

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
19 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM IN WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD,
WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present : Councillor Ken Morris - Chairman
Councillor Barry Abraham – Vice Chairman
Councillors Pete Mundell, Daryll Pitcher. Steve Porter (part)

Also present: PC S Hull and PCSO K Berry
1 Member of the press
Val Cooper - Parish Clerk

Items raised in the Open Forum:

PCSO Katy Berry mentioned the Community Speed Watch. There are now two sets of mobile speed camera equipment based at Ryde and the Police are looking to recruit as many people as possible to use this equipment and choose roads that need this input. PC Hull is the specific point of contact at the Police. Community Speed Watch will be placed on the next Agenda.

PC Hull referred to the 20 mph item (later on the Agenda). On the mainland the speed reactive signs get moved around and might be more effective if this happened here. A request was made for information from the speed reactive sign in Station Road, with PCSO Berry to investigate the figures available.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13/378. Apologies for absence were received Councillor Dick Doran (who was representing NALC and IWALC at a meeting in London), Councillor Edward Giles, Councillor Corinne Carey & Councillor Barrie Hailstone. Also Alison Phillips, Senior Youth Worker, IW Council. Councillor Steve Porter had notified the Clerk that he would be late for the meeting as he was on the mainland that day.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2013

13/379. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2013.

RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2013 BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION OF A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

13/380. No requests for dispensation of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest had been received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

13/381. No declarations of Pecuniary or non Pecuniary interests had been received.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

Progress reports only.

13/382. Rugby Club (Minute 13/346)

Councillor Giles had informed the Clerk that the IW Council had arranged a further meeting with the Rugby Club, RFU representatives and residents for the 4th December. Councillor Giles was willing to attend this meeting and report back.

RESOLVED – THAT COUNCILLOR EDWARD GILES WOULD ATTEND THE RUGBY CLUB MEETING ON 4TH DECEMBER AND REPORT BACK TO THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

13/383. Doctors Surgery (Minute 13/348)

The practice manager was still waiting for the exact date of when the builders will be on site and will notify the Parish Council when she receives this. Councillor Abraham felt it was appalling that the building work had not started as the current surgery is totally inadequate, not fit for purpose and the owner of the building is likely to want possession of the building next year. A new surgery is something that had been promised to the community for many years.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WILL CONTACT THE PRACTICE MANAGER AT THE DOCTORS SURGERY AND FIND OUT WHO IS HOLDING UP THE START OF THE BUILDING

WORK ON THE NEW SURGERY AND ALSO PASS ON WHAT WAS SAID AT THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

13/384. Old School Building (Minute 13/361)

The first committee meeting was held on 21st October 2013. As this was a morning meeting Councillor Ballard was able to attend, with all at the meeting being pleased to see him. The replacement windows for the rear of the building had been ordered and once these have been paid for the Parish Council will be able to apply for the match funding already agreed by the IW Council. A Service Level Agreement had been set up with Blue Sky Arts, who are pleased with their new venue. Bookings for the Old School will be made via the Parish Council Office. An article is to be put in the County Press regarding the Parish Council taking on the building for the community.

13/385. Isle of Wight Society for the Blind (Minute 13/335)

Following a request to the IW Society for the Blind for further information, the Parish Council were informed that 30 people who live in Wootton benefit from the Talking News and the Talking Books, with over a 1000 registered blind and partially sighted on the Island and many more with failing sight that benefit from these services. To provide this service they are looking for a contribution towards the £1,000 to replace elements of the recording equipment so that they can maintain this vital service.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND WOULD BE PLACED ON THE DECEMBER AGENDA SO THAT CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE REPLACEMENT OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR THE TALKING NEWS AND TALKING BOOKS.

13/386. Litter Bins – High Street (Minute 13/347)

Matt Shaw, Superintendent with Island Roads, had advised the Clerk that a bin is going to be moved from Rectory Drive to the bus stop opposite Tesco Express, hopefully within the next week.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:-

13/387. P/01281/13 TCP/28664/A

58 Downsview Gardens, Wootton Bridge
Proposed Conservatory

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01281/13.

13/388. P/01134/13 TCP/31278/A

2 Glebe Gardens, Wootton Bridge
Proposed single storey extension on front elevation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01134/13.

13/389. P/01379/13 TCP/01745/K

40 Station Road, Wootton Bridge
Demolition of garage; proposed detached house with parking.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01379/13.

13/390. P/01399/13 TCP/31659

Calafrana, 11 Station Road, Wootton Bridge
Proposed alterations and single storey extension on side elevation to form utility room and cloakroom.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION P/01399/13.

13/391. Decisions.

P/01189/13 – Approved (37 Palmers Road, Wootton Bridge)
P/01087/13 – Approved - (Inwood, New Road, Wootton Bridge)
P/01190/13 – Approved – (Little Canada Centre, New Road, Wootton Bridge)
P/01206/13 – Approved (Ivy Hall, Mill Square, Wootton Bridge)

Continued

13/392. Jetty – Woodside

Councillor Pitcher had been trying to assist a local resident in his application for a replacement jetty at the Creek. The stumbling block is Natural England, with the IW Council planners not being against the idea. It was pointed out that there are already 58 jetties on the Creek.

13/393. Tree Preservation Orders

TPO/2006/17/TW/371/13 – Little Canada, New Road, Wootton Bridge
TPO/2006/17/TW/294/13 – Little Canada, New Road, Wootton Bridge

13/394. Appeal

No appeals had been received.

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

13/395. Report by local member.

Councillor Pitcher provided a written report, including the following items:-

Harwoods Crossing. There had been a crash at the Harwoods zebra crossing site. Councillor Pitcher had been in conversation with Island Road and the IW Council about the safety of the crossing for some time, as had the Parish Council previously. Councillor Pitcher was hopeful that something will now be done about this crossing. Discussion ensued about this not being the only crossing on the Island where cars are not stopping.

Governance Review. A proposal is being put before the full IW Council on 20th November 2013. The Parish Council debated and contributed to this at the last meeting.

Councillor Pitcher informed the meeting that Matt Shaw of Island Roads had met with Councillor Hailstone and walked along New Road. Mr Shaw is now aware of the problem areas. Councillor Pitcher expressed concern about the delays in Island Roads doing work and changing the dates once advertised. Discussion took place about delays being inevitable.

8. 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON SIDE ROADS IN THE VILLAGE

13/396. To consider the issue of a 20 mph speed limit in the village and the way forward.

A decision had been made at the last meeting to defer this to the November meeting so that the information in Councillor Pitcher's road report could be read. As the Police are coming back to the next meeting about Community Speed Watch it was decided to leave this item until the December meeting. Councillor Mundell informed the meeting that speed sensors had been put in along New Road, the High Street and on the bridge

9. WILDFLOWER VERGES AND POPPY PLANTING

13/397. To hear of any progress made regarding the planting of wildflower and poppies in the village and the way forward.

The Clerk had contacted the Clerk at Fishbourne who had made an enquiry to Island Roads about their staff release scheme for community projects. Island Roads had confirmed that help is available, either labour and/or equipment. Both Clerks would like to work together on this project.

The Clerk had received a reply from the Conservation Officer at the people's Trust for Endangered Species. The officer there said that the key to creating a wildflower verge is the management. It is really important to get the mowing regime right (usually mowing less frequently) and also taking away the arisings. She also provided a quote from her colleague who conducted his dissertation on wildflower meadows. His information included the need to be wary of where seeds are sourced as many mixes contain seed of non-native stock. We would need to push the seed company for more detail than just native origin – i.e. the county the original stock was harvested. The best option would be to spend a whole year dealing with removing the current vegetation and preparing a seed bank – with time and patience paying dividends. The People's Trust for Endangered Species had offered further help if required.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD SET UP A MEETING WITH ISLAND ROADS. THE CLERKS OF WOOTTON BRIDGE AND FISHBOURNE PARISH COUNCILS AND COUNCILLOR BARRY ABRAHAM.

10. CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

13/398. To agree the budget to meet costs involved.

After expenses there was £138.75 left after last year's Christmas Festival from the raffle and refreshments. The Clerk hoped that this would cover all of this year's costs but as in previous years, it would be helpful to have a contingency approved of around £200 for any unforeseen expenditure.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL SET ASIDE A CONTINGENCY SUM OF £200 TO MEET THE COSTS OF ANY UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2013 THAT CANNOT BE MET BY LAST YEAR'S RAFFLE & REFRESHMENT MONEY.

13/399. To agree the quotation for the Christmas Tree Lights.

A quotation had been received for £352.41 for putting up and taking down the Christmas tree lights. (Last year it was £337.36)

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCEPT THE QUOTATION OF £352.41 FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS.

11. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2014/2015

13/400. Pre-budget discussion in advance of setting the council tax precept. To receive any suggestions for expenditure to be included in next year's budget.

With regards to the Localisation of Council Tax Support Scheme, a letter had been received from the IW Council giving details of the grant attributable to Town and Parish Councils which will be passed on.

Councillor Doran had asked the Clerk to urge colleagues to consider some funding for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan as these are proving around the country to be effective vehicles for controlling excessive and unsustainable development. At the previous meeting Councillor Doran had advised colleagues that nothing else will put a community in control of its own destiny. A debate then followed about councils who had gone down this route and the expense they had been involved in. The suggestion at the meeting was to keep this subject under review.

A meeting was suggested for Friday 6th December 2013 at 9.30 a.m. for Councillors to meet with the Clerk/RFO and Financial Assistant to look at the budget for 2014/15 and the setting of the precept.

12. VENUE FOR FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

13/401. To consider where to hold future Parish Council Meetings

As the Parish Council had taken on the Old School building in New Road, a suggestion had been made to hold future Parish Council meetings there. A discussion ensued about the viability of changing the venue.

RESOLVED – THAT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD AT WOOTTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AT THE MOMENT, WITH THIS TO BE REVIEWED IN THE FUTURE.

13. OUR PLACE

13/402. To consider whether or not to become part of the Our Place Programme.

Information was sent to Councillors following the last meeting. Rt Hon Don Foster MP asked for this item to be placed on Parish Council agendas following the announcement of £4.3 million of new financial support. This support will enable at least 100 communities to design and deliver local services that focus on local priorities and reduce costs.

Our Place is the new name for Neighbourhood Community Budgets. It is about putting communities right at the heart of influencing how services are delivered in their neighbourhoods. Twelve neighbourhoods piloted this approach last year and the Our Place team is now looking for at least another 100 areas to follow suit.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD NOT BECOME PART OF THE OUR PLACE PROGRAMME.

14. ISLE OF WIGHT SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

13/403. To collect sustainability issues for the survey on sustainability measures.

Information had been sent to Councillors following the last meeting. Councillor Tolfree, delegate to the IW Sustainability Forum, asked for this to be put on Agendas in order to collect sustainability issues being addressed by our Council. The Sustainability Forum will consider resources (energy, water etc), transport, economy (including tourism), food security, the natural environment and any other issues which are considered important for the Island's sustainability. It will also be asked to consider how these actions can be resourced and implemented. Membership of the Forum will be by invitation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE PUTTING FORWARD ANY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES TO THE IW SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.

15. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To discuss any outstanding Highway issues

13/404. Station Road. A query was made about when improvements will be made to Station Road. Councillor Pitcher reported that details of this are on the Island Roads website.

16. COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

To report on the following meetings:-

13/405. IWALC Executive.

Councillor Doran was going to attend the next IWALC meeting on 21 November 2013. Mr Burbage of the IW Council was going to address the meeting about budgets and the implications for precepting of the localisation of council tax relief compensation.

13/406. Wootton Creek Fairways Association.

Councillor Mundell reported that the issue of the land swap at Pump Lane was brought up at the recent meeting. There was a query about insurance of the land.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD LOOK INTO THE ISSUE OF INSURANCE FOR PUMP LANE.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

For information only.

13/407. Street Trading Consultation

An email had been received about the Street Trading Consultation. Residents are being asked for their views on street trading as the local authority is updating the street trading policy. The views of Town and Parish Councils were also welcomed. The consultation runs until Monday 2 December 2013. Details had been sent to members with their briefing notes.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL FELT THE STREET TRADING POLICY IS SATISFACTORY.

13/408. The Bobby Scheme

Information had been received about a free service from the Blue Lamp Trust (c/o Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service). The Bobby Scheme provides home safety and security for the vulnerable and elderly in our communities. Concern was raised at the meeting that this is another scheme doing almost the same as Age UK, with the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme starting to go in the same direction. Although they are good schemes, Councillor Pitcher was worried about duplication and confusion. Councillor Abraham agreed, as this had concerned him for a long time. A lot of charities are going after money, with the pot getting smaller and smaller and not all can be funded.

18. ACCOUNTS.

13/409. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment for November 2013.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER TOTALLING £3,946.72, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX A OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

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

13/410. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

(Councillor Porter arrived at the meeting having been delayed on the mainland)

- **Dog Fouling on the Recreation Ground** (Councillor Carey had spoken to the head teacher of the Wootton Community Primary School who raised the issue of dog fouling on Wootton Recreation Ground, with children treading this into the school).
- **Funding for After School Clubs.** (The head teacher had asked Councillor Carey if there was the possibility of assistance with funding for after school clubs, due to the school's resources being taken up with getting out of special measures)
RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD FIND OUT COSTINGS FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Signed

Date