

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 PM IN THE OLD SCHOOL, NEW ROAD,
WOOTTON BRIDGE.**

Present Councillor Barrie Hailstone – Chair
 Councillor Linda Pitcher – Vice-Chair
 Councillors Trish Evans, Lee Lemon, Sarah Redrup, Ian Yeo and Barry
 Abraham

Also present 1 Member of the Public
 0 Member of the press
 Liz Kingston – Parish Clerk
 Lorna Morey – Assistant Parish Clerk

Items raised in the Open Forum: NONE

1. **ABSENCE**

24/001. Councillor Ward

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

24/002. None

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2023**

24/003. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12
 DECEMBER 2023 WERE APPROVED AND DULY SIGNED.

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

24/004. Discuss and decide on the Precept for 2024/2025

 Documents were emailed, (see appendix A), to the Councillors prior to the
 meeting and a discussion took place. The view was that the suggested precept
 of £92,000 was acceptable, allowing for the current reserves.

 RESOLVED – AGREED THAT THE PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025 WOULD BE
 £92000.

24/005. To agree to go to co-option and start the process.

 This was noted. The vacancies will be advertised from Friday 19 January 2024
 until Tuesday 13 February 2024.

**24/006. Discuss and decide on whether to celebrate the 80th anniversary of
 the D-Day Landing.**

 A discussion took place about different options.

 RESOLVED – THAT A WORKING PARTY WILL BE FORMED TO DISCUSS
 THE D-DAY ANNIVERSARY. THIS WILL INCLUDE COUNCILLORS REDRUP,
 PITCHER, ABRAHAM AND EVANS.

5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

To comment on the following applications:-

24/007. 23/02082/HOU

 Outlook, Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4JR

 Proposed first floor extension

 RESOLVED - THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO
 PLANNING APPLICATION 23/02082/HOU

23/02136/FUL

Dolphin Boat House, Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4JR

Scheme of maintenance for 65m timber defence (revised scheme)

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION 23/02136/FUL SUBJECT TO CONCERNS RAISED BY RIGHTS OF WAY AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACCESS MAINTAINED DURING WORKS, THE PATH KEPT OPEN AND PROPERLY REINSTATED AFTER THE WORKS.

23/02155/FUL

43 Church Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4PX

Proposed alterations to convert garage to bedroom; single storey side extension to form a beauty salon.

RESOLVED – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS TO THIS PLANNING APPLICATION:

1. THE NEARNESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT TO THE BOUNDARY OF NUMBER 41.
2. CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE HOURS OF BUSINESS SO AS NOT TO CAUSE A NUISANCE TO RESIDENTS.

23/02235/HOU

Fairlight, Lower Woodside Road, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4JT

Retention of balcony on North West elevation and 2 French doors to lower ground North West elevation

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION 23/02235/HOU.

24/008. Decisions made by the Isle of Wight Council

23/01953/FUL – Approved – Cressida, Red Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4PQ.

23/01532/FUL – Approved – 37-39 High Street, Wootton Bridge PO33 4LU.

24/009. Tree Preservation Orders Granted

23/01803/TW – Rose Cottage, Red Road. Wootton Bridge PO33 4PH

T1 Ash – ash tree (with ash die back) – re-pollard to previous pollarding points.

24/010. Appeal

None

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

24/011. Report from the Isle of Wight Council Local member.

Councillor Redrup provided a written report, (see appendix B). Topics raised included the following:

- Draft Island Planning Strategy has been postponed again.
- Boxing Day swim in sewage
- Winter short breaks program
- 2024/2025 Budget Consultation

8. ACCOUNTS

24/012. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment for January.

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT FOR JANUARY £6044.92, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX C OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

9. CHAIRS REPORT

24/013. Report from the Chair

Councillor Hailstone provided a written report. (see appendix D). Issues raised included:

- The Police Commissioner complaint has achieved results and the defibrillator incident is being looked into.
- Proposed receive agendas only by email. Clerk to check. Lack of response from councillors to emails sent.
- The passing of Terry Thomas, from Terry's Fish and Chip shop. Will write letter of condolence.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

24/014. Councillor Yeo raised issues that residents have been complaining of only receiving post once a week. The clerk to enquire and raise a complaint.

Councillor Lemon stated that the Island Roads employees mending Station Road don't seem very capable. He wondered who checks on the work during the implementation and who inspects the work after the job is done. The clerk will enquire with Island Roads.

Councillor Evans explained she will email a request to the Clerk for updates on several items but was concerned about the possibility of losing the Post Office due to recent media coverage. The clerk explained that the contribution was remaining the same at £1000 per annum.

Councillor Hailstone asked if Steve Porter had been in contact with regards to The Old School. The clerk will email Steve and ask for a meeting.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed

Date

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2024/25 - BUDGET ESTIMATES.****RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER BUDGET REPORT.**

The Parish Council income and expenditure does not follow any business pattern. This is due to the uncertainty of our capital income which is mostly down to successful grant bids and sponsorship. Therefore, the estimates for income are again tight with very little room for manoeuvre.

Our only guaranteed income is the precept.

Capital: Our capital costs were largely funded by grants, however grant funding has largely dried up at the moment therefore any capital expenditure has to be met by precept.

Revenue: The precept largely funds the Parish Council's revenue costs.

MAJOR PROJECTS/ THREE YEAR PLAN.

1. Recreation Ground
 - The possibility of installing a toilet at the site of the old toilets in the rec
 - Maintaining the shrubs and bushes in the rec ongoing
2. Housing needs survey – although might be delayed
3. Office maintenance
4. Replacing benches around the village

Ear Marked Reserves

The finance working group looked at the current reserves (appendix A) and have changed them slightly.

1. The Village plan has become the housing needs survey, which is currently waiting to be sourced as the Island Planning Strategy was delayed.
2. HIC Maintenance (office) stays as the office needs a door to be put into the back storage area.
3. Village square maintenance will change to village maintenance and will have £1000. This is to go towards maintaining benches etc in the village.
4. Rec path has been deleted and replaced with School Hardship fund. This is due to the path being completed and the council set monies aside, (£2000) of which £1000 has already been paid out.
5. Public conveniences will remain the same
6. The Church Close Community Centre with an amount of £1000. This was the money that was paid to Places for People which we have had back and is now earmarked for the community centre.
7. The Footprint Trust, Wootton in Bloom, Wootton CIC (Youth Club) and Business Association will remain the same.
9. Gravel Pit Road is monies that the residents pay to cover the costs of repairs to the road. This is their money.

REVENUE COSTS.

It is not anticipated that the revenue costs will change significantly over the next 3 years.

GENERAL RESERVE FUND

I estimate that the balance of the General Reserve Fund at 31.3.2024 will be £48,611. We also have an emergency/disaster reserve of £37500 and various earmarked pots that total £31873

Please also note that it is VITAL to keep a good general reserve fund for match funding purposes which, when successful, can result in a 100% return.

RECOMMENDATION – THAT THE COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025 BE SET AT A MINIMUM OF £92,000.

Although this would leave us with a shortfall for the year, our reserves are still reasonably high and people are going to be hit with a higher council tax as well as rising costs of living with regards to electric, fuel and food.

On an estimated tax base of 1414.1 and as a guide only a council tax precept of £92,000 will convert as follows:-

For a Band D property:

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
	Estimated	Actual	Actual
	£	£	£
Precept	92000	80000	73000
Grant	0	0	0
Annual Cost	65.06	56.96	51.99
Weekly Cost	1.25	1.10	1.00

Liz Kingston
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

10.1.24

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024/2025							
			2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Notes	
			Actual	Estimated	Estimated		
INCOME							
Revenue							
Precept			73,000	80,000	92,000		
Photocopying			18	21	20		
Interest			1,016	4,000	4,000		
Grants & Contributions to Grass Cutting & Ch			15,607	1,201	600	S106 monies £15,000 for rec path	
Events			58	910	900		
HIC Income			358	300	300		
Other Income			350	5,834	0	£100 bank refund, £5000 refund path, £600	
Trf to EMR re Gravel Pit			-15,000	-722			
		Total income	75,407	91,544	97,820		
EXPENDITURE							
Staff salaries incl. Employers NI			34156	41696	48153		
Training			530	0	0		
Bank Fee			0	12	0		
Audit fees			450	575	575		
Professional fees			192	0	0		
Subscriptions			187	798	798		
Insurance			1,443	1,909	2,000		
Stationery & Postage			220	150	150		
Printing Fees			239	50	120	new printer purchase £129.99	
Newsletter			1010	1100	1,100		
Legal Notices			0	35	35		
Website			130	130	169		
IT			336	400	436		
Defibrillator			0	191	190		
Village Toilet Cleaning & Maintenance			12,228	12,000	12,500		
Village Square Cleaning			1,338	1,313	1,313		
Contribution to Recreation Ground Maintenance			47,040	9,379	10,415		
Environmental officer			2,260	2,373	2,500		
Christmas tree and lights			939	1,002	1,200		
Grass cutting			1,950	2,877	2,950	420 tree maintenance in St Edmund	
Event Expenditure			338	2,775	2,775		
Election Expenses			0	0	0		
Seat Maintenance			450	0	200		
Sign Maintenance			195	432	200		
<i>Churchyard maintenance:</i>							
St Edmunds			1,365	1,403	1,690	see above for £300 contribution from PCC	
S137 - Grants			1,250	5,350	1,250		
S137 - Wreath			0	0	50		
S137 - Briddlesford Cemetry			585	1,058	1269	see above for contribution from Newport PC	
S137-Footprint Trust			0	0	0		
HIC - Cleaning			282	370	300		
HIC - Maintenance			265	811	1000		
HIC - Electric			1,481	1,481	1600		
HIC - Water			38	102	187		
HIC - telephone & broadband			445	500	500		
HIC - Fire & Alarm			301	238	300		
HIC - CCTV			120	85	120		
Vilage Maintenance			21	67	1,000		
Post Office			1,000	1,000	1,000		
Sundry			829	670	70	Gravel Pit paid out £600	
		sub total	113,613	92,332	98,115		
Capital							
	Bench, New signs, flag pole		3,138	0	0	new signs for rec	
minus Gravel Pit			-360	-600		Still has £126	
Less transfer from EMR			-36,925			Rec & Covid grant	
	Total expenditure		79,466	91,732	98,115		
from/to general reserve fund			-4,059	-188	-295		

Cllr Sarah Redrup – Member Report January 2024**Draft Island Planning Strategy Postponed Again**

Just before Christmas the government released a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which could have implications for the Island. There is a change that refers to exceptional circumstances for certain areas of the country which could reduce the number of new houses needing to be built from a minimum of 750 houses each year down to 460. The Cabinet has decided that the Draft Island Planning Strategy will need to be postponed again while they seek legal advice on what the changes to the NPPF mean for the Island. We were scheduled to vote on whether to adopt the strategy at tomorrow's Full Council meeting (Jan 17th). However, it has now been taken off the agenda. As I hear more, I will keep the WBPC informed.

Boxing Day Swim Sewage

On Boxing Day, swimmers taking part in annual charity swims have found out that they were unknowingly swimming in sewage. On Christmas Day sewage was pumped into the sea near Sandown for more than five hours. Southern Water has admitted that due to an IT failure the system didn't notify swimmers of the spillage before the event. Although this IT failure might be rare, spilled sewage in our Island's rivers and seas isn't. This is why my fellow Liberal Democrat councillors and I have put forward a motion with Surfers Against Sewage at tomorrow's January Full Council calling on the council to hold Southern Water to account. I will update the WBPC with the outcome of this motion.

Winter Short Breaks Program

The Isle of Wight Council Children's Services have announced an updated program of winter short breaks for children and young people with disabilities. These aim to provide some respite for parents and carers while giving opportunities to their children to experience something new. In addition to the activities, they also have an accessible Caravan at Lower Hyde that can be hired for families and equipment like beach accessible wheelchairs that can be used for free. If any Wootton residents would like to see all the available short breaks activities and find out if they are eligible for a free membership, head to the Family Information Hub Website: www.familyinfohub.iow.gov.uk or call 01983 821000. You can also get in touch with me via email for some assistance.

2024/2025 Budget Consultation

I was incredibly disappointed to hear that the Government has snubbed the Isle of Wight in the most recent Local Government Finance Settlement. In fact, our Island received the lowest percentage increase of all unitary authorities in the country. The Cabinet have told us that the settlement is £400,000 worse than they had estimated. With an ever-increasing social care bill all councilors are very worried about how the Alliance Group might try and square the circle. There is still time for residents to fill out the budget consultation survey on the Isle of Wight Council Website and I urge everyone to do so. The deadline for filling out the survey is the 26th January 2024.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/council-and-councillors/transparency-our-data/our-finances/2024-2025-budget-consultation/>

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
Payments for Approval at Meeting on 16 January 2024

January 2024

Chris Attrill - Window Cleaner Jan		£	19.00
Island Cleaning Solutions - Public Toilets Cleaning Dec		£	884.83
Clearview Cleaning - Parish Square Dec		£	112.50
Microsoft 365 Cloud	DP	£	79.99
SLCC Membership		£	188.00
The Bridge - Advertising and updates		£	988.00
Wight Computers - email changes		£	18.00
Wight Computers- web hosting & SSL Certificate		£	156.00
HP Instant Ink - Printer Ink	DD	£	9.99
Sage Payroll	DD	£	9.60
Business Stream - HIC Water Monthly	DD	£	15.60
Wightfibre - HIC Phone & Broadband	DD	£	44.05
Salaries as Minute E52 & E54	SO	£	2,409.94
IWC Pension Confs		£	775.67
HMRC - Tax & NI		£	333.21
TOTAL		£	6,044.38

CHAIR's REPORT

1. It would seem that my letter of complaint, sent to the Police Commissioner, has achieved results, for it is clear the case relating to the vandalism of the defibrillator has been reopened. This was ascertained through correspondence between Councillor Redrup and two constables based in Newport who reported a constable Brown of Ryde was investigating. I am not going to hold my breath waiting for results. It is galling that Island's senior police officer did not have the courtesy to advise Liz of the re-opening of the case.
2. I wish to publicly thank both Sarah and Barry for the time they both gave relating to working on the Budget for the forthcoming year. Their help was invaluable to me.
3. I wish to propose that we accept a change in our procedures regarding the issuance of posted Agenda notices, that we will in future receive same only by e-mail. However, paper copies will still be available on the day of the Meetings should any Councillor require same. This will of course save unnecessary postal costs.
4. I must raise yet again, the lack of response from Councillors to e-mails sent by Liz and Lorna, where they have asked for comments. There has been some improvement but not enough, which is unacceptable. It is incumbent upon all Councillors to respond to the Clerks e-mails when required and asked to do so. The only excuse that is acceptable is that if one is ill or on vacation. I ask you all to improve the position.
5. It is with sadness that of the loss of one of our village Entrepreneur's, Mr Terry Thomas - Terry's Fish & Chip shop, who passed away on the 19th December, after a long illness. Perhaps we should send a letter of condolence to his Family.