

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
20 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.00 P.M. IN WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH
ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.

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

Also present: 26 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press
PC Nick Massey
Val Cooper Parish Clerk

Matters raised during the Open Forum

- *There had been an unlicensed, unauthorised rave the same weekend as the Bestival for five days non-stop on land at Woodhouse Copse. Complaints had been made about loud noise and the volume of people attending. It was pointed out this is the second time this has happened and it is understood further events are planned for Halloween and Christmas. This land is outside of the Wootton Bridge parish boundary, falling into the parish of Whippingham.*
PC Massey reported that things are progressing and a gentleman is helping the Police with their enquiries. Licensing and Environmental issues are also being considered.
The local member was also aware of the issue and had been in touch with the Senior Licensing Officer and will be attending a meeting on site. The local member will feed back to the next meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

11/296. No apologies for absence had been received.

2. MINUTES.

11/297. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2011 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

11/298. Councillor R Murphy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the WICI.

Councillor S Porter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to Brannons Tea Room.

Councillor D Doran declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the planning application in respect of the Cattery at Lushington Hill and the Steam Railway.

Councillor B Abraham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the Youth Club as he is the Cabinet Member making decisions.

4. ISLAND PLAN CORE STRATEGY ENQUIRY & STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT REVIEW (SHLAA)

11/299. To receive information from the Pre-Hearing meeting held on 25th August 2011 and to decide the way forward. Also to hear views of residents.

Councillor Doran updated the meeting on the proposals for new housing on the Isle of Wight. Councillor Doran explained that although he has a personal interest in this matter due to where he lives, this is no great than his neighbours. Councillor Doran's understanding is that the Island Plan is looking to set the overall development strategy for the Island over the next ten to fifteen years, with a number of activities going on that are overlapping. The first draft of the Island Plan was rejected and the Isle of Wight is running a year behind schedule. Two things now need to be done at once; firstly to publish the Core Strategy, secondly to publish

the document to identify the potential for new housing across the whole Island (for which the Isle of Wight Council has sole responsibility). During the Pre-Hearing Meeting with the Inspector regarding the Island Plan, it was made clear that these are two separate processes, with the Inspector being independent and unable to comment or advise on the housing allocation. However, due to the concerns by local residents, Councillor Abraham was able to get a commitment from Mr Murphy (Head of Planning) that he would ensure there was further consultation on the land allocation.

The purpose of land allocation is to convince the powers that be that enough potential housing land is available to satisfy projections for population growth. The problem is that the 600 potential homes that could be built around Wootton Bridge are several times the likely amount perceived to be necessary, with the Parish Council objecting to the process. The Parish Council felt there should have been better consultation with them, as well as with residents, about how they would like to see maybe 100 homes built over the next 15 years lead by the community, not documentation. The document will be subject to further discussion but not whilst the inspector is here as he is not empowered to deal with this issue.

Councillor Abraham pointed out that land allocation is not a new process, it happened when the Unitary Development Plan was drawn up in 1993. This is still in place but will be replaced by this on-going process. Now land has been put forward, part of the process will be to look and see what land is suitable for development and which sites will not have an impact on the community. There will have to be some growth, for example affordable housing for young people, but employment, infrastructure and schools all need careful consideration. There is still a large amount of land available for development on the Island that needs taking into account, with a large area described as Brown Field which could come forward which may result in not a lot of Green Field land needing to be built on.

Councillor Ballard referred to parcels of land under half a hectare being ignored in the process, which is a concern as these parcels of land would be far less intrusive. Concern was raised that even if there is a low possibility of the land put forward being developed, those areas will now be in play for planning and development.

Councillor Murphy referred to no plans for new highways to be built on the Island in the twenty year plan and at a recent board meeting at St Mary's Hospital, they are looking at reducing the number of beds and pushing patients out of hospital earlier. These and other factors, raise concern that the proposals have not been thought through properly. Councillor Hailstone agreed with the concerns about infrastructure, jobs, medical needs and schooling and wondered if there was a policy in place to implement plans for increasing these with the building proposed.

Councillor Abraham pointed out that this is happening right across the country and he had already raised concerns about the issues mentioned with the Isle of Wight Council. Councillor Abraham will ensure a public meeting is organised and added that the public will be fully consulted on the land put forward for development. There will be a lot more consultation and the final document drawn up will not look anything like the current one. Councillor Abraham added that he will not be supporting the number of houses proposed.

5. MATTERS ARISING.
Progress reports only.

11/300. Cold Calling Zone (Minute 11/222)

The yellow stickers, booklets and advice letter had proved popular and a further order for more of these had been made.

11/301. Village Plan (Minute 11/252)

In order for the village plan to become a supplementary planning document it has to refer to planning policies in the Island Plan. Further work will be carried out on this at the appropriate time.

Continued

11/302. Toilets at Brannon Way (Minute 11/254)

The Parish Council are still waiting for the formal lease to be completed. Buildings Insurance has commenced and bills are being met by the Parish Council under the terms of the Tenancy at Will.

11/303. Erosion of the frontage of the holiday park site at Woodside (Minute 11/255)

A letter had been received from Andrew Turner enclosing a letter from Richard Beynon MP, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, suggesting a meeting be held between the Isle of Wight Council, Natural England and Wootton Bridge PC. Councillors Abraham & Morris were due to have a meeting with the agents for Darwins to ascertain the details of their new planning application before any further meeting is arranged with Natural England and the Isle of Wight Council. Councillor Abraham will report back to the next meeting.

11/304. Community Payback Scheme (Minute 11/257)

The Parish Council were unable to proceed with the volunteers from Kent regarding tidying up the Old School Building due to health and safety requirements of the IW Council. A quotation had been received from Jane Swan at Probation for repairing and painting the white rails on the safety gates either end of the old railway station opposite the Station and Park Road Crossing. This would entail 4 x sessions at £65 a session plus materials.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH THE COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND MORE PRESSING ISSUES COMING FORWARD.

11/305. Aerial Photograph of Wootton Bridge (Minute 11/258)

The aerial photograph had been displayed on the window at the Help & Information Centre. The price of each photograph is £5.00, £2.50 of which will be put towards next year's Party in the Park. Orders to be given to the Clerk at the HIC.

11/306. Footpath New Road to the Sloop (Minute 11/261)

The Isle of Wight Council had contacted the homeowner whose hedge was overgrown. It is understood the greenery has now been cut back.

11/307. Parking on the lane from the Sloop Car Park to the New Road Footpath (Minute 11/262)

Councillor Abraham was still investigating this matter.

11/308. Advertising signage in the village (Minute 11/263)

The landlord for Bumbles will pass the letter sent by the Parish Council (about the quality of signage outside Bumbles) on to the tenants of the building asking them to review and consider their own situation regarding signage.

11/309. High Street Signage for the Car Park, Toilets etc. (Minute 11/265)

Highways have ordered the signs and these should hopefully be in place shortly.

11/310. Litter Picks and Hoops

Following the last meeting, the Steam Railway provided the Parish Council with details of their supplier of litter picks and hoops. £11.25 for litter pickers and £7.83 for handihoops which is at a discounted rate.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD NOT PURCHASE LITTER PICKERS OR HANDIHOOPS BUT WOULD BORROW THESE WHEN REQUIRED FROM THE IW COUNCIL.

11/311. Overgrown hedges (Minute 11/280) –

Councillor Hailstone reported that the worst offending hedge had been cut down by a private contractor arranged by the new homeowner. Unfortunately no work had been carried out on the creek side of New Road, with the hedges protruding into the highway and impinging on the pavement at both ends of New Road. Councillor Hailstone was disappointed that no meeting had been set up for himself and Councillor Murphy to walk the road with someone from Highways so that the offending properties could be pointed out. Councillor Abraham thought action had been taken regarding all of the hedging and will now get on to this again.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following planning applications:-

11/312. P/01109/11 TCP/30689

15 Bridgeway, Wootton Bridge

Proposed single storey side extension to form ensuite with storage under.

A letter had been sent to the Planning Department on 1 September 2011 (to meet the deadline for comments) raising no objections to this application.

RESOLVED – THAT THE LETTER SENT TO HIGHWAYS ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 RAISING NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD STAND.

11/313. P/01180/11 TCP/15580/F

The Station, Station Road, Wootton Bridge

Removal of platform building; replacement building to provide waiting room, booking office and toilets; extension to existing platform to include access ramp; relocation of signal box.

The representative from the Steam Railway provided the meeting with the reasons for the planning application. The current station at Wootton Bridge lets the railway and the village down. Lengthening the platform will enable more modern locomotives to run to Wootton and the replacement buildings will provide improved toilet facilities and more shelter.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01180/11 TCP/15580/F.

The Steam Railway representative thanked the Parish Council for their support regarding the vision for the station at Wootton. Councillor Doran had provided a letter of support regarding the Steam Railway's bid for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The views in his letter were supported by all of the Parish Councillors.

11/314. P/01171/11 TCP/1656/H

41 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge

Removal of condition no. 2 on P/00332/03 TCP/16561/G to allow the cattery to be run by new owners.

Councillor Doran abstained from the decision on this application as he had previously declared a declaration of interest.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01171/11 TCP/1656/H

11/315. P/01159/11 TCP/02077/V

Fernhill Farm, High Street, Wootton Bridge

Variation of condition no. 4 and 16 on P/02614/08 TCP/02077/S to allow a revised site/parking layout.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01159/11 TCP/02077/V.

11/316. Decisions

P/00836/11 – Approved (Fairlight, Lower Woodside Road)

P/01884/09 – Approved (Ivy Hall, Mill Square, Wootton Bridge)

P/00873/11 – Approved (7 Woodlands Crescent)

P/00901/11 – Approved (Land at Briddlesford Reserve)

11/317. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1994/18 – Fernhill Park Woodland Burial Grounds

TPO/2005/31 - Woodside Bay Holiday Village

TPO/2006/17 – Little Canada

TPO/1992/17 – 8 Park View, Wootton Bridge

7. MONTHLY REPORT OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ISSUES

Report by Local Member.

11/318. The local member referred to the future of the Youth Club and the Doctor's Surgery being the current issues. These are separate agenda items later in the minutes.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

11/319. To welcome the Youth Club member to the meeting and to discuss youth issues in the village.

There were no members present from the Youth Club.

11/320. Response to the Youth Service Consultation.

Councillor Porter reported on the excellent turnout on Monday evenings for juniors. Tuesdays and Thursdays are also still busy. Surplus funds are used to pay for the Monday evenings, topped up by subscriptions. Councillor Porter had responded to the Youth Service Consultation. He disagreed with the proposal not to provide Youth Service provision for the under 13 year olds. If the Youth Club building becomes redundant, Councillor Porter would like the Parish Council to consider taking this on as a community asset and proposed a dialogue commence with the Isle of Wight Council in this respect. Councillor Hailstone seconded this proposal.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD REQUEST A DIALOGUE WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TAKING ON THE YOUTH CLUB BUILDING IF IT BECOMES REDUNDANT.

9. COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

11/321. To receive a report on the launch of the service and an update of how the service is going.

Councillor Doran reported that the launch of the community bus was a success. 91 people used the bus in the first week, and 110 in the second. Access in and out of the Car Park at Brannon Way was discussed, with a large car parked opposite making exiting difficult. Concern was also expressed about time keeping as the first service of the day is difficult to deliver. These issues will be taken up with Southern Vectis. Better publicity is also required. More volunteers are to be interviewed and a meeting will be held to enable the operators to compare the first few weeks. A meeting is also to be held with colleagues at Havenstreet to review numbers and to look into the businesses who have enquired about sponsorship. Discussion took place about donations, as part of the sustainability will be income generated as well as the numbers using the bus.

10. PLAY AREA AT THE RECREATION GROUND

11/322. Update on the application for grant funding and equipment proposed.

Councillor Ballard reported that the Parish Council had been successful in their application for a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. Tenders are being sought for two new pieces of play equipment and fencing. It is expected that the total value of the items will be in the region of £14,000, with the excess over £10,000 to be met by Parish Council reserves. A meeting is being arranged with the Park Manager at the IOW Council to ensure the items are acceptable to them. It is hoped that work can commence by the end of the year. Thanks were given to Councillor Ballard and the Clerk for their hard work on the grant funding application.

11. NEW DOCTORS SURGERY, BRANNON WAY

11/323. To receive an update on the progress of the building of the new surgery.

The local member reported that he had received an email from Dr Kaiser to say everything has now been signed and sealed and by 2013 Wootton Bridge should have a new surgery.

12. BOUNDARY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

11/324. To receive a report on the outcome of the Boundary Commission recommendations.

Councillor Ballard reported that the recommendation by the Boundary Commission is that the Isle of Wight be split into two constituencies, with Wootton Bridge being in the North.

13. GATEWAY SIGNAGE

11/325. To receive the quotation from the graphic designer for the new village signs as well as for any other quotations received.

Designs were shown to the meeting. It was felt that the preference would be cream lettering on the green background. The cost of the design was £280 and the approximate cost of making up the sign was approximately £400 in vitreous enamel.

RESOLVED – THAT THE GRAPHIC DESIGNER WOULD BE CONTACTED ADVISING THEM THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR DESIGN FOR THE VILLAGE SIGN OF CREAM LETTERING ON A GREEN BACKGROUND AT A COST OF £280.00.

- THAT A REVISED QUOTATION WOULD BE SOUGHT FOR MAKING UP THE VILLAGE SIGN NOW THAT THE DESIGN HAS BEEN AGREED UPON.

14. QUEEN VICTORIA GOLDEN JUBILEE DRINKING FOUNTAIN

11/326. To consider the quotation received for the wall plaque giving the history of the drinking fountain.

A quotation had been received for a plaque to go on the wall of the private householder who has the Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Drinking Fountain in his garden. Discussion took place about it being unfortunate that this drinking fountain is not in a public place.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL NOT PROCEED WITH THE WALL PLAQUE DEPICTING THE QUEEN VICTORIA GOLDEN JUBILEE DRINKING FOUNTAIN WHILE THIS REMAINS IN A PRIVATE GARDEN AS IT WAS FELT THIS SHOULD BE IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

15. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues.

11/327. Pedestrian Crossing at Harwoods

An email had been forwarded to Councillors from Peter Hayward of Highways who did not feel that additional carriageway markings would effectively address the concerns raised about the visibility at the crossing. He felt that if the crossing is used appropriately by both vehicle drivers and pedestrians the visibility is not a significant hazard. PC Massey stated that the Local Action Group also raised this issue. Correspondence was received to say brighter lights had been put in the beacon which hopefully has improved visibility. Councillor Murphy felt the crossing was still not very visible due to other lighting there. He had requested the Clerk put the email from Mr Hayward on file. Councillor Doran requested the Clerk send a note to the school as standing traffic and small children are still an issue. Councillor Abraham agreed there is a problem with the crossing and people need to be vigilant. A watching brief needs to be kept on this.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH CLERK WILL CONTACT THE LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL ASKING THEM TO MAKE THE CHILDREN AND PARENTS AWARE OF THE VISIBILITY ISSUES WITH THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT HARWOODS.

11/328. Condition of New Road

An email had been sent to Highways about the appalling state of New Road from the junction of St Edmunds Walk to the High Street. A reply was awaited.

11/329. Speeding in New Road.

A local resident expressed concern about speeding cars in New Road. He felt this was a major issue for those using pushchairs and wheelchairs, with there already being a narrow walk way exacerbated by overgrown hedges and big vehicles. A lengthy discussion took place about this. Councillor Hailstone referred to this also being a problem further along the road at Creekside, with the majority of cars going well in excess of the 10 mph speed limit. He felt Police checks were required on all of New Road. Councillor Abraham will ask Highways to look into this matter but urged against requesting sleeping policemen as a traffic calming measure as the impact of this outside houses is horrendous. Councillor Murphy referred to trying to get 20 mph on all peripheral roads in the village for the last five years but repeatedly

failing to get the support from IWC Highways.

RESOLVED – THAT COUNCILLOR ABRAHAM WILL TAKE THE ISSUE OF SPEEDING TRAFFIC IN NEW ROAD UP WITH HIGHWAYS.

- THAT POLICE CHECKS WILL BE REQUESTED FOR THE WHOLE LENGTH OF NEW ROAD.

- THAT THE CLERK WOULD CONTACT PGL TO ENSURE THE COACH DRIVERS USING THE CENTRE ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WHEN USING NEW ROAD.

16. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

To report on the following meetings:-

11/330. IWALC Executive

Councillor Doran had sent a report to Councillors about the presentation from Officers Pugh and Burbage of the Isle of Wight Council. The basic message was that there is no avalanche of services waiting to come down to Parish Councils. There are some major events coming up on planning through IWALC around implantation of new planning regulations. Parish Councillor training is in danger of being cancelled due to insufficient take up. Councillor Porter felt people did not recognise that Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, who were doing their best for their local community.

11/331. Village Partnership

a) A report was given from the “wash up” meeting held on 8 August 2011 in respect of this year’s Party in the Park. It was felt that Party in the Park did well considering the weather. There was disappointment regarding the lack of stallholders who turned up, with a suggestion being made as to whether returnable fees should be considered. Concern was also raised about some of the entertainers who did not turn up. The Smoke Filled room did not materialise, with Councillor Abraham contacting the Fire Service who apologised and said operational response had had to be prioritised on the day. A suggestion was made that Party in the Park should be “themed” next year (either a Royal or Olympic theme). Jubilee Celebrations for 2012 were also briefly touched upon. These issues will be discussed at the next Partnership meeting.

b) The AGM of the Village Partnership is due on Tuesday 11 October at 7.00 p.m. at the HIC.

11/332. BIFFA

Councillor Murphy had attended the meeting about wheelie bins and will be attending another meeting next month.

11/333. Board Meeting at St Mary’s Hospital

Councillor Murphy had attended a meeting at St Mary’s Hospital. A lot of changes are taking place including the hospital wanting to discharge patients more rapidly, and looking at staff sickness and absence.

11/334. Wootton Primary School

Councillor Abraham is a school governor at Wootton Primary School. He referred to the considerable changes that had been made to the school. They are up to their maximum numbers now, with six children being unable to get into the school this year. It is hoped this will be resolved in the coming years. An area had been built for 11 year olds now the school has taken on the two extra years.

17. PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION

11/335. To consider the amendments to the Parish Council Standing Orders prior to adopting the amended version.

A copy of the amended standing orders had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The amendments referred to Item 63 regarding Contracts.

RESOLVED – THAT THE AMENDED STANDING ORDERS (“APPENDIX B”) BE ADOPTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL.

Continued

11/336. To consider publishing expenditure over £500 (excluding salaries) on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk informed the meeting that it is good practice to publish expenditure over £500 (excluding salaries).

RESOLVED – THAT PARISH COUNCIL EXPENDITURE OVER £500 (EXCLUDING SALARIES) BE PUBLISHED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING.

11/337. To consider having an attendance book at Parish Council meetings for the public to sign in on a voluntary basis.

A suggestion had been made to have a signing in book at Parish Council meetings.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD PURCHASE A SIGNING IN BOOK FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS WHICH THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ASKED TO SIGN. THIS WOULD NOT BE MANDATORY BUT VOLUNTARY.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

For information only.

11/338. No correspondence had been received that needed to be brought to the meeting.

19. ACCOUNTS

11/339. To consider and approve the accounts for payment

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £4,456.86, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

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

11/340. Items to be included on the next agenda:-

- The “rave” at Woodhouse Copse.
- Why permission was given for the Bestival to go until 6.00 a.m.
- Cars parked on double yellow lines whilst people using the Sloop.
- Path from New Road to the Sloop – why the first 20 feet was tarmaced, not the whole lane.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed

Dated