



Annual Report Wootton Bridge Parish Council 2022/2023

We have had another busy year and we would like to welcome new and returning councilors. Councillor Barbara Port decided to resign after approximately 6 years on the Council and we thank her for all her support over the years. Ian Yeo was co-opted in February 2023.

Staffing

We have been able to bring in extra support in the form of a new assistant clerk, Lorna Morey which will enable us to eventually open up the office 5 days a week. We must also mention the retirement of Gordon and we would like to thank him for his years of service to WBPC.

Recreation Ground

This summer we completed the Recreation Ground path project – the path was upgraded and resurfaced as well as extended around the whole of the recreation ground. The new path means that residents and visitors are now able to make full use of the whole park all year round. The Parish Council is continuing to fund the cutting of the hedges and bushes at the Recreation Ground as well as the general up-keep.

There are still other areas to look at including tree replacements, wildflower areas, toilets, and the play area and these will be addressed as time and budget allows.

Village Improvements

A new picnic table was installed to replace the existing one on the green at Pump Lane. A new Village map sign has been put up at Wootton railway station - we think you'll agree it looks lovely and a great way for visitors to Wootton to find their way around the village.

Queen's Jubilee

To commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, we presented the local primary school with commemorative coins. We also replaced the bench on the green on St Edmund's Walk with a Queen's Jubilee Bench.

Roving Nativity

The residents of Wootton got into the Christmas Spirit at the annual Roving Nativity which followed the donkey's journey with Mary and Joseph. We gathered outside to sing carols with the Brass Band before warming up in the Community Centre where there were delicious mince pies and mulled wine and lovely craft stalls.

Party in the Park

We are in the process of planning Party in the Park which will take place on 8th July 2023. Although we haven't managed one in the last couple of years due to Covid and lack of volunteers, this year is looking promising.

Post Office

The Post Office remains in Brannons and is open on Wednesdays 9.30-12.30. We also have a Knit and Natter group on Thursday afternoons. The use of Brannons is another area where we can start to provide better services to the community. It is a great asset that we can use to help many people.

Planning

Planning has been a significant issue this past year. In May 2022 the Parish Council opposed the proposed gravel extraction at Palmers Farm which is still an ongoing matter. We thank Councillor Evans for her support in keeping us up to date on all planning-related issues and doing a monthly report to parish council.

Doctors Surgery

It came to light that the Wootton surgery building had issues and it would need to be demolished and rebuilt. This is still an ongoing situation but currently there are no timescales.

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

The Parish Council Office has been open for 22 years. We hold a lot of information including excellent local walks leaflets which you are welcome to come in and take away.

The Parish Council staff continue to do what they can to address IW Council and tourist queries that come in.

In Brannons we house the Post Office as well as local community groups such as Knit & Natter. The Post Office is open 9.30 to 12.30 every Wednesday and Knit & Natter is Thursday afternoons.

We are committed to taking positive and innovative approaches as to how we must change and improve the services that are provided. Examples of this are the Public Conveniences and the expense of maintaining the recreation ground. We will keep you all informed of developments on our web site and Facebook page. Also please feel free to call in and see us at the Parish Council office for updates.

Just to remind you that our other services have remained unchanged:-

- The Beat Officer and PCSO call into the office to pick up messages.
- Laminating and photocopying can be carried out at a reasonable charge.
- Local non-profit making events can be advertised on our noticeboard and window as long as they have a Wootton connection.

HIC OPENING TIMES:-

Parish Council

Monday – Closed

Tues and Wed 9.00am to 2.00pm

Thursday – Closed

Friday 9.00am – 2.00pm

Beat Officer & PCSO

Messages can be left

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER REPORT FOR WOOTTON

Period: April 2022 April 2023

The Environmental officers have been busy in Wootton this year. They have been on regular dog fouling patrols and spoken to people who have been suspected of offending to make them aware of their presence. They created a sign for the public bin inside the play area to deter dog walkers from 'throwing' their fouling bags at this bin. They had evidence on CCTV of a dog fouling which they further investigated, and an interview is pending regarding the incident. They sent multiple reports to Island Roads for public bins and dog bins to be emptied if full or overflowing.

They have reported litter and for fly tips to be cleared at the base of the recycling bins in Brannon Way Car Park. A £200 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued for a fly tipping offence following CCTV evidence being collected and followed up on. A formal written warning was issued to a charity regarding fly tipping and a verbal warning was given to gentleman regarding his black domestic waste bag in Brannon Way Car Park. He has since re-offended and was later issued with a £200 Fixed Penalty Notice for fly tipping.

The environmental officers carried out walking patrols on High Street, Palmers Road, Station Road, Church Road, Mary Rose Avenue, Rectory Drive, Station Road, Kite Hill and St Edmunds Walk.

Other incidents have included removing broken glass and litter from Wootton Recreation Ground and the Brannon Way Car Park and re-attaching a sign on the High Street. They have reported a damaged water drain cover, damaged railings next to the slipway to be repaired and an overhanging hedge. They also inspect the public toilets and complete the paperwork on behalf of the Parish Council. Defects that needed to be dealt with have been e-mailed with photos through to the clerk.



PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2022/2023, which is waiting to be audited by BDO LLP on behalf of The National Audit Office. No matters giving cause for concern came to the attention of the Internal Auditor and we are waiting to hear from the external auditor. 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 2022/2023 is £73,000 and represents approx. £51.95 per annum per household at band D or £1.00 per week.

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023			
31 March 22		Current year end 31 March 2023	
INCOME		£	
70,075	Precept	Precept	73,000
57	Interest on investments/bank interest	Interest on investments/bank interest	1,016
75	Donations	Donations	15,007
600	St Marks PCC/Newport PC Grass Cutting	St Marks PCC/Newport PC Grass Cutting	600
6	Photocopying	Photocopying	18
83	HIC Income	HIC Income	358
0	Events	Events	58
5,000	Covid Grant	Covid Grant	0
7,850	Gravel Pit Road Residents	Gravel Pit Road Residents	350
70,896		TOTAL INCOME	90,407
EXPENDITURE		£	
9,002	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences	12,228
34,105	General Administration incl. salaries	General Administration incl. salaries	39,362
608	Events	Events	338
810	Gravel Pit Road Residents	Gravel Pit Road Residents	360
359	S137 payments	S137 payments	1,250
3,235	Help and Information Centre	Help and Information Centre	2,932
7,719	Grass cutting/Recreation Ground	Grass cutting/Recreation Ground	48,990
2,184	Environmental Officers	Environmental Officers	2,260
1,950	Churchyard maintenance	Churchyard maintenance	1,950
539	Christmas tree	Christmas expenditure	939
693	Post Office	Post Office	1,000
24	Election Expenses	Election Expenses	645
1,407	Village Square maintenance	Village Square cleaning & maintenance	1,359
6,331	Capital Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	3,138
68,966		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	116,751
GENERAL FUND		£	
143,406	Balance at 1 April 2021	Balance at 1 April 2022	145,336
70,896	Add total income	Add total income	90,407
214,302			235,743
-68,966	Deduct total expenditure	Deduct total expenditure	-116,751
145,336	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2022	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2023	118,992

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCILLORS FROM 1 APRIL 2022:-

Daryll Pitcher Chairman
Barbara Port Vice Chairman – resigned Dec 22

Barry Abraham
Linda Pitcher
Trish Evans
John Ward
Barrie Hailstone
Dave Burley
Lee Lemon
Christopher Cory
Ian Yeo Co-opted in February 2023

OFFICERS:-

Liz Kingston Parish Clerk
Lorna Morey Assistant Clerk
Gordon Tutton Financial Assistant
- Retired July 2022

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 can 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. Reports are given by the Parish Council Chairman, Clerk, Environmental Officers and the Isle of Wight Councillor.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The following attendance record is in respect of the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and is in respect of the Parish Councillors who were in office during 2022/23.

Of the 12 scheduled monthly meetings held, Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:-

Barry Abraham 12 Trish Evans 12 Linda Pitcher 12 Lee Lemon 7
John Ward 9 Barrie Hailstone 11 Daryll Pitcher 11 Barbara Port 6
Christopher Cory 7 Dave Burley 3 Ian Yeo 2

OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Parish Council Office opening times: 9.00am to 2.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesday & Friday. Closed all day on Monday & Thursday.

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 clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

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.

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



Wootton Bridge
PARISH COUNCIL

