

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2013 AT 7.30 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, Dick Doran, Roy Murphy, Pete Mundell, Daryll Pitcher

Also present: 24 Members of the public
1 Member of the press
Val Cooper - Parish Clerk

Items raised in the Open Forum:-

A member of the public raised major concerns about traffic in Mary Rose Avenue, with the Isle of Wight Council declining to take action due to cost and the Police accepting cars protruding into the carriageway as they slow down traffic. Drivers are using Mary Rose Avenue as a slip road and last year there were three accidents in a week. The Parish Council advised residents present that they had been trying to address this issue over numerous years, including trying to get 20 mph in Mary Rose Avenue and other roads off the main carriageway. Unfortunately when speed strips were put down on Mary Rose Avenue the average speed was shown to be 22 – 24 mph, with the speed limit being 30 mph. When the estate was being built consideration was given to blocking the road half way through but Highways felt there needed to be a through access in case there was a blockage in the High Street. This is something that may be able to be looked at again but may not be popular with all residents in Mary Rose Avenue. Other suggestions made included a one way system and solar displays to remind drivers to slow down. Highways will only take action where a concern is “evidence based”. Concern was expressed that it is going to take a child to be killed before action takes place. It was agreed that this issue would be placed on the next Agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13/135. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Hailstone and S Fulford.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 19 MARCH 2013

13/136. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2013.

RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2013 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION OF A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

13/137. No requests for dispensation of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest had been received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

13138. Councillor Porter declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Mary Rose Avenue as he knows the agent applying for this planning application.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

Progress reports only.

13/139. Unsightly Banners in the Village (Minute 13/093).

The Clerk was attempting to contact the new manager at Tesco's to ascertain how long banners go up for and the procedure for monitoring this.

13/140. Recycling Bins and Black Bags (Minute 13/095)

Councillor Abraham had reported the issue of bins being discarded roughly with Island Waste as well as black bins being attacked by vermin. If there is a particular area affected Island Waste need to know.

Continued

13/141. PFI Presentation (Minute 13/097)

The roving PFI Unit came to Brannon Way Car Park at Wootton Bridge on 10 April 2013. A significant number of members of the public made use of this unit and information was given to the Clerk for the Parish Council office.

13/142. Woodhouse Copse (Open Forum).

The Enforcement Officer & Senior Officer carried out a site inspection on 18 March 2013 and agreed with the persons on site that they would re-inspect on Monday 15 April. Since that time the Enforcement Officer had received correspondence from one of the persons on site outlining the reasons for them being there. The Enforcement Officer had reiterated that the 28 day period applies, there is no justification for residential use and they should not stay on the land. The Clerk was waiting for the Enforcement Officer to contact her following her visit to the site.

13/143. Conifer Corner, New Road (minute 13/103).

The owner of the land at Conifer Corner dealt with the dangerous trees as soon as this matter was brought to his attention. A letter of thanks had been sent to the owner for his prompt attention to this matter.

13/144. Ash Farm, Upper Woodside Road (Minute 13/104)

The Enforcement Officer had finally managed to contact the owner of Ash Farm about the alleged business still operating from the site and arranged a site meeting for Friday 19th April 2013. The Enforcement Officer was seeking further advice from the senior officer as to whether it is expedient to pursue further prosecution proceedings and will advise the Parish Council further in due course.

13/145. Public Conveniences, Brannon Way (Minute 13/126)

As requested, the Clerk had contacted Top Mops to advise them that the Parish Council would be prepared to offer them a three year contract at £4,000 p.a. for cleaning of the public conveniences in Brannon Way. Top Mops had agreed to this and the contract was being drawn up.

13/146. Caravan Site – Woodside (Minute 12/464)

A meeting was held at the Parish Council office with representatives for Darwins. The plan is for 36 wooden clad units of a high quality to be placed on the caravan site. The planning application will be made shortly. With regards to the old holiday park at Woodside, the implementation of the new park is moving up the list, with Darwins actively thinking about this at the moment.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:-

13/147. P/00249/13 TCP/30921/B

87 St Edmunds Walk, Wootton Bridge

Proposed 1.8m high boundary fencing with screen planting (revised description) (readvertised application).

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD SUPPORT APPLICATION P/00249/13 TCP/30921/B.

13/148. P/00345/13 TCP/31435

Land between 127 and 131, Mary Rose Avenue, Wootton Bridge

Outline for terrace of 3 dwellings with parking and vehicular access.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECT TO APPLICATION P/00345/13 TCP/31435 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:-

- a. The Parish Council do not believe that the applicant has served adequate notice on the owner of the land.
- b. The Parish Council is of the firm view that this area should be permanently designated an open green space for the use of local residents, with this being a valuable asset to the community since the Mary Rose Avenue development was built.
- c. It is a green corridor for wildlife.
- d. The application represents over development.
- e. The application does not take into account the findings of the Local Housing Needs Survey recently carried out in the village.
- f. There is already an issue with parking and traffic in Mary Rose Avenue, which this application will exacerbate, particularly as only one parking space per property is being provided – where will second cars park where applicable? Access is also an issue.

Continued

13/149. Decisions.

P/00103/13 – Refused (57 Church Road) (Proposed fencing fronting onto Footways).
P/000134/13 – Refused (41 Lushington Hill) (Outline for two dwellings, alterations to access road)
P/00074/13 – Approved (Springbank, New Road) (Proposed Slipway)
P/00075/13 – Approved (Springbank, New Road) (Proposed boat store & associated decking)
P/00111/13 – Approved (Fair Oak Farm, Lower Woodside Road)
P/00160/13 – Approved (Lushington Garage)
P/00080/13 – Approved (36 Station Road)
P/01774/12 – Approved (outside 120 High Street)

13/150. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/1988/40, TPO/1990/31. TPO1995/15 – Wootton Lodge, Church Road
TPO/2013/11 (replaces TPO/2012/35) – Woodside Beach Park, Lower Woodside Road.

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

13/151. Report by Local Member.

Councillor Abraham had met with representatives from the Rugby Club and advised them of the accusations of swearing. The Rugby Referees Association had been contacted, as will the Football Club Association referees, to make them aware of the number of reports of swearing so that this can be stamped down on. The Rugby Referees Association is quite specific in their Terms of Reference that if swearing occurs this has to be drawn to the perpetrators attention and they can be penalised. The Isle of Wight Council are trying to find out from the Rugby Club what they see their plans for the future regarding the clubhouse.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

13/152. To discuss youth issues in the village.

Councillor Porter reported that the Junior sessions on Monday evenings remain popular.

13/153. To look at the progress made with taking on the Old School Building in New Road as a community asset.

The working party were due to meet on Friday 19th April to go through the outstanding items and to pay a visit to the Old School to ascertain what work needs to be carried out and the permissions that need to be sought in respect of planning and building regulations. The Isle of Wight Council had signed the draft lease and forwarded it to the Parish Council's solicitor for their attention. The lease will be for five years, with the Parish Council to consider asking for this to be extended to ten years after they have taken on the building.

9. DOGS ON THE RECREATION GROUND

13/154. To consider a suggestion for a byelaw at the Recreation Ground for dogs to be kept on a lead.

The Clerk had contacted the Dog Service at the IW Council regarding the suggestion for a byelaw on the Recreation Ground. The Dog Warden provided information on the process and also referred to the current Dog Orders in place for Wootton Bridge which are periodically reviewed. There are currently no Dog Exclusion Orders in Wootton Bridge but there are Dog Fouling and Dogs on Leads Orders which currently require dogs to be kept on a lead on all pavements, highways and verges in the village. A Ward Member or Cabinet Member can request a review of these Orders but extensive evidence is required to request a review. A considerable amount of discussion ensued. There is already plenty of legislation but enforcing this is the issue.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD INVESTIGATE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES IF A VOLUNTEER DOG WARDEN IS APPOINTED FOR THE VILLAGE PRIOR TO THIS BEING PUT IN THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE.

10. IOW COUNCIL AND TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

13/155. To receive an update on the local election for Wootton Bridge.

The Parish Council had an uncontested election and will need to co-opt a member on to the Parish Council. Under the Parish Council's Policies and Procedures, the vacancy will be advertised in the County Press as well as on the village noticeboard, window and website. Existing Parish Councillors remain members until Tuesday 7th May 2013. Thanks were given to Councillors Sarah Fulford & Roy Murphy who did not stand for re-election and for their hard work over the last four years.

11. BIG TIDY UP

13/156. To report on the Big Tidy Up litter pick held on 2 April 2013.

There was a poor turn out on the evening of the 2nd April but it was appreciated that the Rugby Club joined in as well as a couple of Parish Councillors and ladies from Woodside. The Clerk had collected litter at the play area and High Street end of the recreation ground and was disappointed at the amount of rubbish in the play area despite there being a bin available. In total 13 black sacks were filled in just an hour and a half.

13/157. To discuss ways of keeping the village tidy.

The removal of one of the rubbish bins in the village was raised, as well as the amount of litter being observed at the bus stop near the Spar shop.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL REQUEST RUBBISH BINS BE PLACED AT THE BUS STOP OPPOSITE THE SPAR SHOP AND AT THE BUS STOP AT TESCOS.

13/158. Reminder of the best Kept Village Awards.

The Clerk reminded those at the meeting that Judging of the Best Kept Village awards will take place between April and May and requested everyone be vigilant in keeping the village clean and tidy.

12. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues.

13/159. No additional items were raised, apart from Mary Rose Avenue under Matters Arising.

13. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

13/160. IWALC

Councillor Doran reported that the last IWALC meeting was in late March, which he was unable to attend. Items discussed included the Ventnor Coastal Centre, Codes of Conduct reviews for Town and Parish councils and a full training programme being set up for late summer/ early autumn. The next full meeting will be May 16th when the Commissioner for Hants has agreed to attend. This will be an open meeting to include Clerks and Councillors if they wish to attend. It is hoped that the poor attendance of the Police at Parish Council meetings can be discussed at this meeting as this has dropped off which is disappointing.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD REITERATE THE REQUEST FOR THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICER TO ATTEND SOME OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS.

14. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

13/161. Community Flower Festival – St Mark's Church

A letter had been received from Kath Abbott, Rector of St Edmunds & St Marks Churches to invite the Parish Council to participate in a Community Flower Festival at St Marks Church on 15th June 2013. They would like businesses and community groups to prepare a floral arrangement for display on that day and the arrangement must depict the business or group.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY FLOWER FESTIVAL AT THE PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO SEE IF ANYONE HAD SUGGESTIONS FOR A THEME AND IF THERE ARE ANY VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE THIS FORWARD. IF NOT THE CLERK WILL PREPARE AN ARRANGEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

- THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL UTILISE SOME OF THE MONEY FROM THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE AWARD TO FUND THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY FLOWER FESTIVAL.

15. ACCOUNTS.

13/162. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TOTALLING £3,177.79, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

Continued

13/163. To review the Parish Council's internal audit procedure.

This is an annual procedural matter. The current procedure is for Councillor Ballard to carry out quarterly bank reconciliation checks.

RESOLVED – THAT THE EXISTING INTERNAL AUDIT PROCEDURE SHOULD CONTINUE.

13/164. To discuss the internal transfer of money in respect of the Parish Council's bank accounts.

The Clerk had encountered difficulty when recently requesting a transfer of monies between the Parish Council bank accounts. The Parish Council bank accounts are now managed in Southampton, with a signed authority being required to enable faxed requests to continue. The issue of signatories also came up again, which will be dealt with after the forthcoming elections.

RESOLVED – THAT THE AUTHORITY FOR FAXED REQUESTS REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF MONEY BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNTS WILL BE COMPLETED.

- THAT THE CLERK WILL ARRANGE FOR ALL COUNCILLORS TO BECOME SIGNATORIES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNTS AFTER THE MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

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

13/165. Items to be included on the next Agenda

- Speeding in Mary Rose Avenue.
- Lack of visible policing in the village.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed

Date