

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE (HIC))

The Parish Council office continues to be well used. Issues we deal with are very varied, from potholes in the road to coastal erosion. We also hold every current planning application submitted for the village. The office has been open for 14 years this November and it has become an established part of our village life. We are proud of all the very positive feedback received from our customers.

The office provides us with a very good way of communicating with the village and is invaluable for carrying out our consultation exercises. These exercises are vital in the process for securing grant funding.

Our facilities include:-

- The Beat officer and PCSO are always calling in either to hold a surgery or pick up messages.
- Gill Salter, our Tree Warden, has her surgery on the first Friday of each month.
- Isle of Wight Councillors surgery – first Thursday of the month.
- Our various Project Groups meet at the office.
- CCTV coverage of the square and the new toilets.
- Photocopying, faxing and laminating service.

We continue to provide assistance where possible on general issues including:-

- Sale of green garden sacks.
- Advice on local issues.
- Signposting of services.
- Comprehensive walks leaflets.

HIC OPENING TIMES:-

Parish Council	Mon 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Tues and Thurs 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Wednesday CLOSED Friday 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Tree Warden	First Friday in month 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.
Beat Officer & PCSO	First Tuesday in month 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. or messages can be left.
Parish Councillor surgeries	Every Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00pm
IW Councillor Surgery	First Thursday of the month 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. (not August or November)
	Liz Kingston, Clerk

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCILLORS FROM 2 MAY 2014:-

Ken Morris, Chairman **Barry Abraham, Vice Chairman**
Brian Ballard, Corinne Carey, Dick Doran, Edward Giles, Barrie Hailstone, Peter Mundell, Daryll Pitcher, Linda Pitcher and Steve Porter

OFFICERS

Liz Kingston, Parish Clerk
Madge Reeves, Assistant Parish Clerk
Gordon Tutton, Financial Assistant

MEETINGS

The Parish Council usually meets on the third Tuesday in every month except August when no meeting is held. We meet at 7.00pm in the Old School and members of the public and press are welcome to attend. Members of the public are able to participate in meetings and speak on any agenda item. There is also an Open Forum at the start of every meeting where issues can be raised that are not included on the agenda. Notices and the agendas are posted on the village notice boards, on the web site www.woottonbridge.org.uk and at the Parish Council office. Sometimes extra meetings are held to deal with urgent matters such as planning.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Additionally there is a statutory Annual Parish Meeting held during April. The Annual Parish Meeting provides another opportunity for residents to come along and address the Parish Councillors or just to have a say on matters of interest or concern. Additionally reports are given by the Parish Council Chairman, Clerk, Village Partnership Chairman, Isle of Wight Councillor, Tree Warden and Beat Officer.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The following attendance record is in respect of the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and is in respect of the Parish Councillors who were in office during 2013/14. Of the 11 scheduled monthly meetings held, Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:-

Barry Abraham 10	Brian Ballard 3	Dick Doran 9
Sarah Fulford 0	Barrie Hailstone 9	Ken Morris 11
Peter Mundell 11	Roy Murphy 1	Steve Porter 10
Daryll Pitcher 11	Corinne Carey 6	Edward Giles 7

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish Councillors/officers can be contacted at the Wootton Bridge Help and Information Centre on 884555 or by email at wbpcc@onwight.net

Remember that your Parish Councillors give their time for free because they care about the village; they receive no payments or expenses. Also, much of what we achieve is thanks to the many volunteers who help us in all manner of ways. Together we have raised thousands of pounds worth of grant funding for village regeneration projects. It is very rewarding to work together and to see so many projects come to fruition. If you would like to become involved or would like more information please contact any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk on 884555.

Questions relating to this report can be addressed to any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk at the Parish Council Office in Brannon Way.

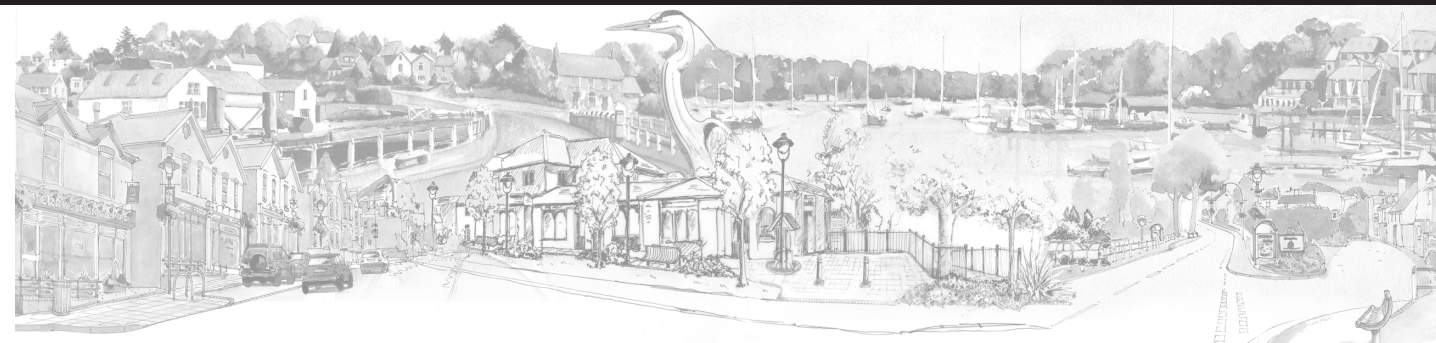


Wootton Bridge
PARISH COUNCIL



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

This report is also available on the Parish Council's web site at
www.woottonbridge.org.uk



Chairman's report April 2013/March 2014

As your Parish Council our aim is to serve the village and make improvements in a way that you tell us you would like. We deal with a huge variety of issues over the course of the year and my report provides a summary of our activities over the 2013/2014 financial year

Wootton Bridge Village Square

The Village Square continues to be the hub of the village. The local pet store is now selling green bags when the office is closed.

Change of Parish Clerk

We said goodbye to Val Cooper, who has been the Parish Clerk for over 4 years and thanked her for all her help and said hello to Liz Kingston, who has taken up the reins.

Christmas Festival

The Christmas Festival was again a great success. The Christmas Festival was held in the Community Centre as it had been so cold outside in previous years. The Salvation Army led the carol singers and the hot mulled wine and mince pies went down well.

Partnership Working

We pride ourselves on how we work in partnership with other authorities and agencies to help improve our village. We continue to support the Wootton Bridge Village Partnership, the main body which organizes our annual Party in the Park, an event which every year seems to be getting better and better. We have continued to work closely with our Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer, who both call in to our office on a regular basis to liaise with us and pick up any messages. The Community Support Officer runs a monthly surgery at the Parish Council office, as does the Tree Warden and Isle of Wight Councillor. Telephone 884555 for more details.

Day to Day duties

We continue to comment on every planning application received for the village and have lobbied on planning enforcement issues. It is good to see that the new Doctors Surgery is taking shape and will hopefully be opening in

WOOTTON BRIDGE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013/14

We continue to have a very active Village Partnership. The Partnership is the development arm of the Parish Council and this way it is accountable to the electorate.

Our membership involves a wide variety of village organisations and residents of all ages. We all work together to help make the village a better place in which to live. Some of our members join us for specific projects and others are there all the time. It just depends how much time people can give. We welcome all input, however great or small, and we really do get things done. Our meetings usually consist of around 12 members. However, we still have a core membership of over 40 members who continue to help in one way or another.

October 2014. I am also pleased to report that the Community Bus 34 continues to provide a service around the village and Havenstreet and enables people to get out. Our thanks go to the volunteer drivers who give up their time so generously. If you wish to become a volunteer driver, please telephone 884555 for more details. We continue to press the Isle of Wight Council on various traffic issues such as traffic safety and speed issues around the village.

Public Toilets - Brannon Way

As you know, the Parish Council took over the toilets in Brannon Way to avoid them being closed. This has not been without its challenges, with staff at the Parish Council often having to take emergency action to keep them open.

Old School Building – New Road (Youth Club building)

We have now obtained the five year lease on this building and have spent monies on upgrading windows and the heating system. We want to ensure it remains a community asset and that our young people continue to have somewhere to meet. We currently have the building fully booked between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and youth services use it on Monday and Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in making a booking to use the building then please telephone 884555.

Youth Service

Following the Isle of Wight Council ceasing to run the Youth Club evenings for Juniors, the Parish Council arranged for these to continue on a Monday evening. The Parish Council was fortunate to secure the services of the staff from PGL in this respect. The Junior Youth Club continues to be very popular and the takings are being used to fund this service.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support. Without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do. I would like to thank Val, our old clerk for her help, and Liz our new clerk, who is learning the ropes, as well as Madge and Gordon.

Ken Morris, Parish Council Chairman

The Village Partnership has a social committee who get involved in areas such as:-

- Party in the Park – our annual village party.
- Christmas festival – this has now become an annual event.
- One off events

We find that these events enhance the community spirit already in evidence in our village.

Anyone in the village can join the full Partnership - everyone is welcome.

Ken Morris, Village Partnership Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2012/2013, which have been audited by the Audit Commission. No matters giving cause for concern came to the attention of either the Internal Auditor or the District Auditor and the books were successfully signed off by the District Auditor on 17 July 2013. Local government electors have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts and have the right to attend to the auditor and make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Full details on how this can be done are posted on the Village Notice Board and at the Parish Council office prior to each annual audit, usually in the summer.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2013			
31 March 12		Current year end 31 March 2013	
INCOME		£	
57,800	Precept	65,000	
823	Partnership/Regeneration funds	1,700	
105	Interest on investments/bank interest	111	
12,019	WICI/Big Lottery Fund	0	
250	St Marks PCC grant	300	
525	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks	599	
1,277	HIC Income	1,263	
4,385	Funds to be held for WBSFA/Youth Club	2,322	
77,184		TOTAL INCOME	71,295
EXPENDITURE		£	
5,753	Public Conveniences	4,780	
27,932	General Administration incl. salaries	29,628	
1,750	Capital	63	
14,159	Capital schemes (Play Area & Signs)	1,248	
674	S137 payments	674	
3,898	Help and Information Centre	2,957	
2,020	Grass cutting	2,050	
3,289	Partnership/ Regeneration projects	3,502	
1,456	Churchyard maintenance	1,456	
937	Miscellaneous and grants	1,000	
350	Garden Waste Sacks	600	
0	Housing Needs Survey	7,900	
1,523	Election Expenses	0	
1,457	Youth Club	2,692	
65,198		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	58,550
GENERAL FUND		£	
59,444	Balance at 1 April 2011	Balance at 1 April 2012	71,430
77,184	Add total income	Add total income	71,295
136,628			142,725
-65,198	Deduct total expenditure	Deduct total expenditure	-58,550
71,430	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2012	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2013	84,175



The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2013/2014, which are the last accounts to be audited by the Audit Commission. No matters giving cause for concern came to the attention of either the Internal Auditor or the District Auditor and the books were successfully signed off by the District Auditor on 2 July 2014. Local government electors have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts and have the right to attend to the auditor and make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Full details on how this can be done are posted on the Village Notice Board and at the Parish Council office prior to each annual audit, usually in the summer.

The council tax precept for 2013/2014 is £67,000 and represents approx. £45.20 per annum per household at band D or 87p per week. The additional increase in the precept is due to the changes that are taking place where Parish & Town Councils are having to take on services historically undertaken by the County Council, as well as the opportunity to benefit from match funding being made available to Town & Parish Councils.

Any questions or a request for copies of the accounts can be directed to me at the Parish Council office.

Liz Kingston, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2014			
31 March 13		Current year end 31 March 2014	
INCOME		£	
65,000	Precept	67,000	
1,700	Partnership/Regeneration funds	3,979	
111	Interest on investments/bank interest	114	
0	Best Kept War Memorial	0	
300	St Marks PCC/Newport PC Grass Cutting	250	
599	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks	894	
1,263	HIC Income	1,140	
2,322	Funds to be held for WBSFA/Youth Club	1,858	
71,295		TOTAL INCOME	75,235
EXPENDITURE		£	
4,780	Public Conveniences	5,288	
29,628	General Administration incl. salaries	28,370	
63	Capital	135	
1,248	Capital schemes (Play Area & Signs)	13,441	
674	S137 payments	789	
2,957	Help and Information Centre	5,604	
2,050	Grass cutting	1,920	
3,502	Partnership/ Regeneration projects	3,141	
1,456	Churchyard maintenance	1,456	
1,000	Miscellaneous and grants	796	
600	Garden Waste Sacks	800	
600	Housing Needs Survey	280	
0	Election Expenses	30	
2,692	Youth Club	5,994	
58,550		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	68,044
GENERAL FUND		£	
71,430	Balance at 1 April 2011	Balance at 1 April 2012	84,175
71,295	Add total income	Add total income	75,235
142,725			159,410
-58,550	Deduct total expenditure	Deduct total expenditure	-68,044
84,175	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2013	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2014	91,366