

Miles

## WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Meeting held on Monday 14 May 2012 at 7pm in the Village Hall

#### PRESENT

Paul James (Chairman)  
Cllr David Parsons  
Cllr Andy Warner  
Cllr Len Seymour  
Cllr Peter Loftus  
Cllr Trudie Lang  
Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth  
Sarah Willcox (outgoing Clerk)  
Anni Morgan (incoming Clerk)

#### APOLOGIES

Cllr Miles Tuely

Eight members of the public

**1. Approval of Minutes of 9 May 2011:** Paul James, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7pm. There were no objections or amendments to the minutes of 9 May 2011 which were unanimously approved and signed by PJ (AW prop; DP sec).

**2. Report by Chairman of Wootton Parish Council (1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012):**

The report by Paul James noted the 6 council meetings and 3 extraordinary over the year, and the unchanged number of councillors (7) and freelance Clerk. Regarding *financial affairs*, the balance brought forward to 1 April 2011 was £5,886.15 with fixed assets of £57,863.57. Income totals £23,619.65 and expenditure £8,319.54. The closing balance at 31.3.12 for the combined accounts stood at £21,184.26. This significant change is due to the setting up of a new 'restricted funds' account in order to manage specific projects, for example Village Hall roof repairs and eventual VAT reclaim. Excluding this fund the c/f to 2012 is £3,034.26. Last year's audit (10/11) was successfully approved. *Items of interest* included Crime (a spate of burglaries committed by same offender); Potholes (mostly completed); Planning (8 applications were approved, a new bridleway was agreed); Killingworth Castle (Greene King currently has an offer from a purchaser intending to run it as a pub); Affordable Housing (Marriott Close completed and inhabited), Group Purchasing (noting Chris Pomfret's valuable contribution) and Elections (on 3 May 2012 6 new Cllrs elected uncontested; 1 remains to be co-opted). The report concluded with the Chairman's thanks to village organisations, RFO Ric Adams, internal auditor Phil Parker, County and District colleagues, the Clerk, as well as fellow Cllrs who stepped down after 4 years support, with particular thanks to Joan Thomas for 16 years of contribution. In stepping down he also mentioned his own enjoyable 8 years as Cllr and Chairman and believed that the outgoing Council is passing on an efficient administration. A summary of the report can also be read in Outreach.

*M. C. Tuely*

The Chairman also read a report from **PC Workman** on offences in the past year: 4 burglary dwellings; 4 burglary non-dwellings; 1 criminal damage; 4 thefts; 2 vehicle crimes, 1 assault. He noted that metal thefts, including roof lead, are on the increase. A new telephone number, 101, has been created to report incidents or concerns.

### 3. Presentations by village organisations:

**Wootton Stores:** Peter Olesen noted that the precept would be spent on the mail and parcel pick-up service, well used by villagers, which has gone up to £650. The Stores are operating satisfactorily; refrigeration, for example, may need replacing in the future.

**Wootton C of E Primary School:** Dr Jonathan Reynolds, Chair of Governors, thanked the WPC for its continuing financial support. The school is £16k worse off for 2012/13 than in the previous year due to a reduction in per pupil funding by the Govt. However, annual funding comes from the Parrott and Lee Educational Trust, which in 2012 is £15k, and current fundraising is approaching £6k. The school has 59 pupils. Enough money has been accrued in the past 5 years to enable refurbishment in the Oaks classroom.

**Outreach:** Neil Scott, the Treasurer, reported that total income was £2,776; expenditure was £2,685. Chairman PJ described the voluntarily run magazine as "valuable to the parish".

**Playing Field:** Ann Day, Chair, paid the WPC the rent of £1 for 2012-2013. She reported the success of the 2011 Feast on 1 October; that Kev Grant had replanted part of the front hedge; that Mr Wagstaffe's extension had been completed within his boundary; that £2,600 had been raised for the Play Corner; and that Mr Chesterman had been asked to move his heating flue which was crossing the boundary. Finally she noted the continuing work towards the Jubilee celebrations (on 2 and 4 June) and requested the balance for the hire of the marquee at £771.

**Village Hall:** Joy Pomfret, Administrator, described a good year for the hall in terms of bookings. Every age uses it, particularly the School. The Hall committee has worked hard, particularly Andy Morgan and his talks. Major improvements in the past year included lighting and electrics. Roof repair will take place in August. She thanked the PC for its grant of £1600, applying for Planning Permission and setting up the special account, and the Naqvis for their donation. Mr Reynolds said that the School "would not survive without the hall".

**PCC:** Rev Stephen Jones thanked the WPC for its precept of £650 which goes towards the maintenance of the churchyard and clock. He noted good congregations, a successful Messy Church and a good link with the School through church services. Two working parties had successfully cleared ivy. Cllr DP noted how well maintained the churchyard looked.

**Wootton Relief in Need** presented its balance sheet y/e Dec 2011.

4. Any other business: The Chairman noted the progress of the Olympic torch through Blenheim and Woodstock on 9 July. The meeting ended at 7.52pm.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 13 May 2013 at 7pm.

*Sarah Willcox (Clerk), Wootton Parish Council*