather.

10/039. NALC – E-bulletin.

Information e-mailed to members on the 21st December 2009.

10/040. IWRCC

Information received regarding the Voluntary Support Teams across the Island. These teams will increase the level of sustainable and skilled support available to voluntary and community organisations across the Island.

10/041. Snow and Ice Clearance on footpaths

Members had been forwarded information on hand clearing paths and walkways.

17. ACCOUNTS.

10/042. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS PRESENTED TOTALLING £4,515.21, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX (A) OF THESE MINUTES, BE APPROVED.

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

10/043. There were no Items for the next Agenda.

Some discussion was raised at this point regarding snow clearance during the bad weather.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed

Date