

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 28th July 2010 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton.

Present. Cllrs. J Wheeler, P Quirk, C Bennett, M Woolfenden, , S Rowse, R Wallace, P Prescod, D Price, J Cunningham, W Hall & K Wright. In attendance: Cllr Tim Hill (BBC), M Alexander (Clerk) Pc Ian Evans & 7 Members of the public.

FC10/72. Apologies for absence.

Cllrs T Corby, S Cruse and G Lloyd

FC10/73. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr D Price asked Members to note his interest in item No FC10/85 (Memorial Hall Ownership).

FC10/74. Reports from outside organisations.

Pc Evans' written report to follow.

Cllr Prescod asked PC Evans if he would be able to help source a number of 'Play stations' for use at the Summer Scheme. PC Evans said he would make enquiries. Cllr Cunningham asked PC Evans about the continuing and seemingly escalating anti-social behavior in the village, and the procedures which are followed at the main Police Headquarters when a resident reports an incident.

The report of Councillor Tim Hill was received with thanks. It was noted that Ward funding via Bedford Borough Council was available again this year, to the level of between £7,000/8,000 and members were asked to give consideration to potential projects for the village and apply for funding. Cllr Price requested that the grant be more fairly distributed between the 2 parishes of Wootton and Stewartby. It was noted that Stewartby was considered to be a deprived area. Regarding the Allocations & Designations Plan, Cllr Hall asked Cllr Hill when the full process would be completed and Cllr Hill responded, that it was an ongoing process but it was understood that a draft plan was due for public consumption in early 2011 (Cllr RW).

Cllr Cunningham updated the Members on the 3-2 school educational system alteration, and the fact that at present no decision was being made, at which point Cllr Hall expressed his own concern that in the longer term the schools will suffer whilst 'no decision' was being made. Cllr Cunningham advised the Council that grants were still available from the Rural Affairs Committee.

FC10/75. Open Forum

Local resident Mr David Waller from Church Road expressed his concerns regarding the continuing nuisance motorcycles and cars which are currently plaguing the area. PC Ian Evans advised the residents and Members present that all similar incidents should be reported formally to the Police and the person reporting the incident should always receive a URN (Unique Reference Number) to help track the incident once it's being dealt with by the Police.

PC Evans stressed to Members that he felt his priority for them was to reduce anti-social behavior, and that the message of 'reinforcement and education' was

required. Cllr Rowse had been assisting the Police recently with anti-social drivers and advised those present of a new sub group which was being set up to deal specifically with traffic management and future strategies for the village. This issue was being placed as an agenda item for the next meeting of this Councils Planning and Environment Committee on the 11th August 2010, and Cllr Rowse invited those residents present to attend the meeting and express their concerns within that forum.

FC10/76. Chairman's Announcements.

Chairman's written report attached.

FC10/77. Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 9th June 2010.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2010 were accepted as a true record.

FC10/78. Committee Reports

- a) The minutes of the Plans Sub Committee held on Wednesday 30th June and 14th July 2010 were accepted and signed as a true record.
- b) The minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 30th June and the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14th July 2010 were accepted and signed as a true record.

FC10/79. Accounts

The Members were pleased to receive the minutes of the Accounts Sub Committee held on Wednesday 14th July 2010.

FC10/80. Reports from Committee Chairs

a) Report of Cllr Claire Bennett – F&GP.

A verbal report was given and this will be forwarded to Members as a written report in due course.

b) Report of Cllr P Quirk – Planning & Environment.

Cllr Quirk updated the Members on recent work undertaken by this Committee, which included a meeting with the highway authorities' contractor Amey to discuss various improvements for the village, additional work being addressed by our Cemetery Contractors included clearing areas at Grovebury Court, Hall End, and Popes Way, and a 'Project' contract with the Bedfordshire Probation Service and their Community Payback Team had also been agreed and was waiting for formal signing from the Chairman of this Council, before the team to commenced any work. A new driveway which would meet all DDA requirements was also being investigated for the Cemetery at Lorraine Road, and quotes for the work were currently outstanding. Cllr Quirk reported that his Committee would continue to advise on any matters relating to planning activities in the village.

c) Report of Cllr Paul Prescod – Leisure & Amenities.

Cllr Prescod was pleased to update Members on the progress of the Summer Scheme. General arrangements were proceeding well, and it was hoped the Mayor of Bedford Cllr Dave Hodgson would be able to attend a 'celebration' type of event during the 2 week period. A general request for

Councillors to assist in any way possible during the Summer Scheme was made by Cllr Prescod. He also advised the Members on the cessation of various contracts and the agreed deferment at a recent F&GP meeting, of the upgrading / refurbishment of the MUGA/Changing room at the recreation ground at Church Road.

d) Report of Cllr Gareth Lloyd – Communications

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Gareth Lloyd the Clerk advised the Members that following numerous alterations the latest edition of the Wootton News was at the printers and would be ready for distribution to the village w/e 30th July 2010.

FC10/81. Memorial Hall Ownership

The Chairman advised the Members that following research which had been carried out, the ownership of the Memorial Hall may come within the remit of this Parish Council. He requested Members give consideration to the re-establishment of Parish Council ownership, and its implications in the wider context.

FC10/82. Meeting Venue – Change to Village Hall

Cllr Prescod had requested this item be discussed at Full Council as he was concerned that many local residents were unable to attend the Memorial Hall as it was further from the village centre. It was agreed by the Members that formal meetings should remain at the Memorial Hall as the venue was well established in the village diary, however, Cllr Prescod was encouraged to launch his own 'Councillor Surgeries' at the Village Hall for residents convenience.

FC10/83. Section 106 Sub Group

This concept was discussed by the members that it was felt that the current format of discussing Section 106 monies was probably sufficient at present.

FC10/84 Any other Business

The Chairman asked for nominations for the WPC representative on the BATPC County Elections and it was proposed that Cllr Wallace represent the Council in this forum for the ensuing year.

Cllr Bennett requested that Cllr Wallace check whether he had a map of the village which showed street furniture etc, as detailed in any asset register.

Chairman.....

Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th September 2010