

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th November 2011 at 7.30pm
in the Memorial Hall, Wootton

Present Cllrs. Wheeler, Bennett, Bland, Cruse, Hall, Lloyd, Prescod, Price, Quirk, Wallace and Woolfenden.

In Attendance: S Playford (Clerk) and S. Bolton (RFO).

FC11/143 **Apologies for absence.**
Cllr Rowse.

FC11/144 **Declarations of Interest on any items on this agenda.**
(*This is of a personal or prejudicial nature*).
None.

FC11/145 **Reports from outside organisations.**
PCSO Hogg provided the clerk with the following crime figures ahead of the meeting, for the month of October 2011.

Robberies	0
Burglaries	0
Vehicle crime	2
Violence against person	1
Criminal damage	1
Other	5
ASB	6

PCSO Hogg confirmed all shops have been visited and no further troubles have occurred. He asked if the recreation ground would be upgraded as he has noticed kids throwing rubble around. Cllr Wheeler confirmed discussions were ongoing. BBCllr Prescod requested a greater police presence to deal with ongoing parking issues outside the schools. PCSO Hogg confirmed that every effort was made, but that it fell to him alone to police this. As a BBC issue, it was hoped their van could be deployed in these areas more often.

BBCllr Prescod provided an update with regard to some of his issues log: he confirmed the hedge outside the library had been cut. Parking issues remain ongoing. Replacement signs (Canons Close) will be dealt with by the BBC in one hit - time scales unknown. The clerk confirmed to him that the ruts on Popes Way had been in-filled. The issue of weeds around the village remained ongoing - BBCllr Prescod requested a list of all problem areas in order that he could take it to BBC. All councillors were requested to provide a list to the clerk no later than Friday 18th November 2011 for delivery to BBCllr Prescod. He also confirmed that the Olympic torch would come through Cotton End and that Bedford Athletic stadium were to screen the opening ceremony.

Action - all councillors to provide details of problem areas to the clerk no later than Friday 18th November.

Cllr Wallace mentioned that he and the clerk had met as part of the Community Liaison group on the 8th November 2011. Discussions had been held to establish an education vision for the village, and it was felt a meeting was needed to agree on the village needs, from 0-19 years and including the new school. The invitation should extend to the current schools and pre-schools. BBCllr Prescod confirmed that the BBC now only deal with

administration for the upper school, since they became an academy. It was agreed that the clerk would send invitations to those concerned.

Action - clerk to send invitation as above.

Cllr Wallace also mentioned Peter Ackroyd's wish to mark the Olympics. He had suggested a fun run (to be organised by the churches) - with a big screen for the opening ceremony. Peter may contact the parish council to see if any assistance can be given.

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).

None.

- FC11/146** **Clerk's report and list of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).**
Please see attached.
- FC11/147** **To receive a report from the RFO.**
The RFO provided information under agenda item FC11/154, as opposed to a report.
- FC11/148** **Chairman's announcements.**
Please see attached.
- FC11/149** **Minutes of the meeting.**
Members of full council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 14th September 2011.
The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
- FC11/150** **Matters arising from the full council minutes to include issues log review.**
FC11/21 - Highways inspection. Clerk emailed 29.7.11 for an update - awaiting response. Celia Sellers is to provide a further update.

FC11/40b - Handover of Memorial Hall. Cllr Price is liaising with Sue Norman (BRCC) for further advice. Clerk is awaiting the original deeds before contacting the land registry to try and establish ownership of the hall.

Cllr Price provided an update with regard to the Memorial Hall. He confirmed that the clerk and RFO were now committee members - the clerk was chair and bookings clerk, the RFO was treasurer. Tracy Corby was to contact the clerk to arrange a handover. On the subject of hall ownership, Cllr Price confirmed he was liaising with Sue Norman (BRCC) and she was expected to contact him within the next two weeks. She was of the opinion that the hall belongs to the committee, and the land also. The clerk has asked for the original deeds from Cllr Quirk.

FC11/40e - Order for play equipment to be placed with PlayDale Ltd. Works completed - complaints received from two residents. Clerk investigating types of notices that might be erected. See separate agenda item.

FC11/35 - Reduction in speed limits outside schools. Awaiting update from PCSO Hogg.

FC11/40c - Easter artwork to be displayed in Wootton library. Laura Pottinger and Heather Pritchard will liaise after October half-term.

FC11/40e - Scout Hut flooring - surplus money. Peter Martin has confirmed that the scouts can use the money as they see fit - as long as it is for their use and they keep him informed. Clerk is awaiting quotations from Jenny Lambert to send to BBC.

FC11/76 - Clerk's office. On schedule for 1st November.

FC11/37 - Update of Standing Orders. Clerk has a copy of 2011 Standing Orders. First draft completed 14.7.11. Part of clerk's CilCA portfolio - ongoing.

FC11/54 - Disrepair of footpaths. Celia Sellers confirmed that remedial works are planned for Hall End Road footpath in October/November. Further update awaited.

(Borough Council) - Canons Close - public footpath sign knocked down. Hazel Elmore (BBC) is awaiting confirmation from the Rights of Way team for this to be re-erected. No further update received.

(Borough Council) - Neale Way - overgrown hedge. Hazel Elmore (BBC) has confirmed it has been cut back in part to allow access, but will provide a further update in due course as further issues have arisen. No further update received.

FC11/51 - Siting of Memorial bench at Lorraine Road cemetery. The plan is still for the bench to be sited but there have been delays.

(Borough Council) - Popes Way - ruts in green. It is believed the ruts have been filled in - clerk awaiting confirmation.

(Borough Council) - traffic issue in Squires Road. To form part of Cllr Rowse's traffic report. Clerk emailed BBCllr Prescod 29.7.11 to request Cranfield Road sign be adjusted to improve vision. No further update received.

LA11/22 - Luton Active. Clerk still awaiting revised invoice.

LA11/23 - Toilets at the changing rooms. Clerk instructed Paul Brooks to complete work - awaiting further update.

LA11/29 - Kempston Outdoor play area. Cllr Prescod is meeting with the Mayor to discuss. No further update received.

FC11/74a,b,c - Summer Play scheme. Clerk awaiting invoice from BBC to pay donation.

FC11/70 - Lack of disabled children's facilities. BBCllr is to meet with the Mayor to discuss. No further update received. Ensure provision is included in the new community facilities?

FC11/75 - Graffiti at Memorial Hall and recreation ground sites. Clerk had been informed that Wootton parish council may have to pay for removal. Glenn Dynes (BBC) emailed clerk 1.8.11. Offensive graffiti has been removed (free of charge) from the teen shelter at the recreation ground. Costings to follow regarding remaining graffiti. No further update received.

FC11/92 - Changing rooms. Awaiting further details regarding the Fields Road development and s106 arrangements.

FC11/95 - Request to demolish kick wall. Resolved that the wall be left intact - clerk to email the caretaker to establish how bad the problem is with broken glass and litter. Move to close.

(Borough Council) - Parking issue outside post office Bedford Road. Clerk emailed BBCllr PP to take forward 22.7.11. No further update received.

(Borough Council) - clerk received notification that dogs are still being walked on the recreation ground. See separate agenda item.

n/a - Traffic Management issues. See separate agenda item.

FC11/119 - MUGA specification. Damaged wall is being made good - investigations in hand to see how best to bring the whole MUGA up to an acceptable standard. Awaiting quotations re vandal-proof fencing.

(Borough Council) - query with regard to weed control within the village. DP has emailed BBCllr Prescod. No further update received. BBCllr Prescod has discussed the matter with Cllr Quirk. Further update awaited.

FC11/125 - Anglian Water bill. RFO has established bill is correct and needs to be paid.

FC11/125 - duplicate keys needed for the changing rooms. Cllr Wheeler is to provide a set for the clerk.

FC11/130 - upgrade of CCTV. Costings awaited.

FC11/134 - Diamond Jubilee celebrations. See separate agenda item.

n/a - grass cut ahead of the Remembrance Sunday service. Clerk has diarised for the 7.11.11 but Worboys have confirmed all is in hand.

FC11/151 To receive an update from the clerk with regard to proposed Diamond Jubilee celebrations and decide which parish council members wish to join the working party.

The clerk confirmed that a number of organisations had now responded and after discussion the following council members agreed to join the working party:
Cllrs Bennett, Bland, Lloyd and Wheeler.

Action - Clerk to arrange first working party meeting.

FC11/152 To receive an update from Cllr Wallace with regard to the Fields Road development issues.

Cllr Wallace confirmed the meeting with Jim Caffrey, Alison Stringfellow (BBC) plus their solicitor - booked for Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 7pm in the committee room at the village hall. It was hoped that s106 ideas would be presented.

Other issues raised included the community hall - two build choices - near the A421 or next to the Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre (WVHLC). Cllr Wallace confirmed that he, Cllr Wheeler and the clerk had met with WVHLC. Issues remain regarding land ownership which should be resolved in the next 2-3 weeks. The correct figure potentially on offer for the parish council to build it's own facility was not yet known, although it was anticipated to be less than the original £600k. Suggestion was made that if the parish council wish to build near the WVHLC, it opted for a phased build. Timing is crucial as current facilities remain very low - the village hall has to turn groups away wishing to hold regular classes there, and some evenings has 3 consecutive bookings for the same room. When WVHLC move to their new build in 2013 their current temporary structure might be available to the parish council, but it was not known at this stage if the planners would give approval.

Cllr Wallace then put forward three questions:

1. Were there any views/comments on a preferred location - next to the A421 or WVHLC. After discussion it was felt that this question would need to be raised next week, as questions would arise as to size and building costs if the parish council do their own build.

2. Is WPC comfortable with a phased build?
Again, it was agreed this would need to be asked next week.

3. Mention to the planners the possibility of using the temporary building when WVHLC vacate?
Another question for next week.

Cllr Wallace then discussed indoor sports facilities and youth provision. Sports England initially raised objections to many points, which increased further once Cllr Wallace had pointed out an error in calculations. He had spoken to Dale Greeton (Sports England Bedford) - who had raised similar concerns to the parish council. When the s106 agreement is known, Sport England indicated they would visit the BBC with the parish council to hear responses. No provision had been made for indoor facilities. The clerk had established that £935 per house (£31,401.04) had been paid by Bellway for indoor facilities at the Upper school or elsewhere in the village - will Persimmon pay the same.

It was hoped matters could move forward a stage after next week's meeting.

FC11/153 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 present.

FC11/154 To discuss the ongoing precept issues following the F&GP meeting on the 26th October 2011.

Cllr Wheeler handed over to Cllr Hall, who confirmed that he and the RFO had put together a DRAFT proposal, which was still very much a working document. He explained that the precept was not raised last year and with inflation currently at 5.2% the longer it remained at it's current level (£64.24 per house), the bigger the increase would be when it happened. Cllr Hall provided the following projected figures in relation to each household, based on a 1,2 and 3% increase:

1% increase: £64.88 per house
2% increase: £65.52 per house
3% increase: £66.17 per house

Cllr Hall answered Cllr Lloyd's queries - he had tried to eliminate miscellaneous expenses and had used assumed figures when necessary. He apologised for having left out a communications column, but reiterated once more this was still a working document. It would be for the parish council in January to decide which figures should be amended, added or removed.

Cllr Price stated that with the extra (Bellway and subsequently Persimmon) houses coming, extra precept revenue would be generated that way, without the need for any increase.

Cllr Wallace then commented on the proposed MUGA fencing upgrade. It was his and the clerk's intention to apply to WREN for a grant, but he had realised the parish council would need a 10% third party contribution. BBCllr Prescod confirmed that ward monies might be available, and the parish council had until the 31st December 2011 to submit a request. It was resolved to proceed with the application, and Cllr Lloyd confirmed he would pass the two quotations received to date to Cllr Wallace. Stewartby landfill is closing very soon and it was Cllr Wallace's intention to submit the application in time for the 24th November 2011.

Action - Cllr Lloyd to provide all quotations to Cllr Wallace.

Action - clerk to liaise with BBCllr Prescod re ward money.

Cllr Wallace confirmed revenue spend last year was £80k, a £13k underspend against the precept. This years figures currently stood at £89k, next year £98k - a 20-25% increase. When the precept was last raised it passed without comment.

After a heated debate, it was agreed a further meeting was needed, open to all council members (heads of committee would be expected to attend).

Action - clerk to arrange a further meeting (not a Wednesday).

Action - all councillors to submit further details and ideas to Cllr Hall.

FC11/155 To discuss the "No Dogs" order at the recreation ground.

The clerk confirmed that she was still unable to locate a copy of the order. After discussion it was resolved that the clerk take the necessary action to ensure a further order is put in place.

Action - clerk to take forward.

FC11/156 To discuss the addition of signage at both play areas.

Cllr Wallace asked if signs were needed, to which the clerk responded at the very least it should be obvious who is responsible for the areas. After discussion it was resolved that a sign should be placed at each site details as follows:

This equipment is designed for under 14's and children using the equipment must be supervised at all times.

All persons using this facility do so at their own risk.

No dogs, glass, alcohol or other prohibited substances are to be brought to or used at this site.

Equipment is not to be used after dark.

No swearing or foul language.

(Plus mention of the Parish Council and contact details).

Action - clerk to exercise best practise in selecting the sign company and place the order - to be given to Metrosigns.

FC11/157 To discuss quotations received to undertake repairs to the wall in the jubilee garden, recreation ground.

After discussion it was resolved to accept the quotation from DSD.

Action - clerk to take forward with DSD.

FC11/158 To discuss a request to purchase litter picking tools.

After discussion it was resolved that the clerk buy 3 tools for, and encourage various organisations or individuals within the village to undertake litter picking duties - cheapest option (Amazon).

Action - clerk to purchase 3 tools from Amazon.

FC11/159 To discuss the need for an electrical certification at the changing rooms.

After discussion it was resolved to accept Steve Brown's quotation.

Action - clerk to take forward with Steve Brown.

FC11/160 To discuss the introduction of allowances for all parish council members.

Having read the clerk's comments provided ahead of this meeting, it was resolved not to proceed further with this request.

Meeting closed at 9.09pm

Chairman.....

Date.....