

MINUTES OF THE [REDACTED] MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022 AT 7.00 PM IN THE OLD SCHOOL, NEW ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present Councillor Daryll Pitcher – Chair  
Councillor Barbara Port – Vice-chair  
Councillors Barry Abraham, Linda Pitcher, Trish Evans, Barrie Hailstone, Lee Lemon and Christopher Cory

Also present 6 Members of the Public  
0 Member of the press  
Liz Kingston - Parish Clerk

**Items raised in the Open Forum: NONE**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**22/109.** Apologies from Councillor Burley due to illness.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**22/110.** None

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2022

**22/111.** RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2022 WERE APPROVED AND DULY SIGNED.

4. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT AND TO AGREE ANY ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

**22/112. To discuss and agree an action with regards to the gates at the recreation ground**

The clerk emailed the quote from the Isle of Wight Council to the councillors  
RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL WRITE TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL EXPLAINING THEY HAVE A DUTY OF CARE TO REPLACE THE GATE. THE CLERK WILL ALSO OBTAIN QUOTES FROM THE FORGE AND BRIAN CHEEK.

**22/113. To discuss and comment on the traffic regulation order**

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO COMMENTS ABOUT STATION ROAD BUT HAVE CONCERNS ON HOW THE REGULATIONS IN CHURCH ROAD WILL BE ENFORCED.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

**To comment on the following applications:-**

**22/114.** 22/01007/HOU

25 Norman Way Wootton Bridge PO33 4NU

Proposed single storey rear extension and extensions to garage

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION 22/01007/HOU

22/01020/HOU

70 Palmers Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4NE

Proposed single storey extension, first floor dormer window; alterations to vehicular access and provision of parking area, solar panels on south roof elevation.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION 22/01020/HOU

22/01088/FUL

Cressida, Red Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4PQ

Proposed alterations and extensions to existing dwelling to form a pair of semi-detached dwellings

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTION TO APPLICATION 22/01088/HOU ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

1. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS ON A SMALL SITE. IT IS ALSO CHANGING THE SITE FROM A 2 BED BUNGALOW TO 2 X 3 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES, WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO BE OVER-DEVELOPMENT. THIS WILL CAUSE THE SITE TO APPEAR CRAMPED AND OVERDEVELOPED WHICH IS CONTRARY TO POLICY DM2.
2. DUE TO THE EXTRA HEIGHT IN THE PROPOSAL, AND THE FACT THAT THE NEIGHBOURING BUNGALOW HAS WINDOWS IN THE SIDE ELEVATIONS THAT FACE TOWARDS THE SITE THIS WILL LIKELY LEAD TO AN EXPERIENCE OF A LOSS OF NATURAL LIGHT AND A SENSE OF OVERSHADOWING BECAUSE OF THIS PROPOSAL. THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD FAIL TO PROTECT AND RESPECT THE AMENITIES OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY WHICH IS CONTRARY TO POLICY DM2.
3. THE ROAD IS AN UN-ADOPTED, UNMADE ROAD WHICH MUST BE MAINTAINED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS AT THEIR EXPENSE. THE ORIGINAL ROAD HAD 19 VICTORIAN PROPERTIES ON IT, THERE ARE NOW 38 PROPERTIES. THIS HAS LED TO THE DEGRADATION OF THE ROAD AND THE THREAT THAT AMEY WILL NOT COLLECT BINS ALONG IT DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES.
4. SPACE FOR CYCLE RACKS AND WASTE STORAGE ARE NOT IDENTIFIABLE IN THE SCHEME.

THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION/AGREEMENTS BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE:

1. A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION.
2. A CONDITION/AGREEMENT TO REINSTATE THE ROAD TO A SMOOTH SURFACE AFTER ALL WORKS ARE DONE.
3. INFORMATION AS TO WHERE THE TELEGRAPH POLE WOULD BE RELOCATED, FOLLOWING THE COMMENT MADE BY ISLAND ROADS – SO AS NOT TO IMPACT OTHER RESIDENTS IN THE ROAD AS WELL AS GIVING THE OWNERS THE RIGHTS TO REFUSE IT OUTSIDE THEIR PROPERTIES.
4. A TRAFFIC SURVEY
5. CONFIRMATION FROM SOUTHERN WATER THAT THE SEWERS ARE FIT AND CAN COPE WITH THE EXTRA SEWAGE ETC.

22/01171/FUL

Park Farm, Park Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4RL

Conversion and extension of outbuilding to provide a self-contained annexe.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS HOWEVER THEY WOULD WANT A CONDITION PUT ON THAT STATES IT CANNOT BE SUBDIVIDED IN THE FUTURE.

22/01212/RVC

Rippleside, Lower Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4JT

Variation of condition no 2 on 20/02232/HOU to allow minor amendments to the approved scheme

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO APPLICATION 22/01212/RVC

22/01221/CLEUD

Oakfield House, 115 Station Road, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4RG

Lawful Development Certificate for retention of stables

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTS TO APPLICATION 22/01221/CLEUD ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

1. THE BUILDING IS OVER 3 METRES TALL
  2. THE CAPACITY OF THE BUILDING EXCEEDS 3,500LITRES. IN FACT, IT IS NEARER 147,000 LITRES!!
- THEREFORE, THE DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT FIT THE DEFINITIONS OF A PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT.

**22/115. Decisions made by the Isle of Wight Council**

22/00823/RVC – Approved – Tanglewood, Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4JR  
22/00793/HOU – Approved – 86 Station Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4RE  
21/01859/FUL – Approved – Land and Barns at rear of 161 High Street, Wootton Bridge  
22/00869/HOU – Approved – Windy Croft, Park Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4RL

**22/116. Tree Preservation Orders**

22/00701/TW – Approved – 130 Mary Rose Avenue, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4LT

**22/117. Appeal**

None

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

**22/118. Report by local member.**

Councillor D Pitcher provided a verbal report for the meeting. Issue raised included:

- The first meeting of the Island Forum is planned, and the Isle of Wight Council leader will be attending. It is a forum for all islands to get together and discuss issues.

7. IWALC REPORT

**22/119.** The minutes of the last meeting were circulated to all councillors. Councillor Cory provided a written report, (Appendix A). The main areas covered were the Isle of Wight Council highlighting their most important policy areas such as affordable housing and zero carbon emissions by 2040. The Isle of Wight Council want the Parish & Town Councils to get on board with this and help promote it. Councillor Cory highlights several obstacles to achieving zero carbon emissions.

8. ACCOUNTS.

**22/120. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.**

Members were presented with the accounts for payment for July  
RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT FOR JUNE TOTALLING £6468.52, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX B OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

**22/121.** Councillor Lemon suggested that the recreation gate should be bought locally to save money on shipping and reduce climate impact.

Councillor Hailstone stated the entrance to Tesco and Majestic is a traffic nightmare due to traffic entering via no entry exit. The clerk will report to planning enforcement.

Councillor L Pitcher stated that youngsters aren't playing in St Edmunds Church Yard but in fact are on land behind it.

Councillor D Pitcher said that there have been kids playing with quads and dirt bikes on the recreation ground. He announced that Madge Reeves had recently passed away. The

land behind 69 Station Road is up for auction. Three small shrubs have been planted on the land near the public toilets in Brannon Way. Ken's bench has had several vehicles reverse into it. The clerk will contact Groundsell to see it can be moved slightly.

Councillor Abraham stated the coastal footpath that runs up from The Sloop is overgrown. Clerk to report to Island Roads

Councillor Evans asked about an update for Blackberry Farm. The clerk will chase planning enforcement. Is there an update on moving the bin or having a separate rubbish bin at Five Ways Junction, the sequencing at The Cedars traffic lights as well as the air monitoring. The clerk to chase Island Roads for updates.

Councillor Port also mentioned The Cedars junction and the possibility of moving the stop line back.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....



## JULY REPORT ON IWALC AND IWC ENVIRONMENT POLICY.

### INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT.

I think that most people on the Island understand the problems that we face: A weak education system that in many ways reflects that of economically deprived areas on the mainland, the need for more affordable housing, and the creation of more good jobs. And it seems that the IWC does understand this.

But were that not challenging enough, into the mix comes Mission Zero, the IWC's response to global warming and climate change. As I have indicated before, I am not convinced that there is any strategic coherence to the IWC's various policies. However, the IWC are convinced that they want Town and Parish Councils to get on board and promote Mission Zero.

### IWALC MEETING JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>.

In 2018 Greta Thunberg sailed across the Atlantic in a racing yacht rather than step on to an airplane and damage the environment. Of course, if she knew anything about the construction of advanced composite hulls she would have known that it is a very messy, far from environmentally friendly process. But it looked good, made a point and caught the headlines, even if the science behind it was dubious. A good metaphor, I would suggest, for the IWC's climate change policies.

The first presentation, on the IOW Biosphere, was by Ian Boyd of Arc Consulting, Sandown. There was a lot of background information about what the Biosphere was, how UNESCO Biosphere status had been achieved, how it could be useful in fighting "inappropriate" planning applications ("Inappropriate" for who?), and so forth. Less clear was what the Biosphere is and what we are going to do with it. It would seem that the Biosphere included not just special ecological or geographic areas but also the human activity that goes on in those places, so it would include elements of community life such as the arts, sustainable employment.

Now I am as willing as the next person to engage in metaphysical, hippy dippy contemplation of our life here on earth, but it does seem that protection of our physical environment, the flora and fauna, is only very loosely connected to the question of zero carbon. Indeed there may be fundamental contradictions. A field of solar panels may be good for climate change, but at the same time may wreak havoc on plant life, bats, insects and so on.

The next presentation was given by Rob Sauven on the council's Mission Zero policy. As the name suggests, the main aim of the policy is to achieve zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on the IOW by 2040. It also aims to promote bio-diversity, food security and community wellbeing (whatever that is). Motherhood and apple pie might have also got a mention, not sure. Now I could write a small book on my misgivings, but I don't want you switching off, so I will summarise.

**Problem 1. Conflict between objectives.** As I said, erecting a solar farm will almost inevitably cause damage to wildlife in that field. Solar panels contain lead, cadmium, and other unpleasant toxins. At present there are no regulations for safely disposing of panels at the end of their lives.

All economic activity leaves a carbon footprint. How do we grow the Island's economy, build houses, create jobs, and cut carbon? The Mission Zero report seems to vaguely recognise that such contradictions may arise but offers no solutions.

**Problem 2. The cost.** Moving to net zero will involve significant investment. Energy will not be affordable for most of the public unless it is subsidised. The island will need investment in a better public transport (including electric or hydrogen buses) cycle paths to handle the 400% increase in cycle use the Transport Plan envisages, and much more. So

where is the money coming from? Have there been any cost projections drawn up? Can we see them?

Problem 3. A lack of engagement with the public. The IWC happily admit that they cannot deliver on their net zero policy alone and that in the long run the actions of the public will determine the success or otherwise of Mission Zero. Unfortunately, years of disengagement between IWC and the wider public are about to come back and bite them.

Mission Zero is at present developing ideas through a system of "hubs", groups that contain representatives of certain bodies that are considered to have some expertise. This might include house builders or the NFU. Nearly all of them are what I would call "producer" interests. They have a narrow technical knowledge of some of the issues but there is no one there to provide an holistic overview or take the awkward decisions.

Problem 4. The Communication Problem. As a colleague from Newchurch PC pointed out at the IWALC meeting, communication between the IWC and both the public and Town/Parish Councils is dreadful. So many things happen, meetings, initiatives, but no one ever finds out about them until it's too late.

Rob Sauven conceded that they tended to use Facebook groups as a way of connecting with the public. It was pointed out to him that 1) that excludes many older people who don't do social media, 2) Facebook was now passé for many younger people who preferred Instagram and 3) what is the point of a Facebook group if no one knows it exists? The Environment and Sustainability Forum is useless. Their web page hadn't even uploaded minutes for meetings since last October until I fired an email in their direction and asked, innocently, if the Forum had been disbanded?

Problem 5. The political problem. Put bluntly, there are a lot of people on the island who are not in favour of this initiative, especially if it involves building wind turbines or tidal wave power schemes anywhere near their second home. Again, there seems to be nothing in Mission Zero that addresses this.

I would suggest that this is in part a result of the failure of the council to communicate or to bring the people of the island with them on this journey. I will go further. Policy is being led by people who have been involved in local politics for many years but have absolutely no track record of delivering any significant improvements for the Island community.

#### SO WHAT NEXT?

The IWC want to get Town and Parish councils involved in promoting and delivering Mission Zero. The Chair of IWALC has requested that all T/PCs discuss mission Zero and the Biosphere at their next meeting, as we are. But:

- At present they have not been clear about the role we can play.
- T/PCs have no formal representation on any relevant body.
- T/PCs have neither the expertise or the resources to play a significant role.

I believe that climate change is real. It will affect the Island eventually (eg rising sea levels threaten parts of our coastline). We need to demand our council provide a realistic set of policies that are thought through and compliment the broader objectives we have for our Island. I have already contacted Cllr Bacon and asked for "clarification" on certain points.

In my view Net Zero by 2040 may not be achievable on the IOW but was can contribute to the global effort through renewable power and by improving our infrastructure.

*Chris Cory 13/7/22.*

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL  
Payments for Approval at Meeting on 19th July 2022

Chris Attrill - Window Cleaner July		£	19.00
Island Cleaning Solutions - Public Toilets Cleaning June		£	884.83
Clearview Cleaning - Parish Square June		£	112.50
Dempsey Civil Engineering - From Gravel Pit Rd Funds		£	360.00
Focus Plumbing and Heating - Repair Public Toilets Flusl		£	42.00
Isle of Wight Pride - Progress Flag		£	20.00
Groundsell - installing benches & picnic table		£	540.00
Groundsell - 2 x cuts in April		£	720.00
Groundsell - 2 x cuts in May		£	720.00
Groundsell 2 x cuts in June		£	720.00
HP Instant Ink - Printer Ink	DD	£	14.99
Sage Payroll	DD	£	8.40
Business Stream - HIC Water Monthly	DD	£	3.00
Wightfibre - HIC Phone & Broadband	DD	£	45.42
Salaries as Minute E49,E50&E52	SO	£	1,520.52
IWC Pension Conts		£	436.45
HMRC - Tax & NI		£	301.41
		<b>£</b>	<b>6,468.52</b>

