

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 27th January 2010 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton.

Present. Cllrs. D. Price, J Wheeler, T Corby, C Bennett, K Lynch, M Wolfenden, P Quirk, K Wright, R Wallace & W Hall. In attendance M Alexander (Clerk), PC Ian Evans, Linda Bullard (VOCypf), Angela Williamson (BBC).

FC10/01. Apologies for absence.
Cllrs Cunningham and Wright.

FC10/02. Declarations of Interest.
None.

FC10/03. Reports from outside organisations.
PC Ian Evans apologised for his non-attendance at the last meeting off this Committee due to being called to an emergency in the village. **(The Clerk awaits PC Evans written report to date for Members information).**
However, Members were updated on crime statistics for the village and surrounding areas, including information forthcoming from the recent installation of temporary speed monitors located in various roads within the area. These monitors were appropriately placed in the village between the 9th to the 14th November 2009. Pc Evans hoped to be able to share more detailed information to Members as to the overall success of the scheme in due course.

Cllr Quirk was pleased to pass minutes of the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee to the Chairman.

Cllr Price requested Angela Williamson from the 'No Cold Calling Scheme' for Bedford Borough Council bring her presentation regarding the scheme forward and address Members within this section of the meeting. Ms Williamson was pleased to remind the Members of the importance of the scheme in and around the County, and how they work with other agencies to ensure 'vulnerable members of the community' of the risk created by 'rogue traders, etc' that prowl the area still. On the suggestion of Cllr Hall it was agreed that details of the local scheme be included in the next edition of the Wootton News as a gentle reminder to residents to be vigilant in their own homes. Ms Williamson was also invited to attend the forthcoming Wootton Fun Day - to be held on Saturday 8th May 2010.

Linda Bullard from the 'Voluntary Organisations for Children and young people and families', addressed the Members on the broader details of the work of the Bedfordshire Partnership. Linda advised the Members on the various types of funding streams which are available for work with children and young people through different agencies and organisations in the

Borough and how the work can impact on the local communities. She was aware of a 'Local Community Network, group possibly being set up for the 'Wootton cluster area' to enable and formalize the drawing down of monies from different bodies. Cllr Lynch took the opportunity to update Members once again on the issue of the Rave Bus - how successful the project had been in the time it had been running, but also frustration that youth workers were in short supply, and sometimes this restricted the movement and use of the Rave Bus in attending the village on a regular basis.

FC10/04. Open Forum

Cllr Hall reminded the Members of concerns previously raised regarding the hazardous road junction of Church Road, Bedford Road and Squires Close. The Chairman was able to update the Committee on the likelihood of double yellow lines being introduced along the same stretch of road, and in the short term this would seem NOT to be a priority for the Highways Authority. Cllr Wallace requested the Clerk make contact with Borough Cllrs regarding the issue of the bus stop required in Fields Road.

Cllr Prescod asked that the Council consider writing to the Football League asking that they postpone their 'kick offs' on Remembrance Sunday (Clerk to action following information being passed from Cllr Prescod.

Cllr Prescod also suggested that the Wootton News in it's current format. This issue was referred to the next meeting of the Financial, General Purposes and Communications Committee.

FC10/05. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman was pleased to announce the Accounts were now up to date, the external audit had been signed off by the BDO and accepted with no comments, and also that a total of £3,800 was forthcoming in grants from the Borough Ward grants scheme. This money would be used as contributions to repairs works at the War Memorial and also repairs and refurbishments at the Cemetery at Lorraine Road. It was noted that a recent meeting of the Parish Plan Committee had identified the possible lack of interest generally in the village regarding the project and in a bid to secure more community involvement an additional attempt of gaining public opinion would be used in the form of questionnaires at the forthcoming Funday on Saturday 8th May 2010.

FC10/06. Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 9th December 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 2009 were accepted as a true record.

FC10/07. Committee Reports

- a) The members were pleased to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 23rd December 2009.

- FC10/08. Accounts**
a) The members were pleased to receive and approve the minutes of the Accounts Sub Committee held on Wednesday 9th December 2009 and Wednesday 13th January 2010.
- FC10/09. Bedfordshire Partnership** - See FC10/03 - Reports from Outside Organisations.
- FC10/10. 'No Cold Calling'** - See FC10/03 - Reports from outside Organisations
- FC10/11. Grass Cutting Contract 2010/2012**
After much discussion and consideration by the Committee Members, Cllr Wallace made the proposal that the Council continue to use the services of our current contractors 'Worboys'. The proposal was put to the vote with 6 members in favor of the proposal, 2 members against and 4 members abstaining from the process. The proposal for Worboys was therefore carried.
- FC10/12. Wootton Scout Hut**
No update for this meeting - it was agreed to postpone until more information from the scouting fraternity was available.
- FC10/13. Precept 2010 / 2011**
It was agreed that in view of the current economic climate that the precept for the Parish Council remain the same as in 2009/2010 - ie **£102,785**.

Chairman.....

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 10th March 2010

