

# WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.10pm in the Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, Wootton.

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- Present.** Cllrs Quirk, Lloyd and Wheeler.  
The Clerk (Sue Playford) and the RFO (Sue Bolton).
- P12/11 Apologies for absence.**  
Cllr Rowse.
- P12/12 To elect Cllrs Chalmers and Price as members of the Planning Committee.**  
All present unanimously agreed to elect both as members of the Planning Committee.
- P12/13 Declarations of interest on any items on the agenda.**  
None.
- P12/14 Report from outside organisations.**  
None.
- P12/15 List of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).**  
The clerk read Peter Ackroyd's email, thanking all concerned for the prompt repairs undertaken to the metal railings at the cemetery opposite St. Mary's Church.
- Open Forum.**  
None.
- P12/16 Minutes of the meeting.**  
*Members of the planning committee are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012.*  
The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- P12/17 Matters arising from the minutes to include issues log review.**
- P11/47 - Overgrown alleyway Lorraine Road/Hoo Close. Clerk has suggested to the resident that she contact the Bedfordshire Community Payback scheme as they may undertake remedial works. The farmer would need to give permission - the resident will liaise with him.
- P11/51 - Changes to s106 Fields Road - open meeting held 27.7.11. Plans were passed on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012.
- P11/87 (4) - CA Traffic Ltd. Keep on file.
- P11/106 - Stagecoach's proposal to stop buses between Wootton and Cranfield. Unlikely to see any change now - move to close.
- P11/121 - Trees in Lorraine Road cemetery. The lime tree has had it's suckers cut away from the fence but the clerk has received a further complaint from a local resident saying that it should be crowned every 2 years. Clerk has informed the resident

that a tree survey has been undertaken, the report for which will determine whether further works are needed.

n/a - Overhanging trees in Wootton house. Pam Stephenson has taken a look and Philip Scott-Collins (Conservation officer BBC) will also visit and provide an update. Pamela has heard nothing more and will chase again.

P11/123 - Replacement lighting columns - Hall End Road. Allan Peacock have been awarded the job - further documentation was completed by the clerk on 26.1.12.

n/a - dead/fallen trees at the rec. Works completed and invoice received. Move to close.

n/a - poor state of land at the Fields Road/Bedford Road noticeboard. Works will take place in February 2012.

Open forum - positioning of dog mess bin in Keeley Lane. Due for discussion again in March 2012.

n/a - tree inspection. Bob Morwood is preparing a report, expected in February 2012.

P11/174 - continued closure of Footpath No 1. The clerk has written to the Secretary of State for transport, and Phil Clifton, Projects manager. No response to date. (Please note that Cllr Quirk will promote a scheme to encourage a greater response).

Cllr Quirk had originally proposed to highlight the footpath's continued closure by suggesting a Diamond Jubilee themed walk, which would have included this area. However, the clerk had since received an email from Allison Nelson which was circulated to all ahead of the meeting. After discussion it was resolved that the clerk contact the relevant people again to say that the footpath should still be opened as soon as possible, and that no plans have been received for a new bridleway.

**Action - Clerk to push for the old footpath to be opened regardless of the new proposed bridleway.**

n/a - request to site a dog bin along the footpath behind Lorraine Road. Clerk received a response from BBC to say there was no call for a bin in that area, and that the residents should keep a diary of events to help with a further future request.

n/a - light out in Studley Road/Lorraine Road alleyway. Request for a repair has been made to Highways - logged as 163718.

**P12/18**

**a Planning Applications.**

None.

**b Planning Approvals.**

**11/00536/FUL - Construction of an Access Road on Fields Road, Wootton.**

This council had previously recorded **AN OBJECTION**.

**11/01502/EIA - Hybrid application - Land North of Fields Road.**

This council had previously recorded **AN OBJECTION**.

**11/02514/FUL - 54 Tithe Barn Road - two storey side extension, single storey front, rear and side extension.**

This council had previously recorded AN OBJECTION.

**11/02529/FUL - Elmleigh, 33 Hall End Road - single storey rear extension and pitched roof over existing flat roof area. Chimney to side.**

This council had previously recorded NO OBJECTION.

**P12/19 To consider representation of the council at the planning meeting of Bedford Borough council discussing the above applications.**

Not applicable.

**P12/20 To request above applications be considered by the full Planning Committee of Bedford Borough council.**

Not applicable.

**P12/21 To discuss amendments to the current list of cemetery fees.**

Cllr Quirk referred to a list of cemetery fees which were circulated ahead of the meeting. Several amendments were made, and it was unanimously resolved that the amended list be put to full council on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 for ratification, adoption coming into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9&10.

LGA 1972 s214.

**Action - Clerk to undertake amendments and add to the full council agenda for ratification on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**

**P12/22 To discuss a report received from Bedford Borough council with regard to an overgrown hedge facing onto Neale Way.**

The issue of ownership remains unclear, a situation not dissimilar to the overgrowth and brook/ditch behind the Lorraine Road alleyway in the same area. After discussion it was resolved that this remain on file for the time being and the clerk will monitor both situations.

**P12/23 To receive a report from Cllr Quirk regarding a concrete lighting column in Canons Close.**

Cllr Quirk gave a brief history of the column and considered the crack not to be critical at this stage. Remedial works may be needed but not until 2014. He also mentioned the light at the junction of Cranfield/Church Road which is owned by BBC, which has been out for a number of years. A photograph was shown, which detailed tape binding the cracked concrete at the top of the pole. It was resolved that the Canons Close light be left for the time being, and that the clerk request the Cranfield/Church Road light to be given priority for remedial works.

**Action - Clerk to request no action with regard to the Canons Close light, but that the Cranfield/Church Road light be given priority.**

**P12/24 To receive a report from Cllr Quirk relating to the possible upgrade of street lighting in Tithe Barn Road in the coming financial year.**

Cllr Quirk reported that a sum of £27k had been earmarked in the 2012/13 precept for the purpose of upgrading the lights (including two additions) in Tithe Barn Road. He explained that Government had responsibility for primary lighting - motorways and the A421 for example. Bedford Borough and Wootton Parish Councils had responsibility for lighting

within the village, and he cited the Parish Councils Act 1957 s3 which gave the parish council the right to light roads and public places.

An upgrade proposal was passed around the table, containing an estimate of £26k. Cllr Quirk recommended that a professional design statement be the next course of action, at a cost of £200-£250. He suggested Andy Clark (Street Lighting & Electrical Steward for Bedfordshire Highways (Amey) provide such a report. With this, a design statement could be given to BBC who might consider adopting the scheme (although this remains undecided at this stage). The design statement would also enable the parish council to put a request for competitive tenders to undertake the work.

After discussion it was resolved that:

- The council request the design statement from Andy Clark at a cost of £200-£250 plus VAT.

**Parish Councils Act 1957 s3.**

**Action - Andy Clark to be advised accordingly.**

Cllr Quirk then reported that once the design statement was received, details would have to be given to F&GP and competitive tenders then sourced. The residents of Tithe Barn Road would also have the right to be consulted and pass comment.

**Meeting closed at 8.02pm**

Chairman.....

Date.....