

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th January 2012 at 7.30pm
in the Memorial Hall, Wootton

Present Cllrs. Wheeler, Bennett, Cruse, Lloyd, Price, Quirk, Rowse and Wallace.
In Attendance: S Playford (Clerk) and S. Bolton (RFO).

FC12/01 Apologies for absence.
Cllrs Bland, Hall, Prescod and Woolfenden.

FC12/02 Declarations of Interest on any items on this agenda.
(This is of a personal or prejudicial nature).
Cllr Rowse declared an interest in agenda item FC12/12 - living in Cranfield Road.

FC12/03 Reports from outside organisations.
PCSO Hogg provided the clerk with the following figures for December 2011, with a comparison for the same month in 2010:

	2011	2010
Total crimes	8	9
Violence against person	2	4
Domestic burglary	2	1
Theft from motor vehicle	2	1
Other	2	3
ASB	11	12

PCSOs Claire Fryer and Adam Hayles arrived at 7.45pm. The clerk explained that PCSO had provided the above figures and PCSO Fryer then gave a brief update with regard to recent shift changes. A new shift pattern now provided much more in the way of policing cover, but meant that on occasion PCSO Hogg would be unable to attend Parish council meetings, hence why PCSOs Fryer and Hayles had attended this meeting. PCSO Fryer introduced herself as part of the ASB team and PCSO Hayles introduced himself as part of the rural policing team. PCSO Fryer mentioned ongoing issues which had been brought to her attention with regard to parking near the village hall and Cllr Wheeler reiterated that the Parish council had no jurisdiction over this area, as the hall was committee run. The clerk had recently advised a resident to liaise with the police, Bedford Borough council and also the village hall committee to try and seek a resolution. Cllr Wallace confirmed that as a village hall committee member (along with Cllr Quirk) they had requested village hall users to use the car park, but that it was impossible to police. Cllr Rowse sought clarification as to illegal parking and distances from junctions and PCSO Fryer confirmed within 10 metres of a junction was illegal. PCSO Fryer stated she was liaising with the Borough council to see if white lines could be added to prevent people parking close to the Bedford Road/Cranfield Road junction, but it was not known at this stage if the request would be successful. PCSO Hayles mentioned that residents should use the 101 number to report illegally parked cars, as opposed to the office number provided in a recent letter, as this number was not always manned. Any obstruction could be checked by a traffic officer and ticketed if necessary. Cllr Price mentioned Mepham Road as another problem area with people parking on grass verges and obscuring vision. Cllr Bennett suggested an article for the newsletter reiterating the need to use 101 and PCSO Fryer said she would speak with PCSO Hogg to get something produced. She was informed the deadline was 1st February for submissions. PCSO Hayles then mentioned he had produced letters for children at Wilstead lower school to give to parents and said he could produce a similar letter for inclusion in the newsletter. The clerk then mentioned Bedford Road near the post office as another problem area which had been brought to her attention. With regard to the village hall, Cllr Rowse confirmed he would speak with PCSO Hogg.

Action - Cllr Rowse to liaise with PCSO Hogg. Police report for the newsletter to be provided by 1st February.

BBCllr Prescod informed the clerk on 11th January 2012 that he had nothing to report. Cllr Wheeler expressed his disbelief that no report was available. He proposed a letter be sent by the clerk to BBC asking why no report was forthcoming, which was seconded by Cllr Price. Those who voted in favour were Cllrs Bennett, Lloyd, Quirk and Wallace. One vote against was made by Cllr Cruse and Cllr Rowse abstained.

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).

Malcolm Chalmers presented himself to council with a view to being co-opted as a member. A brief resumé was provided to all members before the meeting, and Cllr Wheeler asked all members present if anyone had any questions. None were presented and Malcolm's co-option was then proposed by Cllr Quirk and seconded by Cllr Wallace. All were in favour and Malcolm was then welcomed as a member of Wootton Parish council.

The clerk then provided a Declaration of Acceptance of office form which was completed before FC12/09 and at the end of the evening Cllr Chalmers also handed the clerk his completed Register of Interests form.

FC12/04 Clerk's report and list of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).

Please see attached.

FC12/05 To receive a report from the RFO.

The out-turn report was circulated prior to this meeting and no additional comments were received.

FC12/06 Chairman's announcements.

Cllr Wheeler did not provide a report at the meeting, but did read the following statement:

I would like to bring to the attention of Councillors their obligation under this council's standing orders and code of conduct to give apologies to the clerk in the event they are unable to attend a meeting to which they have been summoned. I would also like to draw to members' notice page 44 item 10 of the Good Councillor Guide which states "Remember you have a duty to attend, but sometimes things crop up and you are unable to make it. You must contact the clerk with an apology and explanation. A darts match is not an adequate excuse and should not be accepted. However, illness or work commitments are acceptable reasons". Members who miss meetings without giving advance apologies not only break this council's procedures but also demonstrate a lack of proper respect for this council, it's members and it's officers.

Cllr Wheeler confirmed he had received written confirmation from Judith Cunningham, resigning her position as council member with immediate effect, as she no longer lived in the parish. It was agreed by all present that the clerk send a letter thanking her for her years of service to the parish and borough, with a bouquet of flowers to the value of £20.

Action - clerk to order bouquet and produce letter.

FC12/07 Minutes of the meeting.

Members of full council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 9th November 2011.

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Matters arising from the full council minutes to include issues log review.

FC11/21 - Highways inspection.

FC11/40b - Handover of Memorial Hall. .

FC11/40e - Order for play equipment to be placed with PlayDale Ltd.

FC11/35 - Reduction in speed limits outside schools.

FC11/40e - Scout Hut flooring - surplus money.

FC11/76 - Clerk's office.

FC11/37 - Update of Standing Orders.

FC11/54 - Disrepair of footpaths.

(Borough Council) - Canons Close - public footpath sign knocked down.

(Borough Council) - Neale Way - overgrown hedge.

FC11/51 - Siting of Memorial bench at Lorraine Road cemetery.

(Borough Council) - traffic issue in Squires Road.

FC11/74b now FC11/87 - Summer Play scheme.

FC11/70 - Lack of disabled children's facilities.

FC11/75 - Graffiti at Memorial Hall and recreation ground sites.

FC11/92 - Changing rooms.

(Borough Council) - Parking issue outside post office Bedford Road.

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

n/a - Traffic Management issues.

(Borough Council) - query with regard to weed control within the village.

FC11/125 - duplicate keys needed for the changing rooms.

FC11/130 - upgrade of CCTV.

FC11/134 - Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

n/a - suggestion that the toddler bar swings be swapped with the adult swings to alleviate ASB issues at the Memorial Hall play site.

FC11/145 - Education meeting.

FC11/157 - Jubilee wall vandalised.

FC11/159 - safety of electrics at changing rooms.

(Borough Council) - Potters Cross ditch and brook.

FC11/124 - replacement light bulbs needed in the changing rooms.

To receive an update from Cllr Wallace with regard to the Fields Road development 11/01502/EIA.

Cllr Wallace attended the Planning committee meeting of Bedford Borough council on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 to make representation on behalf of the Parish council. He circulated an email to all members ahead of this meeting and provided the following update. The application for 405 outline and 195 full planning housing was passed on the 3rd January. The Fields Road roundabout which had been delayed pending this outcome would now go ahead and it was expected to take 4 months for the infrastructure to be put in place. The s106 agreement remained unsigned but matters were moving quickly - much had happened since November's meeting. Most of the Parish council's objections had been listened to - community facilities were 30% bigger. Sports England had been very helpful and there was now an extra sports pitch, which would be shared with the new lower school. The trigger of 300 occupations before any community facilities would be built remained, but it was felt the time scale would likely be the same as the school, for issues of control.

The main debate on the 3rd January was from Cllr Shan Hunt, who had taught at the existing lower school, and centred around the trigger of 250 occupations before the new lower school opened. Concerns were raised as to what would happen to the children of families moving in. Cllr Wallace referred back to the education meeting held on the 7th December 2011 at which time it was resolved the school heads would need to meet with the LEA. At that stage, there had been no discussions regarding provision for education within the village.

Cllr Wallace then mentioned the wording of "primary school" as opposed to "lower school" which was done to cover all bases, in case of an extra build. Issues back in November had looked bleak but Cllr Wallace was now more upbeat. He reiterated the need for further work to ensure matters moved forward and confirmed to Cllr Lloyd that he would produce a report for the upcoming newsletter. Cllr Price raised one query - that of trigger points. Did the numbers

relate to houses built or occupied. Cllr Wallace confirmed it was occupations. Cllr Wheeler thanked Cllr Wallace for his hard work.

Action - Cllr Wallace to provide a Fields Road report for inclusion in the newsletter to Cllr Lloyd.

- FC12/10 To receive a report from Cllr Lloyd with regard to distribution of the Parish newsletter.**
Cllr Lloyd confirmed that all areas were fine apart from that which had been Judith's. After discussion Cllr Wallace suggested that Cllr Lloyd ask Cllr Hall if he was willing to add this route to his existing one. Cllr Lloyd agreed. Cllr Bennett confirmed she was able to continue with her route, needing 80 copies in total. Cllrs Wallace and Price requested 4 extra copies each.

Action - Cllr Lloyd to liaise with Cllr Hall and allow for extra copies as above.

- FC12/11 To resolve that all goal posts on the recreation ground be taken down at the end of each season and suitably stored by the relevant football teams in order to allow the goal mouths to repair.**
This was allowed in previous years and after discussion it was resolved that the teams be allowed to continue this arrangement. Cllr Wallace added that the teams were also providing a paper with regard to additional pitch repairs needed at the end of this season as there were a number of health and safety issues. Also, a paper was being put together by the teams with regard to potential changing room refurbishments.

Action - clerk to inform teams.

- FC12/12 To accept and ratify Cllr Rowse's traffic management report 2011/2012.**
Previous discussions were held at a meeting on the 15th December and Cllrs Price and Wheeler thanked Cllr Rowse for an excellent piece of work. He proposed that the report be ratified and Cllr Bennett seconded. All present were in favour. This report will now be used as a reference document by the Parish council for traffic related matters. Cllr Wallace mentioned at this stage that no demand had been made to date for Persimmon to put in a double roundabout at the Bedford/Church/Fields/Cranfield Road junction. Cllr Rowse suggested if Cranfield Road were closed, the need would be negated. Cllr Rowse expressed his wish to work with Cllr Wallace in the coming months.

- FC12/13 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 may be discussed.**
No members of the public were present.

- FC12/14 To receive a report from Cllr Wallace with regard to the refurbishment of the MUGA, to include the reinstating of Durasport's contract to maintain the surface.**

- FC12/15 To resolve that the Bellway s106 funding be used in part to refurbish the CCTV at the recreation ground.**

- FC12/16 To agree the precept figures for 2012-2013.**

- FC12/17 To resolve that the change of signatories be approved.**

- FC12/18 To receive a request for funding from St. Mary's Church with regard to the forthcoming Olympics and potential offers of assistance in organising or providing assistance for the events.**

- FC12/19 To resolve to appoint a new litter picker/handy person.**

- FC12/20 To discuss the following proposals with regard to the Memorial Hall play area.**

FC12/21 To resolve how to proceed with regard to the 'No Dogs' issue at the recreation ground.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman.....

Date.....