

# WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, Wootton.

---

- Present.** Cllrs Hall, Bygraves, Doggrell, Lloyd and Price.  
The Clerk (Sue Playford) and RFO (Sue Bolton).
- FG12/45 Apologies for absence.**  
Cllrs Quirk, Wallace and Wheeler.
- FG12/46 Declarations of interest on any items on the agenda.**  
Cllr Lloyd - FG12/57.
- FG12/47 Report from outside organisations.**  
Cllr Price presented a brief report from a recent meeting of the Wootton Poor's Land charity. The issue of their allotments being leased to the parish council was discussed again, as the clerk had been advised that Wootton Poor's Land should contact the Charities Commission to ensure this arrangement would not lead to them contravening their articles. The hope is then that the parish council could take matters forward as a future agenda item (it was last discussed at full council in July 2012 - FC12/74). It was thought that the paddock adjacent to the allotments would need to be turned into allotments also, to satisfy demand and after discussion it was agreed that a figure of £2000 be considered for next year's precept. Cllr Price confirmed that the clerk to Wootton Poor's Land would be willing to continue with bookings and administration.  
Cllr Price then explained the background to the charity, which historically had helped with such things as educational grants for students heading to university or college, who would have otherwise struggled to purchase laptops and other relevant equipment. However, Cllr Price pointed out that the charity existed to help all residents of Wootton and Stewartby, struggling to cope financially. He asked that all members keep the charity in mind, if aware of anyone who could benefit.
- FG12/48 List of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).**  
None.
- Open Forum - meeting to be adjourned.**  
There were no members of the public present so the meeting continued without adjournment.
- FG12/49 Minutes of the meeting.**  
*Members of the F&GP committee were asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the F&GP committee meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.*  
The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- FG12/50 Matters arising from the minutes to include issues log review.**  
FG11/26 - Review of Insurance and Asset Register - clerk to deal with RFO.  
Individual committees to review relevant assets by the end of 2012.  
FG11/22 - Clerk's handbook to be completed - clerk to deal. Diarised after CiLCA.  
FG11/44 - Bellway s106 money. £59k can be put towards the CCTV and MUGA upgrade.  
See agenda item FG12/51.

**FG12/51 To consider precept requirements for the year 2013-14.**

The clerk reminded all present of the projects known to date, for consideration in next year's precept:

Changing Rooms

Toilet block

Grass cutting

Allotments

Skate park

CCTV at Memorial Hall site

Land Registry fees (although it was thought after the current exercise being undertaken by the clerk, no further registrations would be needed)

Pension contributions for caretaker and litter picker (this was added after FG12/58 was ratified)

Cllr Hall recommended that all council members receive a copy of the latest 3 year budgets in order that recommendations be made to the relevant committee chairs. This would then come back to F&GP for further discussion on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**Local Government Finance Act 1992 s50.**

**Action - Sue B to send schedule to all.**

**Action - Clerk to include on next F&GP agenda.**

**FG12/52 To agree that Bellway s106 monies 02/01445/OUT, be used in part to fund the proposed skate park.**

Cllr Bygraves explained that a grant application of £115k had been submitted to Veolia, who had replied in positive terms, stating they would consider a grant if the parish council contributed 20% of the costs, which would amount to £23k. Cllr Bygraves also mentioned that sponsorship letters had been sent to some 100 companies, and grant applications were also being prepared for Sports England and the Rural Grants Scheme (Bedford Borough Council). Cllr Hall detailed how the s106 monies had been spent or earmarked to date. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Price, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and resolved by all present that a recommendation be made to full council, to approve the payment of £23k from the Bellway s106 monies as above, towards the proposed skate park.

**Town & Country Planning Act 1990 s106.**

**Action - Clerk to include recommendation on next full council agenda.**

**FG12/53 To agree a donation to the Royal British Legion in respect of this year's poppy wreath order.**

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bygraves, seconded by Cllr Price and resolved by all present that a recommendation be made to full council to donate a sum of £30 in respect of this year's poppy wreath.

**LGA 1972 s137.**

**Action - Clerk to include recommendation on next full council agenda.**

**FG12/54 To consider NALC's (National Association of Local Councils) recommendations with regard to the DCLG's (Department for Communities and Local Government) consultation on proposals for Localising Support for Council Tax Funding Arrangements.**

The consultation and recommendations had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Hall provided a brief résumé and after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Doggrell, seconded by Cllr Price and resolved by all present to recommend that Wootton Parish Council accept the recommendations, and respond to the consultation accordingly.

**Action - Clerk to include recommendation on next full council agenda.**

**FG12/55 To consider a request from CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) that Wootton Parish Council become a member.**

Cllr Hall highlighted CPRE's activities and after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Price, seconded by Cllr Doggrell and resolved by all present to recommend that Wootton Parish Council become a member of CPRE.

**LGA 1972 s137.**

**Action - Clerk to include recommendation on next full council agenda.**

**FG12/56 To resolve that under the terms of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) and Local Government Act 1972 s100 any members of the public or press present please leave, in order that the following item(s) may be discussed.**

There were no members of the public or press present.

**FG12/57 To formally approve a contract with regard to the graphic design for the parish newsletter.**

Cllr Lloyd had previously declared an interest in this agenda item and left the room. The contract was then discussed by those members still present, and it was proposed by Cllr Bygraves, seconded by Cllr Doggrell and resolved by all present that a recommendation be made to full council to approve the contract.

**LGA 1972 s112.**

**Action - Clerk to include recommendation on next full council agenda.**

**FG12/58 To formally resolve that the caretaker and litter picker/handy man be given the opportunity to join the Bedfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme (of which Wootton Parish Council is already a member).**

Cllr Lloyd re-joined the meeting.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Bygraves and resolved by all present that a recommendation be made to full council that both employees be offered the opportunity to join the above scheme. It was also agreed this be added to the list of potential precept requirements (FG12/51).

**LGA 1972 s112.**

**Action - Clerk to include recommendation on next full council agenda.**

**Meeting closed at 7.35pm**

Chairman.....

Date.....