

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton

Present Cllrs. Wheeler, Bennett, Bygraves, Chalmers, Doggrell, Groves, Hall, Lloyd, Price, Quirk and Wallace.
In Attendance: Sue Playford (Clerk), Elaine Lawson and Jamie Hall from Speedwatch, Andy Lord from Persimmon and three members of the public.

FC13/01 Apologies for absence.
Cllrs Cruse, Prescod and Rowse.

FC13/02 Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests.
None.

FC13/03 To receive resumés from two residents with a view to co-opting one as a member of Wootton Parish Council.
Resumes were circulated ahead of the meeting, and both residents gave a brief presentation at the meeting. Following questions, both residents left the room and a paper ballot was undertaken. Dee Dillistone was co-opted as a member of Wootton Parish Council and immediately completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk. A Register of Interests form was also provided - to be returned to the Clerk as soon as practicable. The unsuccessful candidate was thanked for their efforts - they left the meeting and Cllr Dillistone joined other the members.
LGA 1972 Sch 12 P39.

Action - Clerk to inform Bedford Borough Council as above.

Action - Cllr Dillistone to return the completed Register of Interests form to the Clerk as soon as practicable.

FC13/04 Reports from outside organisations - for information only.
The Clerk was unable to obtain crime figures from the police.

BBCllr Prescod did not provide a report for the meeting, but confirmed the following:
The village signs on Keeley Lane/Hall End Road would be replaced by the financial year-end.
Works to Hall End Road footpath were ongoing.
He had received complaints about youths congregating outside the Memorial Hall in the evenings and suggested that the outside light (Bizzy Bees) be switched off. Cllr Groves agreed to contact Bizzy Bees with this request.

Action - Cllr Groves to contact Bizzy Bees as above.

A request for remedial works to Fields Road footpath had been made, and BBCllr Prescod requested that other areas be identified and advised to him as soon as possible (the Clerk informed him of a complaint she had received regarding the roads and footpaths in Jenkyn Road, Russell Way and Squires Road). Cllr Wheeler suggested the Clerk provide BBCllr Prescod with the list of areas requiring remedial works submitted to Highways in September 2012. Cllr Hall also mentioned the narrow footpaths along Bedford Road and requested this information also be given to BBCllr Prescod.

Action - Clerk to submit as above.

Elaine Lawson and Jamie Hall (Speed Watch) then gave a short presentation on the scheme, and demonstrated how the a SID (Speed Indicator Device) operated. Hot spots were identified as Fields Road and Hall End Road. Volunteers to operate the device would be needed - in

groups of 3. Training on how to use the device would be available through the police, along with managing conflict and basic first aid training.

A SID would be provided free of charge and booked through the police. The system operated on a 10% plus 2MPH leeway, meaning anyone in a 30MPH zone doing 35MPH or over would be speeding. Forms would be provided to log registration numbers - these details would be passed to the police and a warning letter sent. If the same registration number were logged on 3 separate occasions, the driver could incur points on their licence.

Cllr Price queried how genuine the data would be and it was noted that volunteers could only operate during daylight hours.

Elaine mentioned a social evening taking place on the 12th February and left details with the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Groves, seconded by Cllr Wallace and resolved by a majority that this be taken forward, and advertised on the website and Facebook page, in the view that volunteers would step forward. Two councillors voted against this proposal.

Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s30.

Action - Clerk and Cllr Groves to advertise via website and Facebook page for volunteers.

Jamie then mentioned the possibility of installing signs mounted to a lamp post, which could be moved up to 4 times a year. He suggested BBCllr Prescod be approached, with a view to securing ward monies to fund a potential purchase.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

Andy Lord (Persimmon) was then introduced by Cllr Wallace. He explained that as Planning Manager, with responsibility for plans, submissions and design issues, he was the main point of contact for the parish council. Master copies of the development to date were provided and Andy agreed to provide the Clerk with electronic copies also. (Please note that these plans will be available to view at the Clerk's office - The Hub, Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road). To date there were 2 completions on the Charles Church site and 6 on the Persimmon site. Indicative plans of the Community facility and new school were provided, also to be sent electronically. It was understood the school would most likely open for September 2015.

Cllr Dillistone asked how the affordable housing would be laid out, and Andy confirmed there were several areas within the development. It was noted that affordable housing also included shared equity housing.

Cllr Lloyd asked about the ditch near the new roundabout. Andy confirmed the engineering works had not worked and works were now underway to install pipework.

Cllr Wheeler then asked about the management of the proposed sports facilities. Andy confirmed that the sports pitches would be given to the parish council, along with a commuted sum for their upkeep. An outside management company - Greenbelt Group Ltd were in line to maintain all other green areas and play areas. A maintenance charge of £107 plus VAT would be payable by all private units on the development. The member of the public present queried this, having been told that the charge would also apply to those moving into affordable housing. Cllr Wallace was keen for Andy to consider an alternative bid from the parish council for the maintenance of these areas, as he felt this arrangement could create a standalone development rather than village cohesion.

Cllr Price asked if the sports pitches could be used for something other than football, and the question was raised about conveyancing fees. Andy confirmed he would get the relevant information to the parish council as soon as possible, but believed Persimmon would pay any legal costs.

Andy was thanked for this time and then left the meeting, as did the remaining member of the public.

Cllr Wallace recommended the implications of Greenbelt Group's maintenance contract be considered at the next Leisure & Amenities meeting.

Action - Clerk to include on next L&A agenda.

Open Forum - meeting to be adjourned.

No members of the public or press were present and so the meeting continued without adjournment.

FC13/05 Clerk's correspondence received - for information only.
(Copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).
Please see attached.

FC13/06 Schedule of payments.
Please see attached.

FC13/07 Chairman's announcements - for information only.
Cllr Wheeler thanked everyone involved with the Christmas tree - many positive comments had been received. He confirmed the WREN funding for the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) fencing had been received and added that Bedford Borough were due to pay their contribution in the coming weeks. The Veolia presentation (funding for the Skate Park) had gone well and it was hoped news would be received by the end of the month.

FC13/08 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 November 2012.
The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

FC13/09 Matters arising from the Full council minutes to include issues log review.
FC11/40e - Scout Hut flooring - surplus money. The works are being carried out and the clerk is awaiting an invoice. Chased 11.5.12 and 2.6.12. Still awaiting invoice.

FC11/54 - Disrepair of footpaths. Remedial works to Hall End Road footpath are currently ongoing.

(Borough Council) - Neale Way - overgrown hedge. Keep on file. BBCllr Prescod is looking into the possibility of ward monies being used to cut the hedge back. No further updates available.

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.

FC11/92 - Changing rooms. Provision to be made in 2013-14 precept.

n/a - clerk received notification that dogs are still being walked on the recreation ground. Clerk has asked BBC what, if any, enforcement procedures would be available to the parish council. Still ongoing.

n/a - Traffic Management issues. Further meeting held 2.3.12 and Andy Prigmore (Highways) will take certain matters forward. Minutes circulated 7.3.12 - awaiting update from Andy Prigmore. Clerk has chased. Meeting arranged for the 11.6.12 did not take place. BBCllr Prescod and the clerk have chased for a new date. Still ongoing.
Update received from Andy Prigmore via Cllr Bennett: Andy Prigmore is currently awaiting a revised date from Cllr Rowse.

FC11/119 - MUGA specification. Funding notification received from WREN. Awaiting confirmation from Borough - invoice has been paid. Flooring contract now in place.

(Borough Council) - query with regard to weed control within the village. BBCllr Prescod is looking at possibly using ward money to bring this under control. Still ongoing.

FC11/130 - upgrade of CCTV. Memorial Hall site remains ongoing. Lower school to source own camera for the Bedford Road site.

FC11/145 - Education meeting. Clerk has chased the lower school re questionnaires - further update awaited.

(Borough Council) - Potters Cross ditch and brook. Resident informed BBCllr Prescod that there was a strange smell coming from a manhole cover at the top of Potters Cross. BBCllr Prescod is liaising with Anglian Water. Anglian Water have informed BBCllr Prescod they cannot find anything wrong. Clerk has requested the resident keep a diary of events. No further updates available.

FC12/33 - Tithe Barn Road gates. Email sent 15.3.12 to BPHA asking for advice. Response received stating that BPHA were unable to assist - clerk is investigating further. No further updates available - move to close?

n/a - Metal poles with no signage on. The clerk has informed Borough that the "Wootton" village sign is no longer in place - road leading from Wood/Bourne End into the village. No further updates available.

FC12/74 - Allotments. Wootton Poor's Land have approached WPC with a view to WPC leasing the allotment land from them. BATPC have recommended that Wootton Poor's Land take advice from the Charities Commission before proceeding further. Cllrs Bygraves and Cruse to attend WPL meeting on 11th February 2013.

FC12/78 - BMX course in Fields Road. Cllr Lloyd suggested approaching Persimmon to obtain soil to start the design - near the A421 flyover. Clerk has spoken to BBCllr Prescod and also Persimmon. Further responses awaited.

FC12/104 - Public Access Defibrillator. Clerk has informed the fire service that the parish council wishes to install one on the changing room wall and will hear from them again in the New Year.

FC12/107 - Bus Route 53. Clerk has written and emailed Stagecoach. No further updates available.

FC12/108 - s106 changes to Fields Road development. Cllr Wallace has been liaising with Borough and Persimmon. Please refer to agenda item FC13/04.

FC13/10 To review and adopt a CCTV Code of Practice.

The Code of Practice was circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Bennett suggested adding a footnote stating it would be reviewed annually at the Annual Council Meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Doggrell and resolved by all present to adopt the Code of Practice with this footnote.

Local Government Rating Act 1997.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

FC13/11 To consider a proposal from the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police that the parish council fund its own PCSO.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Quirk, seconded Cllr Price and resolved by all present not to take the proposal any further.

Local Government Rating Act 1997.

Action - Clerk to advise as above.

- FC13/12** **To consider a request from the Salvation Army that they be allowed to install a textile-recycling bank on the recreation ground car park.**
After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Quirk, seconded by Cllr Bennett and resolved by all present that the textile-recycling bank be trialled next to the bottle bank on the recreation ground for an initial 1 year period.

Action - Clerk to inform Salvation Army as above.

- FC13/13** **To discuss a recommendation from the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils that members request a dispensation to discuss/vote on the Precept.**
Cllr Quirk began by detailing a letter sent by Michael Gough, Bedford Borough Council, in which he stated his belief that Members did not need to have a dispensation to discuss/vote on the Precept. The advice received from BATPC was that it was up to the individual to decide how best to proceed, but that anyone with a written dispensation had safeguarded themselves against any challenge and would not be reliant upon interpretation of the legislation. After discussion it was resolved that all members wishing to complete a dispensation should do so, returning the form to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity. The Clerk agreed to email the template to all members not present.

Action - All members to return their completed dispensations to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

Action - Clerk to email members not present at the meeting.

- FC13/14** **To consider the recommendation from F&GP with regard to the 2013-14 precept.**
After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Wallace, seconded by Cllr Price and resolved by all present to increase the precept by 2% to £107,222, with the following caveat:
Authority be delegated to the Clerk and the Chairman to reduce this increase as necessary, in the event that clarification expected shortly from the Borough Council resulted in the parish council facing a potential financial penalty.

Local Government Finance Act 1992 s50.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....