



WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

3 Longden Close
Haynes
Bedfordshire
MK45 3PJ

Tel: 07531 930788

E-mail: woottonparishclerk@gmail.com

Website: woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk



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WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire](http://www.facebook.com/WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire)

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 7.40pm in the Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, Wootton.

	The Annual Parish Meeting is a statutory meeting of the parish electorate. It is not a parish council meeting. It is held between 1st March and 1st June (Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, p40). There is no prescribed format for this meeting. Parish meetings have a general power to discuss parish affairs and pass resolutions, but any resolutions passed are not binding on the parish council. All local electors are entitled to speak and vote at the Annual Parish Meeting; others may attend but not speak or vote.	
Present	Gareth Lloyd, Chairman, Wootton Parish Council; Claire Bennett, Member, Wootton Parish Council; Malcolm Chalmers, Vice-Chairman, Wootton Parish Council, Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme, Community Speedwatch; Dee Dillistone, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Memorial Hall committee; Brian Doggrell, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Allotments and Paddock; Naomi Groves, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Guiding group leader, Memorial Hall committee; Allotments and Paddock; Bill Hall, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Community Speedwatch; David Price, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Wootton Church and Poor's Land charities; Paul Quirk, Member, Wootton Parish Council; Bob Wallace, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Wootton Village Hall, John Wheeler, Member, Wootton Parish Council, Robert Edward (Bob) Lunniss Charity, Chairman of Governors, Wootton Lower School, Wootton Church and Poor's Land charities; Sue Playford, Clerk, Wootton Parish Council; Peter Ackroyd, Vicar, St. Mary's Church; Sue Chapillion, WoottonVale Healthy Living Centre, Patient Participation Group; Val Illingworth, WoottonVale Healthy Living Centre, Patient Participation Group; Keith Randell, WoottonVale Healthy Living Centre, Patient Participation Group; Marje Williams, Wootton WI;	

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	Eileen Matthews, Wootton WI; James Russell, Forest of Marston Vale Trust; Mark Atkins, Scouting group leader; David Goodson, Wootton New Life Methodist Church; Rev Kath Pawlett, Wootton New Life Methodist Church; Brian Pawlett, Wootton New Life Methodist Church; Rob Stanton, Wootton Baptist Church. Gary Williams, Wootton Baptist Church.	
Agenda no	Agenda item title	Comments
APM15/01	Apologies for absence. Bill Brady, Member, Wootton Parish Council; Gerald Bygraves, Member, Wootton Parish Council; Heather Pritchard, Wootton library; Jo Pope, Bizzy Bees Pre-school; PCSO Adam Hales, police.	Apologies for absence were received as detailed and then those present introduced themselves.
APM15/02	Minutes of the previous meeting. <i>Minutes are published on the Wootton Parish Council website: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/.</i> Members are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 23 rd April 2014.	The meeting agreed the minutes of the 23 rd April 2014 were an accurate record.
APM15/03	To receive the following reports from Wootton Parish Council. - Chairman's report. - Financial report.	Gareth Lloyd read his annual Chairman's report – please see attached – Appendix 1. Sue Playford read her annual Financial report – please see attached – Appendix 2.
APM15/04	To receive reports from outside bodies. - Bedford Borough Council – Cllr Prescod. - Police.	No apologies were received from BBCllr Prescod and no report received. Apologies were received from PCSO Hales. A report has been expected but not received.
APM15/05	To receive reports and/or accounts from village/local organisations. - Baptist Church - Bizzy Bees - Forest of Marston Vale - Robert Edward (Bob) Lunniss Charity - St. Mary's Church - WI	Reports around the table were then delivered, beginning with Rev Peter Ackroyd, St. Mary's Church. Peter gave an oral account of the last 12 months and an insight into the next 12 months. He provided Sue Playford with a copy of their Annual Report 2014. Please see attached – Appendix 3. John Wheeler gave an oral account of the Robert Edward (Bob) Lunniss Charity.

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	• Wootton Charities – Poor’s Land/Church and Poor’s Land • Wootton Memorial Hall • Wootton New Life Methodist Church • Wootton Village Hall	Funds remained constant and the date for this year’s annual senior citizens lunch was confirmed as Wednesday 2nd December. A question was raised as to why the Lunniss name had not been chosen for the new development – Sue Playford confirmed it was on a list provided to Bedford Borough Council and would be used, hopefully when the next set of roads were due to be named. John Wheeler then gave an oral account on behalf of Wootton Lower School. A written report has yet to be submitted. Brian Doggrell gave an oral account regarding the allotments and paddock provisions, thanking Alison and Andrew Reed-Thomsett for their efforts over the years. Please see attached – Appendix 4. Sue Chapillion from the WoottonVale Healthy Living Centre, Patient Participation Group gave an oral account and provided Sue Playford with a copy. It was anticipated building on a permanent centre would start towards the end of 2016. Please see attached – Appendix 5. Marje Williams gave an oral account on behalf of Wootton WI, aided by Eileen Matthews. Sue Playford was provided with a copy. Both ladies were keen to dispel the myth that the WI was simply ‘jam and Jerusalem’ and welcomed suggestions on how to attract younger members. Please see attached – Appendix 6. Malcolm Chalmers gave an oral account on behalf of Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme. Sue Playford will be provided with a copy by Colin Farrer. Please see attached – Appendix 7. Malcolm Chalmers then gave an oral account on behalf of Community Speedwatch – adding they were able to go out on patrol at least once a month and were working in conjunction with the police (who were currently issuing warning letters within a day or two of the speeding offence).
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		James Russell gave an oral account on behalf of the Forest of Marston Vale Trust and asked that those present consider their facilities for outdoor activities. Some were suitable for wheelchair and buggy users. A question was asked as to why there were so few areas for parking – this was a deliberate action to discourage cars and encourage use by all local communities. Comments were made about dog litter bins and bags not being emptied or disposed of properly. James confirmed he was investigating this and had received several other complaints. An observation was made regarding the long distances between some benches – not ideal for the older walker. James welcomed the feedback and said it would be taken into consideration. It was asked if it were still possible to make tree donations – James confirmed it was. He added Wootton Woods would be open to the public on 26th April (pm) to allow them to see the bluebells. A small charge would be made – to go towards St. Mary's stonework restoration. Feedback from everyone present was very positive with regard to the changes in the area since the forest was first planned back in 1991. James then distributed a newsletter to all (Commentree Spring/Summer 2015). Mark Atkins then gave an oral account on behalf of the scouting groups. His focus moving forward was the need for a new cub leader and promotion of the scout hall to bring in additional income. Consideration was given to forming a liaison network to promote <u>all</u> the halls in the village – no one wished to see any unsustainable community assets. A written report has yet to be submitted. Bob Wallace gave an oral account on behalf of Wootton Village Hall, adding the year accounts would follow when available. He gave thanks to Jenny Lambert and Marie Kramer for their continued efforts in keeping the hall in such good shape. Please see attached – Appendix 8. David Goodson gave an oral report on the Wootton New Life Methodist Church, detailing the activities held and hopes that The Hub (community café's) opening
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		hours might be extended. Please see attached – Appendix 9. Naomi Groves gave an oral report on the guiding group, including a visit to a bug house which was enjoyed immensely by the girls who went! Naomi also gave an oral report on behalf of the Memorial Hall Committee. They had said goodbye to their caretaker Diane Bozier after more than 10 years and welcomed Alison Brimley as her replacement. She added the year end accounts would follow when available. Rob Stanton then gave an oral account on behalf of the Baptist Church. Bookmarks were handed to all present. Please see attached – Appendix 10. David Price gave an oral report on behalf of the Wootton Church and Poor's Land charities detailing it was their wish to raise its profile and encourage people in need within the parishes of Wootton and Stewartby to come forward. Sue Playford then read a report on behalf of Wootton library. Please see attached – Appendix 11. Jo Pope was unable to attend the meeting and submitted her report to Sue Playford. Please see attached – Appendix 12.
APM15/06	General Parish Issues.	A question was raised into the possibility of double yellow lines being put in place at the Elmsdale Road/Bedford Road junction. Sue Playford explained it would be for the Highways department at Bedford Borough Council to take forward, but she could involve the parish council and include an agenda item for a future Planning & Environment Committee meeting. She added photographic evidence of cars inconsiderately and dangerously parked by that junction would be welcome also – adding her contact details were widely available.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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