

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCILLORS FROM 1 APRIL 2016:-

Ken Morris	Chairman	OFFICERS	
Steve Porter	Vice Chairman	Liz Kingston	Parish Clerk
Barry Abraham		Madge Reeves	Assistant Parish Clerk
Edward Giles (resigned November 2016)		Gordon Tutton	Financial Assistant
Barrie Hailstone			
Peter Mundell			
Daryll Pitcher			
Linda Pitcher			
Carol Walton			
Barbara Port (took office July 2016)			

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 Old 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 and the agendas are posted on the village notice boards, on the web site www.woottonbridge.org.uk and at the Parish Council office. 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 Parish 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 2016 to 31 March 2017 and is in respect of the Parish Councillors who were in office during 2016/17.

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

Barry Abraham 10	Carol Walton 8	Linda Pitcher 11	Barrie Hailstone 11	Ken Morris 8
Peter Mundell 11	Steve Porter 9	Daryll Pitcher 10	Edward Giles 3	Barbara Port 7

OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Parish Council Office opening times: 10.00am to 1.00pm on Mondays. 10.00 am to 1.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. 10.00am to 5.30pm on Fridays. Closed all day on Wednesday.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish Councillors/officers can be contacted at the Wootton Bridge Help and Information Centre on 884555 or by email at clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

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 Parish Council Office in Brannon Way.

This report is also available on the Parish Council's web site at

www.woottonbridge.org.uk



Chairman's report April 2016/March 2017

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 2016/2017 financial year.

Wootton Bridge Village Square

The Village Square continues to be the hub of the village. The local pet store is now selling green bags when the office is closed and Brannons Tea Room (run by Wootton Bridge CIC in partnership with the Parish Council) is a valuable hub for both the local community and visitors alike.

Christmas Festival

The Christmas Festival was again a great success. This was held in the Community Centre and the roving Nativity Play (with Cappucino the donkey) started at the Cedars and ended up in a 'stable' behind the Doctors. The Salvation Army led the carol singers and the hot mulled wine and mince pies went down well. Local organisations set out a variety of stalls selling seasonal items in the Community Centre hall.

Defibrillator

We were happy to seek funding to install a 24 hour, 7 day a week accessible defibrillator. This is now located on the Parish Office wall in Brannon Way. The clerk has training material if anyone would like to learn how to do CPR. Please contact Liz on 884555 to book a place or if you wish to borrow the training equipment.

Day to Day duties

We continue to comment on every planning application received for the village and have lobbied on a number of planning enforcement issues.



Public Toilets - Brannon Way

As you know, the Parish Council took over the running of the toilets in Brannon Way to avoid them being closed. This has not been without its challenges, with staff at the Parish Council often having to take emergency action to keep them open. The Parish Council is now looking at taking over the freehold of the toilets.

Old School Building – New Road (Youth Club building)

Wootton Bridge CIC currently runs this community asset so that our young people continue to have somewhere to meet. They currently have the building fully booked between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday and youth services use it on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If you are interested in making a booking to use the building then please telephone 300069 or 884555.

Youth Service

Following the Isle of Wight Council ceasing to run the Youth Club, Wootton Bridge CIC arranged for these to continue on a Tuesday evening and added a Thursday evening as well. Wootton Bridge CIC has secured the services of qualified youth workers to run the sessions. Both the Junior Youth Club and Senior Youth Club continue to be very popular and with the support of PGL, Little Canada, offers a wide spread of activities for all ages. Wootton Bridge CIC approached the Parish Council with a request for funding for the Junior Youth Club, which runs on Monday evenings. The Parish Council were unanimous in their decision to financially support this much needed community resource.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support. Without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do. I would like to thank Liz our clerk, as well as Madge and Gordon.

Ken Morris, Parish Council Chairman

WOOTTON BRIDGE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016/17

The Partnership has slowed down due to lack of volunteers; however they did organise last years Party in the Park and Christmas Festival.

The Party in the Park (our summer fete and evening music picnic) remains a popular part of the village calendar and continues to go from strength to strength. This year's party was on Saturday 22nd July. Changes are being made to the event this year but the usual stalls and attractions will still be there. The wet weather caught us a few years ago but we have a contingency of the Old School Building and Playground if the same happens again.

The clerk and I would like to thank all of the team for their help with Party in the Park, without whom this event would not be the success it has become.

The Christmas Festival was again a great success. The Roving Nativity Play was better than ever and I would again like to thank Ann Capps for her hard work in arranging this. The Salvation Army led the carol singing and we have invited them again as the traditional feel of the festival is exactly how we want it to be.

If you would like to become a Village Partnership Member please contact Liz Kingston – our Clerk – on 884555.

Ken Morris
Village Partnership Chairman

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE (HIC))

The Parish Council office continues to be well used. Issues we deal with are very varied, from potholes in the road to coastal erosion. The office has been open for 16 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.

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:-

- The Beat Officer and PCSO are always calling in either to hold a surgery or pick up messages.
- Our various Project Groups meet at the office.
- CCTV coverage of the square and the new toilets.
- Photocopying and laminating service.

We continue to provide assistance where possible on general issues including:-

- Sale of green garden sacks.
- Advice on local issues.
- Signposting of services.
- Comprehensive walks leaflets.

HIC OPENING TIMES:-

Parish Council

Mon 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Tues and Thurs 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
Wednesday CLOSED
Friday 10.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Beat Officer & PCSO

First Tuesday in month 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. or messages can be left.

Liz Kingston
Clerk



PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2016/2017, which have been 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 17 July 2017. 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 Parish Council office prior to each annual audit, usually in the summer.

The council tax precept for 2016/2017 is £71,000 and represents approx. £51.34 per annum per household at band D or 99p per week.

Any questions or a request for copies of the accounts can be directed to me at the Parish Council office.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017			
31 March 16		Current year end 31 March 2017	
INCOME		£	
69,000	Precept	Precept	69,000
0	Partnership/Regeneration funds	Partnership/Regeneration funds	0
76	Interest on investments/bank interest	Interest on investments/bank interest	54
0	Best Kept War Memorial	Donation Re Defibrillator	62
550	St Marks PCC/Newport PC Grass Cutting	St Marks PCC/Newport PC Grass Cutting	550
1,356	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks	1,108
569	HIC Income	HIC Income	851
1,174	Events	Events	1,662
72,725		TOTAL INCOME	73,287
EXPENDITURE		£	
6,695	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences	7,423
28,046	General Administration incl. salaries	General Administration incl. salaries	28,868
690	Community Bus	Events	3,810
566	Capital schemes (Play Area & Signs)	Capital schemes (Play Area & Signs)	375
596	S137 payments	S137 payments	713
8,503	Help and Information Centre	Help and Information Centre	6,156
5,475	Grass cutting/Recreation Ground	Grass cutting/Recreation Ground	9,671
3,214	Partnership/Regeneration projects	Environmental Officer	280
1,274	Churchyard maintenance	Churchyard maintenance	1,547
689	Christmas tree	Christmas tree/Queens Birthday	1,153
1,200	Garden Waste Sacks	Garden Waste Sacks	1,050
531	Training	Training	58
1,929	Election Expenses	Election Expenses	3,082
5,680	Youth Club	Youth Club/Grants	10,350
65,088		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	74,161
GENERAL FUND		£	
120,256	Balance at 1 April 2015	Balance at 1 April 2016	127,893
72,725	Add total income	Add total income	73,287
192,981			201,180
-65,088	Deduct total expenditure	Deduct total expenditure	-74,161
127,893	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2016	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2017	127,019