

# WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton

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- Present** Cllrs. J Wheeler, J Cunningham, W Hall, G Lloyd, P Prescod, P Quirk, R Wallace, M Woolfenden, K Wright, S Cruse, L Bland.  
**In Attendance:** S Playford (Clerk), Doug McMurdo (Borough council) and two members of the public.
- FC11/19** **Apologies for absence.**  
*S. Bolton (RFO) and Cllr. S Rowse.*  
*Cllr Quirk asked that it be minuted Cllr Rowse's RAF commitments which have left him unable to attend recent meetings.*
- FC11/20** **Declarations of Interest on any items on this agenda.**  
*(This is of a personal or prejudicial nature)*  
*None.*
- FC11/21** **Reports from outside organisations.**  
*PC Jamie Quinney introduced himself and explained he was back working in Wootton, alongside Stewartby and Kempston with his colleague Steve and 2 PCSO's. They intend to be a constant presence around the village and will be looking into anti-social behaviour and speeding. Crime figures for Jan and Feb 2011 showed 3 motor thefts and 1 dwelling burglary (Jan) and 2 dwelling burglaries (Feb). Chairman suggested Church Road and Hall End Road be monitored for speeding which is currently an issue as is parking outside the lower school and post office. Jamie confirmed a mobile van would be in attendance.*  
*Cllr Cunningham stated how well received last year's rave bus was, and asked if this could be supplied free of charge for the children this year. It is owned by the BRCC so Jamie will investigate and report back.*  
**Action – Jamie to report back**  
  
*Cllr Cunningham stated that the Borough accounts show the least amount of spending on roads occurs in Wootton. There are funds available so it was proposed and agreed that the clerk contact the Borough council to arrange a walk around in the village (Highways inspection).*  
**Action – clerk to arrange**  
  
*Cllr Wallace detailed the recent community liaison group meeting which was held at the upper school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. A paper has been prepared ahead of the meeting with the Mayor on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 to ensure that he is fully aware of Wootton's needs in full, in relation to the Fields Road development.*
- FC11/22** **List of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).**  
a) Covanta – Rookery South Planning Application.  
*The clerk is in receipt of a written representation from 24 town and parish councils.*
- FC11/23** **Open Forum.**

**(Members of the public are welcome to present any matter relevant to the well-being of Wootton parish and will receive the attention of the council for a period not exceeding 3 minutes).**

Mr McGruer (16 Studley Road) wanted to discuss in more detail the issue of the fence which has blown over at the back of his property. He did not agree with the planning committee's decision of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February (P11/29). He had confirmation from the Borough council planning department that the land and fence belong to the parish council. Chairman proposed that Cllr Quirk contact the Borough council to establish ownership. This was agreed. It should also be noted that Mr McGruer offered to undertake all repairs, if the council pay costs.

**Action – Cllr Quirk to investigate**

David Price raised issues and concerns over the library. He was aware of an alleged proposal to move the library to the upper school so had sought opinion in the village. Concerns were that the footpath access to the school is poor and during drop-off and pick-up times, the site would be busy with traffic. A question was raised over school holidays – who would open the premises and would library staff be CRB checked? Furthermore, if the school became an academy this would put them outside of Borough council control. Lack of space was also an issue. Mr Price stated that if library usage fell after the move, the Mayor's office would justify it's closure and fault would lie with the parish council.

Cllr Cunningham strongly refuted this allegation stating that the Mayor had no plans for closure. The headmaster (upper school) had offered 6<sup>th</sup> form facilities for community use. Cllrs Prescod and Cruse were in agreement.

Cllr Wallace mentioned the previous discussion with Doug McMurdo (Full council meeting 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 FC11/03). Mr McMurdo was invited to speak under item FC11/28.

**FC11/24**      **Chairman's announcements.**  
*Please see attached.*

**FC11/25**      **Minutes of the meeting.**  
**To receive and adopt the minutes of the Wootton Parish Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011:** *agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*  
**Matters arising:** *none.*  
**To receive and adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011:** *agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*  
**Matters arising:** *none.*  
**To receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011:** *Committee chair Cllr Quirk commented that a further planning meeting had not been held so the minutes had not been agreed. It was confirmed by all that the minutes were in order, and they were agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*  
**Matters arising:** *none.*  
**To receive and adopt the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011:** *Committee chair Cllr Lloyd commented in the same way as above. It was confirmed by all that the minutes were in order, and they were agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*  
**Matter arising:** *none.*

**FC11/26**      **Report from committee chairs.**  
1. **Report from Finance & General Purposes – Cllr Hall**

*nothing to report.*

**2. Report from Planning & Environment – Cllr Quirk**

*Two applications have been received both of which were too late to place on an agenda prior to this meeting. One relates to the previous application 11/00236/MAF which the council proposed to raise an objection to (Planning meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011) and the other is an extension of time (App 11/00401/EXT) relating to the land at Fields Road. Cllr Quirk had shown the proposals to the Chair and Cllr Wallace proposed that the clerk reply stating that the objection still stands (11/00236/MAF) and that it is acknowledged there has been a request for a time extension (11/00401/EXT). This was seconded by Cllr Hall.*

**Action – clerk to inform Borough council planning**

**3. Report from Leisure & Amenities – Cllr Prescod**

*Easter scheme moving along – the people required to help have been booked. Upper school should be able to provide use of their gym. The ceramic plaque made last summer is in the museum but is to be moved. Suggestions needed as to where it should go. Received 2 quotes regarding the MUGA – to be added to the next leisure & amenities committee meeting for discussion. The changing rooms at the village hall are still an issue – it is unclear whether funding is available.*

**Action – clerk to add points above to leisure & amenities agenda**

**4. Report from Communications – Cllr Lloyd**

*Please see attached.*

*B Cllr Cunningham commented on a well produced newsletter and thanked Cllr Lloyd for all his efforts.*

**FC11/27**

**To consider and resolve a course of action in relation to the possible handover of the Memorial Hall from 1.4.11 to Wootton parish council.**

*Clarification was sought with regard to the land, which remains unregistered and whether the parish council should take over the Memorial Hall. Cllr Prescod stated those other organisations who use the facilities should be considered. Cllr Lloyd suggested any takeover should be preceded by a business plan. The 1.4.11 is not a deadline, but is the financial year end for the charity presently with responsibility. David Price confirmed that the interior of the hall is looked after by the charity and the exterior by the parish council. If the parish council take over ownership, Mr Price pointed out that the caretaking, internal maintenance and bookings would be taken over too, along with responsibility for the employees who currently undertake these tasks. Suggestions were made to contact Sue Norman (BRCC) and the Borough council for further advice. The clerk commented that the Land Registry had confirmed the next course of action before registering it to the parish council, was to get it valued. Cllr Quirk proposed to do this and was seconded by Cllr Wallace.*

**Action – Cllr Quirk to obtain valuation. Clerk to obtain further information and advice**

**FC11/28**

**To discuss the village library.**

*This item was debated once more, following the comments made under open forum. Cllr Quirk invited Mr McMurdo to speak. Mr McMurdo introduced himself as the Independent member for administration and reiterated there was NO INTENTION to close, move or relocate the library or reduce hours. Wootton library is on no agenda.*

*His preference would be to increase opening hours.*

*Cllr Hall asked if the school was still planning new 6<sup>th</sup> form facilities.*

*Cllr Wallace responded stating land designation had not been finalised and plans were still under consultation.*

*Cllr Prescod expressed his wishes to have an art centre situated in the library -*

*Chairman suggested he include this on the next Leisure & Amenities committee meeting.*

**Action – Cllr Prescod to include on next Leisure & Amenities agenda**

**FC11/29      The changes by the developers re s106 for the new development north of Fields road.**

*Cllr Wallace expressed disappointment with Persimmons – particularly regarding lack of infrastructure. His report was read and he proposed a letter be sent to Paul Rowland (Assistant Director Planning & Housing – Borough) with a copy to Jim Caffrey – clerk to sign. Cllr Hall seconded and all agreed. B Cllr Cunningham mentioned she had spoken with the Mayor.*

**Action – clerk to send letter**

**FC11/30      The running of stall at Bedford Partnership event on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

*Cllrs Prescod and Cruse are attending the above conference and will have a stall. It was confirmed that was at no cost to the parish council.*

*Cllr Lloyd requested use of the displays after the event for the fun day.*

*The clerk raised the issue of booking forms for the Easter scheme. Linda Gray at Wootton Upper School has agreed to print the forms, which need to be distributed week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> March. Cllrs Lloyd and Prescod are to liaise with her to ensure forms are correct and all logos are included. Chairman proposed Cllr Cruse to co ordinate the bookings – seconded by Cllr Prescod. Cllr Wright said booking confirmations should be sent.*

*The clerk is in receipt of first aid kits and documentation from last year, if needed.*

**Action – clerk to ensure Cllrs Lloyd and Prescod liaise with Linda Day. Cllr Cruse to liaise with Cllr Lloyd regarding displays**

**FC11/31      Full Council to discuss adoption of outstanding issues log and agenda templates.**

*All in agreement regarding issues log – add a column "Financial implication", another stating "Action so far" and remove FC/Sub and replace with councillor.*

**Action – clerk to amend then populate**

**FC11/32      Any other business (members note that this item is for urgent matters only that cannot wait until the next relevant committee).**

*(Note Cllrs Prescod and Cruse left at 8.55pm).*

*Cllr Lloyd raised the issue regarding the White Lion Close s106 - being chased for a response by potential suppliers. Cllr Wright was unhappy with the choice – stating it replicated existing play facilities and was not aimed at under fives.*

*Chairman recommended this be moved to the agenda for the next Leisure & Amenities meeting and suggested that members of the committee take a look at the site beforehand. Cllr Lloyd has established that grant monies may be available – a bigger investment could be made to make a dedicated under fives site.*

**Action – clerk to add to next leisure & amenities agenda. Leisure & amenities to view site**

**This now concludes the Public section of the full council meeting and members of the public and press are requested to leave under Section 2 of the Public Bodies notices.**

**Meeting closed at 9.45pm**

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Chairman's signature.....