

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM IN THE OLD SCHOOL, NEW ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.**

**Present** Councillor Barrie Hailstone – Chair  
Councillor Linda Pitcher – Vice-chair  
Councillors Barry Abraham, Trish Evans, Lee Lemon, Dave Burley, and Ian Yeo

**Also present** 6 Members of the Public  
0 Member of the press  
Liz Kingston - Parish Clerk  
Lorna Morey – Assistant Parish Clerk

**Items raised in the Open Forum:**

Cllr Hailstone apologised to Cllr Pitcher after the behaviour at the September meeting. He stressed the importance of councillors reading all email correspondence from the Clerks so they would be fully informed and know everything that would be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

**1. CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

**23/134.** There is a vacancy on the Parish Council and three people applied, Steve Porter, Terry O'Brien and Alastair Dolan. They have sent in application letters which were sent to the Councillors before the meeting. All made a statement and the Councillors voted via ballot. The first vote was Terry 3, Steve 3 and Alistair 1 which meant Alistair was eliminated. The second vote was Terry 4 and Steve 3.

**RESOLVED – THAT THE NEW COUNCILLOR CO-OPTED IS TERRY O'BRIEN. COUNCILLOR TERRY O'BRIEN SIGNED HIS ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.**

**2. ABSENCE**

**23/135.** Councillor Ward

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**23/136.** None

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**23/137.** **RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 WERE APPROVED AND DULY SIGNED.**

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

**23/138. To discuss and decide on which level of Cyber Insurance cover to take or not.**

The quotes were sent to the councillors before the meeting.

**RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD TAKE OUT CYBER INSURANCE COVER AT A PREMIUM OF £320.32**

**23/139. To discuss the community speed watch**

**RESOLVED – THAT THE CLERK WOULD SPEAK TO FRESHWATER AND NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCILS TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO HOW SPEEDWATCH IS RUN AND HOW VOLUNTEERS ARE PROTECTED.**

**23/140. To discuss and decide on the next step with regards to taking over the recreation ground**

**RESOLVED - THAT THE CLERK WOULD SEND OUT A REPORT WHEN SHE HAD THE FIGURES FROM THE COUNCIL.**

**23/141. To discuss the possibility of partial funding of an enforcement officer via the Isle of Wight Council.**

RESOLVED - THAT THE CLERK WOULD WAIT UNTIL THE IOW COUNCIL PLANNING DEPARTMENT HAD PROVIDED THE REQUESTED INFORMATION.

**23/142. To decide on the grant application from Citizens Advice Isle of Wight**

RESOLVED - THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD GRANT £1000 TO CITIZENS ADVICE.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

**To comment on the following applications:-**

**23/143. 23/01599/FUL**

12 Station Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4QU

Demolition of garage; Proposed dwelling with parking and alterations to vehicular access; formation of new vehicular access and parking for existing dwelling (revised scheme)

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION 23/01599/FUL

23/01612/HOU

7 Palmers Road, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4NA

Demolition of side extension; Proposed single storey rear extension; new pitched roof over existing flat roof areas

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION 23/01612/HOU

**23/144. Decisions made by the Isle of Wight Council**

23/01230/HOU – Approved – 86 Station Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4RE.

23/01363/HOU – Approved – 87 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge PO33 4NR.

23/01930/FUL – Refused – Warwick Rise, New Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4JL.

23/01463/FUL – Approved – Reynards Boarding Kennels, Palmers Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4NF

**23/145. Tree Preservation Orders**

None

**23/146. Appeal**

None

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

**23/147. Report by local member.**

Councillor Sarah Redrup provided a written report for the meeting, (see appendix A). Issues raised included:

- The Draft Island Planning Strategy will be going to the January 2024 full council for approval. They will be scheduling an additional scrutiny meeting in December so councillors will be able to see it ahead of January.
- Ryde will be one of 55 towns across the U.K. to receiving £20 million over 10 years to invest in regeneration – Wootton should benefit from this too.
- Cllr Jordan hopes to set up “working groups” where all Councillors will be invited to sit on to help direct policy alongside the Cabinet Member - they will likely follow these four areas: budget, housing, adult services and children's services.
- Wightlink User Group (WUG) - an independent group set up in November 2022 to put pressure on Wightlink to improve their services - they are particularly concerned about transport for patients who are going to mainland hospitals for treatment.
- The Isle of Wight Council's Trading Standards team have been rolling out training and awareness raising to help people protect themselves from scams. They are looking for Parish Councils, Community Groups and Businesses to help raise awareness in their communities.

8. ACCOUNTS

**23/148. 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 £15676.30, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX B OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

9. CHAIRS REPORT

**23/149. Report from the Chair**

Councillor Hailstone provided a verbal report for the meeting. Issues raised included:

- Meeting with Wage – concerns about lack of health reports which he wants brought to the IOW Council's attention.
- Attended the Whippingham Parish Meeting – made to feel very welcome and councillors understood the issue about the Gravel Extraction and were supportive of our objections.
- New Road Repairs – concerned that they are putting tarmac directly onto the soil surface.
- Police Commissioner – he will write to the police commissioner and bring to their attention the fact that nothing has been done about the defibrillator vandalism.
- Recreation ground gate – this is IOW Council's responsibility.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

**23/150.** Cllr Pitcher – Open day at St Edmunds Church which was quite successful and raised £250 for the Church. There was no movement with the Church Close community centre. She raised the issue of getting name tags and the Clerk will organise.

Cllr Burley – Asked the Clerks to inquire about the overgrown foliage at St Edmunds Walk

Cllr Lemon - brought up that the playground equipment has been damaged. The clerk responded that this has been flagged with the IOW Council.

Cllr Evans - mentioned that the benches at Pump Lane might need looking at and suggested we employ a handyman but the Clerk said that we do already have a casual handyman.

Cllr Abraham - the path at Sloop Lane was overgrown again. The Clerk said she will report again to IR. He also mentioned the boat at Mill Square which the Clerk is currently trying to get removed.

The 4 planters outside the shops on the High Street – they were part of Phase 1 development and will be added to our asset register. It was suggested that Care in the Garden may be able to help with the upkeep of the planters.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.53 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....

## **Cllr Sarah Redrup – Member Report October 2023**

### **Draft Island Planning Strategy**

The Draft Island Planning Strategy will be going to the January 2024 full council for approval. It was due to be on the agenda for November, however it has been pushed back. However, they will be scheduling an additional scrutiny meeting in December so councilors will be able to see it ahead of January. Once I know more, I will report to the Parish Council.

### **Levelling Up Funding for Ryde**

You may have seen in the news that the government has announced that Ryde will be one of 55 towns across the U.K. to receiving £20 million over 10 years to invest in regeneration. Although Wootton falls out of that area, many Wootton residents work in Ryde, shop in Ryde, go to the GP in Ryde etc. I will be keeping a close eye on the progress of this funding and the set-up of the “Town Board” and signpost Wootton Residents if there are opportunities to give input or feedback on how the money will be spent.

### **New Leader of the Council and Committee Changes**

Cllr Phil Jordan was elected as leader of the council at the last Full Council Meeting. He has now announced his new committee which has seen some changes:

- **Cllr Phil Jordan** - Leader/Transport and Infrastructure
- **Cllr Ian Stephens** - Deputy Leader/Housing and Finance
- **Cllr Jonathan Bacon** - Education and Corporate Services
- **Cllr Debbie Andre** - Adult Social Care and Public Health
- **Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox** - Climate Change and Biosphere
- **Cllr Julie Jones-Evans** - Leisure and Regeneration (unchanged)
- **Cllr Karen Lucioni** - Community Safety and waste (unchanged)
- **Cllr Paul Fuller** - Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding (unchanged)

Cllr Jordan has also announced that he hopes to set up “working groups” where all Councillors will be invited to sit on to help direct policy alongside the Cabinet Member. These are still in the process of being worked out, but they will likely follow these four areas: budget, housing, adult services and children's services. I think these working groups will be a great way to help encourage cross-party working and allow more Councillors to voice the concerns and thoughts of the residents of their ward.

I have also been appointed to the following committees: Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing Committee. The other three Liberal Democrat Councillors are Chairs of the Audit and Governance Committee, Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, and Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care.

### **Wightlink User Group Meeting**

Last month I went along to the Wightlink User Group (WUG) Meeting, an independent group set up in November 2022 to put pressure on Wightlink to improve their services. I was really impressed by the research that the group has done so far, they are particularly concerned about transport for patients who are going to mainland hospitals for treatment. There are more changes coming that will see more and more treatment being offered on the mainland. The WUG have written a report into patient experiences and identified areas that need to be addressed particularly around transport connectivity

and affordability. The WUG are looking for more people to join their group so if any Wootton Residents are particularly interested in this, I would encourage them to get in touch.

I am pleased to say, however, that I met with Neil Chapman (Hovertravel Managing Director) last week and he is being very proactive on this issue. He and his team are investigating ways that Hovertravel can help patients by using their influence to negotiate better bus timetable connections between Southsea and Portsmouth Queen Alexandra Hospital. They have reached out to the hospital leadership to see how they can better support Staff who travel between the IOW and Mainland too. If any residents have personal experience of travelling to hospital appointments as a foot passenger, Neil Chapman is very keen to hear what you think might help improve the experience. Please do get in touch with me if you would like me to pass this feedback on to him.

#### **IWASP - Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership**

The Isle of Wight Council's Trading Standards team have been rolling out training and awareness raising to help people protect themselves from scams. In a presentation to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee this month, they informed us that they have seen a rise in scams since Covid and they can come in all shapes and forms targeting individuals and businesses alike. They are looking for Parish Councils, Community Groups and Businesses to help raise awareness in their communities. I would like to encourage any resident to get in touch with me if they would like to find out more about IWASP and accessing help and support.

**WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Payments for Approval at Meeting on 17 October 2023**

**October 2023**

|                                                          |    |          |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|----------|------------------|
| Chris Attrill - Window Cleaner Oct                       |    | £        | 19.00            |
| Island Cleaning Solutions - Public Toilets Cleaning Sept |    | £        | 884.83           |
| Clearview Cleaning - Parish Square Sept                  |    | £        | 112.50           |
| Gallagher Insurance                                      |    | £        | 1,588.26         |
| Wight Computers - domain name 1 yr                       |    | £        | 15.59            |
| Ability Dogs 4 Young People Grant - minute 23/120        |    | £        | 200.00           |
| Wight Fire & Security                                    |    | £        | 120.00           |
| Community Action Isle of Wight - Post Office             |    | £        | 500.00           |
| Isle of Wight Council - Recreation Ground                |    | £        | 6,514.80         |
| Isle of Wight Council - Environment Officer              |    | £        | 2,373.00         |
|                                                          |    |          |                  |
| HP Instant Ink - Printer Ink                             | DD | £        | 9.99             |
| Sage Payroll                                             | DD | £        | 9.60             |
| Business Stream - HIC Water Monthly                      | DD | £        | 3.00             |
| Wightfibre - HIC Phone & Broadband                       | DD | £        | 44.83            |
|                                                          |    |          |                  |
| Salaries as Minute E49, E50, E52 & E54                   | SO | £        | 2,328.53         |
| IWC Pension Conts                                        |    | £        | 725.17           |
| HMRC - Tax & NI                                          |    | £        | 227.20           |
|                                                          |    |          |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                             |    | <b>£</b> | <b>15,676.30</b> |