

Wootton Bridge Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

GENERAL INFORMATION.

PARISH COUNCILLORS FROM 4 JUNE 2009: -

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Ken Morris | Chairman | OFFICERS | |
| Steve Porter | Vice Chairman | Mrs Lynda Smith | Parish Clerk |
| Rob Ashley | | Mrs Madge Reeves | Assistant Parish Clerk |
| Barry Abraham | | Mr Gordon Tutton | Financial Assistant |
| Brian Ballard | | | |
| Dick Doran | | | |
| Sarah Fulford | | | |
| Barrie Hailstone | | | |
| Peter Mundell | | | |
| Roy Murphy | | | |

MEETINGS.

The Parish Council usually meets on the third Tuesday in every month except August when no meeting is held. We meet at 7.00pm in the Primary School and members of the public and press are welcome to attend. Members of the public are able to participate in meetings and speak on any agenda item. There is also an Open Forum at the start of every meeting where issues can be raised that are not included on the agenda. Notices of the agendas are posted on the village notice boards, on the web site and at the HIC. Sometimes extra meetings are held to deal with urgent matters such as planning.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Additionally there is a statutory Annual Parish Meeting held during April. The Annual Meeting provides another opportunity for residents to come along and address the Parish Councillors or just to have a say on matters of interest or concern. Additionally reports are given by the Parish Council Chairman, Clerk, Village Partnership Chairman, Isle of Wight Councillor, Tree Warden and Beat Officer.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The following attendance record is in respect of the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 and is in respect of the Parish Councillors who were in office during 2008/2009.

Of the 11 scheduled monthly meetings held, Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:-

Barry Abraham 9 Brian Ballard 10 Wendy Jacobs 10 Larry Laws 10 Liz Loughlin 11
Ken Morris 11 Roy Murphy 11 Steve Porter 9 Rob Ashley (from May08) 8 Adrian Coles (from Jul08) 7

OFFICE OPENING TIMES.

Parish Council Office opening times: 10.00am to 1.30pm every weekday.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL.

Parish Councillors/officers can be contacted at the Wootton Bridge Help and Information Centre on 884555 or by email at wbpcc@onwight.net

Remember that your Parish Councillors give their time for free because they care about the village; they receive no payments or expenses. Also, much of what we achieve is thanks to the many volunteers who help us in all manner of ways. Together we have raised thousands of pounds worth of grant funding for village regeneration projects. It is very rewarding to work together and to see so many projects come to fruition. If you would like to become involved or would like more information please contact any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk on 884555.

Questions relating to this report can be addressed to any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk at the Help and Information Centre.

This report is also available on the Parish Council's web site at
www.woottonbridge.org.uk



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Chairman's report April 2008/March 2009

As your Parish Council our aim is to serve the village and make improvements in a way that you tell us you would like. We deal with a huge variety of issues over the course of the year and my report provides a summary of our activities over the 2008/2009 financial year.

The Wootton Bridge Plan.

At our Wootton Bridge Plan Open Day held in the Community Centre in February we consulted with you to find out how you would like to see the village develop in the future in terms of things such as Village Design, traffic management, village facilities, the village economy and our countryside and coastline. Over 400 people attended and the feedback received is now being collated. We hope to incorporate this into a draft plan ready for you to consider by Christmas 2009. The aim of the Wootton Bridge Plan is to provide us with a framework to help achieve the village improvements that you have told us you would like. Ultimately we wish to have it adopted by the Isle of Wight Council which will give it real weight and help us to achieve our objectives.

If you would like to access the feedback you can do so by logging on to our web site www.woottonbridge.org.uk or calling in to the Parish Council Office where the Clerk will be please to help you.

Wootton Bridge Village Square.

The official opening of our new Village Square was held last August. We are very proud of the improvement this has made to the appearance of the village centre, no more so than when our Christmas tree was erected over the festive period- it was a real picture. We organised the very first Christmas Festival which was held in the square and this was a great success and attended by local residents of all ages. We are planning a similar event this year over the weekend of the 18th of December, so do try and come along; it's a real warm up for Christmas.

Partnership Working.

We pride ourselves in how we work in partnership with other authorities and agencies to help improve our village. Good examples of this are how we worked with the Isle of Wight Council on the design and implementation of the Brannon Way toilets and Village Square; working with Wootton Creek Fairway Association on the improvements to Pump Lane which has tidied the area up and provided seats and a picnic table beside the Creek. We continue to support the Wootton Bridge Village Partnership, the main body which organises our Annual Party in the Park, an event which every year seems to be getting better and better. Also from February 2009 our newsletter is included in The Bridge magazine. We have been working with the Church to make this happen for a while now and we are delighted to be included in this village publication.

We have continued to work closely with our Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer who both call in to our office on a regular basis to liaise with us and pick up any messages.

At our Wootton Bridge Plan Open Day in February we worked in partnership with the Community Advice Network which provided information stands involving a wide variety

of agencies including Age Concern, the Community Chef, Sight Concern and Citizens Advice Bureau.

Day to Day duties.

We continue to comment on every planning application received for the village and have lobbied on planning enforcement issues and kept abreast of the situation with the long standing matter of the former Lloyds Bank building in the High Street, which we hope will be moving ahead soon. We have also responded to a wide variety of consultation papers including those for bus service provision; the Island Plan and Shoreline Management Plan.

We have continued to press the Isle of Wight Council on various traffic matters such as traffic safety and speed in Station Road; 20mph speed limits outside the school and on our arterial roads; traffic related problems in Mary Rose Avenue and improvements to the Bridge. We lobbied hard for the new pedestrian crossing near Harwood's garage which has now been installed and is being well used.

One of the biggest issues we have been lobbying for is to try and secure the land beside the Community Centre for a doctor's practice. Hopefully there will be movement on this later this year.

Quality Status.

We are proud to have been the first council on the Island to be re-accredited Quality status. We were first accredited with Quality back in November 2003. Quality status provides you with a guarantee of standards on how we, as your Parish Council, operate. It is a rigorous process and we are proud to give you this level of service. For more information on the Quality scheme or if you would like to look through our Quality submission you can call in to the Parish Council office where the Clerk will be pleased to help you.

Recreation ground improvements Phase 2.

- *Proposed Sports and Fitness Centre.*
The Parish Council has continued to work with the Project Team on the proposed Sports and Fitness Centre on the recreation ground. A huge amount of work has been going on in the background, including the preparation of Sports Development Plans but there is still much work to be done. It is hoped that the Project Team will be in a position to start submitting grant bids later on this year.

- *Proposed new play area.*
We have been working hard over the last few years to identify grant funding to enable the proposed new play area in the recreation ground to go ahead. At last a pot of funding has become available that meets our needs and at the time of writing this report we are optimistic that we can secure the funding needed to allow the new play area to proceed.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support. I would particularly like to thank Councillors Wendy Jacobs, Larry Laws, and Liz Loughlin who after many years of serving the Parish Council will be standing down at the June 2009 elections. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who help us over the course of the year. Without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do.

Ken Morris, Parish Council Chairman

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WOOTTON BRIDGE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

We continue to have a very active Village Partnership. The Partnership is the development arm of the Parish Council and this way it is accountable to the electorate.

Our membership involves a wide variety of village organisations and residents of all ages. We all work together to help make the village a better place in which to live. Some of our members join us for specific projects and others are there all the time. It just depends how much time people can give. We welcome all input however great or small and we really do get things done.

This year we have restructured the Partnership so that it is one committee again. This is proving to work well and our meetings now usually consist of around 12 members. However, we still have a core membership of over 40 members who continue to help in one way or another.

For example many are involved on our various Project Groups who are working on village regeneration projects including:-

- Wootton Bridge Plan – which will map out what we want to see for the village in the future.
- Older persons initiative – This is a community call scheme we are working on involving a regular phone call to our older village residents to check they are ok.
- Party in Park – our annual village party!
- Christmas festival – looks like this will be an annual event.
- Proposed Sports and Fitness Centre and proposed play area on the recreation ground.
- Wootton WICI - This stands for Wootton Instrument for Community Information. It is computer based information system located at the HIC and will include things like village diaries, village polls, residents comments and Parish Council information on line. It is due to be launched later this year.

Grants received in 2008/2009 include:

- £5,000 towards costs involved with developing the Older Persons Initiative in the Village, costs involved with the Party in the Park and the lights for the Village Square Christmas Tree.
- £1,000 in respect of developing the WICI.

The vast majority of projects undertaken by the Partnership are grant funded and it is always worth noting that since the Partnership formed in 1999 we have raised over a quarter of a million pounds.

Anyone in the village can join the full Partnership - everyone is welcome.

Ken Morris
Village Partnership Chairman

WOOTTON BRIDGE HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE REPORT. (HIC)

The Help and Information Centre continues to be well used with around 3,000 enquires logged for 2008/09. Issues we deal with are very varied: from potholes in the road to coastal erosion issues. We also hold copies of every planning application submitted for the village.

The HIC has been going for 8 years this November and it has become an established part of our village life. We are proud of all the very positive feedback received from our customers, both the Parish Council side and Isle of Wight Council side.

The Office provides us with a very good way of communicating with the village and is invaluable for carrying out our consultation exercises. These exercises are vital in the process for securing grant funding.

Our facilities include:-

- Computer courses every Wednesday.
- The Beat Officer and PCSO are always calling in either to hold a surgery or pick up messages.
- Gill Salter our Tree Warden has her surgery on the first Thursday of each month.
- Our various Project Groups meet at the office.
- CCTV coverage of the square and the new toilets.
- Photocopying and laminating service.

Also we must not forget the Isle of Wight Council outreach facility which continues to provide a valuable local service on all matters related to the IW Council including:-

- Council tax payments.
- Assistance with the costs of housing and council tax.
- Sale of green garden sacks.
- Issuing of Island resident parking permits.
- Issuing of English National Concessionary bus passes.

OPENING TIMES.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parish Council | Mon to Fri 10.00am - 1.30pm |
| IW Council | Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.15am - 1.00pm. |
| Tree Warden | First Thurs in month 10.00am - 12.00pm. |
| Beat Officer & PCSO | First Tuesday in month 10.00am-12.00pm or messages can be left for PC Massey or PCSO Katy Berry at HIC. |
| Parish Councillor surgeries | By appointment - contact HIC. |
| IW Councillor Surgery | By appointment - contact HIC. |
| Computer courses | Every Wednesday. |

Lynda Smith, Clerk

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PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS.

The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2007/2008 which were the last to be audited by the Audit Commission. No matters giving cause for concern came to the attention of either the Internal Auditor or the District Auditor and the books were successfully signed off by the District Auditor on 29 November 2008. Local government electors have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts and have the right to attend to the auditor and make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Full details on how this can be done are posted on the Village Notice Board and at the HIC prior to each annual audit, usually in the summer.

The date for the audit of the 2008/2009 accounts is 3 August 2009. As part of the audit process you can view the accounts at the HIC between 6 July 2008 and 31 July 2009 weekday mornings.

The council tax precept for 2009/2010 is £46,350 and represents approx £31.57 per annum per household at Band D or 61p per week.

Any questions or a request for copies of the accounts can be directed to me at the HIC any weekday morning.

Lynda Smith
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2008 | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 31 March 07 | | Current year end 31 March 2008 |
| INCOME | | £ |
| 37,300 | Precept | 40,600 |
| 35,982 | Partnership/Regeneration funds | 4,946 |
| 2,018 | Interest on investments/bank interest | 3,872 |
| 779 | {Grass cutting grant} | 779 |
| | {Churchyard maint'ance grant} | |
| 0 | St Marks PCC grant | 250 |
| 250 | PAYE Online filing incentive | 150 |
| 5,000 | Parish Award Scheme | 0 |
| 40 | Wootton in Bloom | 0 |
| 120 | HIC Income | 262 |
| | Insurance claim for laptop | 215 |
| 81,489 | | TOTAL INCOME 51,074 |
| EXPENDITURE | | £ |
| 24,566 | General Administration incl. salaries | 25,431 |
| 2,076 | Community Budget <i>capital</i> | |
| 560 | Capital schemes (Joannes Walk land) | 1,141 |
| 50 | S137 payments | 135 |
| 3,768 | Help and Information Centre | 3,661 |
| 1,152 | Grass cutting | 1,456 |
| 13,566 | Partnership/Regeneration projects: | 2,525 |
| 1,193 | Churchyard maintenance | 1,586 |
| 1,566 | Miscellaneous and grants | 284 |
| 115 | Wootton in Bloom | 0 |
| 216 | Seats/sign maintenance | 343 |
| 0 | Recreation ground Phase 2 (fees) | 4,191 |
| 0 | Training | 20 |
| 48,828 | | TOTAL EXPENDITURE 40,773 |
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| 59,277 | Balance at 1 April 2007 | 91,938 |
| 81,489 | Add total income | 51,074 |
| 140,766 | | 143,012 |
| 48,828 | Deduct total expenditure | 40,773 |
| 91,938 | BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2008 | 102,239 |

