

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 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: 10 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press
Val Cooper Parish Clerk

Matters raised during the Open Forum

- *Mr Rogers thanked the Parish Council for their item in the Action Plan about the need to explore the possibility of a community wind turbine. Mr Rogers stated that his offer of the parcel of land for this still stands. He will not take this forward until there is a measure of interest from the community, which he hoped the Parish Council will task.*
The local member will find out how an application may be made for a community wind turbine.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

11/341. No apologies for absence had been received.

2. MINUTES.

11/342. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2011 BE CORRECTED AT 11/324 TO READ:-

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

11/343. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2011, AS CORRECTED, BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

11/344. Councillor S Fulford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the planning application for 49 Station Road.

Councillor B Abraham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the replacement planning application for the proposed tidal powered renewable energy generation system.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

Progress reports only.

11/345. Car Park Signage in the High Street (Minute 11/265).

The Clerk reported that the IOW Council informed her that the signs have been priced. There was some query from the Isle of Wight Council as to who should pay for these. The Clerk had pointed out that as they are replacement signs this should be the Isle of Wight Council. The IW Council will now go ahead and order the signs.

11/346. Overgrown hedges – New Road (Minute 11/331).

Councillor Abraham had arranged a meeting for the 19th October for Councillors Murphy and Hailstone to walk along New Road with the officer from Highways to try and address the issue of overgrown hedges.

11/347. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (Minute 11/299).

The Clerk had spoken to Wendy Perera from the Planning Department at the IW Council. The advice given was for the Parish Council to look at preparing a Local Housing Needs Survey. This should include not only the number of units felt to be required but also the type of units, i.e. rented, affordable housing etc. The Parish Council can also make suggestions about any areas felt suitable for such development. When the IW Council are looking at planning applications and allocation of land they will always refer back to policies in the Core Strategy and to the local need identified in the Local Housing Needs Survey. The IW Council will be meeting with IWALC about land allocation on 17 November 2011.

RESOLVED – THAT THE SUGGESTION TO SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO DRAW UP A LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY BE PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER AGENDA. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND SCHOOLING REQUIRED.

11/348. Erosion of the frontage of the holiday park site at Woodside (Minute 11/304).

The local member reported on the meeting held with the agent for Darwins at the Help & Information Centre on 22 September 2011. The agents outlined their revised planning application which is for a reduced number of units resulting in less of an environmental impact. There will be a residential element as well as units for holiday use. It will include the request for the retention of the slipway and for beach replenishment.

11/349. Community Bus Service (Minute 11/321).

The Community Bus 34 had seen its 500th passenger the day before the meeting. The average weekly use is approximately 85 which works out at 17 a day. The takings for the five week period from 5 September 2011 to 7 October 2011 was £112.65. The number using the bus was felt to be positive but there is an issue with the takings. Ways of encouraging donations, sponsorship and fund raising need to be explored. There is a meeting at Havenstreet on 3 November which the Clerk and Councillor Porter are to attend.

11/350. Play Area at the Recreation Ground (Minute 11/322).

The project for fencing and two additional items of play equipment had been put out to tender. It is hoped that the figures will be available for the next meeting, with a view to getting the work carried out over the winter. The meeting with the Park Manager has not yet taken place.

11/351. Condition of New Road (Minute 11/328).

Highways Maintenance Department had informed the Clerk that the money required to resurface New Road is beyond their budget and will be dealt with in the PFI commencing in 2013, with the first 7 years being the main investment period. In the meantime, the road will be kept as safe as possible by filling in potholes etc.

11/352. Speeding in New Road (Minute 11/329).

PC Nick Massey will be undertaking speed monitoring in New Road shortly. He will then submit his results to the Highways Department. Once Highways have this information, and if it shows there is a problem, they will be happy to take this further so that the site can be considered, in line with others, for remedial treatment.

11/353. Date for December Meeting (10/493).

The Parish Council meeting in December will be held on the third Tuesday of the month as usual, not the second, as the school do not have a room available on the 13 December.

11/354. Pump Lane – Picnic Benches & Table (Minute 11/218)

The work identified from the health and safety check had been completed. Weather treatment is required to two seats and the picnic table in Pump Lane as well as the seat on the bridge. A quotation for £184.00 had been received for this additional work, which will include weather treatment of the noticeboard in the village square. It was pointed out that the noticeboard at the Railway Station also needs treating.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD REQUEST A REVISED QUOTATION TO INCLUDE WEATHER TREATING OF THE NOTICEBOARD AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

- THAT THE CLERK AND THE CHAIRMAN BE DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRESSING THE WORK ONCE THE REVISED QUOTATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following planning applications:-

11/355. P/01293/11 TCP/29446/A

Wootton Bridge, High Street, Wootton Bridge

Replacement of planning permission (P/02642/09 – TCP/29446; proposed tidal powered renewable energy generation system) in order to extend the time limit for implementation.

The Parish Council heard about eight online objections, mainly about noise and concern for wildlife. The Parish Council had previously agreed to this application and they were informed that Fishbourne Parish Council had agreed in principle to the application, subject to additional conditions.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01293/11 TCP/29446/A.

11/356. P/01359/11 TCP/02481/A

2 Riverbank, Red Road, Wootton Bridge

Demolition of garage; single storey rear extension to provide enlarged living accommodation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01359/11 TCP/02481/A.

11/357. P/01358/11 TCP/12331/C

49 Station Road, Wootton Bridge

Demolition of first floor rear extension; alterations; proposed first floor rear extension to provide additional treatment rooms (revised scheme).

Three letters of objections were referred to. The concerns in these letters included issues of parking and size of the extension. Representatives from the Parish Council had made a site visit and reported back to the meeting. The meeting heard that issues of parking had been addressed and the size and reason for the extension were not felt to be a concern. The Parish Council welcomed the way the applicants had dealt with this application by consulting with the Parish Council and others prior to putting in their revised application, with other applicants being encouraged to go down the same route.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01358/11 TCP/12331/C.

11/358. Decisions

P/00893/11 – Approved (7 St Edmunds Walk)

P/01109/11 – Approved (15 Bridgeway)

P/01180/11 – Approved (The Station, Station Road).

11/359. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1969/3 – Finale, 99 Station Road

TPO/1969/3 – Oakfield, 115 Station Road

The Clerk had queried why the same TPO number was used at two addresses. She was informed that the trees come under the same area and this is correct.

6. MONTHLY REPORT OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ISSUES

Report by Local Member.

11/360. The local member referred to a request for double yellow lines on the corner of Fernhill. Peter Hayward from Highways had been contacted. Although there is no accident record on this area of the road this request will be put on the plan for when the next traffic order is reviewed.

7. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

11/361. To discuss youth issues in the village.

The meeting heard that PC Massey had identified a need for a new television at the Youth Club. The police are to provide some of the funding for this, with agreement being sought from the treasurer of the Youth Club for top up funding. The meeting heard that the Youth

Club is still well supported, with Mondays being a particularly busy night with up to 30 children attending.

11/362. To look at the progress made in the dialogue with IW Council about the possibility of taking on the old school building as a community asset.

An email had been sent to Astrid Davies (Commission Manager for Building Community Capacity) confirming that the Parish Council wished to enter into a dialogue with the Isle of Wight Council regarding the possibility of taking on the Wootton Youth Centre Building. Once Councillor Abraham has made the decision on the future direction of the Youth and Community Service, negotiations with potential leaseholders will begin.

8. GATEWAY SIGNAGE

11/363. To receive the revised quotation from the sign maker for the village sign.

The final design and size for the village sign had been given to the signmaker. Two options had been given to the Parish Council. One for a shaped sign to accommodate the artwork required and one for a rectangular sign (not shaped). It was felt that a shaped sign was more attractive, with it being more cost effective to order three at the outset at £490 each.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD ORDER THREE SHAPED VILLAGE SIGNS AT A COST OF £490 EACH.

9. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

11/364. To consider whether to participate in the Community Speedwatch for the North East area of the Island.

The local Police Community Support Officer had provided the Parish Council with information about the possibility of setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme covering the North East areas of the Island. There would be a cost involved to pay for training of volunteers, signage and equipment. Before this can be taken further the PCSO needed to gauge the interest and commitment from the Parish/Town Councils in these areas. Discussion took place about which roads this would cover as a previous initiative was not supported by Highways. It was felt that the PCSO should be invited to give a full presentation at the next Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL INVITE THE POLICE COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER TO GIVE A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE AT THE NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

10. RAVE AT WOODHOUSE COPSE

11/365. To receive an update on the investigation into the unlicensed and unauthorised rave at Woodhouse Copse on the weekend of the Bestival.

The Clerk reported that Whippingham Parish Council will be showing a “u-tube” clip showing what goes on at Woodhouse Copse at their Parish Council Meeting on 2 November 2011. Whippingham Parish Council and Wootton Bridge Parish Council are to work together to try and address the concerns raised. Mr Rogers, a local resident, reported that he went to the Magistrates Court last Friday. The owner of the woods was charged under the Isle of Wight Council Act but pleaded not guilty, with a trial being set for 20 December 2011. The local member had been to the site and was investigating whether the IW Council maintain records of the CROW Act (Countryside Rights of Way Act) regarding freedom to roam. Mr Rogers stated that the whole area is covered, with the public walking in the woods over many years.

RESOLVED – THAT WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL AND WHIPPINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL WILL WORK TOGETHER TO TRY AND ADDRESS THE CONCERNS RAISED BY THE RAVE AT WOODHOUSE COPSE.

11. BESTIVAL OPERATING HOURS

11/366. To receive information about why the Bestival was able to carry on until 6.00 a.m.

The Clerk had contacted the Isle of Wight Council Licensing Department. It was confirmed that the Bestival have a licence until 6.00 a.m. the following day for the Friday & Saturday

nights and 4.00 a.m. the following day for the Sunday night. Although concern had been raised about the noise going on so long, it was felt that it might have been the music at Woodhouse Copse that had been heard.

12. CARS PARKING ON YELLOW LINES

11/367. To provide an update on the reports of cars parking on double yellow lines near the Sloop.

The Manager at the Sloop Inn had informed the Clerk that she asks customers to move their car if they are seen to park on yellow lines. Linda Shorter, IW Council, had sent an email to the Clerk to say that the IOW Council will enforce illegal parking on double yellow lines if it is on public land (they can do nothing if it is on private land or a road with no parking restrictions). She has requested their Civil Enforcement Officer monitors the parking.

A suggestion was made at the meeting to do away with the yellow lines. This was felt to be a good idea as long as Sloop Lane is not obstructed. This suggestion will be investigated.

RESOLVED – THAT THE SUGGESTION FOR THE REMOVAL OF YELLOW LINES NEAR THE SLOOP INN BE INVESTIGATED.

13. PATH FROM NEW ROAD TO THE SLOOP

11/368. To receive information about why the whole lane was not tarmaced.

The Clerk had liaised with Mr Legg of Highways Maintenance Department at the IW Council. Small areas of footways and carriageway are repaired through reactive maintenance, which is paid for from the maintenance revenue budget. These works are carried out to remove potential trip hazards. For a full length repair or resurfacing scheme the footpath or carriageway would have to have been identified on a priority rating and the works would be paid for from a capital funded budget.

RESOLVED – THAT THE LOCAL MEMBER WILL BRING THE ISSUE OF TRAMACING OF THE PATH FROM NEW ROAD TO THE SLOOP UP WITH TONY BUXTON OF THE IW COUNCIL.

14. NATIONAL PARK STATUS FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

11/369. To consider the suggestion for the Isle of Wight to be made a National Park following concerns about overdevelopment.

A letter had been received from an IW resident concerned about the volume and growth of residential and other developments on the Island. He felt that proper protection needed to be conferred on the Island to preserve its outstanding features and suggested National Park status, akin to the New Forest & South Downs, be considered. There was a mixed response to this suggestion at the meeting. Although there was some support for this, concern was raised that National Park status would stifle any economic development on the Island, as well as housing for local people where this is desperately needed. The issue of the Island having a lot of land already protected by being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was raised, as well as the fact that National Park status would result in another authority to contend with.

15. WOOTTON RECREATION GROUND – WILDFLOWER MEADOW.

11/370. To consider a request for the wildflower meadow to be mown continually to avoid dog fouling in this area.

A local resident referred to the concept that dogs are drawn to long grass to go to the toilet. The long grass makes this difficult for waste to be collected by even the most responsible of dog owners. It is a danger to children due to health risks associated with dog faeces and the area is now only long grass and weeds – not wildflowers. The Isle of Wight Council are aware of the dog fouling problem in the area as they have had reports from members of the public and the grounds maintenance contractor. They are happy to cut and maintain the wildflower area as amenity grass if we agree.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD CONTACT THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL TO ASK THEM TO CUT AND MAINTAIN THE WILDFLOWER AREA AS AMENITY GRASS.

16. PLANTING IN THE RECREATION GROUND

11/371. To receive a presentation by the Tree Warden

The Tree Warden and the Chairman had recently carried out a survey of the trees in the Recreation Ground. It was felt there was no point replanting trees in the bog garden, due to the overhang of Oak Trees. The Tree Warden suggested a Butterfly Garden be created, with the planting of Buddleias as well as other butterfly friendly shrubs, which would give another dimension to the park. This was felt to be a good idea and the Tree Warden will investigate this further, with a view to planting taking place sometime in the Spring.

RESOLVED – THAT THE TREE WARDEN WILL EXPLORE THE ACQUISITION OF BUTTERFLY FRIENDLY PLANTS FOR THE PROPOSED BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT THE RECREATION GROUND

17. LOCAL ACTION GROUP

11/372. To receive an update from the representative of the Local Action Group.

Councillor Murphy reported that the meeting with PC Massey had been cancelled and rearranged for November. A discussion took place about previous topics from the Local Action Group which included the lights at the top of Fishbourne Lane. It seems these have been improved but Fishbourne Parish Council are to press for further improvements.

18. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

11/373. Outstanding Highway Issues.

No issues were raised at the meeting.

19. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

To report on the following meetings:-

11/374. IWALC Executive

Councillor Doran referred to a full day of training organised by NALC at the Riverside Centre on 26 November 2011 regarding the new planning rules. The next formal meeting of IWALC is set for next week. Councillor Doran had attended a National Conference in London as the local IWALC representative. He referred to an interesting presentation by Oliver Metwin regarding the Government's view of elected Town and Parish Councils taking over devolved services, with a lot of "wait and see" being the current situation. A number of villages were able to voice concerns about the mismatch of potential areas for housing developments and actual requirement. The minister said he would take this away to look at.

11/375. Village Partnership

- i) The minutes of the Village Partnership Meeting held on 10 May 2011 were endorsed by the Parish Council.
- ii) The Clerk reported on the AGM of the Village Partnership Meeting held on 11.10.11. Items discussed included:-
 - Party in the Park 2012. Registration fees to be requested from stallholders and attractions. This fee will be returnable if they turn up, or if they have a good reason for non-attendance and let the Parish Council know beforehand.
 - Request from Cricket Club for a match to be held on the same day as PIP 2012. The Cricket Club have carried out a risk assessment and will put up netting.
 - Christmas Festival – Friday 16th and Saturday 17th December. There will be a mobile nativity play at 6.00 on the Friday. It is also hoped to have a mini pantomime and usual carol singing and refreshments.
 - Queens Jubilee Celebrations briefly discussed. Will revisit this in the new year.
- iii) The date of the next Village Partnership Meeting is Tuesday 7 February 2012.

11/376. Wootton Creek Fairways Association.

Councillor Mundell had attended the WCFA meeting. A letter had also been received from the Vice-Chair of the WCFA. It seems a small number of fishermen are using the shore in the

public area adjacent to the dinghy park in Pump Lane to cast their lines into the creek. This is causing problems for other users and wildlife. A shore fishing ban is potentially enforceable amongst their WCFA members but this activity is taking place on public land controlled they believe by WBPC. They would like a partnership approach to resolve this issue.

RESOLVED – THAT THE LOCAL MEMBER WILL SPEAK TO THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL TO FIND OUT WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT FISHING FROM THE PUBLIC AREA AT PUMP LANE.

11/377. BIFFA.

Councillor Murphy had attended a meeting last week, which was mainly about wheelie bins and envisaged problems. He reported his understanding that when this new collection starts all rubbish will go to Linbottom and be freighted up to Edmonton. The local member pointed out that this will not include recycled items, which he understands will be sorted on the Isle of Wight. Councillor Ballard referred to the current leaflets describing the new arrangements being poor. It seems that clearer instructions are to be circulated.

20. CORRESPONDENCE
For information only.

11/378. Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Information received from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (in partnership with NALC) enclosing a copy of their new guide "How to respond to planning applications".

11/379. Boundary Commission for England.

Letter in regarding the 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England. They are consulting on the proposals until 5 December 2011. More information is available on their website www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland. Councillor Ballard urged anyone with a view on this to go online and register as they are looking for as much feedback as possible, both positive and negative.

11/380. Isle of Wight Playing Fields Association.

To consider whether to become a member of the IOW Playing Fields Association at a cost of £25.00 per annum. Their work involves protecting and preserving playing fields and trying to stop the island being overrun by developers of open spaces for children and young children to play safely.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL JOIN THE IOW PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION AT A COST OF £25.00 PER ANNUM.

11/381. Isle of Wight Council Budget Consultation Workshop.

The workshop will take place on the evening of Monday 5 December at County Hall – 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. It will be interactive and informal and is about sharing thoughts and understanding the needs of Town and Parish Councils regarding savings the council must make and areas where they need to reduce spending and areas where they plan to continue to invest.

11/382. Resignation from Wootton Bridge Parish Council by Councillor Rob Ashley.

The Chairman reported that Councillor Ashley had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council due to increased demands on his time. A letter had been sent to Councillor Ashley thanking him for his valuable contribution to the Parish Council and the village. The due process was put in place with the Isle of Wight Council for his replacement. More than ten people had requested an election, with two candidates coming forward. The election is set for 10 November 2011 at the Community Centre in Wootton Bridge. Concern was raised at how much it costs to have an election. The Isle of Wight Council used to pay for local elections. This is now paid for by the individual Parish or Town Council concerned.

21. ACCOUNTS

11/383. To consider and approve the accounts for payment

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £3,496.11, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

11/384. To report on the Audit of Accounts for 2010/11.

Members were informed that the external audit was successfully signed off on 29 September 2011. The statutory completion notices have been displayed accordingly.

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

11/385. Items to be included on the next agenda:-

- To agree the budget to meet costs involved with the Christmas Festival.
- To agree the quotation for the Christmas Tree Lighting.
- SHLAA – Decide whether to set up a working party to come up with proposals for a Local Housing Needs Survey.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed

Dated