

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2012 AT 6.30 PM IN WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present: Councillor Ken Morris Chairman
Councillor Steve Porter – Vice-Chairman
Councillors Barry Abraham, Brian Ballard, Daryll Pitcher, Dick Doran, Roy Murphy,

Also present: 6 Members of the public
1 Members of the press
Val Cooper - Parish Clerk
Mark Pugh – NHS

Items Raised in the Open Forum

- *Serious concerns were raised by residents living behind the Rugby Club due to consideration being given by the Isle of Wight Council to granting the Rugby Club a 50 year lease. The meeting heard about the ongoing problems neighbours have had with the Rugby Club. The length of the proposed lease was of particular concern due to issues being raised with the Isle of Wight Council previously and no enforcement action being taken. The local Member had not been aware of the proposed 50 year lease. He will find out more details and bring this back to the next meeting to see what is being proposed in the lease. The local Member stated that conditions should be put in the lease to protect the neighbours and there should be a duty of care from the Isle of Wight Council to ensure this happens before anything is signed.*

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

12/447. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Fulford, Barrie Hailstone and Pete Mundell.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2012

12/448. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2012 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. DISPENSATION IN RESPECT OF A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

12/449. To note the information received from the Society of Local Council Clerks in respect of Councillors needing DPI dispensation to take part in Precept decisions.

The Clerk summarised information received from the Society of Local Council Clerks in respect of Councillors needing DPI dispensation to take part in Precept decisions. A flaw had been discovered in recent legislation which meant that, nationally, all members living within the area of the parish had a pecuniary interest when setting the precept and would require dispensation.

12/450. To consider delegating the power to grant dispensations *that will affect all or most of the Members of the Council*, to the Parish Clerk (e.g. the annual setting of the Precept) under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL DELEGATE THE POWER TO GRANT DPI DISPENSATIONS THAT WILL AFFECT ALL OR MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO THE PARISH CLERK.

12/451. To agree that “Requests for Dispensation” becomes a standing item on future Agendas and that *individual* requests for dispensation will be considered and made by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – THAT REQUESTS FOR DPI DISPENSATION WILL BECOME A STANDING ITEM ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

- THAT INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR DPI DISPENSATION WILL BE CONSIDERED AND MADE BY THE PARISH COUNCIL.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the Agenda.

12/452. Declarations of Interest were received from Councillors Murphy and Porter in respect of the planning application for the Acorns and Councillor Pitcher in respect of the planning application for 51 Lushington Hill.

5. NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

12/453. To receive information from a speaker from the NHS Trust about the creation of an NHS Foundation Trust for the Island.

Mr Pugh, NHS Trust, gave an informative presentation about the creation of an NHS Foundation Trust for the Island. A Foundation Trust is part of the NHS but is much more answerable to local people and has more freedom in respect of services it provides and finances, for example it can keep surplus money and invest it back in services. If the NHS Trust does not become a Foundation Trust by April 2014 it cannot stay as a regular trust and could be put out to a private management company or the service could be split and become part of Southampton and Portsmouth. These options are not seen as a good thing for the Island, with it being felt that a stand-alone Foundation Trust is the best way forward. Membership of the NHS Foundation Trust is open to anyone aged 16 and over. Responses to the consultation need to be made by 11.1.2013. The website address for this consultation is www.iow.nhs.uk/ft

6. MATTERS ARISING.
Progress reports only.

12/454. Medical Centre, Brannon Way (Minute 12/417)

Councillor Abraham referred to emails not getting answered by the SHIP PCT Cluster, despite getting the local MP involved. There is only a short space of time until the lease on the existing surgery in the village runs out.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ARRANGE A MEETING ON THE MAINLAND FOR TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS TO MEET WITH CAROL GILES OF THE SHIP PCT CLUSTER PRIOR TO THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

12/455. Coastal Erosion (Minute 12/418).

Councillor Abraham reported that until the owners of the holiday site at Woodside make a new planning application there is nothing he can do about the coastal erosion in front of their site.

12/456. Houseboats being lived in on the Creek. (Minute 12/422)

Councillor Abraham was now aware of which houseboats are being used for residential use and is taking this matter further. This is more to do with the Fairway Association due to their link to the Agents of the Crown Estates as they grant leases to anyone who has a mooring on the creek.

12/457. Local Housing Needs Survey (Minute 12/431).

The number of housing needs surveys forms that had been returned stood at 24% a week ago. The Clerk had requested up to date figures for the meeting but these had not been forthcoming. Reminders were put up on the noticeboard last week, which will hopefully have resulted in the number of returns increasing significantly by the time of the closing date.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL CIRCULATE THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT THE NUMBER OF LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY FORMS THAT HAD BEEN RETURNED TO COUNCILLORS ONCE AVAILABLE.

12/458. Land opposite Aldene (Minute 12/427)

IW Planning Department had informed the Clerk that the removal of hedging and fencing on land opposite Aldene would not require Planning permission. They doubt that a barn would be permitted development unless it is an agricultural barn, in which case a Prior Notification would have been required. The Tree Warden had provided a report to the Clerk for the meeting. She felt that on inspection of the site it reflects almost the traditional way of hedgerow management.

She had consulted with the Hedgerow Team of Countryside Management and Ann Marsden visited the site and considered that the work that had been carried out was within acceptable parameters. The full report from the Tree Warden will be kept on file.

12/459. Crossing near Harwoods (Minute 12/435).

Mr Hayward (IW Council) acknowledged that concerns have been raised about the safety of the crossing over a significant period. He had been out previously to view the crossing in a variety of light conditions at different times of both the day and year. He struggled to see how visiting the site again will improve the understanding of the issues any further. The challenge is in determining a solution to the problem but the IW Council are at a loss to understand how this situation can be resolved, given the limitations of the current legislative and specific site constraints. The IW Council need to deploy their resources to make sure that they are targeted to best effect. As a consequence they prioritise their investigations into such safety concerns to resolve the difficulties where they have a history of 4 or more incidents which have resulted in killed or seriously injured casualties over the previous 3 years.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL CONTACT THE LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND REQUEST THAT THEY WARN CHILDREN TO BE VIGILANT WHEN USING THE CROSSING NEAR HARWOODS.

- THAT COUNCILLOR MURPHY WILL RAISE THE CONCERNS ABOUT THE CROSSING AT HARWOODS AT THE NEXT LAG MEETING WITH THE POLICE.

12/460. Unsightly Banners in the Village (Minute 12/444).

On reading the literature provided by the IW Council, the Clerk read out the conditions relating to temporary banners and advertisements in the High Street.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO FIND OUT HOW LONG “TEMPORARY” REFERS TO, WITH RESPECT TO UNSIGHTLY BANNERS AND ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE HIGH STREET.

- THAT THE CLERK WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF UNSIGHTLY BANNERS AND ADVERTISEMENTS IN HER NEXT ARTICLE IN THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE.

12/461. Quotations from Plumbers for the HIC (Minute 12/446)

Two quotations had been sought for repairs to the staff toilets.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD INSTRUCT THE PLUMBER TO PROCEED WITH THE REPAIRS TO THE STAFF TOILETS FOR THE SUM OF £165.00.

12/462. Public Conveniences – Brannon Way

An email had been received from the Principal Waste Contract Officer at IW Council regarding cleaning of the Public Conveniences in Brannon Way. A new contract for cleaning of public toilets is currently out to tender and will be in place from 26 March 2013. The Parish Council will need to contact the successful new contractor direct to use their set rates. Details of the contractors name and contact details will be made available to the Parish Council once the contract is awarded in January. The Clerk will look into alternative quotations after this time and will also give consideration to obtaining a quotation for cleaning of both the public conveniences and the old school building.

12/463. Warning signs – Ice

Information had been emailed to members about yellow warning signs for ice, with yellow plastic signs costing £15.98 each plus VAT. The Clerk had made contact with the Parish Council's Insurance Company for advice. Provided the Parish Council draw up a risk assessment and communicate their actions to residents, i.e. by use of notices and website, the Parish Council will be covered.

RESOLVED – THAT THREE WARNING SIGNS WILL BE PURCHASED TO ADVISE RESIDENTS OF ICY CONDITIONS IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE AND ON THE SLOPE TO AND FROM THE CAR PARK.

12/464. Woodside Beach Caravan Park (Minute 12/328)

An email had been received from David Everest of Darwins. The Woodside Beach Caravan Park will shortly be redeveloped with new caravans, landscaping improvements etc. The new layout may or may not require a planning application. Darwins will be liaising with the IW Council on this point. Darwins had a meeting with the council's tree officer to establish and agree the trimming of the existing trees and hedgerows to allow movement of the caravans.

They will be erecting 'heras' fencing to separate off the main site area and to give a safe route for access to the various residential units there and the footpath to assist with health and safety. A local resident at the meeting referred to a Facebook page "Save Woodside Caravan Park". It seems that Darwins made an error on the latest contracts, with eight caravans now being able to stay until 2016. The meeting was advised that the site has to be put back as it was just for those eight caravans. The local resident added that Darwins do not need to move trees.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

To comment on the following planning applications:-

12/465. P/01667/12 TCP/31278

2 Glebe Gardens, Wootton Bridge

Replacement enlarged roof to provide additional living accommodation within the roof space.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01667/12 TCP/31278.

12/466. P/01712/12 TCP/07413/D

51 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge

Alterations; single storey rear extension to provide enlarged lounge and study.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01712/12 TCP/07413/D.

12/467. P/01571/12

Ash Farm, Lower Woodside Road.

Change of use of land back to agriculture, provision of a chicken shed measuring approximately 18m x 9.3m and reduction in height of an existing close boarded fence by 150 mm.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01571/12.

12/468. P01653/12 TCP/200059/S

The Acorns, Lower Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge

Proposed polytunnel; retention of mobile home (providing overnight accommodation) and associated raised deck area.

The applicant for this planning application attended the meeting and explained the reason for needing overnight accommodation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01653/12 TCP/200059/S

12/469. Decisions

P/01345/12 – Approved (75 Rectory Drive)

P/00942/12 – Approved (Brangwyn, New Road)

P/01478/12 – Approved (50 Palmers Road)

12/470. Appeal

APP/P2114/C/12.2187819 – Solent View – Appeal A & B dismissed.

12/471. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1993/34 – 87 Station Road, Wootton Bridge.

8. MONTHLY REPORT OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ISSUES AFFECTING THE VILLAGE.

12/472. Report by Local Member.

The Local Member had nothing to report at this meeting.

9. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE.

12/473. To discuss youth issues in the village.

The junior sessions on Monday evenings continue to be well supported.

Continued

12/474. To receive any update regarding the Parish Council taking over the old school building in New Road.

Draft Heads of Terms had been received. The Clerk was liaising with the Solicitors to ensure the Parish Council can sublet part of the building. The working group will meet in the new year to look at drawing up a schedule of works so that the match funding can be applied for.

10. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2013/2014

12/475. To consider the budget estimate for 2013/2014.

A meeting had been held at the Help & Information Centre on 11 December 2012, with amended figures circulated to members after the meeting. Precept freezing and capping was discussed at the Parish Council meeting.

12/476. To consider the Council tax precept for 2013/2014.

Draft precept figures had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Suggestions/amendments were requested before the precept is set at the next Parish Council meeting. The uncertainty of Council Tax benefit being moved to principal authorities was discussed as this could result in Parish Councils losing out in respect of their precepts.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PRECEPT FOR 2013/2014 WILL BE SET AT THE JANUARY MEETING ONCE MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN RESPECT OF CHANGES TO COUNCIL TAX BENEFITS.

11. CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

12/477. To feedback how the Christmas Festival went and the amount raised for next year's festival.

The heavens opened just as the Roving Nativity Play set off. However, this did not seem to dampen people's enthusiasm. The festival went well in the Community Centre, with the Salvation Army carol singing adding to the atmosphere. The refreshments made £99.15 and the raffle made £94.40. Expenses will need to be taken out of these figures. Everyone agreed that it was far better having the event inside, so the hall will be booked again for next year. The charities who had stalls thanked the Parish Council for inviting them. A donation had been made to the Salvation Army. There will be a "wash up" session on the Christmas Festival at the Village Partnership Meeting on 29 January 2013.

12. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues.

12/478. Church Road

The state of Church Road had been raised by a local resident. The Isle of Wight Council will not maintain this road as they do not own it. Discussion took place about who owns this road.

RESOLVED – THAT COUNCILLOR BALLARD WILL CHECK WHO OWNS THE LAND NEAR THE GREEN TRIANGLE IN CHURCH ROAD.

12/479. St Edmunds.

The issue of cars parking on the bend where the new fence has been erected was raised. There was a difference of opinion regarding whether yellow lines would help or make matters worse. Drivers need to be careful driving past parked cars due to the lack of visibility.

12/480. Road outside the Sloop

The meeting heard that IW Council have advised that the proposal for a crossing at the Sloop will have to go into a Capital Programme and is unlikely to happen in the near future.

13. HELP & INFORMATION CENTRE

12/481. To consider a suggestion that the Help & Information Centre sign be removed from the Parish Council Office.

The Help & Information sign on the front of the Parish Council office was felt to be misleading as it had resulted in the Parish Council office being seen as a Tourist Information Centre. This sign

was relocated to the Parish Council office following the demise of the IW Council Outreach Office over two years ago. Assistance would still be provided to visitors to the office with or without this sign.

RESOLVED – THAT THE HELP & INFORMATION CENTRE SIGN WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FRONT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE.

14. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

12/482. IWALC Executive.

Councillor Doran was to attend a meeting on 20 December 2012, with Mr Burbage to talk about IW Council finances.

15. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2013

12/483. To set the Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2013.

The Clerk requested consideration be given to moving the June meeting to the second Tuesday of the month (11th June 2013) to enable her to take two weeks leave from the 15th June 2013. This would then give her three weeks to prepare for Party in the Park and the July Parish Council Meeting. Also, the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May will need to be brought forward to the second Tuesday (14th May 2013) as this has to be within fourteen days of the local Elections which are set for 2nd May 2013.

RESOLVED – THAT THE MAY AND JUNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES WILL BE MOVED TO THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

- THAT THE CLERK WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH DATES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2013.

16. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

12/484. Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils

An invite had been received for Councillors and Clerks to attend the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on Thursday 20th December at 7.00 p.m. at the Riverside Centre. The option of taking up the Local Council Human Resources service for just £75.00 a year was raised as this is very reasonable compared to other schemes.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL TAKE UP THE OPTION OF PAYING £75.00 FOR THE LOCAL COUNCIL HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICE.

12/485. Isle of Wight Steam Railway

An email had been received from Peter Vail, General Manager of the IW Steam Railway, thanking the community of Wootton for such positive support in 2012. He also advised that the IW Railway had picked up a couple of prestigious awards. In the IW Chamber of Commerce Business Awards for Excellence, they were Winners of the Tourism and Leisure Award and Highly Commended in the Community category. In the Tourism South East Beautiful South Awards they picked up the Silver Award in the large Attractions category.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Porter on the Retail & Service Industry Award picked up by his company from the IW Chamber of Commerce Business Awards for Excellence 2012.

12/486. Woodside Hall Nursing Home.

Following the Parish Council commenting on the planning application for the new sewage treatment facility at Woodside Hall Nursing Home, a letter had been received from Mr Colville, Director of Colville Care. He advised that this new sewage treatment facility had improved the situation for Underwood Cottage as the load upon their Septic Tank has lessened. There is an existing financial arrangement for maintenance of the septic tank at Underwood Cottage which is not intended to be changed.

Continued

12/487. Pillar Box – High Street

A letter had been received from a local resident with a suggestion for the Pillar Box near the vets to be moved to the Village Square or near Tesco Express.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PILLAR BOX NEAR THE VETS BEING MOVED TO A MORE CENTRAL LOCATION IN THE VILLAGE.

17. ACCOUNTS

12/488. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £5,216.66, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

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

12/489. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

- The Rugby Club Lease.
- Parish Council Precept.

The Chairman wished Councillors and members of the public a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Signed

Date:.....