



WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2013 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Miles Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr Andy Warner
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Len Seymour
Cllr Peter Loftus
Cllr Dave Parsons
Anni Morgan (Clerk)
Jane Carlin (New Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Trudie Lang

Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth
District Co Cllr Cottrell-Dormer
8 members of the public

1. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 14 May 2012 at 7:00pm:

Cllr Tuely welcomed all and opened the meeting at 7:05pm. There were no objections or amendments to the minutes of 14 May 2012 which were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Report by Chairman of Wootton Parish Council:

The report by Cllr Tuely noted the 6 council meetings plus the AGM. Four councillors had resigned and four new ones had been elected/co-opted. The clerk had also been replaced by Jane Carlin. Miles Tuely became chairman.

Regarding financial matters the balance brought forward to the 1st April 2012 was £7,899.52 with fixed assets of £59,000. Income for the year totalled £42,035.68 with expenditure of £55,320.42. The significant difference is explained by the setting up of a 'restricted funds' account for special projects and the recovery of VAT. The fund now stands at £5,670.63.

The special projects completed during the year were: Marquee for Jubilee, £771.00. Zipwire, £5,100.20. Village hall roof, £9,801.38. Mower, £8,420.00. VAT has been recovered on three of these items. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Naqvi for their generosity without which these projects would not have been carried out.

Items of interest: a project for teenagers is being discussed with particular emphasis on sport. An increased precept of £8,000 has been agreed with WODC. The pub has been sold to new and, so far, very satisfactory operators. Six planning applications were approved. The village hall was re-roofed. A new mower was acquired for the playing fields and a zipwire was installed on the playing fields.

The Chairman would like to thank all the councillors for their work, noting particularly the four who had stepped down, and the outgoing clerk, Anni Morgan, for her great support and diligence. Also, thanks must go to the village organisations, RFO Rick Adams and our internal auditor Phil Parker.

3. Presentation by our Community Police Officer:

Phil Workman's report for WPC, showed 10 reported crimes/non crime incidents from April 2012-13, that's 10 down from last year. Non crime incident/domestic (5). Theft of/from motor vehicle (2). Burglary dwelling (1). Assault (1). Fraud (1).

He also updated us on the neighbourhood team which has had various changes recently, with a new Sergeant starting, Carl Goodman and an Inspector called Louise Roddy.

Thames Valley Police in partnership with WODC are carrying out an initiative where certain garages are fitting **tamper-proof screws** to vehicle number plates to help prevent them from being stolen. Fitted free of charge. Sportif Suzuki in Long Hanborough is the nearest garage.

Home security is especially important during the warmer months, remember to lock windows, doors and sheds, consider a time-switch for lights when if away on holiday.

Scrap metal collectors are still busy in the area, often collecting illegally, without a waste collectors licence. **Phone 101(non-emergency line) if you suspect a vehicle or person acting suspiciously.**

And lastly, by signing up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk you will receive alerts to crimes or crime reduction information. Cllr Tuely mentioned 'dogwatch' another similar crime alert. The more people that sign up the better.

4. Presentations by village organisations:

Wootton Stores: **Susie Smith** explained that the precept would be used to fund the very well used Parcel Box & Daily collection by the Royal Mail. The stores have had a good year so far, introducing new products, and some cheaper lines, as well as the locally farmed and butchered meat. The fruit and vegetable delivery every Friday is a great success. However, donations from gardens and allotments during the summer months will be more than welcome.

Wootton C of E Primary School: **Dr Jonathan Reynolds, Chair of Governors,** thanked the WPC for its continuing financial support, and went on to explain for a variety of reasons, why the past six months have been extremely challenging.

Building repairs and school relocation: The school was forced to relocate earlier in the year, due to several deep cracks that developed in rafters in the exposed roof space above the Acorns classroom. Instruction to begin repairs will begin shortly, it is critical the work is complete by September. Marlborough School generously welcomed the children for a period before Easter, but now a temporary school has been created behind the Burditch Hall. This agreement with the Playing Field Committee expires at the start of August. **OFSTED:** A statutory Inspection was carried out on 25-26 April, at the playing field site! The final report is imminent. The school received a judgement of 'Outstanding' in its SIAS Diocesan Inspection earlier in the year. **Finance:** The school has 64 pupils, leaving it in a much more comfortable position, due to the increase in pupil numbers. The typical budgeted income and expenditure for the school remains in the order of £1/3mn and , this year, will broadly balance.

Outreach: **Neil Scott, the Treasurer,** reported that total income was £2,796; expenditure was £2,557. The re-opening on the Killingworth Castle in December has proved lucrative, in that their quiz nights have been very successful, and all proceeds are donated to Outreach, which have been very welcome. Thanks and appreciation went to the work of Joan Hall and also to the WPC for their continued support and help.

Playing Field: **Ann Day, Chair,** paid the WPC the rent of £1 for 2013-2014. Ann reported on what a great addition the new zip wire in the play corner is, and how well the new mower is working. The PFMC thank Kip for all his maintenance work in the field. The football pitch is being used regularly by Wootton Sport, Oxford City Academy and for Super Soccer Sunday. Due to bad weather the ROSPA inspection in December was cancelled and has now been re-arranged for July.

Village Hall: **Joy Pomfret, Administrator,** gave feed-back on the success of the major Village Hall roof replacement. She thanked WPC for their help with the roof, all are delighted with the result, and it is much warmer! New lighting on the porch is complete, and plans are in place for a new path outside, and re-sealing of the hall floor. **An energy audit** is planned for the Hall, as the Committee are working hard constantly trying to improve things. However, it was stressed, that the Committee are keen to keep the hall in its traditional 1930s style. The VH have just passed their 50 'talks' mark, and have raised over £30,000, since they started over 4 years ago. Joy did mention the school currently not using the hall had made a difference to the hire income, and was looking forward to the children returning.

Wootton Conservation Trust: **The Chairman's report for 2012** remembered Ron Just, a founder trustee and treasurer, who sadly died last year. The WCT are very grateful to his friends and relatives who made a generous collection for the Trust at his funeral – with this there are plans to replace the information boards. **Philip Parker will report on the guidance from the Charity Commission** that enables trusts such as WCT to convert to limited liability status, to make it possible to change trustees without the need to convey land ownership between retiring and new trustees. **Agricultural subsidy:** the existing management agreement with Natural England comes to an end in September 2013 and an application has been made to enter the Environmental Stewardship Scheme. **The usual Annual Returns** have been made to the Charity Commission and to EnTrust. Following annual returns to English Nature, the WCT have continued to receive annual and capital grants.

Land Management has been exceptionally difficult with the worst flooding in living memory, causing posts to rot, a bridge closed for the safety of the public, and cattle moved from the wet land to the top of the meadow. Cattle have also escaped onto the road twice this year, so replacement of the fence would be prudent. Wychwood Project volunteers made a start on hedge laying in November, by the main gate. WCT have the volunteers to thank for keeping the meadows in good order.

PCC: Rev Stephen Jones thanked the WPC for its financial help and concern for the Church. **The PCC are facing financial difficulties**, relying heavily on the goodwill and generosity of our communities. However, they are in good spirits, and the faithful are working hard to ensure the Church is open for Prayer and Worship, and that the Churchyard and the Clock are well-maintained. Congregations have kept up well during the year, and new faces have been welcomed. **'Messy Church'** usually held on a Monday, once a month, after school, entertains around 20-30 children, plus parents. Christian themed activities, plus the 'Messy Church Café' are helping all to understand Christian values.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm.

The date of next Annual Parish meeting is Monday 12 May 2014 at 7pm. The meeting will be followed immediately by the Meeting of Wootton Parish Council

Anni Morgan
Clerk, Wootton Parish Council