

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 7.30pm
in the Memorial Hall, Wootton

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

FC12/22 Apologies for absence.
Cllrs Bennett, Bland, Chalmers, Rowse and Woolfenden.

FC12/23 Declarations of Interest on any items on this agenda.
(*This is of a personal or prejudicial nature*).
None.

FC12/24 To appoint new members to the Communications committee.
Cllr Chalmers was due to be elected as a member of the Communications committee at the meeting on the 8th February 2012, but the meeting was not quorate. He confirmed ahead of this meeting that he still wished to stand, and was nominated by Cllr Wheeler. All were in agreement and Cllr Chalmers was duly elected as a member of the Communications committee.

FC12/25 Reports from outside organisations - for information only.
PCSO Hogg provided the clerk with the following figures for February 2012:

Miscellaneous thefts	2
Shoplifting	1
Theft from motor vehicle	1
Criminal damage	2
ASB	0

Cllr Quirk spoke on behalf of the Village Hall committee, confirming that the hall was doing well, with a surplus for this year. He confirmed he would talk about the Bob Lunniss charity under agenda item FC12/36 and stated that the hall had been commended as one of the best kept in the UK. Minutes of the committee meeting held on the 5th October 2011 were provided to the clerk.

Cllr Wheeler spoke on behalf of the Bob Lunniss Charity, and confirmed that 120 people had attended the last Christmas lunch. Costs to run this event were in the region of £1200 and the effect of low interest rates meant a possible capital spend in future years. This year's event was confirmed as the 5th December.

Cllr Wheeler also spoke on behalf of the Wootton Pools Land Charities. They had received very few requests for financial help, and it was their intention to detail their services in the next newsletter. Assistance in the past has been for medical expenses as well as student support (purchase of laptops).

Bedford Borough Councillor (BBCllr) Prescod provided a report and an update with regard to the issues log. Cllr Price pointed out that the issue regarding the Potters Cross manhole cover might not be down to Anglian Water, and could be the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards (IDBS). The clerk had been informed previously by IDBS that they only dealt with areas outside the village. Cllr Price also pointed out that dogs on the recreation area and the summer play scheme invoice were parish council issues not BBC.

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).

Brian Doggrell and Gerald Bygraves presented themselves to council with a view to being co-opted as members. Resumés were provided to all members before the meeting, and Cllr Wheeler asked all present for any questions. None were presented and both Brian and Gerald's co-option was agreed by all. Both were welcomed as members of Wootton Parish Council.

The clerk provided Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms which were completed by both members before FC12/26. Cllr Bygraves also completed his Register of Interests form and Cllr Doggrell took his away for completion.

Action - clerk to ensure both Register of Interests Forms are sent to BBC.

A number of youths had contacted the clerk prior to the meeting and provided a report concerning the lack of facilities within the village aimed at children their age. This report was read by their spokesman, having been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. Cllr Wheeler thanked them for their considerable efforts and for attending the meeting. He detailed how the MUGA might be used once refurbished and also mentioned the facilities currently available at The Hub, Wootton New Life Methodist Church. It was also suggested that BBCllr Prescod may be able to provide financial assistance. They were invited to attend a full council meeting on the 11th April to discuss matters in more detail.

Action - clerk to ensure invites are sent as above.

FC12/26 Clerk's report and list of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).

Please see attached.

FC12/27 To receive a report from the RFO - for information only.

The out-turn report and Income & Expenditure details were circulated on the morning of the meeting. The RFO confirmed that the figures contained up-to-date estimated year end positions and requested details of any additional costs. It was her intention to complete the year end accounts by the end of April. Cllr Wallace thanked the RFO -mentioning he had no complaints! He mentioned the underspend of £26k last year, suggesting that the budget may have been awry and that possibly the precept for this year should not have been increased.

FC12/28 Chairman's announcements - for information only.

Please see attached.

Cllr Wheeler confirmed that the Leisure & Amenities meeting booked for the 11th April would now be used for full council - to confirm the contractor of choice for the MUGA and CCTV. The agenda would also include youth facilities, and the meeting would follow a planning meeting (if needed). It was also Cllr Wheeler's intention to bring Leisure & Amenities back as a committee at the Annual Council meeting - subject to member approval.

FC12/29 Minutes of the meeting.

Members of full council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 11th January 2012.

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

FC12/30 Matters arising from the full council minutes to include issues log review - for information only.

FC11/21 - Highways inspection.

FC11/40b - Handover of Memorial Hall.

FC11/35 - Reduction in speed limits outside schools.

FC11/40e - Scout Hut flooring - surplus money.
 FC11/37 - Update of Standing Orders.
 FC11/54 - Disrepair of footpaths.
 (Borough Council) - Neale Way - overgrown hedge.
 FC11/51 - Siting of Memorial bench at Lorraine Road cemetery.
 (Borough Council) - traffic issue in Squires Road.
 FC11/74a,b,c - 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 (and Church Road and Mephram Road).
 (Borough Council) - clerk received notification that dogs are still being walked on the recreation ground.
 n/a - Traffic Management issues.
 FC11/119 - MUGA specification.
 (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.

- FC12/31 To discuss the possible registration of the land and property at the Memorial Hall site.**
 Cllr Quirk confirmed it had been agreed in the past to register the land but matters had not been taken forward. It was resolved by all present that the clerk make the necessary arrangements to register the land at the Memorial Hall site in the name of Wootton Parish Council.

LGA 1894 s6.

Action - clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the Land Registry.

- FC12/32 To discuss a recommendation put forward that Red Maple trees be planted at sites within the village to mark the Diamond Jubilee.**
 It was agreed by all present that Pamela was the expert and would find the most suitable locations to plant the trees.

Action - clerk to inform Pamela she can proceed.

- FC12/33 To discuss those gardens in Tithe Barn Road whose gardens have gates opening directly on to the recreation ground.**
 Cllr Wheeler confirmed that there were a number of gates opening on to the recreation ground. Cllr Prescod recalled the Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association had provided assistance in the past. After discussion it was resolved that the clerk write to the Development Unit at BPHA to seek clarification on any legality, before then writing to the home owners informing them that they could unjustly be blamed for the incidents of dog fouling in the area. A draft letter to the home owners will be provided to council members ahead of distribution.

Action - clerk to contact BPHA before drafting a letter as above.

- FC12/34 To receive a recommendation from Planning regarding the revision of cemetery fees.**
 Copies were circulated ahead of the meeting and no further comments were received. It was resolved that the recommendation be adopted with effect from 1st April 2012.

Action - clerk to ensure fees are published and distributed to known undertakers before the 1st April.

FC12/35 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 was one member of the public present at this stage, who left.

FC12/36 To discuss a donation request from the Bob Lunniss Trust.
Details were circulated ahead of the meeting. After discussion Cllr Price proposed a one-off donation of £250 which was seconded by Cllr Lloyd. 3 members voted against the proposal, all others present voted in favour and so it was resolved that a one-off donation be made of £250.

LGA 1972 s137.

Action - RFO to prepare a cheque as above. Cllr Wheeler to report to the Bob Lunniss Charity.

Cllrs Cruse and Prescod then left the meeting at 8.15pm.

FC12/37 To receive a recommendation from F&GP regarding a donation to the 2nd Wootton Brownies.
Details were circulated ahead of the meeting and no further comments were received. It was resolved that the recommendation to donate a sum of £50 be adopted.

LGA 1972 s137.

Action - RFO to prepare cheque as above. Clerk to inform Brownies.

FC12/38 To discuss a donation request from 1st Wootton (61st Bedford) Scout Troop.
Details were circulated ahead of the meeting. After discussion Cllr Wallace proposed a grant of £250 which was seconded by Cllr Hall. There was one abstention and all other members present voted in favour and so it was resolved that a donation be made of £250.

Action - RFO to prepare a cheque as above. Cllr Lloyd to report to 1st Wootton (61st Bedford) Scout Troop.

Cllr Wheeler then suggested that the Scouts contact Cranfield University and also Red Bull Racing, Milton Keynes in the hope that they might also be able to assist in some way.

Action - Cllr Wheeler to provide contact details to Cllr Lloyd.

FC12/39 To receive a report from Cllr Quirk with regard to the Jubilee Garden.
Cllr Quirk had received a request from the 55 Club, for either physical or financial assistance to tidy the area ahead of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. After discussion it was resolved that the parish council offer to undertake the necessary works on their behalf, with consideration given to maintaining the area in the future, subject to their approval. Cllr Quirk agreed to provide the clerk with a list of remedial works needed so that she could contact the cemetery caretaker to request a quotation to complete the works. Cllr Wallace recommended the overgrown area remain untouched as the original intention was to encourage bio-diversity.

Action - Cllr Quirk to provide the relevant details for the clerk. Clerk to advise 55 Club.

Cllr Price suggested that the area where the shrubs are contained be used as a play area for older children - Cllr Lloyd suggested installing outdoor gym equipment.

FC12/40 To discuss the refurbishment of the War Memorial.

Details were circulated ahead of the meeting and Cllr Wallace proposed the third quotation be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Price and all present were in favour.

War Memorials Act 1923 ss1 and 3.

Action - clerk to inform the contractor and arrange for the works to be undertaken.

FC12/41 To formally resolve to whom to donate any surplus funds raised as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

After discussion it was resolved this be left on file until known whether there will be a surplus.

Action - clerk keep with Diamond Jubilee paperwork.

FC12/42 To receive a confidential report from the Chairman.

Cllr Wheeler read his report to all members present. It was agreed that the clerk write to express the sentiments contained in the report.

Action - clerk to proceed as above.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman.....

Date.....