

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM IN THE OLD SCHOOL, NEW ROAD, WOOTTON
BRIDGE.

Present Councillor Daryll Pitcher – Chair
 Councillor Barbara Port – Vice-chair
 Councillors Barry Abraham, Linda Pitcher, Dave Burley, Trish Evans, Lee Lemon,
 Christopher Cory and Barrie Hailstone

Also present 1 Members of the Public
 0 Member of the press
 Liz Kingston - Parish Clerk

Items raised in the Open Forum:

Concerns were raised about the speed in village.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

21/111. Councillor Ward as he had a family matter to deal with

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21/112. None

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

21/113. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21
SEPTEMBER 2021 WERE APPROVED AND DULY SIGNED.

4. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT AND TO AGREE ANY
ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

21/114. Facilities Update

A report was given to the councillors (appendix A).

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK BE GIVEN THE PERMISSION TO DEAL WITH USING
BRANNONS AS A COMMUNITY HUB AND THAT THE CLERK HAS DISCRETION ON
HIRE FEES PROVIDING THAT THE OVERALL COST IS NEUTRAL TO THE PARISH
COUNCIL.

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK LOOK AT COSTS WITH REGARDS TO THE
CUTTING BACK OF SHRUBS, PLANTING OF A WILD FLOWERS AND REPLACING
DEAD BUSHES/SHRUBS AT WOOTTON BRIDGE RECREATION GROUND

RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK INVESTIGATES DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR THE
PATH AT THE RECREATION AND OBTAINS COSTS.

21/115. Quarterly Report for the Post office

The Post Office has averaged 29 customers per week over the last 8 weeks, even
allowing for one week when the equipment failed.

21/116. To appoint a trustee to St Edmunds Church

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL APPOINTS COUNCILLOR LINDA
PITCHER AS THE TRUSTEE TO ST EDMUNDS CHURCH BUILDING TRUST

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:-

21/117. 21/01859/FUL

Land and Barns at rear of 161 High Street, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4LZ

Demolition of barns; construction of two bungalows with access and parking
RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO
APPLICATION 21/01859/FUL

21/01912/HOU

157 High Street, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4LZ

Demolition of front and side porch; proposed single storey rear/side extension (revised scheme)

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING
APPLICATION 21/01912/HOU

21/118. Decisions made by the Isle of Wight Council

None

21/119. Tree Preservation Orders

21/01027/TW – PGL Little Canada, New Road, Wootton Bridge - Approved

T12 Willow – remove, T31 Oak – remove, T53 Ash – remove

21/01472/TW – 46 St Edmunds Walk, Wootton Bridge - Approved

T1 Ash – pollard approx. 5m to deal with possibility of it contracting Hymenoscyphus frax. and to prevent failure onto nearby houses

T2 Alder – coppice/pollard at approx. 1m to regenerate

T3 Oak – pollard at approx. 4m to retain and reduce completion with adjacent oaks.

T4 Ash – remove/reduce over extended limbs and dead wood.

21/01529/TW – Little Copse, Wootton Bridge – Refused

To fell Oak tree.

21/120. Appeal

20/01959/6PA – Oakdene Nurseries, Packsfield Lane, Wootton Bridge

Agricultural Prior Notification for new agricultural building

6. MONTHLY REPORT OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ISSUES AFFECTING THE VILLAGE

21/121. Report by local member.

Councillor D Pitcher provided a written report, (appendix B) for the meeting. Issues raised included:

- Island Roads have been busy with speed surveys, line painting clearing gutters, weeding and clearing all blocked drains in New Road
- Cllr. Phil Jordan has been and looked at New Road and has agreed to support pushing the project forward.

Councillor Hailstone asked that a letter be sent to Island Roads requesting that the roads in the parish be repaired/resurfaced as they are all in a bad state.

7. IWALC REPORT

21/122. The minutes of the last meeting were circulated to all councillors.

8. ACCOUNTS.

21/123. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment for October

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT FOR OCTOBER TOTALLING £8021.02, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX C OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

21/124. To receive the report on the external audit.

The external auditor carried out a thorough check on the accounts and found no cause for concern.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

21/125. Councillor Cory provided a written report on the AONB AGM (appendix D). The main points were that AONB areas can only be changed by statute and this is not likely to happen anytime soon. It was recommended to look at a Village Plan to protect countryside area. Concerns were raised over the Community Centre and the lack of community spirit.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed

Date

Report from the Facilities Working Group held 12th October 2021

Brannons

It was agreed that using Brannons as a community hub would be a good use of the space. We are aware of several groups that are potentially interested in using it as such to hold meetings, meet-ups, outreach services and so on. We recommend that the Clerk be given permission to coordinate this. On the subject of costs and hire fees we suggest the Clerk be given discretion to make the decision on a case by case basis based on two factors:

1. The value to the community offered by the user.
2. That the overall running of Brannons should be cost neutral to Wootton Bridge Parish Council.

Recreation Ground

Pathway: It was suggested that the specifications sent to us by the Isle of Wight Council would not produce the type of path we want to see. It would potentially create a loose surface rather than a hard one as envisioned. We recommend further investigation of options and potential costs.

Public Toilets: Progress on this was noted. We are waiting on drawing to come back so that costs can be estimated. It was noted that we don't want a bland box but something more interesting.

CCTV: An issue was raised concerning the safety of the toilet building given its relative shielded position. A proposal to investigate CCTV to cover the new toilet but also the play area, scout hut and the rear entrance to the school was made. With these facilities all being adjacent to one another and the potential for problems being focused in a defined area CCTV could offer extra security. Such CCTV could run remotely and probably feed back into the Parish Councils existing system.

Shrubs and Wildflowers: The need to infill the shrub planning of the village green was noted as was the proposal for a wildflower meadow in the corner facing the car park behind Church Road. The suggest that the Isle of Wight Council and Care in the Garden be approached regarding potential costs for the initial work and the case of the meadow the long term maintenance.

Village Green Signage: The poor condition and out of date nature of these was noted. The suggestion was that they could be replaced by WBPC notice boards instead. This would have added benefit as the notice board opposite the Cedars has gone yellow/faded and needs replacing. Instead we could abandon that location and just put a new board on the entrance to the Rec in such a way that both users of the park and passersby would see it. This would actually provide greater benefit than the current location.

History Signage

It was suggested that various parts of village history could be marked with signs explaining the location and what had been there or happened there. This could be tied in with the Walks leaflets which already encompass much of the needed information.

Report from the Local Member October 2021

Island Roads are in the process of carrying out speed surveys around the village. I know of a number of roads they have done so far including my own, Norman Way. These surveys are to collect the data for a report on road speed that should be published in about six months' time.

Island Roads have also been busy line painting through the village recently with many junctions renewed.

Island Roads have been out clearing gutters and pavements of weeds. They have been using the non-invasive methods such as using a hoe rather than chemicals.

During the past month I have had the chance to meet with Cllr. Phil Jordan the Cabinet Member for Transport regarding New Road. I explained the current situation and we went and looked at various aspects. He can see put the dire need for the road to be rebuilt and the issues with the logistics of the project and the need to maintain access for Woodside during works. He has agreed to support pushing the project forward and promised to take this up with the IW Council Highways staff and Island Roads.

Following my own investigations and subsequent prompting Island Roads have now been and properly cleared all the blocked drains on New Road.

The Cabinet meeting scheduled for last Thursday was cancelled at short notice. It has been rearranged for next Monday. This is when a decision will be made on Ryde Interchange.

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
Payments for Approval at Meeting on 19th October 2021

Island Cleaning Solutions - Public Toilets Cleaning July		£893.60
Clearview Cleaning - Village Square Sept		£112.50
Clearview Cleaning - Village Square Aug		£100.00
Groundsell Contracting Ltd - 2 x cut in July		£720.00
HP Instant Ink - August		£3.49
Isle of Wight Council - enviironmental officer		£728.00
Isle of Wight Council - recreation ground		£2,307.60
Chris Attrill - Windown Cleaner August		£17.00
PKF Littlejohn - Audit		£360.00
Focus Plumbing - Remove Basin etc in Accessible Toilet		£538.40
Sage Payroll	DD	£8.40
Business Stream - HIC Water Monthly	DD	£5.00
Wightfibre - HIC Phone & Broadband	DD	£45.08
Salaries as Minute E49&E50	SO	£1,452.04
IWC Pension Conts		£428.74
HMRC - Tax & NI		£301.17
October Total		£8,021.02

AONB AGM, October 12th, 2021.

The formal meeting featured a presentation on the history of the IOW AONB and the projects it is currently pursuing. The boundary of the IOW AONB was determined by act of Parliament in 1963. Land between Whippingham and Wootton was originally to be included, but was omitted from the final version of the act. Variations to the AONB can therefore only be made through changes to the act. Natural England, who would be responsible for recommending any changes to the AONB, are not looking at the IOW at present and therefore the prospect of extending the land designated as AONB in the Wootton area is virtually nonexistent.

Plans to designate the south west portion of the Island as a Dark Skys Park have been delayed by issues over street lighting in Brighstone. It is believed those issues have been overcome and the plan is going forward.

The AONB steering group hope and believe that the Island's designation as a Biosphere can be used to encourage eco-tourism and are working with partners, including in France, to that end.

As is often the case, the most interesting conversations took place informally outside the meeting. I had discussions with several members of the AONB Steering Group and representatives of the Forestry Commission and the County Archaeology Dept.

Much of the discussion related to the tension between protection of the countryside and the pressure to build new dwellings on the IOW. It seems unlikely that we will be able to designate the land surrounding Wootton in order to protect it from development. I was asked whether we had a Village Plan in place, as this could provide some protection from unwanted development going forward. I said that we did have a Housing Survey which we planned to update. Whether the latter proves to be an effective substitute for the former is something time alone will tell.

I also had discussions regarding tree planting and the development of Folkestone Harbour, which is an excellent example of regeneration in a coastal setting, that could, potentially, be replicated on the IOW. It would seem that there is considerable help and expertise out there for councils who want to be proactive in improving their town.

Cllr Chris Cory

October 18th, 2021.