

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2013 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, Sarah Fulford, Barrie Hailstone, Pete Mundell, Dick Doran, Roy Murphy, Daryll Pitcher

Also present: 8 Members of the public
1 Member of the press
Val Cooper - Parish Clerk

No matters were raised during the Open Forum.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13/001. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Ballard. Councillor Porter had sent his apologies that he would be late for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2012

13/002. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2012 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION OF A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

13/003. No requests for dispensation of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest had been received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

13/004. Councillor D Doran declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in matters relating to the NHS.

5. RUGBY CLUB

13/005. To receive a report from the local Member about details and conditions of the proposed new lease by the IW Council to the Rugby Club.

Concerns were raised by a member of the public about the length of the proposed lease and whether the Rugby Club would be paying a fair contribution to the Isle of Wight Council as they currently pay a nominal fee. The Local Member stated that negotiations would take place with the Isle of Wight Council but they can subsidise rent if they want to support an organisation, as is the case with other sports clubs. Clarification was requested as to what would be going in the lease, as the original lease only had one pitch.

The representative from the Rugby Club stated that the club was formed in 1924 and has been playing on Wootton Recreation Ground since 1957. The changing rooms were built in 1970, with no outside funding received for these. The bar was built in 1977 and with the help of local residents the club was able to get electricity and a sewage system. The Football Club also use the sewage system and the Rugby Club support Party in the Park with facilities. Every Sunday there are one hundred children who use the facilities by way of Vectis Rugby Club. The bad language problem was acknowledged but the Rugby Club want to improve the current facilities for all.

Another member of the public referred to trying very hard to work alongside the Rugby Club, with the problems being longstanding. Three meetings a year had been agreed to so that problems could be dealt with as they occurred, but these meetings had not taken place. This increases the concerns raised if the club extend and hold more events. It was pointed out that gardens are "out of bounds" for grandchildren when the Rugby Club are using the Recreation Ground due to the bad language and it was felt that the Isle of Wight should be taking on board a Duty of Care to local residents.

Councillor Porter arrived at the meeting.

The Local Member felt that conditions can be written into the lease and that hopefully there will be meetings beforehand to try and overcome some of the issues mentioned. The concerns raised have been going on for a long time but the building is in quite a bad state and there is a need to try and find a way forward, including having the regular meetings previously agreed to.

6. MATTERS ARISING.
Progress reports only.

13/006. Local Housing Needs Survey (Minute 12/457)

486 returns had been received by J G Consulting for the Local Housing Needs Survey (nearly 30%). These are currently being analysed. The results of the survey will be available at the end of February 2013.

13/007. Unsightly Banners in the Village (Minute 12/460).

The Isle of Wight Council could not provide a definitive answer about the period "temporary" referred to in respect of the unsightly signs in the High Street but they were willing to make a ruling if Enforcement are contacted with details of the signs in question. The Clerk had also requested assistance in her quarterly article in The Bridge regarding keeping the appearance of the village to a good standard.

RESOLVED – THAT ENFORCEMENT WILL BE CONTACTED ABOUT ONE OF THE OFFENDING UNSIGHTLY SIGNS IN THE VILLAGE TO ASCERTAIN A RULING ON THIS.

13/008. Pillar Box – High Street (Minute 12/487).

The Clerk had contacted the Royal Mail about the suggestion for the mail box near the vets to be moved to a more central position in the village and was waiting for a response.

13/009. Condition of Church Road (Minute 12/478)

Ownership of Church Road remains an issue due to the state of the road. The Local Member referred to Roche purchasing a significant amount of land.

RESOLVED – THE CLERK WILL CONTACT THE PREVIOUS CLERK OR PREVIOUS COUNCILLOR LIZ LOUGHLIN TO ASCERTAIN OWNERSHIP OF CHURCH ROAD.

13/010. Help & Information sign at the Parish Council Office (Minute 12/481)

The sign has yet to be taken down, as previously agreed.

13/011. Crossing at the Sloop. (Minute 12/480)

A meeting is to be held shortly regarding the possible creation of a cycle path near the Sloop, with the Local Member to request that a crossing at the Sloop be included in this proposal.

13/012. Speeding on the Bridge.

The Local member had requested speed strips be put on the bridge. Police radar traps at Kite Hill do pick up speeding further up the hill and something is needed on the bridge to slow people down. Unfortunately if there are no records of accidents it is difficult to get Highways to action such a request.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:-

13/013. P/1886/12 TCP/04558/N

Solent View, Lower Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge

Variation of condition No. 1 on P/01142/12 – TCP/04558/M to state the caravans shall be retained in accordance with the site licensing regime and no unit shall exceed 7m from the adjoining unit.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/1886/12 TCP/04558/N.

13/014. P/01922/12 TCP/13169/D

Lower Ponds, New Road, Wootton Bridge

Two storey extension on south elevation to form office/study on ground floor with bedroom over; detached single storey outbuilding to provide garage/games room/storage and guest accommodation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01922/12 TCP/13169/D.

13/015. Decisions.

P/01667/12 – Approved (2 Glebe Gardens).

P/01363/12 – Approved (Woodside Hall Nursing Home)

13/016. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/2006/17 – Little Canada, New Road – Coppicing of Ash Stems.

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

13/017. Report by Local Member.

Councillor Abraham had nothing to report apart from issues already on the Agenda. A request was made for the Local Member to take up the issue of drains being clogged at both ends of New Road.

9. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

13/018. To discuss youth issues in the village.

The Youth Club is still being well used by the Juniors. There are some issues to resolve with the Tuesday sessions for Seniors.

13/019. To look at the progress made with taking on the old school building in New Road as a community asset.

Following a visit to the building used for the Youth Club, quotations were being sought for replacement windows at the back of the building running along Red Road. Rental values for the upstairs office and room below had been obtained as the rental of this space will be key to the sustainability of the building. Some work will be required prior to the building being rented out. It is hoped that the lease will be finalised at the end of March, with a view to the Parish Council taking over on 1.4.13. The fabric of the building looks basically sound, with the roof only appearing to need minimal repair. The issue of the Economic Improvement Match Funding was going to be discussed at a meeting with the Leader of the Council on 16.1.13 to see if flexibility could be given regarding the date the funding has to be spent by.

10. MEDICAL CENTRE, BRANNON WAY

13/020. To report on the latest information about the new Medical Centre and the way forward.

Things had moved on considerably since the last meeting. The developer had sent the necessary documents to the Solicitor on 11.1.13 and hopes to be on site mid to late February 2013.

11. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2013/14

13/021. To agree the budget estimate for 2013/2014.

Figures had been provided to Councillors prior to the last meeting.

RESOLVED – THAT THE BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2013/2014 SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

13/022. To set the Council tax precept for 2013/14.

The precept for the forthcoming financial year had been discussed prior to the last meeting. Information had subsequently been received from the IW Council about the Cabinet Decision regarding Localisation of Council Tax Support. The information had been positive and meant the Parish Council was in a position to set the precept. A discussion ensued about the need to increase the precept, with the majority feeling that the precept needed to be increased due to the Parish Council having to take on increased services due to the Localism Bill. The issue of Briddlesford Cemetery was discussed. Although this cemetery is in the boundary of Newport, Wootton Bridge Parish Council cleared this some years ago and have maintained it ever since.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PRECEPT FOR 2013/2014 WOULD BE SET AT £67,000 (SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS).

- THAT THE CLERK WOULD APPROACH NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL TO SEE IF THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE OVER BRIDDLESFORD CEMETERY OR MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ITS UPKEEP.

12. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues.

13/023. Pot Holes.

A large pot hole had been reported to the IW Council some time ago but it had not been mended. It is hoped that the PFI contract will resolve road surface conditions once the new Highways PFI contractor takes over on 1 April 2013.

13. HIGHWAYS PFI ROADSHOW – 21 JANUARY 2013

13/024. To remind Councillors and members of the public of the Highways PFI Roadshow taking place on Monday 21 January 2013 at 6.00 p.m. at Ryde Academy, Pell Lane, Ryde.

The Clerk had placed notices about this roadshow on the noticeboard and window at the HIC and at the Community Centre. It was unfortunate that the roadshow clashed with the meeting at Ryde Police Station. Councillor Pitcher was to attend the Highways PFI Roadshow.

14. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

13/025. IWALC Executive.

Councillor Doran had already provided a report to members regarding the meeting with Mr Burbage of the Isle of Wight Council. A meeting was to be held on Thursday of 17.1.13, with the main issues being presentations on the PCT and the Youth Council.

15. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

13/026. Bestival

There will be a meeting at the end of February/beginning of March with the Bestival organisers. Once the date is available it will be placed on the village noticeboard and Parish Council window.

13/027. Litter/Dog Mess

Correspondence had been received from a few other Parish and Town Councils who employ someone to litter pick and clear up dog mess. This has raised the issue of "double taxation" but litter and dog mess are issues that come up more and more as IW Council streamline the services they can still offer and some of the local councils felt the only other option was to let standards slip.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ISSUE OF EMPLOYING SOMEONE TO PICK UP LITTER AND CLEAR DOG MESS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

- THAT THE CLERK WOULD LOOK INTO THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH REGARDS TO EMPLOYING SOMEONE TO CARRY OUT A TASK HISTORICALLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE IW COUNCIL.

13/028. Local Sustainable Transport Funding (LSTF) Proposals.

An email had been received from the IW Council about them being awarded a grant of £3.95 million to promote sustainable access to tourism. A number of improvements have been proposed for Wootton/Fishbourne area. The Integrated Transport Officer suggested a meeting be set up with the Parish Council to discuss the proposals.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD SET UP A CONVENIENT DATE WITH THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT OFFICER TO MEET WITH THE PARISH COUNCILLORS REGARDING THE AWARD TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ACROSS THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED FOR WOOTTON/FISHBOURNE.

13/029. Isle of Wight Steam Railway – Wootton Residents 2013 Season Ticket

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway are again kindly offering Residents Season Tickets to residents of Wootton Bridge, providing a utility bill or similar can be provided giving proof of address. Tickets need to be purchased from Havenstreet Station. Tickets can be purchased for £10.50 for adults and £5.50 for children 5 – 15 years of age (infants 0-4 are free of charge). There are a few dates excluded in July and August. (The take up of this was good last year – with 200 tickets being purchased).

13/030. The Staying Safe Campaign

An email had been received inviting Councillors to a meeting at Ryde Police Station on 21st January 2013 at 1800 hours. The Island Roads Policing Unit will be presenting the Staying Safe Campaign recently launched and the Police Community Support Officer will be discussing Community Speed Watch.

RESOLVED – THAT COUNCILLOR MURPHY WILL ATTEND THE STAYING SAFE CAMPAIGN MEETING AT RYDE POLICE STATION.

16. ACCOUNTS.

13/031. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £2,856.17, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

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

13/032. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

• Refuse collection

Bins are being discarded into roads and local residents are being held responsible when vermin split open the black bags. The Local Member will take the issue of bins and black bags up with the Waste Department and report back to the next meeting.

Continued

- Police Attendance at Parish Council Meetings
Councillor Doran had noticed that even Rural Service areas are getting a Police officer to each meeting. This is working well, with issues such as dog fouling and anti social behaviour being addressed and councillors being made aware of what is happening. Councillor Murphy will take this issue up with at the next LAG meeting and report back, even if only quarterly attendance can be achieved.

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

Signed

Date