

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 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: 7Members of the public
1 Member of the press
Val Cooper - Parish Clerk

Items Raised in the Open Forum

The issue of the proposed new lease on the Rugby Club was raised. The Local Member stated that there had been no movement on this since the update given at the last meeting. He had asked for reassurance that residents will be consulted prior to any lease being drawn up. A sign had been put up by the Rugby Club requesting people refrain from swearing. Concern was expressed as to why the Rugby Club had not done this previously when told.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13/038. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Ballard.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2013 AND 6 FEBRUARY 2013.

13/039. An amendment was requested to the Minutes dated 15th January 2013 to make it clear that more than one person had raised concern at the meeting about the Rugby Club.

RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2013, AS CORRECTED ABOVE, AND 6 FEBRUARY 2013 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION OF A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

13/040. No requests for dispensation of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest had been received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

13/041. Councillors D Doran and D Pitcher declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in matters relating to the planning application at 41 Lushington Hill.

4A. LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY (Brought Forward from Item 10)

13/042. To receive a draft report from JG Consulting in respect of the Local Housing Needs Survey for Wootton Bridge.

A draft report had been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting. Chris Brougham, JG Consulting, provided a power point presentation at the meeting. This related to future housing requirements in Wootton Bridge over the next five years of local households (including households with a parish connection and concealed households (where one household is living within the same household as another)). The survey showed that Wootton Bridge is a popular retirement and commuter residential area of choice. The presentation showed that the main gap in supply is move on housing for older residents. The issue of infrastructure was raised if more houses are to be built. This will be taken into account in the final report.

RESOLVED – THAT PARISH COUNCILLORS WILL ADVISE THE CLERK OF ANY ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED TO THE DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY SO THAT THIS INFORMATION CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FINAL REPORT.

13/043. To hold the draw for the Hamilton Food Vouchers from the names given who completed the Local Housing Needs Survey.

Chris Brougham drew three names out for the meat vouchers. The Clerk will notify the winners so that they can collect their vouchers.

5. MATTERS ARISING.
Progress reports only.

13/044. Community Bus 34

The Havenstreet & Wootton Bridge Community Bus Joint Management Board had met on 12 February 2013. The meeting was dominated by the proposal to amalgamate route 34 with route 25 - Folly Inn/East Cowes/Newport - which is soon to disappear. Considerable discussion took place on this as the bus is very important to local residents from Havenstreet and Wootton Bridge. A refund of £1,000 had been agreed at the Joint Management Board meeting for both Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council and Wootton Bridge Parish Council, with the bus takings now being utilized. This means that the community bus is cost neutral to both Parish Councils.

RESOLVED – THAT WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD WRITE TO COUNCILLOR EDWARD GILES SUPPORTING THE LETTERS ALREADY SENT BY HAVENSTREET & ASHEY PARISH COUNCIL AND HAVENSTREET & WOOTTON BRIDGE COMMUNITY BUS JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD REQUESTING THAT THE COMMUNITY BUS ROUTE 34 STAY AS IT IS, OR AS SIMILAR AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR THE BUS TO GO INTO NEWPORT BE DROPPED.

13/045. Drains both ends of New Road (Minute 13/017).

Tony Buxton, Highways Maintenance – IW Council, had checked the drains from St Edmunds Walk to the tree section along New Road Wootton. There were some puddles along the channel but the water levels in the gullies were not up to road level. He will attend again during a wet spell to mark the gullies that may have a problem.

13/046. Briddlesford Cemetery (Minute 13/022)

Newport Parish Council had agreed to a one off payment of £300 towards the grass cutting at Briddlesford Cemetery for this year. This will then be reviewed once the new council is in place.

13/047. Unsightly Banners in the Village (Minute 13/007).

The Parish Council decided not to pursue enforcement action on the unsightly banners/notices in the village but the Clerk was to speak to the Manager at Tesco Express regarding the banners outside the store.

13/048. Pillar Box – High Street (Minute 13/008).

Further to a request by a local resident for the postbox to be moved from near the vets to the village centre, the Royal Mail had responded to the Parish Council to advise that they are unable to consider this request.

13/049. Condition of Church Road (Minute 13/009)

Information had been provided to the Parish Council about the ownership of Church Road. The Clerk was in the process of analyzing the documentation.

13/050. Help & Information sign at the Parish Council Office (Minute 13/010)

Thanks were given to Councillor Mundell for taking down the sign at the Parish Council office.

13/051. Recycling Bins and Black Bags (Minute 13/032)

Councillor Abraham was taking up the issue about bins being discarded roughly and black bins being attacked by Vermin. He will report back to the next meeting.

13/. Police Attendance at Meetings (Minute 12/462)

Councillor Murphy had attended two Police meetings. The local police officer is hoping to send a written report to Parish Council meetings.

13/052. Toilet Cleaning Contract (Minute 13/.)

Details of the new cleaning contract were awaited from the Isle of Wight Council. The Clerk will then liaise with the other Parish Councils who have taken on responsibility for public conveniences.

13/053. Brocks Copse Road/Isle of Wight Festival (12/406)

Concern was raised about Brocks Copse Road going to be used by Red Funnell as a short cut to alleviate traffic for the Isle of Wight Festival. The Local Member was able to reassure those present that this is not true. The only time there may be an exception to this is if there is queuing traffic if the ferries cannot get people off the ferry. Otherwise the new traffic plan should work very well. It was agreed that Dave Steele from Solo would be invited to the next meeting to give an update on the traffic plan for the Isle of Wight Festival.

13/054. Crossing at the Sloop (Minute 12/480)

Disappointment was expressed that during the meeting with Kevin Burton (Highways) it was mentioned that a pedestrian crossing would have to wait until a cantilever footbridge was installed at the Bridge.

13/055. Medical Centre (Minute 13/020)

The Parish Council had been advised that work should be commencing on the new Medical Centre in Brannon Way by the end of February. Councillor Hailstone had spoken to Dr Kaiser last week who advised that that he is hoping the Heads of Agreement would be signed sooner rather than later. The doctors at the local surgery are very keen for the new surgery to be built.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:-

13/056. P/01774/12 Alt Ref: A/00358/A

Outside 120 High Street, Wootton Bridge
Non-illuminated post mounted parish notice board.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01774/12.

13/057. P/00074/13 TCP/23843/C

Springbank, New Road, Wootton Bridge
Proposed slipway.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/00074/13.

13/058. P/00075/13 TCP/23843/D

Springbank, New Road, Wootton Bridge
Proposed boat store and associated decking.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTINS TO APPLICATION P/00075/13.

13/059. P/00080/13 TCP/25446/A

36 Station Road, Wootton Bridge
Single storey side extension to provide living area; relocation of cabin and extension of existing terrace.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/00080/13.

13/060. P/00111/13 LDC/30446/A

Fair Oak Farm, Lower Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge
Lawful Development Certificate for continued residential occupation of single storey building.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL COULD NOT COMMENT ON APPLICATION P/00111/13 AS AN LDC HAS TO BE EVIDENCE BASED.

13/061. P/00134/13 TCP/16561/J

41 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge
Outline for two dwellings; alterations to access road.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL COULD NOT COMMENT ON APPLICATION P/00134/13 UNTIL A SITE VIST HAD TAKEN PLACE.

- THAT THE CLERK WOULD SET UP A SITE VISIT AT 41 LUSHINGTON HILL.

13/062. Decisions.

P/01712/12 – Approved (51 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge)

P/01922/12 – Approved (Lower Ponds, New Road, Wootton Bridge)

13/063. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1976/14 – 7A High Street, Wootton Bridge

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

Report by Local Member.

13/064. Park Road. Councillor Abraham referred to the local resident who had lobbied for a reduction in the speed limit in Park Road. Speed strips had been put on the road but were inconclusive. Although the speed strips did not show up a major concern, the local resident

remains concerned. It was suggested that Councillor Murphy take up the issue of speeding in Park Road at the next Police liaison meeting. A suggestion had also been made for traffic to have to turn left at the junction of Park Road & Lushington Hill.

13/065. Cycling on pavements. A cyclist had approached Councillor Abraham to see if permission could be granted to cycle up Lushington Hill on the pavement. Considerable discussion took place about this matter, including concerns that the pavement is not very wide or flat and residents and cyclists are incompatible as well as the concern about blind entrances. Also the statutory law under the Traffic Act would need a deed of parliament to make this change.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

13/066. To discuss youth issues in the village.

Councillor Porter had updated the Isle of Wight Council Youth Club leaders on the situation regarding the Parish Council taking on the Old School Building. He also advised them that as far as the Parish Council is concerned, they can continue to use the building on a Tuesday evening for the Senior Youth Club. The Juniors will continue on Monday evenings.

13/067. To look at the progress made with taking on the old school building in New Road as a community asset.

Councillor Abraham had met with the Leader of the IW Council to ask for a ten year lease on the old school building which houses the Youth Club. This would enable the Parish Council to make longer term plans and is particularly important if money is to be spent on the building. It is hoped that an Officer Decision on this can be made shortly.

9. IOW COUNCIL AND TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

13/068. Timetable of Proceedings for the Isle of Wight Council and Parish & Town Council Elections being held on Thursday 2 May 2013 and cost to the Parish Council.

The timetable had been sent to members prior to the meeting and was read out at the Parish Council Meeting. (Publication of Notice of Elections – Tuesday 26 March 2013. Receipt of Nominations – noon on Friday 5 April 2013. Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated – noon on Tuesday 9 April 2013. Withdrawal of Candidate – noon on Wednesday 10 April 2013.) If uncontested then results should be known on Wednesday 10 April 2013. If the election is uncontested the cost will be negligible to the Parish Council. If contested, costs will be about sixty five per cent of a by-election, which, if poll cards are used, will be about £1,625. Nomination Forms were taken to the meeting and were also to be made available in the Parish Council office as well as being available online.

10. LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

This was discussed under Item 4A above.

11. LITTER / DOG WASTE

13/069. To consider whether the Parish Council should employ someone to pick up litter and dog waste in the village.

The Clerk had made enquiries about double taxation implications of a crossover of services by the Parish Council and the Isle of Wight Council. The Isle of Wight Council had advised that there are many different cleaning schedules and frequencies for all the streets in Wootton that range from a full cleanse several times a week to litter picking and cleansing upon a 6 weekly rotation. The emptying of dog bins also varies and can be anything from once a week in winter to three times a week in summer. Discussion took place about the Parish Council and PGL already carrying out litter picking.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL NOT CURRENTLY LOOK AT EMPLOYING A MEMBER OF STAFF TO PICK UP LITTER AND DOG WASTE IN THE VILLAGE.

12. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUNDING PROPOSALS

13/070. To report on the meeting held to hear about the Isle of Wight Council award to promote sustainable access to tourism on the Isle of Wight and what this would mean for Wootton Bridge.

An economic bid was made by the IW Council in respect of tourism. This encompassed:-

- Transport (how tourists will get to places – so a number of hubs will be put in place).

Continued

- Information on the public transport network (hubs will be used which will be interactive).
- Cycling and Walking (trying to make it safer and more accessible for all)
- Promotion of the Island as the place to come (once the above has been put in place).
- £3.95m has to be spent by 2015, half of which is to be used as capital and half for revenue. The IW Council has the provision to top up this amount if the need arises to approx. £5m.

13. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues.

13/071. Ryde Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.

Councillor Murphy had attended the above meeting on 21st January at Ryde Police Station. There were presentations on the Staying Safe Campaign and Community Speed Watch. The sergeant at Ryde was trying to recruit people to utilize the mobile speed cameras, with two available that can be borrowed.

13/072. Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

Councillor Murphy raised the subject of the safety of the crossing at Harwoods at the LAG meeting, and the Parish Councils attempts to address this with the IW Council Highways Department. He made a request for the mobile unit to look at the crossing and is waiting for a response.

13/073. PFI Presentation

Councillor Pitcher attended the PFI Presentation at Ryde Academy. The PFI website goes live on 1st April and will provide detailed information on the timetable and implications for Wootton Bridge. The PFI will not be "great panacea" that will cure all of the problems with the roads; it will upgrade what is there but will not provide new junctions etc. One of the first roads to be addressed will be Wootton High Street. The PFI Team were aware of the problems with the bridge at the bottom of the High Street. Park Road bridge is to be upgraded to take vehicles with a weight of up to 40 t. When the 6'6" width restriction was raised with them in this respect, it seems a decision may be to widen the road in the future. Information was provided by the Local Member that in the Transport Plan ten years ago the plan was for Park Road to be upgraded to a standard road so that it would stop heavy goods vehicles having to go up Lushington Hill. The roving PFI unit is due to come to Wootton. The Clerk will ascertain the date and report back to the next meeting.

13/074. Boundary Stone.

The Borough of Newport boundary stone dated 1933 had been knocked down. This had been on the narrowest part of the bridge. Councillor Pitcher had rescued this and he had suggested to the IW Council Highways Maintenance team that this be re-sited on grass next to the footbridge. This is being looked into.

14. VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

13/075. To endorse the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Village Partnership Meeting held on 9 October 2012.

A copy of the minutes had been sent to Councillors with their briefing notes

RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2012 SHOULD BE ENDORSED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL.

13/076. To report on the Village Partnership Meeting held on 29.1.13.

The Village Partnership had touched on the Christmas Festival for next year. This will be on Friday 13th December 2013. They also started work on the Party in the Park which will be held on Saturday 20 July 2013, with the Social Committee to meet on Monday 25th February to discuss this in more detail. A Big Tidy Up had been set for Tuesday 2nd April at 6.00 p.m. starting from the Parish Council office. The next Village Partnership Meeting is on Tuesday 28th May. The Clerk had requested Trevor Wheeler put all of these events in the next edition of the Bridge asking people to keep the dates free in their diary to try and avoid clashing with other events.

15. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING REGIME REVIEW

13/077. To sanction the review of the Parish Council Risk Assessments.

This is an annual procedural matter. The Clerk and Chairman had reviewed and amended the Risk Assessments. Councillor Abraham checked the Risk Assessments last year and signed them off.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIR AND THE CLERK.

Continued

13/078. To review the monitoring regime in respect of the following:-

- a) Parish Council land.
- b) Seats and litter bins.

The Clerk had sent an email to Larry Laws, past Parish Councillor, to ask if he will continue to monitor the Parish Council's land, seats and bins in connection with Health & Safety once the weather improves.

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

13/079. Parish Council Office,

The assistant Parish Clerk has carried out the regular checks required in respect of Health & Safety at the Parish Council Office and the Clerk has liaised with the owner of the Tea Room next door to ensure they comply with our Health & Safety policies. The Tea Room also has its own Health & Safety policy.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ASSISTANT PARISH CLERK WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING REGIME AT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE.

16. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

13/080. IWALC

Councillor Doran had provided Councillors with a report on 12 February 2013. The meeting adopted a draft motion to NALC asking for Neighbourhood Plan support funding to come directly to the Parish Councils involved, rather than the money going to the IW Council. Harry Rees gained further endorsement for his campaign to secure EU assisted area status for the Island.

13/081. Society of Local Council Clerks

The Clerk had attended the Isle of Wight SLCC meeting at Sandown on 31st January 2013. Gill Kennett from IWALC was one of the guest speakers. She made reference to the considerable help provided by Councillor Doran who sits on the NALC Executive as he keeps IWALC well informed. Another guest speaker was Clive Joynes from the IW Electoral Office. He explained the process for the May elections and the costs. The issue of Neighbourhood Planning funding received by the IW Council (as mentioned above) was raised, with only £4,000 being offered to those doing Neighbourhood Plans. The local branch of the SLCC is to send a letter to the IW Council about this.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

13/082. Navitus Bay Wind Park

The Clerk had already provided Councillors with the date of the public exhibition at Cowes and had put information on the Noticeboard. The next round of the public consultation started on 1 February and ends on 5 April 2013.

13/083. Highways Assets

An email had been received from Island Roads stating that there is an opportunity for Island Roads to provide a quotation for undertaking work on assets they will not be managing – i.e. grass cutting / dog bin emptying / litter bin emptying. The Clerk reported that as far as she is aware, all of the litter and dog bins in the village have been taken over and the Parish Council is still in a 3 year contract for grass cutting.

18. ACCOUNTS.

13/084. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £3,598.28, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

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

13/085. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

- Solo are to be invited to the March meeting.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AND THEY ARE INSTRUCTED TO WITHDRAW – ON ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (S1(2) AND STANDING ORDER NO. 57.

20. STAFF MATTERS

13/086. To discuss Staff Contractual Issues.

The Parish Council considered staff contractual issues.

21. JOANNES WALK LITTER SWEEPING CONTRACT 2013.

13/087. To consider quotes received and agree the litter sweeping contract for 2013.

A quotation had been received from Clearview Cleaning in respect of the continuation of the litter sweeping contract for the next financial year.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HAPPY WITH THE QUOTATION FROM CLEAR VIEW CLEANING BUT THE CLERK WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO OBTAIN A THREE YEAR DEAL AT THE SAME RATE.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed

Date