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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton, Bedford Road.

Open Forum

One member of the public was present who wished to observe how the meeting was structured.

Present

Cllrs. Lloyd, Bennett, Bygraves, Chalmers, Cruse, Dillistone, Doggrell, Price, Wallace and Wheeler.

In Attendance: Sue Playford (Clerk). Cllr Mrs C Fiona Chapman MBE, Chair of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel, Hugh Bartos.
Colin Foster, Head of School Organisation, Bedford Borough Council.

FC13/57

Apologies for absence.

Cllrs Groves, Hall, Prescod and Quirk.

FC13/58

Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests.

None.

FC13/59

Report from outside organisations - for information only.

BBCllr Prescod was not in attendance, but provided a copy of his report to the Clerk ahead of the meeting, which was read to all present.



2013-09_BBCLlr
Prescod report for fi

The Clerk presented the crime figures for the period 31st May 2013 -1st September 2013.



Crime Records for Wootton June 2013. Crime Report for Wootton July 2013. Crime Report for Wootton August 20

PCSO Hurst detailed the crimes for August as they had only been made available earlier in the day. She added that September had seen to date 6 thefts from motor vehicles and reminded those present of the need to remove valuables and park in well-lit areas. Suspicious activity was to be reported to 101. Cllr Price asked if the vehicle crime was village-wide, or centred in one area. PCSO Hurst confirmed it was village-wide, and that extra patrols were in attendance. Cllr Wheeler commented that nuisance motor bikes at Berry Farm had become a regular occurrence and he agreed to provide PCSO Hurst with fuller details.

Action - Cllr Wheeler to provide information as above.

Cllr Mrs C Fiona Chapman MBE then gave a short presentation regarding the introduction of the new Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP).

Cllr Chapman began by detailing the new venture which consisted of a panel of 12 - 3 councillors from Bedford Borough Council, 3 councillors from Luton Borough Council, 4 councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council and 2 independent councillors. Of this number, 9 had to be in agreement before a challenge could be made. She then explained their purpose was to hold the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) to account - not the police. Their role was also to approve his appointments - including the Chief Constable and Deputy, but stressed that whilst they could make suggestions, the PCC was not obliged to follow them. The PCC's annual plan and precept was also scrutinised by the panel, and Cllr Chapman explained their intention was to create a more meaningful relationship, concentrating on those areas over which they had influence. Part of the PCC's role was to hold the Chief Constable to account, and to have a strategy in place for the Bedfordshire Police force (of which 6 MP's are involved). Her intention was to make residents of Wootton aware of the panel, and to ensure that any complaints, and indeed praise, were dealt with appropriately.

Cllr Doggrell then asked if the panel had already met, what were the main concerns, and how did they affect Wootton. Concerns had been raised that both the PCC's deputy and assistant were recruited from Luton and not elsewhere within the county.

Cllr Chapman then touched on the crime aspect of the PCC's role, explaining he was engaging with probation officers also, having received funding from Central Government to assist.

Cllr Lloyd raised concerns regarding the 101 and 999 numbers. Having dialled 101 a few days earlier and being left on hold for 10 minutes, he then dialled 999 and was kept waiting for a further 2 minutes. He queried how it could be considered an adequate response time. Cllr Chapman recognised there had been issues with the new number and confirmed she would forward his feedback.

There were no further questions and Cllr Chapman and Hugh were thanked for attending the meeting, and left.

Colin Foster, Head of School Organisation, Bedford Borough Council then gave a short presentation regarding the provision of school places for residents of Wootton. Having taken on the role 2 years previously, he detailed his knowledge on education within the Borough, and the new school proposed for Fields Road, and asked that any questions be put forward.

Cllr Dillistone began by asking for clarification regarding a 2 tier/3 tier entry system and Mr Foster categorically denied there were plans to convert to 2 tier.

Cllr Bygraves then mentioned the new school build for Fields Road. Mr Foster was impressed with the current lower school's plans with regard to the management of the new school. He also detailed the developer contribution (south side) - in respect of the new school build, which would accommodate the south side development also.

Cllr Chalmers then asked if the two lower school sites would be split into year groups, and Mr Foster stated it would be for the lower school to determine.

Cllr Wallace asked if Mr Foster was confident the new lower school would be open in September 2015 and his response was the developer was legally bound under the terms of the 106 agreement.

Cllr Dillistone then asked how many children moving into the village were affected due to lack of available places at the existing lower school. Mr Foster confirmed no school was allowed to hold places for families potentially moving into the village, and that there was no short term solution. It was acknowledged a new lower school in Kempston Rural would open in September 2014 and that this would most likely lead to non-catchment children presently at Wootton, moving (year-on-year) back to Kempston Rural, although it would be at the discretion of the families concerned.

Cllr Lloyd commented on the development of both lower and upper schools and asked about provisions and development for middle schools. Mr Foster stressed he had no concerns at the present time with regard to places.

Cllr Wallace stated Wootton Upper had introduced an extra form entry for year 9, which would no doubt continue through the following years.

Finally, Mr Foster confirmed the 2 tier schools within the Borough as being Bedford Academy, Mark Rutherford, St. John Rigby, St. Thomas More, Great Denham and Bedford Free School.

FC13/60 To receive resumés from two residents with a view to co-opting one as a member of Wootton Parish Council.

Both resumés were circulated ahead of the meeting, however the Clerk was informed on 23rd September that one wished to withdraw their application. The remaining applicant was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. The Clerk had established the vote could go ahead in their absence, however it was agreed that the co-option be held over until next Full Council in November.

Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 SI2006/3305 r 8(3).

Action - Clerk to inform resident as above.

**FC13/61 Clerk's correspondence received - for information only.
(Copies of correspondence can be requested from the Clerk).**



2013-09-25_Full
council clerks corres

No further comments were received.

FC13/62 Schedule of payments.

As agreed at the Accounts Committee meetings on the 24th July 2013 and the 28th August 2013.

Copies are available - please contact the Clerk.

No further comments were received.

FC13/63 Chairman's announcements - for information only.



2013-09_Chairs
report for full council

No further comments were received.

FC13/64 Minutes of the previous meeting.

Members of the Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Extraordinary Finance meeting held on the 3rd July 2013.

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

Members of the Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 10th July 2013.

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

Members of the Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the (Advisory) Finance & General Purposes meeting held on the 26th June 2013.

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

Members of the Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the (Advisory) Leisure & Amenities meeting held on the 24th July 2013.

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

FC13/65 Matters arising from the minutes to include issues log review - for information only.

(Borough Council) - Neale Way - overgrown hedge. Clerk met with Amey and Bedford Borough Council on 11th September who agreed to consider works to the hedgerow.

FC11/70 - Lack of disabled children's facilities. Ensure provision is included in the new community facilities. BBCllr Prescod to oversee.

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. Leave on file pending outcome of proposed works for Fields Road and the Cranfield/Bedford/Church/Fields Road junction.

(Borough Council) - Query with regard to weed control within the village. Clerk met with Amey and Bedford Borough Council on 11th September 2013 who agreed to consider works regarding weed control within the village.

FC11/145 - Education meeting. Clerk has chased the lower school re questionnaires. No further updates received. Cllr Wheeler has confirmed this is no longer relevant. 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. Clerk continues to chase.

FC12/74 - Allotments. Clerk is in receipt of all completed paperwork and the allotments officer is currently distributing new tenancy agreements.

FC12/78 - BMX course in Fields Road. Cllr Lloyd suggested approaching Persimmon to obtain soil to start the design - near the A421 flyover. Plan details remain ongoing.

FC12/104 - Public Access Defibrillator. Defibrillator now installed and the litter picker/handy man is undertaking the weekly and monthly checks. Clerk is waiting to hear about an awareness session to be provided by the Beds Fire & Rescue service.

FC12/107 - Bus Route 53. Clerk has received confirmation from Highways Department following their recent meeting that they are seeking to meet with the head of Stagecoach to push for this variation.

FC12/108 - s106 changes to Fields Road development. ME bid has been submitted but no further response received.

FC13/04 - Community Speedwatch scheme. Council members received a presentation at full council on the 9th January 2013 from members of the scheme. Volunteers are needed to operate the Speed Indicator Devices - to date, only one volunteer has come forward. No other volunteers have come forward.

FC13/66 To resolve to use The General Power of Competence.

The Clerk received advice from the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils ahead of the meeting that this resolution would have to be carried over until after the next elections.

Localism Act 2011 s1(1).

Action - Clerk to carry over as above.

FC13/67 To approve amendments to the Financial Regulations as agreed at the Extra Ordinary Finance meeting on 3rd July 2013 (EM13/03).

No further comments were received.

Audit Commission Act 1998.

Action - Clerk to amend as above.

FC13/68 To receive a report from the Clerk detailing the issues arising report from BDO.
No further comments were received.
Audit Commission Act 1998.

Action - Clerk to amend and publish as above.

FC13/69 To resolve whether to close the Communications Committee and transfer responsibility for the newsletter to Full Council.
After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Price and resolved by all present that the Committee be closed, and responsibility for the newsletter passed to Full Council.

Local Government Act 1972 s111 & Local Government Act 1972 s142.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

FC13/70 To receive a report from the Clerk with regard to insurance for the skate park.
The report was circulated ahead of the meeting, and it was proposed by Cllr Chalmers, seconded by Cllr Doggrell and resolved by all present that the Clerk finalise arrangements with regard to insurance and asset register issues.

Local Government Act 1972 s111.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

FC13/71 To receive a recommendation from Leisure & Amenities, with regard to replacing the existing adult goal posts at the recreation ground.
It was proposed by Cllr Wallace, seconded by Cllr Doggrell and resolved by all present to accept this recommendation.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

FC13/72 To receive the Income & Expenditure report for all cost centres, for 2013-14 to date.

No further comments were received.

Local Government Act 1972 s111.

FC13/73 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.

One member of the public left the meeting.

FC13/74 To receive a report from Cllr Lloyd and the Clerk with regard to additional CCTV cameras being placed at the recreation ground.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Wallace, seconded by Cllr Price and resolved by all present that the kick wall camera be repositioned to cover the skate park with no further amendments/additions.

Cllr Cruse recommended a back up for when the caretaker was unable to open/close the entrance gates. After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk ask the caretaker for definitive times as to when the entrance gates were opened/closed, and that she email all members to establish who could assist in the caretakers' absence. It was also recommended that the Clerk purchase a combination padlock for that gate. A discussion was then had with regard to signage, and it was agreed clarification would be sought at the next village hall committee meeting regarding suitable hours, to tie in also with the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area).

Local Government Rating Act 1997.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above once clarification has been obtained.

FC13/75 To receive a recommendation from Finance & General Purposes regarding the 2013/14 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks.

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Price and resolved by all present to accept this recommendation.

Local Government Act 1972 s112.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

FC13/76 To receive a recommendation from Leisure & Amenities, with regard to MUGA Invoices.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Price, seconded by Cllr Wheeler and resolved by all present that the Clerk send a letter on 1st October, to inform that legalities would be taken forward if payment as previously agreed was not received by Friday 11th October 2013.

Local Government Act 1972 s222.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

Meeting closed at 9.08pm

Chairman.....

Date.....