

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM IN THE OLD SCHOOL, NEW ROAD, WOOTTON BRIDGE.

Present Councillor Barry Abraham – Chair
Councillor Sarah Redrup – Vice-Chair
Councillors Trish Evans, Linda Pitcher, Steve Porter and Jonathan Smith

Also present 2 Members of the Public
0 Member of the press
Liz Kingston – Parish Clerk

Items raised in the Open Forum: None

1. ABSENCE

24/171. Councillors Tyler, Hailstone and Lemon and Councillor Hill has resigned

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

24/172. Cllr Pitcher declared an interest in planning application 24/01685/HOU as they are a neighbour (24/180)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

24/173. RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024 WERE APPROVED AND DULY SIGNED.

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

24/174. To discuss and decide on the shrub contract at the recreation ground.

Information was emailed to the councillors prior to the meeting (see Appendix A).

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL GRANT THE SHRUB CONTRACT TO CONTRACTOR A FOR 3 YEARS AT AN AGREED PRICE OF £10,640.00 PER ANNUM FOR THE LENGTH OF THE CONTRACT.

24/175. To discuss and decide on the grant application from Ryde Town Council

RESOLVED - THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL GRANT RYDE TOWN COUNCIL £820.00. The clerk will add the poster to our social media to ensure Wootton residents know that WBPC partially funded the service, and that they can access it.

24/176. To discuss the Budget Forecast for the coming year

Discussion took place regarding the Budget:

- It was decided that the Environmental Officer should be contracted to 4 hours every fortnight, to be reviewed in 3-6 months' time. The Budget will be set at a cost to cover every week in case it is decided to change the contract to 4 hours every week.
- The clerk will check re Election expenses
- Ear-marked village maintenance to be increased from £1000 to £2000
- Budget £5000 towards potential playground repairs
- Event budget to be increased to £3000
- Move 'seat maintenance' and 'sign maintenance' into 1 heading of 'village maintenance'
- Options for different precept amounts for £95k upwards
- The grant budget will be increased to cover the Hardship Fund

Budget Forecast to be brought back to the Parish Council at the January meeting.

24/177. To discuss the Playground Plan 2024/2030 from the IWC

The Facilities Working Group will discuss and bring back to the January meeting

24/178. To discuss and decide on whether to accept a trough for a donation to The Samaritans

RESOLVED – IT WAS DECIDED NO TO ACCEPT THIS AS THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE UNABLE TO GIVE DONATIONS, BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CLERK WILL FORWARD THE JUST GIVING LINK TO THE COUNCILLORS, FOR THEIR PERSONAL CONSIDERATION

24/179. To discuss and decide on whether to comment on the Isle of Wight Council Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement Review

Noted

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

To comment on the following applications:

24/180. 24/01685/HOU

11 Norman Way, Wootton Bridge Po33 4NJ

Proposed porch

RESOLVED - THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATION 24/01685/HOU

24/181. Decisions made by the Isle of Wight Council

24/00954/FUL – Approved – 37-39 High Street, Wootton Bridge PO33 4LU

24/01393/FUL – Refused – 115 Station Road, Wootton Bridge PO33 4RG

24/182. Tree Preservation Orders

None

24/183. Appeal

23/00279/OUT- Approved - 159 High Street

6. ACCOUNTS

24/184. To consider and approve the accounts for payment.

Members were presented with the accounts for payment for December

RESOLVED – THAT THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT FOR DECEMBER TOTALLING £7297.92, A COPY OF WHICH FORMS APPENDIX B OF THESE MINUTES, BE PAID.

The clerk will put information in The Bridge to say that the Annual newsletter is available to view online.

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

24/185. Report from the Isle of Wight Council Local member.

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

- Old School Wreath Making
- Community Speed Watch
- Wootton Together Initiative
- Primary School Places Update

8. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

24/186. Councillor Pitcher - problems at St Edmunds Church Building Trust with regards to the trustees.

Councillor Porter – opposed to having the Christmas tree next year.

Councillor Evans – asked the clerk to ascertain the latest information from Enforcement regarding the caravan on the site on Palmers Road.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.

Signed

Date

Grounds maintenance - hedges/shrubs/natural vegetation

The clerk went to 3 contractors for quotes and two of the contractors came back with quotes. One could not quote at present due to short staff. The clerk did not request a quote from the IWC as they will only quote to flail the hedges etc. The IWC have informed the clerk on the new costs for 2025/26 with regards to Amenity grass, Bin Emptying and Hard Standing.

There are basically 4 options which are as follows:

1. Go with contractor A for 3 years and pay the following costs:

Wootton Recreation Ground Total		£5874.83
Amenity grass D		
Bin Emptying		
Hard Standing		
Contractor A to hand cut	£10,640/3	£3546.67
Hedge XF		
Naturalised vegetation		
Shrubs/herbaceous		
		Total for 25, 26, 27 - £9421.50

2. Go with Contractor B for 3 years and pay the following costs:

Wootton Recreation Ground Total		£5874.83
Amenity grass D		
Bin Emptying		
Hard Standing		
Contractor B to hand cut Yr 1 £2400, Yr2 £2450, Yr3 £2500		£2400.00
Hedge XF		
Naturalised vegetation		
Shrubs/herbaceous		
		Total for 25 - £8274.83
		Total for 26 - £8324.83
		Total for 27 - £8374.83

The clerk is recommending contractor A as they have done a good job in the past, there have been no complaints about their work, they are quick to rectify any issues and they have always been reliable.

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
Payments for Approval at Meeting on 10 December 2024

December 2024

Chris Attrill - Window Cleaner December		£	21.00
Island Cleaning Solutions - Public Toilets Cleaning November		£	884.83
Clearview Cleaning - Parish Square November		£	112.50
Wootton Bridge Primary School Hardship Fund - Minute 24/163		£	1,000.00
The Old School CIC Grant - Minute 24/158		£	200.00
Wootton Creek Fairways Association Grant - Minute 24/157		£	666.93
Cocoa Design Co - Newsletter		£	100.00
Wight Fire & Security - service intruder alarm		£	90.90
SLCC - membership		£	190.00
Eon - Office 1/09/24 - 30/11/24	DD	£	402.14
British Gas - Toilets	DD	£	27.49
HP Instant Ink - Printer Ink	DD	£	11.99
Sage Payroll	DD	£	12.00
Business Stream - HIC Water Monthly	DD	£	24.14
Wightfibre - HIC Phone & Broadband	DD	£	44.17
Salaries as Minute E54 & E55	SO	£	2,629.31
IWC Pension Conts		£	864.16
HMRC - Tax & NI		£	446.13
TOTAL		£	7,727.69

Councillor Sarah Redrup - Member Report
December 2024

Old School Wreath Making Workshop

Cllr Porter, Cllr Evans, Lorna and I attended the Christmas Wreath Making workshop on the weekend which the Parish Council donated money towards. I am pleased to say that it was a very successful event, very well organised and attended. There were lots of familiar faces from the village and a variety of ages. I helped by running the children's crafting corner which allowed me to chat with parents and grandparents. All were Wootton residents, I asked them what they thought of the event and if they would like to see more things like this next year. The feedback was that they felt it was a nice community atmosphere, and would be very interested in more events like this. They were pleased to hear that the parish Council had supported it.

Community Speedwatch Group

I'm pleased to say the group is expanding with four prospective volunteers currently awaiting training. Following the speed scarecrow project during Road Safety Week, the Isle of Wight Council's Road Safety Officer has expressed interest in co-ordinating with more schools and speedwatch groups to replicate this for Road Safety Week 2025.

Wootton Together Initiative

I attended the "Wootton Together" event in November organised by the Living Well, Early Help service. I spoke with a number of services including Healthwatch, Family Hubs, Sight for Wight and the Library Service. There were free teas, coffees and mince pies and offered a chance for residents to ask for advice on accessing support they might need. In the new year the Living Well, Early Help Service hopes to offer monthly drop-ins and warm spaces in Wootton should any resident need it.

Primary School Places Update

Following the conclusion of the school place plan consultation in November, the Isle of Wight Council has published their recommendations for educational restructuring. The proposal identifies six primary schools for closure: Cowes, Arreton, Oakfield, Brading, Wroxall, and Godshell Primary. Additionally, the Council proposes establishing a specialised 12-place primary resourced provision for children with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) at The Bay CE School (Primary). This proposal is scheduled for cabinet consideration on Thursday, 12th December.

Season's Greetings

I extend my warmest wishes to the Parish Council and all Wootton residents for a joyous Christmas season and a Happy New Year!